TLDC Meeting Highlights: October 9-10, 2019 Buellton, CA

TLDC members/alternates present (Area): Evelyn Beeter (Alaska/primary), Beverly Coho (Albuquerque/primary), Phyllis Davis (Bemidji/primary), Rosemary Nelson, (California/primary), Dominica Valencia (California/alternate), Nathan Davis (Great Plains/primary), Edie Baker (Nashville/alternate), Edison Wauneka (Navajo/proxy), Connie Barker (Oklahoma City/primary, Tribal Co-Chair), Darlene Rubio (Phoenix/primary), Cassandra Sellards-Reck (Portland/primary), Sharon Stanphill (Portland/alternate), Daniel Preston (Tucson/primary), Ann Bullock (IHS, Federal Co-Chair)

Technical Advisors present (Organization): Adrienne Maddux (NCUIH/alternate), Shervin Aazami (NIHB/proxy)

TLDC Meeting Guidelines Discussion
• A TLDC sub-committee was formed to meet virtually to work on TLDC procedures. Members include TLDC representatives Connie Barker, Sharon Stanphill, Darlene Rubio, Rosemary Nelson, and Evelyn Beeter. Gale Marshall (IHS contractor) was invited to facilitate.

Discussion with RADM Michael Weahkee, IHS Principal Deputy Director
• RADM Weahkee reported that he provided testimony to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee regarding Advance Appropriations: Protecting Tribal Communities from the Effects of a Government Shutdown
  o Explained that advance appropriations are appropriations of new budget authority that become available one or more fiscal years beyond the fiscal year for which the appropriation act was passed. This is different from a 2-year appropriation, which means that the first year funds are available through the following year (e.g., FY19 funds are available through FY20 in a 2-year appropriation);
  o Assured TLDC that he is conveying to Congress that direct SDPI funding to Tribes is desired, as well as Tribes not wanting a competitive process. However, IHS is not speaking directly to a 638 structure for SDPI unless Congress authorizes as such.
• Has provided to Congress the SDPI Tribal budget request (mandatory, permanent funding, $200 million/year);
• Requested the TLDC align the TLDC Strategic Plan with the IHS Strategic Plan.
• Government Accountability Office is reviewing IHS funding formulas and how funds are allocated; SDPI will likely be included.
• IHS has extended the National Indian Health Outreach and Education cooperative agreements with NIHB, which include TLDC meeting travel and logistics, through June 2020 while the agency determines the path forward.
• IHS is asking Congress to create a separate line item in the IHS budget for Health IT so funds do not continue to be needed from programs such as SDPI.
• Tribal leaders can be most effective with lawmakers when their messages are consistent.

Undispersed SDPI Funds Discussion
• IHS provided TLDC with balances of undispersed SDPI funds for the current grant year, FY 2019, as well as prior years (amount accumulated over years prior to FY 2019) at the Headquarters, Area, and grantee levels.
• Options for utilizing undispersed funds include encouraging current grantees to request to expand their scope of work as well as the implementation of offsets to current grants. Offset funds could then be utilized via a new SDPI funding opportunity announcement (FOA) agreed upon after Tribal consultation or perhaps used to help make it possible for Tribes not currently receiving a SDPI grant to apply. Depending on the approach taken, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources (ASFR) might have to provide approval.

SDPI Grantee Showcase - California
• American Indian Health & Services in Santa Barbara eye exams improved 43% and foot exams improved 34% from 2018-2019;
• Santa Ynez Tribal Health SDPI program shared positive results for 2019, including increases in depression screening, eye exams and controlled A1c levels in patients from 2018-2019.
Preparing for the SDPI FY2021-2025 Grant Cycle: Tribal Consultation/Urban Confer

- National Tribal Consultation/Urban Confer on SDPI funding for FY2021-2025 grant cycle opened October 2, 2019 and will remain open for 60 days, through December 2, 2019.
  - Results will be discussed and recommendations formulated by TLDC for RADM Weahkee regarding the next SDPI grant cycle at the December 3-4 TLDC meeting
- RADM Weahkee commented as to why some of the consultation/confer questions TLDC developed at the June 2019 Billings in-person TLDC meeting were not used verbatim:
  - IHS was concerned about overstepping authority by asking for input on a different structure for SDPI, when the current structure (grants) is explicitly authorized by Congress.
  - Office of General Counsel suggested that asking “should Tribes not currently funded be allowed to apply for SDPI” could be problematic, so this issue was incorporated into the question on the funding distribution.

Legislative Update (Shervin Aazami, NIHB)

- The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) held an SDPI Summit/World Café after the conclusion of the National Tribal Health Conference in Temecula, California, on September 19, 2019.
  - 51 attendees in total, with nine IHS Areas represented. Discussions centered on the future of SDPI and legislative pathways towards changing SDPI’s structure to allow for funds to be distributed through self-determination and self-governance contracts and compacts.
- The current legislative vehicle for long-term renewal is legislation aimed at addressing surprise medical bills. As political differences on surprise medical billing legislation continue, Tribes and NIHB will continue looking for alternative solutions towards ensuring long-term reauthorization of SDPI.
- While the House has completed 10 out of 12 appropriations bills for FY 2020, the Senate has yet to clear any appropriations bills off the floor. Senate has completed committee work on FY 2020 Interior (which funds IHS), Labor-Health and Human Services, and other bills of significance to Indian health
  - While Senate Interior package does not include the same degree of funding increases outlined in the House package, none of the proposed cuts to IHS outlined in the President’s Budget were in the Senate mark.
- As the House and Senate work to reconcile their mutual appropriations bills, lawmakers must hear directly from Tribes to ensure Tribal health priorities are advanced.
- NIHB’s website houses template letters and contact information for members of Congress.

SDPI & DDTP Update (Dr. Ann Bullock, DDTP)

- The most recent SDPI reauthorization includes $21.4 million for FY 2020 which, due to the calendar year grant cycle, equates to about 7 weeks of funding beyond the current grant year, so January 1, 2020 through mid-February 2020. FY 2020 is the last year of the current 5-year SDPI grant cycle (FY 2016-2020).
  - The Funding Opportunity Announcement for the FY 2021-2025 grant cycle will be released in Spring 2020.
- DDTP provided updates on:
  - SDPI FY 2020 continuation application process and substantial support provided to grantees
  - Diabetes in Indian Country Conference, August 6-9 in Oklahoma City
    - 1,128 in-person and virtual attendees; 11,187 hours of professional education credit
  - Utilization of DDTP resources in FY 2019: 772,139 hits to websites; 21,877 hits to the Diabetes Standards of Care; diabetes treatment algorithms downloaded 10,136 times; Online Catalog materials downloaded 24,754 times, 9,215 hard copies of materials shipped; 4,324 people accessed live and online clinical trainings; 3,093 accessed live and recorded SDPI trainings.

Area Reports

- Oral Area reports were given by Great Plains, Albuquerque, and Nashville

Next in-person TLDC meetings, pending IHS approval:
  - December 3-4, 2019 in Orlando, FL
  - March 11-12, 2020 in Washington, DC