

**CMS TTAG
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
1/9/08**

Valerie Davidson, called the meeting to order.

Colette Keith, gave the Roll Call.

Present were:

TTAG Representatives:

Valerie Davidson, Alaska Area
Carolyn Finster, Albuquerque Area
Phil Norrgard, Bemidji Area for Kathy Hughes
James Crouch, California Area
Anslem Roanhorse, Navajo Area
Jim Roberts, for the Portland Area
W. Ron Allen, TSGAC
Mickey Percy, NIHB
Cinda Hughes, NCAI

CMS:

Rodger Goodacre
Michael Lyman

I H S:

Brenda Jeanotte
Elmer Brewster
Jessica Imotichey
Balerma Burgess

NIHB:

Stacy Bohlen
Kitty Marx
Colette Keith

OTHERS:

Jim Lamb, Alaska Area Alternate
Roz Begay, Navajo Area
Myra Munson, Technical Advisor for Alaska Area
Carol Barbero, Technical Advisor for Nashville Area
Tracy Jones, for the Oklahoma Area
Ed Fox, Portland Area
Mim Dixon
Soncery Bonelle
Janelle Hardy

Mickey Peercy, made motion for an open agenda with unanimous consent. Seconded by Carolyn Finster. Motion approved unanimously.

Valerie Davidson, asked for Citizenship Documentation to give a report as they have to be at another meeting.

Roz Begay, said they sent out email to query members regarding the date of their first conference call. That call will take place on January 23rd. She will send out email confirming that. Initial face to face meeting will be on Feb 6th and 7th in Baltimore.

Valerie Davidson, asked if there are questions for Citizenship Documentation subcommittee. Hearing none, she said she would dispense with Report from the Chair. She thanked Jim Roberts and others on edits on letter that is going to I H S in asking for funds for Strategic Plan. Hopefully, that money will come through. She has seen communication from NIHB. Looks like Mim can get started with work.

Valerie Davidson, called on Mickey to give Secretary Report.

Mickey Peercy, said he is working with Colette and would ask to wait until February to get minutes approved.

Valerie Davidson, called on Rodger Goodacre to give CMS Report.

Rodger Goodacre, said Dorothy is at daughters wedding in Florida this week. They will be in Washington State for MAM Consultation on 18th. With regard to Consultation Policy Development; They are moving toward closure and should have final draft by end of the month.

Mickey Peercy, asked Rodger that with regard to Consultation Policy, will CMS have report out early enough to subcommittee so that they can look over it and make comments and have something for final approval by the TTAG February face to face meeting.

Rodger Goodacre, responded, that that would be his goal. They hope to have draft by week of January 21st.

Mickey Peercy, asked people on subcommittee to anticipate that and be prepared for emails, etc., regarding that.

Kris Locke, asked Rodger if he would be in Seattle for Consultation.

Rodger Goodacre, responded that Dennis Smith would be there representing CMS. Either he or Dorothy will be there representing Tribal Affairs. Continuing on with his report, he stated that they met with I H S at the end of the year regarding AIR for 2008. Those are now at OMB. Internally, they are still struggling without Priya. They are hoping to replace her.

Valerie Davidson, asked Rodger to remind folks of meeting in Seattle, Wa.

Rodger Goodacre, said it is on Friday, January 18th. It will be a Discussion/Consultation on Washington State's MAM proposal.

James Crouch, said California is having similar issues establishing an acceptable Native American MAM plan. Dennis should have to work under such exacting rules as they are proposing to them for a few months before he tries to impose them on someone else.

Rodger Goodacre, said he would share those sentiments with Dennis.

Carol Barbero, asked Rodger that with regards to Consultation Policy, if we presume that final policy agrees with it. What happens then? Would it be finalized at TTAG meeting if Kerry Weems attends?

Rodger Goodacre, said Mr. Weems would sign it and any disputes would be resolved through him.

Carol Barbero, asked for clarification on request for changes. How would they be handled?

Rodger Goodacre, responded that the request would go back to TAG and they would send it up to Mr. Weems.

