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NIHB UPDATES

NIHB Hosts Board Meeting, Elects New Officers

On January 23rd and 24th the National Indian Health Board hosted its quarterly Board of Directors Meeting in Washington, DC. During the course of the meeting, the Board of Directors voted upon 3 officer positions and elected the following Board Members to the following positions:

L. Jace Killsback (Northern Cheyenne, Councilman): Vice Chairman

H. Sally Smith (Yupik Eskimo, Bristol Bay Area Health Coporation Chair): Secretary

Rex Lee Jim (Navajo, Vice President): Member At-Large

HILL UPDATES

Senate Votes Down Resolution of Disapproval on Debt Ceiling Increase

Following House passage of H.J. Res. 98, a measure to disapprove of the President's exercise of authority to raise the nation's borrowing power (or debt limit), the Senate voted to reject the resolution on January 26th by a vote of 44-52. The votes occurred in response to a January 12th letter from the President to Congress requesting an additional \$1.2 trillion in borrowing authority. Under the *Budget Control Act of 2011*, both Chambers of Congress may vote to block this scheduled increase in the debt ceiling. However, each Chamber would have had to pass the resolution by a veto-proof 2/3 majority in order to be successful. The President will now raise the debt limit, which is expected to cover the nation's expenses into this November.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

IHS National Budget Formulation Workgroup Meets on Fiscal Year (FY) 2014

The National Budget Formulation Workgroup for the Indian Health Service (IHS) met this week to begin work on its budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. Comprised of Tribal leaders, the Workgroup elected 3 co-chairs: Carolyn Crowder (Health Director, Aleutian Pribilof Island Association), Rex Lee Jim (Vice President, Navajo Nation), and Andy Joseph (Councilman,



Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation). The Workgroup is charged with reconciling the budget recommendations of each IHS Area and creating a document containing national priorities for the IHS budget. The will present its budget request to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, at the 14th Annual National HHS Tribal Budget Consultation March 7-9 in Washington, DC.

IHS Director Announces CSC Workgroup Meeting

In a recent blog post, Indian Health Service (IHS) Director, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, announced the formation and upcoming meeting of a Contract Support Costs (CSC) Workgroup. In an October "Dear Tribal Leader Letter," Dr. Roubideaux initiated a consultation on the 2007 Contract Support Costs (CSC) Policy and requested nominations for members of a CSC workgroup to help review and evaluate the policy. Two members were selected from each IHS Area, and the first meeting of the workgroup is scheduled for January 31 - February 1, 2012, at the Hilton Hotel in Rockville, MD, near IHS headquarters.

The workgroup is comprised of Tribal leaders, Tribal employees, and technical representatives, and is compliant with the Intergovernmental exemption of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. While the official meeting with the workgroup members and the federal government is allowed to be a closed meeting if needed, there is limited space available for audience members who wish to attend and observe the meeting.

Reminder: February 1st Deadline to Notify OPM of Intent to Enroll in FEHB

In a "Dear Tribal Leader Letter" dated December 21st, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) provided an update on Tribal access to the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. Under the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA), Tribes and Tribal organizations operating programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act are

eligible to purchase health insurance for their employees under the FEHB Program.

Tribal employers may begin to enroll employees starting on March 22, 2012 with an effective coverage date of May 1, 2012. **All Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Urban Indian organizations wishing to participate in the FEHB program must notify OPM by February 1, 2012** via email at: tribalprograms@opm.gov or via phone at: 202-606-2530.

For more information, including the "Dear Tribal Leader Letter" and 2012 FEHB plans, click [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

HHS TRIBAL BUDGET CONSULTATION PLANNING CALL

DATE: FEBRUARY 2ND

CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER (FOR EVERY CALL)

CALL IN #: 866-421-8841

PASS CODE: 6999396

TIME: 3:00 PM EST

Sign Up for Washington Report, at:

http://www.nihb.org/legislative/washington_report.php

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