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- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
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Please Attend and Participate:

National Indian Health Board
National Tribal Briefing/Caucus on SDPI
March 7, 2012
1:00 - 5:00 PM
National Museum of the American Indian
Washington, DC

Click [here](#) to download a PDF “Save the Date” flyer.

For more information, please contact Liz Malerba, NIHB Legislative Assistant at: Lmalerba@nihb.org

NIHB UPDATES

NIHB to Host Tribal Caucus on SDPI

On March 7, 2012, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is sponsoring a Tribal Caucus and Briefing on the reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) funding. The program will expire in 2013 unless it is reauthorized.

The Tribal perspective is required before we can move forward with advocacy and reauthorization efforts. NIHB invites you to add your voice to the process.

The Briefing and Caucus will be Chaired by Buford Rolin, Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, NIHB Board Member and Chairman of the Tribal Diabetes Leaders Committee

Featured guests include:

- National Institutes of Health
- Indian Health Service
- American Diabetes Association

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

ACA Provides Coverage for Nearly 50,000 Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced recently that the Affordable Care Act’s Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) program is providing insurance to nearly 50,000 people with high-risk pre-existing conditions nationwide. The Department released a new report demonstrating how PCIP is helping to fill a void in the insurance market for consumers with pre-existing conditions who are denied insurance coverage and are ineligible for Medicare or Medicaid coverage.

Under the Affordable Care Act, in 2014, insurers will be prohibited from denying coverage to any American with a pre-existing condition. Until



then, the PCIP program will continue to provide enrollees with affordable insurance coverage.

In many cases, PCIP participants have been diagnosed with and need treatment for serious health care conditions such as cancer, ischemic heart disease, degenerative bone diseases and hemophilia. As a result of the new law, PCIP enrollees are receiving health services for their conditions on the first day their insurance coverage begins. Their critical need for treatment, combined with their lack of prior health coverage has led to higher overall per-member claims costs in state-based PCIPs of approximately \$29,000 per year, which is more than double the per member cost that traditional State High Risk Pools have experienced in recent years. Enrollment in PCIP has seen a nearly 400 percent increase from November 2010 to November 2011. PCIP enrollment is anticipated to trend upwards of 50,000 enrollees within the coming month.

People who enroll in the PCIP program are not charged a higher premium because of their medical condition. Program participants pay comparable premium rates to healthy people in the individual insurance market. By law, premiums may vary only on the basis of age, geographic area and tobacco use.

PCIP provides comprehensive health coverage, including primary and specialty care, hospital care, prescription drugs, home health and hospice care, skilled nursing care, preventive health and maternity care. The program is available in 50 states and the District of Columbia and open to U.S. citizens and people who reside in the U.S. legally (regardless of income) who have been without insurance coverage for at least six months, *and* have a pre-existing condition, or have been denied health insurance coverage because of a health condition.

The Affordable Care Act directed the Secretary of HHS to carry out PCIP either directly or through a contract with a state or nonprofit entity. In 27 states, a state or nonprofit entity elected to administer PCIP, while HHS operates the program in the remaining 23 states and the District of Columbia.

The new report can be found at: <http://www.cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/Files2/02242012/pcip-annual-report.pdf>

For more information, including eligibility, plan benefits and rates, as well as information on how to apply, visit www.pcip.gov and click on “Find Your State.” Then select your state from a map of the United States or from the drop-down menu. The PCIP call center is open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time. Call toll-free 1-866-717-5826 (TTY 1-866-561-1604).

IHS Announces 2012 Tribal Consultation Summit

The Indian Health Service (IHS) recently released dates for its 2012 Tribal Consultation Summit. The Summit will be held March 13-14th in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. Further details will be released as they become available. For more information, click [here](#).

HHS Announces New Assistance to States

On February 22nd, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced more assistance to states as it implements three new provisions of the Affordable Care Act. This assistance gives states help by:

- Providing a new round of Affordable Insurance Exchange Establishment Grants, totaling \$229 million to 10 states, to help states build new health insurance marketplaces;
- Promoting transparency and meaningful public input into the Medicaid demonstration process, and streamlining the federal-state consideration process as states test new models of care;
- Supporting innovation and implement the health care solutions that work best for them.

