



Tribal Technical Advisory Group

to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



c/o National Indian Health Board 101 Constitution Ave NW, #8B02 Washington, DC 20001 (202) 742-4262 (202) 742-4285 fax

**TTAG Quarterly Meeting
Washington, D.C.
May 27, 2004**

RESOLUTION NO.: 04-03

**TTAG Requests Developing an American Indian and Alaska Native Plan
for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

WHEREAS, the federal delivery of health services and funding of programs to maintain and improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives are consonant with and required by the Federal Government's historical and unique legal relationship with Indian Tribes, as reflected in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, and numerous court decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has established the Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) to enhance the Government-to-Government relationship, to honor Federal trust responsibilities and obligations to Tribes and American Indian people, and to increase the understanding between CMS and Tribal health programs, including those administered by the Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, the TTAG serves as an advisory body to CMS providing expertise on policies, guidelines, and programmatic issues affecting the delivery of health care for American Indian and Alaska Natives served by Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Child Health Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS, the TTAG recognizes the importance of partnering with CMS to develop an American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Plan for CMS that enhances the ability of tribes and CMS to improve the health of AI/AN beneficiaries, broadly examines organizational structure and policies of every division in CMS with relation to Indian health care, and provides an action plan and budget to accomplish mutual goals; and

WHEREAS, the process of developing this plan must include tribal consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and the TTAG is established to work as a liaison to coordinate this type of activity in its work with CMS.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the TTAG recommend that four key groups be involved in the plan process: 1) the TTAG should provide direction and oversight for the plan; 2) the Office of the CMS Administrator should sponsor the plan and provide the leadership to assure that all agencies within CMS participate in the plan process; 3) the National Indian Health Board should receive funding from CMS to hire staff and consultants to conduct the necessary research, writing and coordination with tribes; and 4) the Indian Health Service should provide assistance as needed with data and information and provide technical assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TTAG understands it is difficult to determine the budget without a fully developed scope of work; however it is estimated that the plan should be supported at approximately \$100,000 in year 1 (FY 2004) to support a planning grant for the National Indian Health Board, \$300,000 in year 2 (FY2005) and \$600,000 in year 3 (FY2006). This budget for this work is a

supplemental request and should not be taken from other budget requests by the CMS Office of Intergovernmental and Tribal Affairs.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the TTAG work with the Office of the CMS Administrator, the CMS Office of Intergovernmental and Tribal Affairs, and the Indian Health Service to develop a scope of work, a timetable, and a more complete budget for the plan process that includes the following:

WE ENVISION, the final document could provide a broad overview and direction, to include:

- Describe legal and government framework for CMS services to AI/AN, including treaty obligations.
- Examine issues that tribes would like to have CMS address.
- Identify opportunities to modify organizational structure, programs, policies and regulations to improve health care services to AI/AN.
- Engage CMS in setting goals for Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the Quarterly Tribal Technical Advisory Group meeting held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, D.C. on May 27, 2004 with a quorum present.



Valerie Davidson, Chairperson
Executive Vice-President
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation



Roslyn Chapela for
Frank Dayish, Jr., Co-Chairperson
Vice-President, Navajo Nation