

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Tribal Technical Advisory Group
CMS TTAG
Conference Call Notes**

**June 11, 2008
Conference Call**

TTAG Members Present

Aberdeen
Alaska
Albuquerque
Bemidji
Billings
California
Nashville
Navajo
Oklahoma
Phoenix
Portland
Tuscon

Valerie Davidson

Phil Norrgard
Nancy Vaughan
Jim Crouch
Dee Sabattus
Roz Begay (excused)
Bill Lance

Jim Roberts

CMS

Dorothy Dupree
Rodger Goodacre
Lisa Carroll, CMSO
Richard Billera, CMSO
Melissa Dehn, CMM
Mark Reed
Leslie
Jonas
Cecile Greenway

IHS

Elmer Brewster
Brenda Jeanotte-Smith
Carl Harper
Sean Dooley, OGC
Jessica Imotichey

TSGAC

NIHB

Mickey Peercy

NCAI

Others Present

Jim Lamb
Kitty Marx
Ed Fox
Mike Mark

Documents Received:

1. June 11th CMS TTAG conference call agenda
2. Region X MLR follow up
3. GAO findings summary from May 14th
4. Proposed TTAG website re-design
5. TTAG Roadmap of Accomplishments
6. July Face to Face hotel information
7. CMS description of encounter rate issue

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Tribal Technical Advisory Group
CMS TTAG
Summary of Action Items**

**June 11, 2008
Conference Call**

Action Item	Timeline	Person Responsible	Notes
Transfer conference call activation responsibilities to NIHB	Unspecified	Rodger Goodacre	
Follow up on minutes from February 21-22, April 9, May 14	As soon as possible	Caitlin Wesaw	
Organize Tribal Consultation Policy subcommittee conference call	6/13	Caitlin Wesaw	Completed
Organize Tribal Consultation Policy subcommittee conference call	6/13	Caitlin Wesaw	Completed
Send out definition of Encounter to group	Unspecified	Elmer Brewster	In reference to report authored by Dorothy Dupree and Kitty Marx
Organize Encounter Subcommittee conference call.	6/13	Caitlin Wesaw	Completed
Send white paper to Brenda Jeanotte-Smith and Sean Dooley	Unspecified	Jim Roberts	
Add MLR to face to face agenda	6/30	Caitlin Wesaw	
Send Michelle Rosenberg a note to see if GAO can share a draft of the report with TTAG	Unspecified	Dorothy Dupree	Completed
Send out draft of agenda for July face to face meeting	6/20	Caitlin Wesaw	

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Tribal Technical Advisory Group
CMS TTAG
Summary of Conference Call**

**June 11, 2008
Conference Call**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome	<p>Chair Valerie Davidson opened the conference call at 2:30 pm (ET). Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.</p> <p>Roz Begay asked for Navajo to be excused from the call due to their necessary participation in another meeting. Chair Valerie Davidson excused Navajo from the call.</p> <p>Mickey Peercy asked if NIHB could activate the conference calls in the future, because CMS staff were delayed due to the Medicine Dish Broadcast, and Rodger Goodacre indicated that would be possible.</p>	
Report from Chair	<p>Chair Valerie Davidson gave a brief report on the budget information that Ron Allen requested from NIHB. She reported that the subcommittees may need more budget information in the future.</p> <p>Kitty Marx explained that NIHB has provided the budget information that was requested and will provide more information at the July meeting.</p>	
Report from Secretary	<p>No report from Secretary Carolyn Finster as she was not present on the call.</p> <p>The approval of minutes will be taken up during the July face to face meeting.</p>	Follow up on minutes from April and May
<p>Report from CMS</p> <p>Medicine Dish</p> <p>Tribal Consultation Policy</p>	<p>Dorothy Dupree gave the report from CMS.</p> <p>Prior to the TTAG call Dorothy Dupree was on the Medicine Dish Broadcast on Electronic Medical Records. This broadcast will be available on the NIH website within a few days. Please refer to the schedule for future broadcasts.</p> <p>The Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) has received clearance from CMS. The next step is to send it to IGA for clearance. The CMS proposed TCP will be sent to the TTAG this week along with a side by side comparison of the TTAG proposed version and the CMS proposed version.</p> <p>The following are items were brought up for discussion by Dorothy Dupree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The detailed description of the budget process was omitted from the CMS version of the TCP - Dorothy Dupree informed the group that CMS staff took an 	

