



Health Care Reform in Indian Country

Self-Governance Communication & Education

Self-Governance Tribes Striving Towards Excellence in Health Care

Presenter's Bios: December 10th 2015 - Webinar

“ACA Webinar - "A Tribal Sponsorship Analysis”

Presenter's Doneg McDonough, Laura Bird & Cyndi Ferguson

Doneg McDonough

Doneg McDonough leads the health care consulting firm Health System Analytics and advises clients on implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Doneg serves as a technical advisor to the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee on work involving the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and its Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) as well as work involving the Indian Health Service. In addition, Doneg is under contract with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), serving as a technical advisor to the Medicare, Medicaid and Health Reform Policy Committee (MMPC) on regulatory issues. Doneg previously oversaw finances and operations of a State's health and human service agencies with combined annual expenditures of \$1.6 billion and led a 220-person team responsible for processing applications for health insurance coverage in the third largest province in Canada. Doneg earned a BA in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University in New York.

Laura Bird, J.D.

Laura Bird (Navajo) is an attorney and independent consultant who has interfaced with tribal, state and federal agencies to address Native issues. Ms. Bird recently served as a trainer on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through the Native Exchange, a project of the Tribal Education and Outreach Consortium (TEOC) and conducted trainings in the Northwestern states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho under a contract with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB). Ms. Bird serves as a health policy analyst on ACA employer issues. She also developed a training for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) titled “Tribes and Tribal Entities as Employers under the Affordable Care Act” and an interactive questionnaire for Tribal Employers to determine their opportunities and requirements.

Prior to Ms. Bird's ACA work, she served as an attorney in the Government Relations Department of Laguna Development Corporation (LDC), an entity wholly owned by the Pueblo of Laguna. Ms. Bird earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from the University of Southern California and a Juris Doctor Degree with a Certificate in Indian Law from the University of New Mexico. She is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico, the American Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

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).