Jim Lamb, asked Rodger question on All Inclusive Rates. When will they clear OMB?

Rodger Goodacre, responded, that he does not know the answer to that.

Valerie Davidson, asked Rodger and Kitty where we are at with regards to 2008 Budget proposal.

Rodger Goodacre, responded that they have taken proposals from December and turned them into document and sent to I H S for their review. They are in middle of response from I H S.

Elmer Brewster, asked Rodger for clarification about when proposals were sent to I H S.

Rodger Goodacre, said he sent the IDDA to Doug Black and Anne French. He said they are in administrative process.

Elmer Brewster, said he would double check with Doug Black.

Valerie Davidson, asked that we are holding on some of the work and in order to advance on mutual efforts we need to see some movement. In other words, it would be helpful to get it done sooner than later.

Kris Locke, asked Rodger and Elmer to comment, based on the number of agreements that have taken place over past several years, how long could this process take?

Elmer Brewster, said he could find out where proposals are.

Rodger Goodacre, they sent over agreements that are sign able. It's a full draft IDDA. He said that Doug Black will then go to NIHB and request a proposal and assurances from them that they can get Scope of Work done within budget framework, etc.

Valerie Davidson, said we should get this wrapped up in a couple of weeks.

Rodger Goodacre, said they are prepared to move forward.

Mim Dixon, asked when CMS sent this to IHS?

Rodger Goodacre, responded that it was sent right around Christmas.

Valerie Davidson, said given that it was sent before Christmas and our experience with the process, it should occur within next couple of weeks. There should be no, "languishing in despair."

Kris Locke, said there was a letter that was drafted to Bob McSwain requesting that this money could be sent sooner to NIHB. What is the status of that letter?

Kitty Marx, said her understanding is that the contents of that letter were sent to Bob McSwain via email.

Valerie Davidson, responded that we should send it out by formal letter.

Rodger Goodacre, said we have not had an Outreach and Education subcommittee meeting because of the holidays. We do have plans for meeting at end of the month. The good news is that we enrollment videos finished. Very shortly, they will post on website how to order those. They are pleased that we have them and that they are out there. With regards to trainings, they have two coming this month; Billings and Sacramento. They are looking forward to that. James Crouch is available at Sacramento. Finally, satellite broadcast is proceeding forward. The one today was on survey and certification. He said they have 5000 copies of the enrollment video.

James Crouch, responded that yes, they are having their CMS training event. They are getting good support from Rosie Nora and the Area office. He asked for clarification on today's satellite dish presentation.

Rodger Goodacre, responded that the dish presentation was on hospitals and costs. They will have a certification for other provider types later.

James Crouch, said that the certification issue is the focus of their Sacramento training.

Rodger Goodacre, said he understands. With regard to timing of the two, he wishes they would have reversed the trainings.

James Crouch, said it will be timely when it gets there.

Kitty Marx, asked if the dates for the satellite broadcasts are set.

Rodger Goodacre, responded that they were set by DIRECT TV. He said that he and Dorothy have come running now to come down the hall. They are stuck with that time slot for entire eight months.

Elmer Brewster, said they are going to meeting for National Combined Council for Indian Health Service in San Diego. He said the dish presentations are very good and he would like to have some copies to distribute at their booth.

Rodger Goodacre, agreed to send Elmer 200 copies.

Valerie Davidson, said we will now have the Data Subcommittee report.

James Crouch, said they have a product from previous contract they can send to Colette to get to TTAG prior to Feb meeting. It is one of deliverables from the previous contract. He doesn't envision have data subcommittee review of that document before February TTAG meeting. They look forward to presenting at the face to face meeting. Lastly, Michael Lyman has been very helpful of late, helping Dr. Kornbrott get access to protected information that they need for next generation of their work.

Valerie Davidson, acknowledging that there was no one present to give report for Long Term Care Subcommittee, asked for Budget and Strategic Plan Subcommittee. While she is waiting for Ron Allen to join call and report on this, she asked Colette to update TTAG on February meeting agenda.

