

12/12/07 TTAG Conference Call

Valerie Davidson, opened the meeting.

Colette Keith, called the roll.

Call Participants:

TTAG Representatives:

Valerie Davidson, Chair
Carolyn Finster, Albuquerque Area
Phil Norrgard, Bemidji Area
James Crouch, California Area
Dee Sabattus, Nashville Area
Roselyn Begay, Navajo Area
Bill Lance, Oklahoma Area
Ron Allen, TSGAC
Mickey Percy, NIHB

I H S:

Jessica Imotichey

CMS:

Dorothy Dupree
Rodger Goodacre
Michael Lyman
Cecile Greenway
Cindy Gillaspie

OTHER TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Traci McClellan, NICOA
Kris Locke, TSGAC

NIHB:

Kitty Marx
Stacey Bohlen
Colette Keith

Mickey Percy, made motion for an open agenda.

Dee Sabattus, seconded the motion.

Motion for an open agenda carried unanimously.

Valerie Davidson, thanked everyone for attending the TTAG retreat in November. She gave report regarding meeting between CMS and Alaska tribes on long term care opportunities. She stated that is was a very positive meeting.

Mickey Peercy, asked to have approval of the minutes tabled until next meeting.

Dorothy Dupree, gave the CMS report. She said they are continuing to work on the tribal consultation policy. They are making good progress and getting close to completion. They need to have just one more meeting. They will then present it to Acting Administrator Kerry Weems. They had a satellite broadcast today on Medicaid. A number of people called in. They also had a meeting with Indian Health Service regarding Medicaid and Medicare all-inclusive rates for the new fiscal year. In addition, CMS met with IHS to strategize about how to get IHS more engaged. They have agreed to meet with IHS on a quarterly basis regarding priorities. Finally, they had Navajo Nation training last week. It went well. They were asked to go to the Ft. Defiance Hospital to discuss the development of a Long Term Care (LTC) program. The Navajo Nation plans to develop a comprehensive LTC program. They spoke at length about the services, etc. The Navajo Nation plans to translate the CMS enrollment video into the Navajo language. CMS is working with them to do that.

Mickey Peercy, asked when the Tribal Consultation policy would be coming back to the subcommittee.

Dorothy Dupree, responded that she is pushing for mid part of January. They hope to get to full CMS TTAG by February face to face meeting.

Valerie Davidson, said the group will now address the subcommittee activities/budget proposals.

Rodger Goodacre, gave update on current Outreach and Education activities. They are doing area trainings. They have completed Seattle, Aberdeen and Dallas. The others are scheduled, at least tentatively. The next one is in Billings in January. Satellite broadcasts are moving forward. Next one is on January 9th. With regards to the video, it has been sent to print. 5000 copies are being made and will be available to order online. Those will be sent to NIHB as well. He gave an overview of the TAG proposed budget for FY 2008 using the TAG's subcommittee proposals as a reference, plus one additional training in Nevada. (see attached proposal).

Mickey Peercy, asked when CMS does the area training sessions, is attendance mostly tribal or Indian Health Service heavy or a combination of both?

Dorothy Dupree, responded that it is a combination of both. They try to work closely with I H S and the Area Health Boards. In the Aberdeen Area, there were quite a few tribal leaders in attendance. They were very supportive and engaged in the discussion, so that was helpful. They had a good mix of tribal people, program administrators, business office staff, health board members, and IHS program administrators. In Nevada, they will be working on issues that CMS will be able to help with. She said that in the Navajo Area, again, there was a mix of IHS and tribal people.

James Crouch, gave a data subcommittee update. They are within a couple of weeks to finishing the second six month award with NIHB. They will ship out report on Dec. 31st. It will include information on 35 Indian Medicare and Medicaid States and SCHIP expenditures as that information exists at CMS, using racial identifier for both programs. It will also give information on IHS patient use of those resources. They will have some un requested but useful Global Information Systems type mapping of that information. This material will show what initial report showed. That current architecture of CMS data system has problems when showing Indian utilization, expenditure, and health status kinds of information. It will give pilot test on standardized template for the data set that we want to analyze for next couple of years. It is hoped that over time that work that could happen in the Strategic Plan conversation, might result in data change in architecture. None of that has happened to this point. He then gave review of the FY 2008 proposal. In the proposal, there is a one page overview and brief narrative outlining the scope of work and actual budget report. They are proposing to retain Dr. Korenbrott, a Biostatistician and a full time Research Associate. In response to NIHB/CMS recommended budget, Data does not have established Indirect Cost rate in the budget so they are wanting to charge an IT specialist and purchase a server. It is possible that they could get by on the proposed amount. But would ask, when Dr. Korenbrott is available, to renegotiate the contract prior to CMS sending down numbers to IHS and NIHB. If we could get access to electronic state by state files and not go through the aggregated data by University of Minnesota. They could then get closer to Indian by type of Indian by IHS provider by tribe break out of CMS contribution.