HHS is providing more resources to States to help them build their open health insurance marketplaces known as Exchanges. HHS announced the award of \$229 million in Affordable Insurance Exchange grants to 10 states to help them create Exchanges, giving these states more flexibility and resources to implement



the Affordable Care Act. The health care reform law gives states the freedom to design Affordable Insurance Exchanges – one-stop marketplaces where consumers will be able to choose a private qualified health plan that fits their health needs and will have the same kinds of insurance choices as members of Congress. These awards bring to 34 (including the District of Columbia) the number of states that are making significant progress in creating Affordable Insurance Exchanges. States receiving the latest funding include: Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

The Affordable Care Act requires transparency and meaningful public input in the development, review, and approval (or renewal) of Medicaid and CHIP demonstrations. These demonstrations allow States to undertake experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects, to run all or parts of their Medicaid programs in ways that would not otherwise be consistent with federal rules, and can have significant implications for beneficiaries, providers, and states. The recently announced final rule ensures transparency at each stage of the demonstration development and review process without impeding the timely submission and review of demonstration applications, ensuring public input while supporting ongoing innovation. Transparency and public input help to ensure that as these changes are being proposed at the state level and reviewed at the federal level, stakeholders have an opportunity to inform the decision-making process.

HHS along with the Department of Treasury finalized another rule providing more flexibility to States to find the health care solutions that work best for them. The Affordable Care Act gives states the option to receive a State Innovation Waiver so they may pursue their own innovative strategies to ensure their residents have access to high quality, affordable health insurance. Under the law, State Innovation Waivers are available in 2017, and the recently announced final rules provide detail how States can work with HHS to ensure their residents have the protections provided in the Affordable Care Act and access to innovative State approaches.

In addition, states will have more flexibility to apply for the Exchange Establishment Grants under an amended Funding Opportunity Announcement with additional application opportunities due out later this spring.

Final rules were placed on display at the *Federal Register* and can be found at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>

More information on the Affordable Insurance Exchanges can be found here: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/05/exchanges05232011a.html>

For more information on the new Medicaid rules, please visit: http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp

More information on the State Innovation Waivers can be found here: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/02/state-innovation02222012a.html>

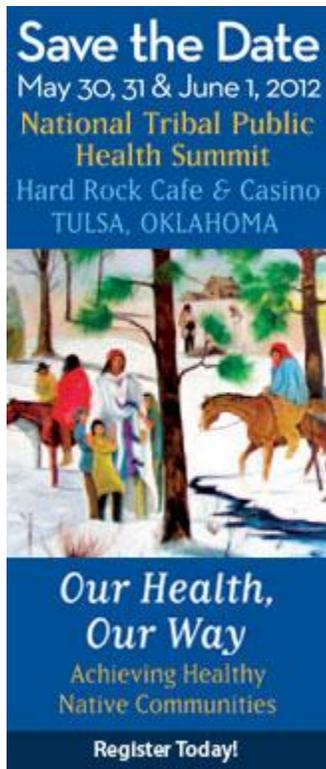
Save the Date

Tribal Health Reform: National Training on the Affordable Care Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act

Hosted by NCAI and NIHB
through support of the National Indian Health Outreach and Education (NIHOE) partnership with the Indian Health Service

**Mystic Lake Casino
Prior Lake, MN
April 18-19, 2012**





You are cordially invited to attend
National Indian Health Board's
29th ANNUAL CONSUMER
CONFERENCE

Celebrating
NIHB'S 40th Anniversary

September 24- 28, 2012
DENVER, COLORADO

Sign Up for Washington Report, at:
http://www.nihb.org/legislative/washington_report.php

For More Information Contact:
 Jennifer Cooper, JD, Legislative Director
jcooper@nihb.org or
 Liz Malerba, Legislative Assistant
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UPCOMING EVENTS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET HEARING ON, "STRENGTHENING HEALTH AND RETIREMENT SECURITY"

DATE: FEBRUARY 28TH

TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 210 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE
 BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING ON, "THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET PROPOSAL WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY KATHLEEN SEBELIUS"

DATE: FEBRUARY 28TH

TIME: 1:00 PM

LOCATION: 1100 LONGWORTH HOUSE
 OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC

SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS (HELP) COMMITTEE HEARING ON, "DENTAL CRISIS IN AMERICA: THE NEED TO EXPAND ACCESS"

DATE: FEBRUARY 29TH

TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 430 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE
 BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE HEARING ON, "THE FY 2013 HHS BUDGET"

DATE: MARCH 1ST

TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 2323 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE
 BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE HEARING ON, "PRESCRIPTION DRUG DIVERSION: COMBATING THE SCOURGE"

DATE: MARCH 1ST

TIME: 10:15 AM

LOCATION: 2322 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE
 BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC

