

NPAIHB Weekly Update

May 28, 2024

Please sign in using the chat box:

Enter the tribe or organization you are representing
and names of all people participating with you today



NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Information for Today's Call

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction: Bridget Canniff
- Upcoming Indian Country ECHO Sessions
- Upcoming NPAIHB Events
- Upcoming NPAIHB Weekly Update Sessions
- Legislative & Policy Update: Rebecca Descombes
- Questions & Comments

Guidelines

- Please place yourself on mute unless speaking
- Sign in, using chat box, with your tribe/organization and names of all participants
- Use the chat box for questions, for Q&A after updates and announcements



Upcoming Indian Country ECHO Telehealth Opportunities

- **Maternal and Child Health ECHO**– Last Thursday of every month at 12pm PT
 - Thursday, May 30th at 12pm PT
 - Topic: *Youth Vaping Prevention*
 - To learn more and join:
<https://www.indiancountryecho.org/program/maternal-and-child-health/>

Gender-Affirming Care Gathering

- **Dates:** June 25th – 27th, 2024
- **Location:** Boise, ID & Virtually via Zoom
- **Description:** Staff (clinical and non-clinical) serving trans and gender-diverse American Indian & Alaska Native people are invited to participate in the Gender-Affirming Care Gathering. The program provides comprehensive information to effectively provide excellence in gender-affirming care. The program offers a free 2.5-day training (both in-person and virtual options available) & subsequent telehealth clinics.
- **Further Information & Registration:**
<https://www.indiancountryecho.org/gender-affirming-care-conference/>



Gender-Affirming Care Gathering
June 25-27, 2024 • Boise, ID


INDIAN + COUNTRY
ECHO

Clinical and non-clinical staff serving trans and gender-diverse American Indian & Alaska Native people are invited to participate in the Gender-Affirming Care Gathering. This will be a free 2.5-day training with in-person and virtual attendance offered. CE will be provided.

At this gathering, we will:

- ♥ Review elements of affirming clinic environments and best-practice gender-affirming care across the lifespan
- ♥ Explore Indigenous approaches to gender-affirming care and Indigenous peoples' gender-related cultural needs
- ♥ Hear about success stories for providing Indigenous gender-affirming care
- ♥ Discuss the current legal landscape of gender-affirming care and its implications for Indigenous gender-affirming care
- ♥ Connect with other clinicians and colleagues across Indian Country

Register Here:



More Information on Indian Country ECHO
www.IndianCountryECHO.org

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GenderAffirmingCare2024

The poster features a central illustration of a woman in a purple shirt and blue pants sitting on a stool, holding a bird. A moose is standing next to her, and a person in a wheelchair is sitting on the ground. The background is a dark blue night sky with stars and a moon. The illustration is framed by a circular border with colorful feathers. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the poster, surrounded by more feathers and a red heart.

Weekly Update Schedule Preview: June

June 4: Public Health Update – Tribal Public Health Infrastructure Building Part 2

June 11: No Weekly Update – join us at the Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference, Grand Ronde, OR, June 10-12

June 18: Topic TBA

June 25: Legislative & Policy Update



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Visit www.npaihb.org/weeklyupdate for upcoming topics, past presentations, and more!

LEGISLATIVE &

**POLICY
UPDATE**



NPAIHB Legislative & Policy Update

May 28, 2024



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FY 2024 IHS - Interior Appropriations

- On March 8, 2024, Congress passed a six-bill FY 2024 Minibus, included IHS Funding
 - Essentially flat funded with only a .05% increase above FY 2023 enacted level
 - Largest increases are for:
 - Contract Support Costs at \$1.1 billion; and 105(I) Leases at \$149 million
 - Small increases in Hospitals & Health Clinics (1.9%), Dental Services (1.8%) and Mental Health (2.04%) subaccounts
 - Decrease IHS Facilities subaccounts of 15.17%; Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) \$72.5 million most impacted
 - Zero increase to Purchased and Referred Care (PRC); loss to NW Tribes
- FY 2025 Advance Appropriations - \$5.19 billion
 - Does not include System, the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund, Contract Support Costs, Payments for 105(I) Tribal Leases, Sanitation Facilities Construction, and Health Care Facilities Construction



