

National Indian Health Consumer Conference NAVAJO CAUCUS

San Diego, California
December 8, 1999

Recommendations for NIHB/Conference

1. Advocate for increased base funding under FY 2001 IHS budget and future appropriations.
 - Reflect the true level of need funding;
 - Fund the design and construction of staff quarters;
 - Support additional funding for water and sanitation projects (OEH);
 - Work toward equitable funding (based on need) among all twelve Areas; and
 - No reduction in funding for hospitals and clinics (H&C) line items.
2. Continue to advocate for additional funding for Contract Support Cost.
 - Work toward equitable distribution of Contract Support Costs funds among all twelve (12) Areas; and
 - Continue to assess the need for Contract Support Cost funds on a regular basis.
3. Support the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (P.L. 94-437) by September 30, 2000;
 - Ensure the consensus recommendations from the Regional and National consultation meetings are included in the '437 legislation;
 - Continue and reaffirm the "Speaking With One Voice" approach among the I/T/Us; and
 - Work with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Indian organizations and other pertinent professional organizations in getting the '437 legislation authorized.
4. Fully support the initiative on the Level of Need Funding study and make very effort to bring forth parity.
5. Continue to advocate for the respect and inclusion of traditional Indian healing practices.
6. Continue to work toward full implementation of the new Tribal Consultation Policy at all levels of governments (i.e. DHHS, EPA, DOI, States, etc.).

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGEMENT

COMMENTS REPEATED FROM PRIOR YEAR WITH MODIFICATION RECEIVABLES AND REVENUE

Reportable Condition

1. Implement procedures to ensure that all receivables are properly reflected on NIHB's financial statements.

We noted receivables which were collected during the year but were still reflected as such at year end. Additionally, we noted instances in our testing procedures of discrepancies between the amounts collected for Consumer conference registrations and the amounts invoiced. It appears that these issues are attributable to NIHB's current system for tracking registrants and receivables.

We recommend that NIHB implement procedures to ensure that all receivables are properly accounted for on the financial statements. Additionally, NIHB may want to consider developing or purchasing a new software system for tracking registrants and receivables.

EXPENSES

Reportable Condition

2. Implement procedures relative to processing of vendor invoices.

We noted the following in our expense testing procedures:

- a. We noted in our review of the travel expenditures that the Executive Director's Travel Expense Voucher was not approved by an approving official. Additionally, we noted numerous instances when an employee signed off on a board member's Travel Expense Voucher.
- b. We noted instances of expenditures being miscoded in the general ledger.
- c. We noted in our testing procedures that NIHB is not adhering to its policy relative to employee elected dependent coverage. The Board of Directors passed a motion in February 1997 that if an employee elects to choose dependent coverage, the employee will be responsible for contributing 10% of the dependents premium per month. The previous policy stated the employee was responsible for 100% of the dependents premium. NIHB has not been reimbursed for these expenditures by its employees, nor have procedures been put in place relative to collecting such monies through employee payroll deductions. Per our discussion with management, it has not been determined

what the Board of Directors' actual intention was relative to employees responsibility of dependent health insurance coverage.

We recommend the following relative to NIHB's expense testing procedures:

- a. Implement procedures to insure that a board member approves all of the Executive Director's travel advance payments and Travel Expenses Vouchers in a timely manner. Additionally, implement procedures to ensure that each traveler's signature is on their own Travel Expense Voucher.
- b. Implement procedures to ensure that the account coding documented on the vendor invoice is properly reviewed to ensure that expenditures are properly coded in the general ledger.
- c. We recommend that management discuss with the Board of Directors their approved motion at the February 1997 meeting relative to employees' responsibility for payment of dependent health insurance coverage. Additionally, management should resolve with the Board how to handle the discrepancy between the Board motion and management's action from February 1997 to the present. If the Board of Directors does not change its original motion, NIHB will have to compute the amount employees owe relative to their dependent coverage and require them to reimburse NIHB. Additionally, NIHB may have to review inappropriate charges to federal contracts which will be reimbursed by employees and modify reporting to the federal government accordingly. Furthermore, NIHB may have to implement procedures to ensure that it is reimbursed in a timely and consistent manner for employee elected dependent coverage.