



Health Care Reform in Indian Country

Self-Governance Communication & Education

Self-Governance Tribes Striving Towards Excellence in Health Care

Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee Success Stories Project

Mim Dixon

National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference

Washington, DC

September 23, 2015

Andrew Anderson

Citizen
Potawatomi
Nation



Andrew Anderson

- Diagnosed with cancer of esophagus
- Surgery cost over \$400,000
- Insurance premium cost 1 cent per month
- Insurance paid for everything – no cost to PRC
- No co-pays or deductibles
- Clinic was paid \$552 for pharmacy and medical

“Took the stress of me, so I was able to concentrate on me and that helped me to heal.”

“I hope other Tribes will do this.”



Margaret
Coffey

Coeur d'Alene
Tribe



Margaret Coffey

- Foot run over by car nine years ago - bones snapped 6 years later
- Did not meet priority for Contract Health Services
- Tribal Sponsorship paid for insurance
- No co-pay or deductible
- Saw podiatrist for first time in 2014 and had surgery on her foot.

“Through this insurance I am now a priority.”

“Life has changed – I feel thankful and hopeful.”



Bernadette Counter-Stepanoff

Southcentral Foundation



Bernadette Counter-Stepanoff

- Type 2 diabetes, back pain and other health problems
- Alaska did not have Medicaid Expansion until September 1, 2015 – no tax credits for insurance
- \$420 per month premium paid by Tribal Sponsorship Health Insurance Program (TSHIP)
- No copays or deductibles
- In first six months of 2015, insurance paid \$36,000
 - MRI
 - Physical Therapy 2x/week
 - Traditional healing instead of pain medications
 - Win to Lose program: pedometer, walking, nutrition counselling
- She lost 110 pounds
- She went from 6 shots of insulin a day to 1 slow-acting insulin shot

“I’m using my benefits to help me get healthy this year.”



Lorraine Houle

Fond du Lac Band
of Lake Superior Chippewa



Lorraine Houle

- Coordinator of Family and Child Education Program for her Tribe
- Receives health insurance from her employer
- Made sure her family had coverage
- Invited clinic staff to talk with families in the program she runs about the importance of health insurance
- As a result, 7 more families enrolled

“Even though Native Americans are exempt from the tax penalty, we are under-covered for insurance.”

“Having insurance helps other people in the Tribe.”



Tribal Self Governance Advisory Committee

Success Stories Project

- Funded by the Indian Health Service
- Handouts
- Press releases that can be used in Tribal and local newspapers
- E-mail distribution of materials weekly in August
- Magazine for clinic waiting rooms
- Materials available on SGCE website:

<http://tribalsegov.org/health-reform/success-stories>

Summary

- Policy work at the national and state levels makes a difference in people's lives.
- Tribal Sponsorship and enrollment assistance are the link between policy and real improvements.
- There are tools that can help your Tribe, including Success Stories.



Thank you

to those who shared their stories,
and the following Tribes and Tribal Organization:

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Southcentral Foundation

