



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NIHB to Host Tribal Caucus on SDPI

House Subcommittee Approves IPAB Repeal

IHS Director Initiates Consultation on Contract Support Costs

NIHB UPDATES

NIHB to Host Tribal Caucus on SDPI

On Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is sponsoring a Tribal Caucus and Briefing on the reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) funding. The program will expire in 2013 unless it is reauthorized.

The Tribal perspective is required before we can move forward with advocacy and reauthorization efforts.

The Briefing and Caucus will be chaired by Buford Rolin, Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, NIHB Board Member and Chairman of the Tribal Diabetes Leaders Committee.

Featured guests include:

- National Institutes of Health
- Indian Health Service
- American Diabetes Association
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

- National Indian Health Board

Please Attend and Participate:

National Indian Health Board
National Tribal Briefing/Caucus on SDPI
March 7, 2012
1:00 - 5:00 PM
National Museum of the American Indian
Rooms 4018 and 4019 (4th Floor)
Washington, DC

Click [here](#) to download a PDF “Save the Date” flyer.

Click [here](#) for the latest agenda.

For more information, please contact Liz Malerba, NIHB Legislative Assistant at: Lmalerba@nihb.org

HILL UPDATES

House Subcommittee Approves IPAB Repeal

A key provision in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Medicare cost-cutting panel, known as the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), was repealed during a mark-up in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health on February 29th. The 15-member panel of IPAB would be responsible for identifying savings in Medicare if program costs grow faster than a specified rate. The group would be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

H.R. 452, the *Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2011*, passed the Subcommittee easily with a 17-5 vote. While the majority of the bill’s 229 co-



sponsors are Republican, it does have 17 Democratic co-sponsors. Although not listed as a co-sponsor, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), ranking member of the Subcommittee, was one of two Democrats supporting the bill during mark-up.

Republicans maintain that the panel has the ability to ration care, while the Administration and a majority of Democrats continue to stand behind it as a way to control costs. House Leadership is reportedly planning a full House vote on H.R. 452 during the last week of March, as the Supreme Court hears oral arguments on the constitutionality of various provisions in the Affordable Care Act. A Senate companion bill has been introduced by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), but does not currently have Majority support.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

IHS Director Initiates Consultation on Contract Support Costs

On March 2nd, the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, released a “Dear Tribal Leader” letter initiating consultation on select issues related to Contract Support Costs (CSC). The first is issues some Tribes may have with sharing their CSC data with other Tribes. The Director requests that those with concerns related to this data sharing issue respond to the letter by March 30, 2012. As stated in the letter, if Tribes do not voice their concerns by this date, then IHS will assume that they consent to have their data shared with other Tribes.

The second consultation topic concerns the allocation of the FY 2012 CSC increase. The Director is asking whether this should be distributed to only existing contracts and compacts, or if a portion of this money should be distributed to new and expanded contracts and compacts through an Indian Self-Determination Fund that IHS would create. Comments on this issue should be submitted by March 16, 2012.

To view the “Dear Tribal Leader” letter, click [here](#).

IHS Announces 2012 Tribal Consultation Summit

The Indian Health Service (IHS) recently released dates for its 2012 Tribal Consultation Summit. The Summit will be held March 13-14th at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Arlington, VA. Further details will be released as they become available. Click [here](#) for a draft agenda. For more information, click [here](#).

Obama Administration and Text4Baby join forces to connect pregnant women and children to health coverage and information

The Centers for Medicaid & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on February 28th that it will partner with Text4Baby, a free national health texting service, to promote enrollment in both Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and provide pregnant women and new mothers free text messages on important health care issues.

The announcement is part of activities marking the anniversaries of both the signing of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) and the launch of Text4Baby, whose partners include Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, Voxiva, which provides the mobile health platforms, and a host of wireless carriers.

Organizations across the country are using the CHIPRA and Text4Baby anniversaries to highlight how access to both health coverage and health information is critical for families.

Activities are already taking place in locations in California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Oklahoma and others. For example, applicants using an online application to apply for Medicaid and CHIP in San Diego will now be able to enroll with Text4Baby directly; the Florida Department of Health will place contact information for both Text4Baby and Florida Healthy Kids (the State’s children’s health insurance program) on the envelopes used to send birth certificates to families with newborns; and Oklahoma hospitals are being encouraged to connect new mothers to



Text4Baby when they enroll newborns in Medicaid right after birth.

In 2011, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program covered 43.5 million children. Under CHIPRA, CMS has awarded a total of \$90 million in grants to states, Tribes, nonprofit groups, schools, health care providers and others to conduct activities to ensure that eligible children are enrolled in health coverage and remain enrolled for as long as they qualify.

A report issued on CHIPRA's third anniversary details what Medicaid and CHIP have achieved in 2011. The report, "2011 CHIPRA Annual Report: Steady Growth, New Innovation" can be found at:

<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/chipraannualreport.pdf>.

Save the Date

Tribal Health Reform: National Training on the Affordable Care Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act

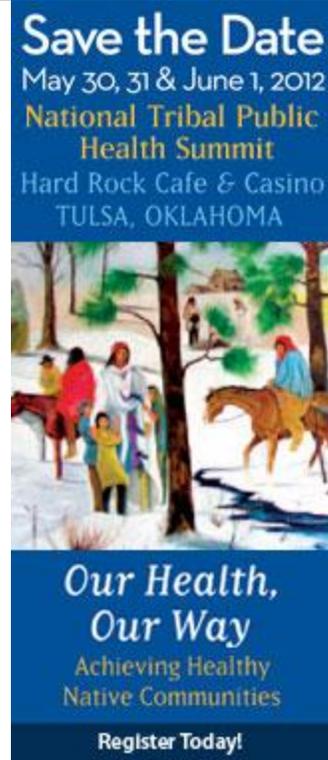
Hosted by NCAI and NIHB
through support of the National Indian Health Outreach and Education (NIHOE) partnership with the Indian Health Service

**Mystic Lake Casino
Prior Lake, MN
April 18-19, 2012**

You are cordially invited to attend
**National Indian Health Board's
29th ANNUAL CONSUMER
CONFERENCE**

Celebrating
NIHB'S 40th Anniversary

**September 24- 28, 2012
DENVER, COLORADO**



UPCOMING EVENTS

DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF INDIAN HEALTH-RELATED EVENTS OCCURRING THIS WEEK, A SEPARATE SCHEDULE HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO THIS WASHINGTON REPORT.

Sign Up for Washington Report, at:

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

For More Information Contact:

Jennifer Cooper, JD, Legislative Director
jcooper@nihb.org or
Liz Malerba, Legislative
Assistant lmalerba@nihb.org

