



# Health Care Reform in Indian Country

Self-Governance Communication & Education

*Self-Governance Tribes Striving Towards Excellence in Health Care*

**Presenter's Bios: August 17th 2016 - Webinar**

## ***TSGAC Webinar – Tribal Sponsorship and Other Current Topics***

*Presenter's Doneg McDonough & Cyndi Ferguson*

### **DONEG MCDONOUGH**

Doneg McDonough leads the health care consulting firm Health System Analytics and advises clients on maximizing opportunities under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA).

Doneg serves as a technical advisor to the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee as well as the Tribal Technical Advisory Group to CMS. In addition, Doneg is under contract with the National Indian Health Board to track and review federal regulatory developments involving CMS, the Indian Health Service, and other Federal government agencies implementing the ACA and IHCA.

Doneg is staffing a joint effort of Direct Service Tribes and Self-Governance Tribes to ensure that every Tribe has available to it the option of engaging in Tribal Sponsorship. Doneg is also a consultant to the Tribally-Sponsored Health Insurance Program in Alaska, which is a statewide collaboration of Tribes working to ensure resources are available at each service delivery point across the 633,000 square miles of the tribal health system referral network. Doneg recently conducted a series of trainings with Direct Service and Self-Governance Tribes in the Upper Midwest, with a particular focus on approaches for tribal employers to leverage resources available through a Marketplace.

### **Melanie Fourkiller**

Melanie Fourkiller has served as Policy Analyst for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma since December, 2011, advising on Self-Governance and Health Policy. The Choctaw Nation, with over 208,000 citizens, covers 10 ½ counties in southeastern Oklahoma and operates a hospital as well as 9 outpatient health centers. From 2006 to 2011, Ms. Fourkiller served as Secretary of State for the Cherokee Nation, a federally-recognized tribe of over 340,000 citizens, over 3,600 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$600 million (at that time). The Secretary of State is a Constitutional position of the Nation, appointed by the Principal Chief and confirmed by the Council of the Cherokee Nation. Prior to service as Secretary of State, Ms. Fourkiller served in the capacities of Executive Officer (Chief of Staff), Group Leader of Government Resources and Self-Governance Administrator.

Ms. Fourkiller has twenty-four years of experience working in tribal government, including program development, administration and intertribal and federal negotiations. Previous to her work with the Cherokee Nation, she worked six years with the Kaw Nation, another federally-recognized tribal government in north-

central Oklahoma. She has served on numerous intertribal workgroups and committees and consulted with several other Tribal governments regarding self-governance and federal/tribal policy.

Ms. Fourkiller is originally from Stilwell, Oklahoma, is Cherokee and Choctaw, and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

### **CYNDI FERGUSON**

Cyndi Ferguson joined SENSE Incorporated on in March 2010 as a Self-Governance Specialist/Policy Advisor. Having previously worked for over 20 years as the Self-Governance Coordinator and Director of Governmental Affairs for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington State, Cyndi has extensive experience, including: management and implementation of Tribal Self Governance in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) programs; negotiation of Self-Governance Funding Agreements with Federal agencies; internal Tribal governance planning; preparation of Tribal annual fiscal budgets and management reports to Tribal Council; and participation on Tribal Team to develop several major legislative initiatives, including amendments to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Title IV, Title V and Title VI). Further, Cyndi has worked to advance State-Tribal Relations promoting intergovernmental cooperation between States and Tribes in order to develop policy solutions on issues of mutual concern. Cyndi has been a lead presenter on national and regional Tribal Self-Governance Trainings. She has been an active, long-term participant on several Tribal/Federal Workgroups and currently serves as Facilitator for the National Indian Health Board-Medicare and Medicaid Policy Committee (MMPC).