FY 2024 IHS - HHS Budget Recissions

- FY 2024 Minibus – IHS Funding Recissions in Division E
 - Section 447 of Division E rescinds \$350 million from section 11001 of the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2).
 - Section 448 rescinds \$90 million from IHS annual appropriations in FY 2023 and prior years unless those funds were designated emergencies by Congress under the authority of a concurrent resolution on the budget or under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
- FY 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act (included HHS, Education, and Related)
 - Rescinds \$1.25 billion in HHS funding from the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund (NEF)
 - Portland Area IHS Regional Specialty Referral Center was allocated \$165 million in NEF Funds to build the first center
 - These funds are in jeopardy of being rescinded if not obligated by September 30, 2024



FY 2025 President's Indian Health Service Budget

- Released on March 11, 2024
 - Overall, \$8.2 billion in discretionary and mandatory funding
 - +\$1.1 billion (16%) over FY 2023 enacted budget
 - Includes \$260 million in mandatory funding for Special Diabetes Program for Indians Proposed to make IHS funding mandatory in FY 2026
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/budget/fy2025/index.html>
 - <https://www.ihs.gov/BudgetFormulation/congressionaljustifications/>



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Fiscal Year 2025

Budget in Brief

FY 2025 Interior and Labor, HHS, Education (LHE) Appropriations Subcommittee (S/C) Testimony

Interior – IHS Funding

- **House** Testimony – Deadline was 5/1/24; NPAIHB submitted testimony
- NPAIHB Chairman Nickolaus Lewis testified before **House** S/C on 5/8/24
- Full **House** Appropriations Committee markup on 5/23/24
- **Senate** Testimony – Deadline was 5/15/24; NPAIHB submitted testimony

LHE – HHS Funding

- **House** Testimony deadline was 5/3/24; NPAIHB submitted testimony
- **House** LHE appropriations will be cut by 10-11% based on the House Majority's priorities.
- Full **House** Appropriations Committee markup on 5/23/24
- **Senate Testimony is due 5/24/24**; NPAIHB submitted testimony

NPAIHB Testimony for both House and Senate was focused on the Northwest & National Opioid Summit Priorities and NPAIHB Policy Priorities



Looking Forward: FY 2026 IHS & HHS Budgets

- On Nov. 28, 2024, FY 2026 Portland Area Tribes made recommendations on the FY 2026 IHS Budget
- On Feb. 13-14, 2024, all IHS National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup members convened to roll-up IHS budget in Washington, D.C. on Feb 13-14, 2024
- On April 9-10, 2024, HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation was held in Washington D.C.
 - Co-Chairs of the IHS National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup testified on April 9, 2024, at the HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation in Washington, D.C.
 - NPAIHB Chair, and Portland Area Representatives, attended; NPAIHB submitted testimony on FY 2026 IHS and HHS Budgets



Admin Updates: CMS

- CMS Releases Updated Guidance on Medicare Provider Enrollment for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) and Mental Health Counselors (MHCs)
- CMS Working on a regulatory fix to the Four Walls issue; **grace period ends on Feb 11, 2025**
 - Next Step: CMS Notice of Proposed Rule Making; CMS attempting to complete before end of 2024.
- CMS's Approval of 1115 Traditional Healing Waivers; Tribal comments on CMS's proposed guidance were due on May 6, 2024; NPAIHB submitted comments
 - CMS to create guidance; after 4 walls NPRM completed; Tribal advocates pushing for this to happen before end of 2024



Admin Update: SAMHSA & DEA HHS

- [SAMHSA Final Rule Released on 1/31/24: Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder, 42 CFR Part 8.](#)
 - The Final Rule went into effect on April 2, 2024; compliance is required by October 2, 2024; increases access to care and treatment for opioid use disorder.
 - Allows time for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) to prepare for the changes; and states to review their regulations that impact how this rule is implemented.
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders/statutes-regulations-guidelines/42-cfr-part-8>
- HHS & DEA Issues Second Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription Controlled Substances; **ends Dec. 31st, 2024**