<p>GAO Report</p> <p>Data Subcommittee</p> <p>Nevada Training</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>Encounter Rates</p>	<p>active interest in the policy and asked many questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some items in the policy have yet to be defined, such as threshold levels, and cannot be defined without the department's input. - It is important to remember that the TCP is a living document and CMS staff will continue to be educated on the document and the requirements. <p>NIHB will be sent the documents, CMS proposed version and the side by side comparison, for distribution. The TTAG should review the document and the TCP subcommittee will have a conference call, Friday of next week to discuss the changes.</p> <p>As acting chair of the TCP subcommittee, Mickey Percy, suggested that the group provide a quick but thorough review to get the policy cleared and implemented.</p> <p>The goal is to get a TTAG, IGA, and CMS cleared document for signing and implementation by July 31st.</p> <p>The GAO report was released in draft form for CMS to review and comment. CMS is currently writing a response to the report.</p> <p>The TTAG requested Dorothy Dupree contact the GAO and ask if they can share the draft of the report with the TTAG. If not, the TTAG will submit comments after the report is finalized.</p> <p>The Data Subcommittee will meet at CMS on June 30th.</p> <p>The training for Nevada tribes will take place June 17th in Reno. NIHB will be coordinating the logistics for this training.</p> <p>Submissions for the TTAG budget are due this Friday, June 13th. Ron Allen and Jim Roberts have already sent in budget recommendations for this submission.</p> <p>Cecile Greenway and Cyndi Gillaspie are working on compiling a history of policy at CMS and cataloging the documents dating back many years for the Tribal Affairs Group.</p> <p>Dorothy Dupree explained that to supplement the work CMSO will be undertaking regarding the Encounter Rate, a subcommittee composed of TTAG and MMPC members along with CMS and IHS needs to be organized. Funding needs to be available for face to face meetings.</p>	<p>Organize Tribal Consultation Policy subcommittee conference call</p>
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	<p>Lisa Carroll, from CMSO, provided a summary of the issue and work done so far as requested during the May 14th conference call. Lisa Carroll and Richard Billera discussed their ideas for moving forward with their work on the Encounter Rate with IHS. They will be attending TTAG calls regularly to give updates on Encounter Rate.</p> <p>Information on the AIR was done by Kitty Marx and Dorothy Dupree when the 1996 IHS/CMS Memorandum of Agreement was being implemented. The report is located at IHS and includes a definition of the encounter that might be helpful for the group when they begin subcommittee work.</p> <p>Currently one state is focusing on the number of encounters and that is Nevada. A number of other states are asking questions about the rate.</p> <p>CMS is looking into the issue to make the Encounter Rate payment mechanism more consistent.</p> <p>Chair Valerie Davidson asked if there were any more individuals who would like to be on the Encounter Subcommittee: Carol Barbero, Lisa Carroll and Richard Billera</p> <p>Note: Eight or nine individuals volunteered to participate on this subcommittee – please check notes for names – all subsequently participated on the first subcommittee call</p> <p>The Encounter Rate discussion ended with a suggestion from Phil Norrgard to change the subcommittee name to the AIR workgroup.</p>	<p>Send out definition of Encounter to group</p> <p>Organize Encounter Subcommittee conference call.</p>
<p>Medicare Like Rates</p>	<p>Dorothy Dupree invited Brenda Jeanotte-Smith, from IHS and Sean Dooley, from IHS/OGC, to hear the TTAG concerns with Medicare Like Rates.</p> <p>Jim Roberts shared the experiences of Portland Tribes that are calculating the payments under the MLR differently from the FI. He also discussed the white paper he authored on the issue.</p> <p>Chair Valerie Davidson asked that the representatives from IHS and OGC come to the July face to face meeting and update the group on the status.</p>	<p>Send white paper to Brenda Jeanotte-Smith and Sean Dooley</p> <p>Add MLR to face to face agenda</p>
