



Native American Legislative Liaison Committee
Meeting November 13, 2012
American Indian/Alaska Native Health in Utah

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The American Indian/Alaska Native Health Liaison is located at the Utah Department of Health, Office of American Indian/Alaska Native Health Affairs. The mission is to raise the health status of Utah's American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population to that of Utah's general population.

The goal for the AI/AN Health Liaison is to promote and coordinate collaborative efforts between the Department and Utah's AI/AN population to improve the availability and accessibility of quality health care both on and off the reservation.

There are three primary objectives for achieving this goal;

- Interact with the following to improve health disparities:
 - Tribal Leadership,
 - Tribal Health programs,
 - Local Health Departments,
 - State agencies and officials,
 - Providers of health care in the private sector.

- Facilitate education, training, and technical assistance regarding public health & medical assistance programs to Utah's AI/AN population.

- Staff an Advisory Board by which Utah's tribes may consult with state, federal and local agencies for the development & improvement of public health programs to improve health care for Utah's AI/AN population both on & off the reservation.

In addition, the AI/AN Health Liaison is to provide an annual report on the activities and accomplishments to the Native American Legislative Liaison Committee (NALLC).

Activities and Accomplishments

Tribal Consultation

Recognizing the unique Government to Government relationships between the State and the Tribal Governments, the AI/AN Health Liaison has accomplished the following in relation to Tribal Consultation:

- Established a formal Tribal Consultation Policy and Process. These tools have been standardized throughout the Department and have been shared as a model for other state agencies in Utah and throughout the region. This policy and process are reviewed every 1-2 years.
- Facilitate monthly Utah Indian Health Advisory Board meetings with the Tribal Health Directors, the Department and other public, private agencies regarding health issues impacting the Tribal and Urban AI/AN communities. These meetings include Indian health partners from the Indian Health Services (IHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Coordinate and facilitate an annual meeting with Utah Tribal Health and Urban Indian Health leadership to set goals for the upcoming year(s) to improve specific health issues impacting their communities. The Utah Tribal Health and Urban Indian Health programs have selected the following health indicators to work on over the next 3-5 years;
 - Preparedness and Emergency Response
 - Medicaid Eligibility
 - Health Information Technology and Health Information Exchange
 - Data collection, sharing and reporting (SB 267)
- The AI/AN Liaison and the Department's Executive Director meeting monthly to review current activities and issues presented by the Tribes and Urban Indian programs.
- Development of several outreach & educational tools to improve access to health care

Diabetes

The Department's Diabetes program has been working closely with the Utah Tribal & Urban Indian Health programs to improve health outcomes from those living with Diabetes in their communities. They received a 5 year grant to work with Tribal and Urban Indian Diabetes programs. We currently just entered the 4th year of this work. The following are the activities selected;

- Year 1- Diabetes training for Tribal health workers on foot examinations & patient education
- Year 2- Baby Your Baby 'Protect the Circle' Keepsake
- A River Runs Through Us; A 90 Journal to Wellness
- Gestational Diabetes Assessments
- Kids Camp!

Preparedness

The Bureau of EMS and Preparedness supports, through contracts, the Tribal and Urban Indian health programs for preparedness education and activities. This program coordinates with the Tribal and Urban Indian preparedness coordinators in Utah to develop operational plans for emergencies. Some of the work is coordinated with Home Land Security.

Health Information Technology

The AI/AN Health Liaison, in consultation with the Utah Indian Health Advisory Board (UIHAB) & the Utah Health Information Network (UHIN), has developed outreach and educational tools for the Clinical Health Information Exchange (cHIE) implementation.

There has been some collaboration with the HIT Task Force with Tribal Health Directors to address the Health Insurance Exchange planning.

Medicaid

The AI/AN Health Liaison works very closely with the Medicaid programs. This is a partnership between the State, the Tribes and the CMS. Tribal Consultation is an integral part of how this partnership works.

- Overall Medicaid enrollment for AI/AN's in UT has increased 13% between September 2011 to September 2012.

- Coordination between two state agencies and the Tribal & Urban health program benefits coordinators to improve outreach and enrollment for AI/AN's living both on and off the reservations; UDOH and UDWS.

- Outreach materials developed to improve access to public services programs

- Improved communication and education for IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian health program business offices.

- Improved communication between Tribal health programs, Urban Indian health program, IHS, CMS and state agencies addressing overall health for Utah's AI/AN population.