Admin Updates: IHS Dear Tribal Leader Letters

- **IHS May 20 Letter:** The IHS Director shared the FY 2024 funding allocations for the annual Sanitation Facilities Construction program appropriation.
- **IHS May 21 Letter:** The IHS Director initiated a Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer to see your guidance and recommendations on funding methodologies for seven (7) IHS behavioral health initiatives, focusing on current distributed grants.
- **IHS May 21 Letter:** The IHS Director, along with the Co-Chair of the Community Health Aide Program Tribal Advisory Group, Brook Bender, invites your continued participation in our collaborative efforts to support and expand the Community Health Aide Program in Indian Country.



Upcoming Tribal Consultations

ASPE Tribal Consultation on the 2023 HHS Equity Action Plan Update

[Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#)

Comments Due: May 29, 2024

Comment Submission: consultation@hhs.gov, subject line “HHS Equity Action Plan”

Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Health IT Modernization Program: Deployment and Cohort Planning

[Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#)

Comments Due: June 7, 2024

Comment Submission: consultation@ihs.gov or urbanconfer@ihs.gov, Subject “Health IT Modernization”

Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Health IT Modernization Program: Multi-Tenant Domain Considerations

[Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#)

Date: August 8, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

[Meeting Registration Link](#)

Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Health IT Modernization Program: Site Readiness and Training

[Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#)

Date: November 7, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET

[Meeting Registration Link](#)



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Source: NIHB “The Weekly” 5-13-24

Health IT Modernization Second Consultation Questions

- What do you perceive to be challenges that health program may face during planning and implementation of a new EHR?
- Based on your experience, what strategies do you recommend for overcoming issues or challenges?
- What should IHS consider when planning cohorts? (Cohorts being a group of facilities selected to 'go live' with the new EHR simultaneously)

NPAIHB Tribal Caucus: June 3, 2024

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Pacific

[Join via Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3823894393](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3823894393)

Comments due June 7



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Source: NIHB “The Weekly” 5-13-24

Upcoming Regional & National Meetings

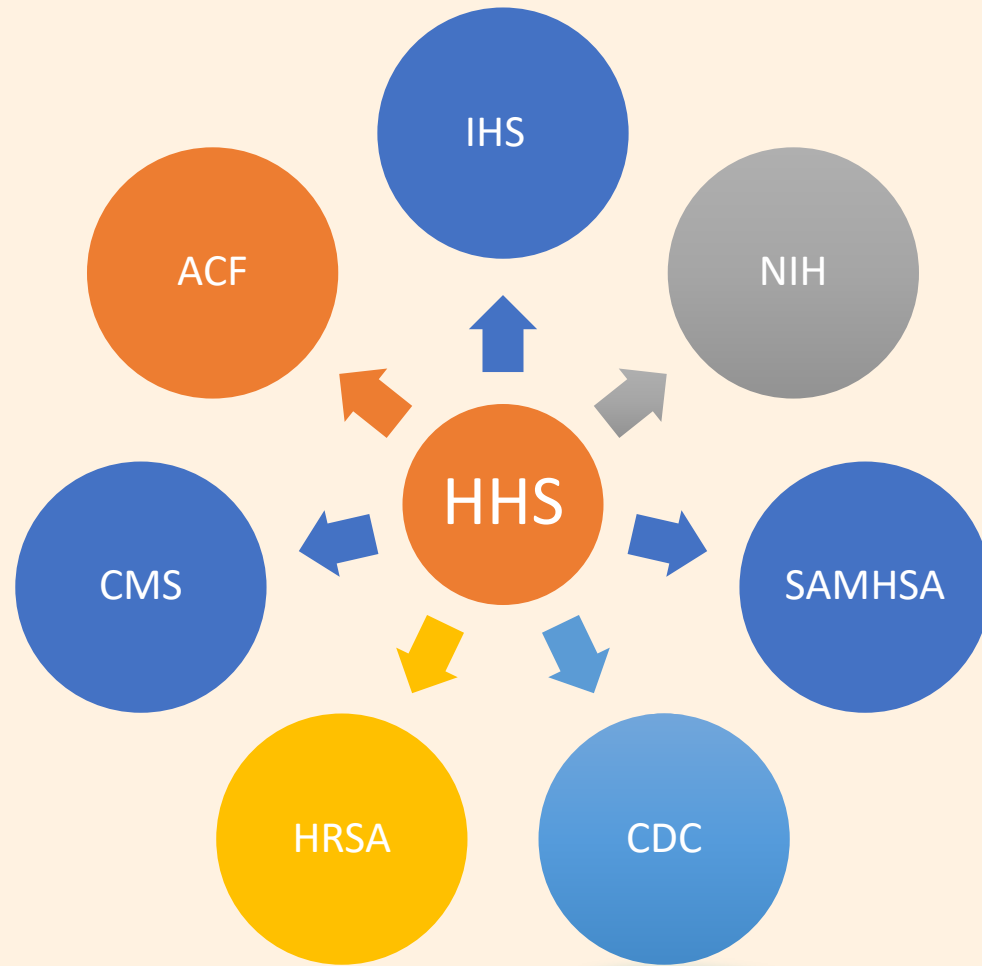
| Date | Event |
|------------|--|
| June 1-7 | National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Midyear Convention 2024 Cherokee, NC |
| July 15 | NPAIHB Tribal Health Director's Meeting (Closed Meeting-for THDs only) |
| July 16 | NPAIHB Learning Sessions (Open to All) |
| July 15-19 | NPAIHB Pre-Meetings & Quarterly Board Meeting Kalispel Tribe – Spokane, WA |
| July 23-25 | WA 2 nd Opioid/Fentanyl Summit Spokane, WA |
| July 25-26 | Region 10 Opioid Summit Boise, ID |