<p>Follow up on GAO findings</p>	<p>Dorothy Dupree will ask Melissa Rosenberg from the GAO if she can share a copy of the draft with the TTAG. She suggested that if the GAO cannot provide a copy to the TTAG, the group should wait for the final report and submit comments after it has been released.</p>	<p>Send Michelle Rosenberg a note to see if GAO can share a draft of the report with TTAG</p>
<p>Section 1011 – MMA</p>	<p>Melissa Dehn, from CMS, gave a brief update on Section 1011 of the MMA regarding the payment of services to undocumented aliens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Section 1011 pays directly for unreimbursed costs for services to undocumented aliens. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$83 million to six states with the most undocumented aliens - Examples of remaining funds as of May 27th, 2008 Arizona \$68.7 million and Florida \$19 million - Only a handful of tribal facilities enrolled in Section 1011 - Please refer to the Trailblazer website for more information www.trailblazerhealth.com/section1011 <p>Elmer Brewster informed the group that he is only aware of one facility that is enrolled in this program.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Update</p>	<p>Outreach and Education – Rodger Goodacre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So far 9 of the 12 regions have completed CMS trainings. - 1400 people have attended these trainings. - Bemidji, Nashville, and Phoenix will be taking place within the next few months. - Medicine Dish Series still underway. Please refer to the schedule for more information. <p>Data – Jim Crouch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting on June 30th with CMS in Baltimore to discuss the work that has been completed to date, the difficulties that have been encountered, future data needs, definitions and to respond to questions from CMS - Currently there is limited utility of public data. <p>Long Term Care – No Long Term Care Subcommittee Report.</p> <p>Citizenship Documentation</p> <p>There was no report from the subcommittee, but Lane Terwilliger, from CMS, gave an update of CMS’s citizenship documentation activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a part of the subcommittee work, CMS has been exploring the ability of using tribal identification cards. - It appears that CMS has closed the use of Tribal documents as primary documents for citizenship purposes without rule making. - CMS will recommend a brainstorming session to work through the hierarchy of documents. <p>Carol Barbero suggested rulemaking on citizenship documentation could be considered an extraordinary circumstance under the OMB memo and therefore, would not qualify under the White House restrictions for no new proposed rules after June 1st. Lane Terwilliger indicated CMS discussed this possibility and it is not an option.</p> <p>Strategic Plan – Jim Roberts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subcommittee has met a number of times to work on the Strategic Plan’s goals, objectives and tasks - At the June 4th and 5th face to face meeting, the subcommittee 	

	<p>reworked objectives and in process of revising the draft plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upcoming Conference Calls/Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Wednesday, July 2nd full subcommittee call o Monday, July 28th at NCAI from 1-5 pm o Wednesday, July 30th presentation at TTAG face to face meeting - The subcommittee looks for the work completed by Tuesday, September 23rd for the presentation at the Annual Consumer Conference and the document to be finalized by the end of the year. 	
July Face to Face	<p>Ideas for July face to face meeting agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAM - Discussion of Strategic Plan (2 hours) <p>Chair Valerie Davidson asked the group to send ideas for the agenda to Caitlin Wesaw after reviewing a draft agenda that will be sent out by NIHB.</p> <p>Dorothy Dupree sent Kerry Weems a message for attendance at the TTAG meeting and is waiting for a response.</p>	Send out draft of agenda for July face to face meeting
Other Business	No other business was discussed.	
Adjourn	Chair Valerie Davidson adjourned the conference call at 4:00 pm (ET). The next TTAG meeting is July 30 th and 31 st in Washington, D.C.	