



California Health Benefit Exchange

Board Members

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Kimberly Belshé Paul Fearer
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Executive Director

Peter V. Lee

July 27, 2012

Dear Tribal Chairs, Health Directors, and Regional Associations:

Thank you very much for your participation in the first Tribal Consultation between California's Indian Tribes and the California Health Benefit Exchange. We believe it was a good beginning, and appreciate the opportunity to join together in a discussion about how best to implement the Affordable Care Act in a manner that ensures California's Indian population receives all the unique benefits they are entitled to.

As we move forward, the Exchange recognizes the importance of an ongoing and meaningful partnership with California's Tribes. By working together, we can achieve our mutual goals of expanding access to affordable, quality health care coverage. Based on our July 6th discussions with you, the next step for the Exchange will be to draft an ongoing consultation policy that can be reviewed by Tribes.

In addition to drafting a formal consultation policy, the Exchange seeks to implement the following next steps to advance our partnership:

- **August:** Distribute a letter to both Tribal Leaders and urban health programs soliciting nominations for participants in the *Tribal Advisory Workgroup*, which will work closely with the Exchange to provide advice and recommendations on how best to implement the Tribal provisions of the Affordable Care Act. We are currently working with California Consortium for Urban Indian Health, the California Rural Indian Health Board, and other Indian health organizations to help facilitate the nomination process, but Tribal Leaders will be responsible for nominating and selecting both Tribal representatives and Tribal health program representatives to participate in the Workgroup.
- **September:** Convene the first Tribal Advisory Workgroup to work on the draft Tribal Consultation Policy and provide advice to the Exchange on other matters. Following the Workgroup meeting recommendations, the Exchange will distribute the amended draft Consultation Policy to all Tribal Leaders for feedback.
- **October:** Present final Tribal Consultation Policy to Exchange Board on October 16th for adoption, and include approved Consultation Policy as part of the Exchange's Blueprint for federal approval to operate the Exchange in November.

- **Ongoing:** The Tribal Advisory Workgroup will meet continuously throughout 2013 and 2014 to discuss specific Exchange-related policies such as eligibility and enrollment, communications and outreach, and qualified health plans. In addition, the Exchange will host an annual Tribal consultation with all Tribal leaders, which we will seek to schedule around existing Tribal meetings to maximize participation.

Finally, on July 19th, we released our recommendations on Qualified Health Plan policies and strategies to our Board. We asked that comments on these recommendations be submitted by August 6, 2012, and we encourage you to provide any input you may have to info@hbex.ca.gov. Please note that the Exchange is proposing a broad definition of Essential Community Providers that will encompass Urban and Tribal health programs.

We hope these next steps will provide a framework to guide the Exchange in the right direction for collaborating with California's Indian Tribes, and we look forward to convening the first Tribal Advisory Workgroup. We will be sending out a follow-up letter with more specific information regarding the nomination process for the Tribal Advisory Workgroup soon. Additionally, the PowerPoint presentations and background materials from the July 6th consultation have been posted on the Exchange's Website:
(<http://www.healthexchange.ca.gov/StakeHolders/Pages/Default.aspx>)

Sincerely,



Peter V. Lee
Executive Director