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Please contact Rebecca Descombes at rdescombes@npaihb.org for more information.

Tribal Advisory Committee Meetings & Vacancies



Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings

| HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee | Next Meeting |
|---|------------------------------------|
| IHS Direct Service TAC (DSTAC) | June 5-6, 2024; Albuquerque, NM |
| IHS Facilities Appropriations Advisory Board (FAAB) | June 11-12, 2024; Anchorage, AK |
| IHS Tribal Leader Diabetes Committee (TLDC) | June 11-12, 2024; Phoenix, AZ |
| IHS Information Services Advisory Committee (ISAC) | TBD |
| IHS Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup (TBFWG) | July 25, 2024 |
| IHS Tribal Self Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC) | July 23-25, 2024; Washington, D.C. |
| HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) | TBD |



TAC Meetings – Cont'd

| Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) | Next Meeting |
|---|---|
| (NIH) National Institute of Health TAC (PA Alternate -Vacant) | June 27-28, 2024; Durham, NC |
| Administration for Children and Families TAC | June 12-13, 2024; Smith River, CA (Hosted by: Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation) |
| Centers for Disease Control and Prevention TAC (PA Primary-Vacant; PA Alternate-Vacant) | August 7-8, 2024; Canyonville, OR (Hosted by: Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians) |
| Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Tribal Technical Advisory Group (CMS TTAG) | July 17-18, 2024; Washington, DC |
| Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) TAC (PA Alternate-Vacant) | July 23-24, 2024 |
| IHS Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) | TBD |
| IHS Director's Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Workgroup | TBD |



TAC Meetings – Cont'd

| HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee | Next Meeting |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (SAMHSA TTAC) | February 27, 2024; Rockville, MD |
| VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs (VA ACTIA) | TBD |



NPAIHB Policy Resources

- Weekly – Legislative and Policy Updates
- Weekly – Cindy Darcy’s D.C. Legislative Update
- Monthly – NPAIHB Weekly Update Zooms, 4th Tuesday of the month
- Quarterly Board Meeting Update



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Thank you –



If you have any questions, please let us know!

Laura Platero, Executive Director, lplatero@npaih.org

Rebecca Descombes, Health Policy Assistant rdescombes@npaih.org



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Questions and Comments



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