



California Health Benefit Exchange

Board Members

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Peter V. Lee

August 10, 2012

Dear Tribal Chairperson:

On behalf of the California Health Benefit Exchange, we would like to invite your participation in the nomination process for the development of a Tribal Advisory Workgroup. This Workgroup will help guide the Exchange as we implement the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act relating to California's Indian Tribes. We are now specifically asking for your nominations for membership in the Workgroup by August 31, 2012.

The concept of a Tribal Advisory Workgroup was developed during the July 6th consultation between the Exchange and California's Indian Tribes. The Workgroup will work closely with the Exchange by providing input to ensure that qualified Tribal members receive the unique benefits they are entitled to under the Affordable Care Act. Furthermore, the Workgroup will provide valuable feedback as the Exchange develops policies impacting Tribal and urban Indian health programs.

In order to keep the Workgroup at an effective size, we are asking that Tribes nominate one to two Tribal leadership representatives and one Tribal health program director to represent their geographic region (North, South, Central East, Central West). For example, Tribes located in the Central East region of the state may nominate two Tribal Leader representatives and one Tribal health program director to represent the Central East region in the Workgroup. We ask that Tribes make their selections based on the region with which they feel most closely associated.

Tribes may also nominate one member from a Tribe non-indigenous to California and one member from a non-federally recognized Tribe to participate in the Workgroup. In addition, the urban health programs will select four urban Indian health program representatives, two from Northern California and two from Southern California, to participate in the Workgroup. In total, the Workgroup will have between twelve and eighteen members.

If no nominations are received from the Tribes for any of the regional Tribal health program representatives, the non-federally recognized member, or the member of a Tribe non-indigenous to California, the Exchange will work directly with the urban and Tribal health programs to solicit nominations for those categories.

During the consultation, the Exchange agreed to facilitate the nomination process and has since developed a unique email inbox for Tribes to submit their nominations: however, we will have no role in either the nomination or selection of any Tribal Advisory Workgroup members. All nominations will be publically posted on the Exchange's website, and in the event more nominations are received than there are Workgroup spaces available, the Exchange will ask Tribes to select nominated representatives by majority vote.

The first Tribal Advisory Workgroup meeting will likely be convened in September to begin work on the formal Tribal Consultation Policy. We will be sending out more information about the first meeting in the weeks to come.

We appreciate your interest in the Tribal Advisory Workgroup, and we look forward to receiving your nominations. If you have comments or questions, or would like to submit nominations, please send them to tribalconsultation@hbex.ca.gov. **Please submit all nominations by August 31, 2012.**

The Exchange is committed to developing a meaningful and mutually-beneficial relationship with California's Indian Tribes. Your participation in this selection process is a great opportunity to help build this collaborative relationship. Attached to this letter you will find the Workgroup structure model (Attachment 1), nomination form (Attachment 2), and a fact sheet illustrating the impact of health reform on American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,



Peter V. Lee
Executive Director