Colette Keith, walked TTAG through rough draft of the face to face meeting agenda. (this was attached to email announcing today's call)

Jim Roberts, made request to include 2008 Budget request presentation (formulated last year) during the budget presentation on the February agenda so that TTAG can see where they were at a year ago in the process.

Mim Dixon, asked when the MMPC, including the Budget Subcommittee, will meet face to face in February?

Kitty Marx, responded that the MMPC will meet at the National Indian Housing Council prior to the TTAG meeting in February.

Mickey Peercy, said we could hold the Budget/Strategic Plan Subcommittee during morning of the MMPC meeting. MMPC could then meet in the afternoon.

James Crouch, said whoever is working with Kerry Weems office, we need to get back to Medicaid Administrative Match Program. He said Anita Wilkins has worked on this for an entire year and they still have not produced a new approved claiming plan in Indian Country. We should give him a heads up on our impatience in Indian Country with Eric Broadbent.

Rodger Goodacre, said he will be sure to follow up as well.

Mim Dixon, said she was also wondering about other policy issues. Some of the things she reads in the news about the Bush Administration plans to cut back on Medicaid eligibility, etc., it would be nice to talk with administration on other policy issues, not just Kerry Weems. She feels like we're missing an opportunity to address issues that are coming forward.

Kris Locke, said that as [February] agenda develops, she hopes that it not be all reports. Purpose of TTAG is to advise CMS, so we want to be sure we get enough information prior to the meeting and that we are inviting and talking with CMS people to make some policy changes. We don't want to be talking to ourselves.

Ron Allen, said he agrees and that at retreat we asked what strategies we can use through rest of the year to prep ourselves for new administration. Many of these folks are career people and they will pass on commitments that are made to next administration. So, we have opportunities to leverage.

Valerie Davidson, asked members to email specific edits of the agenda so she can incorporate them into final draft agenda.

Mickey Peercy, asked that finalization of Consultation Policy be added to the agenda.

Ron Allen, asked for clarification about his giving "Update on Strategic Plan" on the agenda.

Kitty Marx, explained that per strategic plan proposal, prior to the face to face meeting there would be subcommittee meetings where there will be a review of the plan. Then per plan, at the face to face meeting there would be a review of list of objectives that subcommittee recommends be carried over to the original plan and identification of any new objectives. The subcommittee will need to do work ahead of time. That is how we envision this agenda item.

Ron Allen, responded that there are going to be additional issues, regarding recommended changes that they won't be able to report on right now. This is due to the late start on the report. He is o.k. with all that but he wants it understood that they are going to have to wing it with some parts of report.

Mim Dixon, reiterated that they could use morning of MMPC face to face meeting before to have a Strategic Plan Subcommittee meeting.

Ron Allen, said we made a commitment to Mim's contract when we were allocating money. He asked Stacy for clarification on money from CMS.

Rodger Goodacre, said he is not aware of any problems holding the money up. Drafted document have been sent over to IHS.

Ron Allen, said with regard to Stacy's email, he is just anxious because we do not know when money is coming. He understands that Mim doesn't need the money up front, but does need a commitment to get started on her work

Mickey Peercy, said NIHB has every intention of making that work, but can't commit until we have money in the bank.

Stacy Bohlen, said money just isn't in hand yet, wouldn't be comfortable putting Mim in that situation. But if she is ready to go, understanding that money won't be there until later, then that is fine. She and Kitty will get the contract it done this week.

Mim Dixon, said her concern is with April 5th deadline. But if we can get pieces in place, we should go for it. She feels its getting close to the point where she also needs some coordination with CMS. They need to be available as well. It's a complicated thing to get done in two months and she doesn't know.

Ron Allen, asked that Stacy, Kitty, Colette work with MIM to get contract going with clause that would give them some flexibility on dates with which to conclude project.

Stacy Bohlen, said we want her to get going also.

Kitty Marx, said, Colette and I are available to help with the project.

Valerie Davidson, said sounds like folks are going to get Strategic Plan contract done this week.

Mim Dixon, said Plan is not going to be complete until April.

Valerie Davidson, adjourned the call.