

# Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Meeting Summary & Questions

## Meeting Summary:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) hosted a Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Representatives meeting on May 22, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via WebEx. The meeting materials were distributed before the meeting and are now posted on the [DHCS website](#).

Attendees included representatives from the following Tribes, Tribal Health Programs (THPs), and Urban Indian Health Organizations:

- Central Valley Indian Health, Inc.
  - Chapa-De Indian Health Program
  - Colusa Indian Health Community Council
  - Feather River Tribal Health, Inc.
  - Indian Health Council, Inc.
  - K'ima:w Medical Center
  - Karuk Tribe
  - Lake County Tribal Health Consortium, Inc.
  - Mathiesen Memorial Health Clinic
  - New Life Clinic
  - Northern Valley Indian Health, Inc.
  - Pit River Health Service, Inc.
  - Riverside – San Bernardino County Indian Health
  - San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California
  - Southern Indian Health Council
  - Sycuan Medical Dental Center
  - Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc.
  - Tule River Indian Health Center, Inc.
  - United American Indian Involvement, Inc.
  - United Indian Health Service, Inc.
- Indian Health Organizations:
- California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)
  - Indian Health Services-California Area Office (IHS-CAO)

## Items Reviewed:

- DHCS Director's Update (Slide 3)
- Updates on Population Health Management: The Reimagined Population Needs Assessment (PNA) (Slides 4-17)
- CA PATH Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion and Development (CITED) Grant Opportunity (Slides 18-55)
- Office of Tribal Affairs Update (Slides 56-66)
- Items for Next Meeting/Final Comments (Slide 67)

For details on the items discussed during the meeting please refer to the [presentation slides](#) indicated above and other meeting materials available on the [DHCS website](#).

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## Questions and Responses

### DHCS Director's Update

1. **Question:** Regarding Medi-Cal eligibility redeterminations, will the Department partner with Tribal Health Program (THPs) to provide outreach to beneficiaries who may be losing their Med-Cal coverage?

**DHCS Response:** DHCS' top goal is to minimize beneficiary burden and promote continuity of coverage. DHCS implemented a two-phased communication campaign to reach beneficiaries with messages about their Medi-Cal coverage across multiple channels using trusted partners called DHCS Coverage Ambassadors. DHCS Coverage Ambassadors can use content from the [Medi-Cal Continuous Coverage Toolkit](#) to educate beneficiaries. Please join the [DHCS Coverage Ambassadors mailing list](#) to receive the latest information and updated toolkits as they become available. In addition, the process to sign up and become a DHCS Coverage Ambassador is currently open. For questions, please contact [Ambassadors@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Ambassadors@dhcs.ca.gov) or [TribalAffairs@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:TribalAffairs@dhcs.ca.gov).

2. **Question:** Can the Department provide a list of which Tribal organizations have a Coverage Ambassador?

**DHCS Response:** There are currently 28 Coverage Ambassadors for Indian health. Below is a list of the Tribal organizations these individuals represent:

- American Indian Health & Services
- California Rural Indian Health Board
- Chapa-De Indian Health
- Consolidated Tribal Health Project
- Graton Rancheria
- Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley
- Indian Health Council
- Northern Valley Indian Health
- Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health
- Sonoma County Indian Health Project
- Southern Indian Health Council, Inc.

3. **Question:** For the Medi-Cal eligibility redetermination process, will beneficiaries need to complete the Request for Medical Exemption from Plan Enrollment form again to remain in Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS)?

**DHCS Response:** Beneficiaries will not need to complete the Request for Medical Exemption from Plan Enrollment form again. If there are any issues, beneficiaries may contact the Medi-Cal Office of the Ombudsman at 1-888-452-8609 or by email at [MMCDOmbudsmanOffice@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MMCDOmbudsmanOffice@dhcs.ca.gov) for assistance.

4. **Question:** Will there be Tribal set asides for THPs to receive funding from the Department's \$5 million bond?

