

**Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory  
Committee Meeting**

Washington, D.C.

November 14-15, 2013

**Health and Human Services, Norris Cochran**

**Issue:** HHS Fiscal Year 2014 budget started with a government shutdown that lasted over 2 weeks. Congress passed a continuing resolution with no funding changes, leaving HIS at the final FY 2013 enacted budget level that includes the 2013 sequester. It's not clear how the sequester will be resolved for 2014

**Indian Health Services, Yvette Roubideaux**

**Issue:** Concerns with the fiscal situation so IHS is being conservative in its management.

**SAMHSA, Pamela Hyde**

**Issue:** There is a reduction in the number of grants SAMHSA can give out due to the budget. The SAMHSA TTAC has been working on data issues, funding issues, and communication issues.

**Tribal Affairs, IEA, Stacey Ecoffey**

**Issue:** Issue sharing data from grant reports

**Health and Human Services, Leadership Staff – Catherine Okar, Kitty Marx, Cindy Mann,  
Mandy Cohen, and Dr. Roubideaux**

**Updates:** 25 states and the District of Columbia have decided to expand Medicaid. The Tribal Affairs Office has been working with the Office of Communications and the Call Center staff to update scripts that are specific to AI/AN provisions in the ACA, including the exemptions for tribal members and the hardship exemption for those eligible for services from the IHS. Some states have expressed an interest in what is being called the Premium Assistance Model, where they would expand Medicaid eligibility and provide the services by enrolling people in one of the qualified health plans that's doing business in the Marketplace in that state. Proposed regulations were put out around the new option called the Basic Health Program and the rule is open for public comment. If a state uses the Basic Health Program and the rule is open for public comment. If a state uses the Basic Health Program, it covers people above the Medicaid eligibility level, up to 200% of FPL. Work continues to improve the Marketplace website, as well as improvements to the Call Center and improvements on the Assistor/Navigator side, including a weekly newsletter and webinar. 20,000 individuals have been trained to be Assistors. The comment period for the form related to AI/AM exemption from penalty closes on November 15, 2013. There is a new ACA website that explains the exemptions and issues related to AI/ANs. All IHS sites with the Resource and Patient Management System will have the ability to print out an IHS eligibility letter for patients to apply for the hardship exemption/exemption from the penalty. IHS has a new email address, [ACAinformation@ihs.gov](mailto:ACAinformation@ihs.gov), for inquiries related to the ACA.