Michael Lyman, said he reviewed the proposed budget internally with CMS last week and he would like to go over CMS' suggested edits. CMS thinks it will be challenging to get at Medicaid data as aggressively as James is proposing. They see pitfalls of doing that. But basically he is supportive. He is not aware of data not wanting to go through RESDAC.

James Crouch, responded that on Dec 31st you will get exhaustive utility of RESDAC data. They are directly tapped into that source. They have DCFS programming and biostatisticians will help, etc.

James Crouch and Michael Lyman discussed problems with research end of proposal.

Michael Lyman, indicated that he would want the Data subcommittee to spend time making Medicare enrollment data base cleaner. That will be a very big issue.

James Crouch, responded that the "heavy lifting" will be in Baltimore. He thinks the CMS contractor near San Francisco airport is the actual CMS contractor for data sets. That proximity might make it easy for them to move on Medicare data. They all know that changing architecture is big and they will need political support on that as much as technical support.

Ron Allen, gave update on Strategic Plan subcommittee. He said updating Strategic Plan is critical to all CMS priorities and should be an important TTAG priority.

Kris Locke, said this funding request is time sensitive. If we hope to have this completed by April, 2008, the work needs to be approved and started in January.

Ron Allen, agrees. He said the Strategic Plan committee has a lot on their plate. They need to get going on their work. He is hopeful that TTAG will support their efforts.

Roselyn Begay, said she supports the Strategic Plan effort and knows that Mim will deliver the product.

Ron Allen, asked if the NIHB budget will be delivered in more detail. He could not discern which monies were for what. Ron questioned why NIHB was increasing the amount of money for CMS Day from \$60,000.00 to \$75,000.00. Ron indicated that he could not remain on the conference call but that Kris Locke will take notes. He said he and Kathy Hughes have the same questions.

Stacy Bohlen, asked if Ron and Kathy or whomever could visit with NIHB next week and go into greater detail.

Ron Allen, responded yes. That is a good idea.

Stacy Bohlen, said she would be happy to visit with Ron and others on budget subcommittee in a separate call next week.

Ron Allen, said please email him with dates and times to talk through details.

Mickey Peercy, requested that he be made aware of the separate call also so that he could participate.

Kris Locke, requested that Jim Roberts be added to the list. She went on to give update on LTC budget. She said after the last LTC call, she cleaned up draft of what people had set for goals and scope of work for this next year. Priya had originally requested \$75,000.00. She pared it down to \$60,000.00. Kris indicated that the first very important task is to contract with someone to really do some good research on LTC in Indian Country. The LTC committee needs to know what has already been done and then what is it that we do not know, etc. The committee will need someone to identify gaps in the information. There also needs to be specialized white paper to outline legal and policy issues related to legal and LTC. That will raise a lot of issues and subcommittee will need high level technical assistance to help prioritize what those issues are and determine how to proceed.

Cindy Gillaspie, said that with regard to the resource guide, we are not so much looking at what is already out there but more of hands on guide for community people about how to work with states, how to conduct community needs assessments, etc.

Kris Locke, said the focus is not providing advice to consumers but to tribes.

Traci McClellan, said like Cindy said it would focus on panacea of community based services or on assisted living, etc. How do you go about doing that, etc.

Kris Locke, said that is first step that needs to be taken and major thrust of the work. But in addition, there are also “systems of stuff” that need to be addressed. The subcommittee talked a lot about doing research to describe existing models on LTC services. Finally, she thinks subcommittee could benefit from technical assistance from someone in Indian Country who has a lot of experience with LTC issues, such as someone who will make sure that work in between meetings is getting done, etc.