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**DHCS Response:** The Department will take this back for discussion. In addition, the Request for Application (RFA) for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Fund will be released soon and has a \$50 million Tribal set aside. Please see slides 83-97 of the [February 27, 2023 Tribal and Indian Health Program Representatives Meeting Presentation](#) for additional information.

### **Updates on Population Health Management: The Reimagined Population Needs Assessment (PNA)**

5. **Question:** When will the Managed Care Plans (MCPs) begin work for the PNA?

**DHCS Response:** Starting in 2024, DHCS proposes that MCPs will fulfill their PNA requirement to DHCS by participating meaningfully in the collaborative Community Health Assessment and Community Health Implementation Plan (CHA/CHIP) processes already led by county Local Health Departments (LHDs), in counties where they have contracts. Please page 6 of the [PNA concept paper](#).

6. **Question:** Can the Department provide more information on how the MCPs could provide staff support to core activities?

**DHCS Response:** DHCS is actively gathering feedback on what meaningful MCP participation would look like on LHDs' CHA/CHIP processes (e.g., providing staff to support core activities) from various stakeholders through the comment period for the PNA concept paper as well as other community engagement forums. From initial research and stakeholder interviews, DHCS also understands that every community/health jurisdiction, is different with unique needs, resources and priorities. As such, MCP support will likely look different in each community.

### **CA Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion and Development (CITED) Grant Opportunity**

7. **Question:** Can the Department extend the deadline for the CITED Grant opportunity since there were no Tribal partner applicants in Round 1?

**DHCS Response:** The Round 2 deadline will not be extended, however, there are reserved funds for subsequent rounds and specific office hours will be held for Tribal partners. Please contact the Department at [TribalAffairs@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:TribalAffairs@dhcs.ca.gov) for questions or assistance with the grant process.

### **Office of Tribal Affairs Update**

8. **Question:** What will the role of the MCP Tribal Liaison be?

**DHCS Response:** The general role of the MCP Tribal Liaison will be to provide assistance to Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs) experiencing issues with reimbursements, referrals, etc. The Department is in the process of further developing

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the specific role and requirements for the Tribal Liaison and welcomes feedback from Tribal partners which can be provided via e-mail at [TribalAffairs@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:TribalAffairs@dhcs.ca.gov) or at the next Tribal and Indian Health Program Representatives meeting.

**9. Question:** Will there be a MCP Tribal Liaison in each region?

**DHCS Response:** The current requirement is for each MCP to have a Tribal Liaison representative. The Department will have further discussion regarding the possibility of a regional Tribal Liaison representative.

**10. Question:** Regarding Community Health Worker (CHW) billing, is the rate for 2-4 patients at \$12.66 and 5-8 patients at \$9.46 meant for a group session?

**DHCS Response:** Yes, the rates listed for 2-4 patients and 5-8 patients are for a group session. If the clinic provided CHW services to multiple patients in a day but not in a group setting, the clinic should bill for each patient at the individual rate of \$26.66 times the number of units.

**11. Question:** Can the Department clarify the training and certificate requirements for CHWs?

**DHCS Response:** Please see the CHW Minimum Qualifications section of the [CHW Preventive Services Provider Manual](#) for information about the certificate pathway, work experience pathway, and annual training requirement.

**12. Question:** Does assistance with enrollment in Medi-Cal or other marketplace health insurance qualify as a billable CHW service?

**DHCS Response:** Assistance with enrollment in Medi-Cal or other marketplace health insurance is not a billable CHW service. Once an individual is enrolled in Medi-Cal, a CHW may assist the person to connect to community resources necessary to promote a beneficiary's health, address health care barriers, or address health-related social needs.

### Next Steps:

- The next Tribal and Indian Health Program Representatives meeting will be held in person on Monday, August 21, 2023. Registration information will be posted to the [DHCS' Indian Health Program](#) website when available.