Dorothy Dupree, said that original discussion we were having in forming LTC is more of a model that would work in Indian Country that would be different from what exists in current authority. We spend too much time talking about what currently exists. We need to take a look at barriers to what is being done. What could be changed, expanded upon, etc. She said she could not even begin to know what that would be.

Kris Locke, said she agrees. She doesn't think there will be one model. It will be a menu of choices that a community can select from. But she also believes that the good work out there needs to be put out there. It would be good to develop basic document to get everyone up to speed. Otherwise, there is a ping pong effect. This information would help develop infrastructure.

Traci McClellan, said she likes idea of new models.

Roz Begay, gave update on Citizenship Documentation proposal. She said there budget request would support one face to face meeting with Federal officials in February for a cost of \$15,000.00 and an additional \$5,000.00 was added to do technical research. The Subcommittee would submit a briefing paper to TTAG for June-July meeting.

Valerie Davidson, said we should have discussion on various proposals. Any suggestions?

Mickey Percy, asked for reaction from CMS.

Dorothy Dupree, said what they tried to do in looking at requests as they came in, was to accommodate them all to some degree. She said that is reflected in budget summary that Colette put together. The budget summary provides each subcommittee with some money. CMS would develop IDDA for the proposals. She said that would take some time. She is hoping to fund them as they have been recommended. She wants to get money allocated soon.

Valerie Davidson, asked, TTAG subcommittee chairs if they are content with recommendations made from document titled “*FY 2008-CMS TTAG Subcommittee Budget Proposal Summary*”. (attached)

James Crouch, said the Data Subcommittee could do some work with the reduced budget that would make people happy and that would be productive.

Dee Sabattus, asked if we were going to hear from NIHB on their budget.

Stacy Bohlen, reviewed NIHB budget as per proposal summary.

Dee Sabbatus, said she remembers from TTAG Retreat that NIHB would give expense report on carryover. She thought Kitty said she would make commitment to send expense report by December 7th.

Stacy Bohlen, said she is happy that Dee brought this up. She said all should be aware of this. NIHB would be happy to provide a year to date report, provided we have an accurate one. We can not do this until people who have traveled on TTAG budget turn in travel forms. All have been notified. If we don't receive those by end of December, you will not be reimbursed. That is only scenario that she can imagine NIHB would have any kind of carryover.

Kris Locke, suggested if there is going to be meeting next week to talk in more detail about NIHB budget, can we hold the approval of NIHB budget?

Kitty Marx, said our discussion with Ron was to talk about moving forward. The FY 08 money is available. She said what she heard from the retreat was how we could improve the money that the TTAG does receive from CMS. The TTAG could better identify its needs so that when CMS makes recommendation for FY 09 money it will better reflect what TTAG needs as far as support for technical expertise.

Kris Locke, said all she is saying is that since it is not for money right now, can we not approve this budget until the whole picture is presented. People have questions, and we don't have answers. It does not need to be decided on today.

James Crouch, said he thinks cycling of money is big issue. He can't see that there are two pennies to rub together at NIHB.

Kris Locke, said it is not an issue of them having money, but what action the group wants to take today.

Traci McClellan, asked Dorothy if she has to get this through the process today?

Dorothy Dupree, responded, yes. This money can then get off their books and go to IHS and they can always go back and amend or reallocate the money if they find NIHB has money left over, etc. We can always reallocate money. But we need to get the money allocated.

Mickey Percy, said there was a time when there were questions about NIHB monies. Those things have all been cleared up. He would suggest that we should approve and move on with the budget. Every dollar that comes to NIHB with funding sources are well documented.

Dorothy Dupree, said we will always have ongoing discussions with NIHB, etc. That is normal order of business. We just want to get this off the books.

Mickey Percy, made motion for unanimous consent to approve subcommittee and NIHB budgets as recommended with amendment to work in the additional monies they were made aware of (\$1,000 or so) to work out evenly, giving the extra to Data Committee.

James Crouch, seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Valerie Davidson, said the next TTAG face to face meeting in D.C. is planned for February. Discussion on what would be best days to meet.

By consensus, group decided that:

Travel on Tuesday, February, 19th.

MMPC will meet on Wednesday, February, 20th, beginning at 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

TTAG will meet Thursday, February 21st from 9.m. – 5 p.m. and on Friday, February, 22nd, from 8 a.m. – noon.

Meeting location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned.