**TO: [IHS Area]**

**FROM: [Name of TSGAC Member], Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (IHS-TSGAC) and [Name of Technical Workgroup Member], TSGAC Technical Workgroup Representative(s)**

**Subject: October 2017 IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting Summary**

The Indian Health Service’s (IHS) Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC) met October 24-25, 2017 in Washington, D.C. to receive updates on and host discussions on the following topics/issues: Office of Tribal Self-Governance Update, Joint TSGAC and Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee Meeting; Office of Resource Access and Partnership Update; Renewing the National IHS-Veterans Administration Memorandum of Understanding; current Congressional budget and legislative actions; Office of Information Technology update; Implementation of the IHS Quality Framework and Associated Initiatives; Contract Support Costs update; Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act update; and, Re-Imagine HHS Initiative and HHS/IHS Strategic Plan Development.

Below is a brief summary of the discussions. A detailed summary of the meeting minutes is available on the SGCE website at: [www.tribalselfgov.org](http://www.tribalselfgov.org).

**TSGAC Business:**

A summary update from the 2017 Tribal Strategy Session, September 5-6, 2017 was provided, including an overview of the Strategy Session discussion points, next steps and the Self-Governance Communication and Education BluePrint which provides Self-Governance Tribes with the tools needed to launch a major “Tribal Self-Governance Communication and Education Campaign”.

**Office of Tribal Self-Governance Update:**

In FY2017, there are 5 new Self-Governance Tribes; 95 Title V Compacts and 121 Funding Agreements for a total of $2.0 billion dollars being transferred to Self-Governance Tribes. OTSG is further working on quality issues to improve the process in implementing the Title V Self-Governance Authorities.

**Joint TSGAC and Direct Service Tribal Advisory Committee (DSTAC) Meeting, October 23, 2017 – Update and Next Steps**

This meeting marked the third annual gathering of TSGAC and DSTAC which share a lot of common issues and concerns, including HHS/IHS Strategic Plan, Medicaid Reform, Veterans Affairs and Office of Information Technology issues. The leadership of each Committee recommended meeting more often to spur strategic discussions and responses around topics of mutual interests.

**Office of Resource Access and Partnerships Update**

Terri Schmidt, RN, Acting Director, Office of Resource Access and Partnershipsmet with the TSGAC to address concerns regarding the failure of private insurers to reimburse Tribes and IHS for services. Section 206 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) requires insurers to pay us the same rate they would pay anyone else. Ms. Schmidt reported that IHS initiated discussions with insurers and emphasized the need for them to understand the law and legal obligation. Fairly recently, IHS was informed they (insurers) want to make payments in accordance with the law. At this point, logistics will need to be determined. IHS will provide an internal contact and notify Tribes and Urban Leaders of next steps with a *Dear Tribal Leader Letter*.

**Renewing the National IHS-Veterans Administration Memorandum of Understanding**

Honorable Carolyn Clancy, M.D., MACP, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Organizational Excellence, Department of Veterans Affairs met with the TSGAC. Dr. Clancy emphasized that the VA understands the Tribal issues and concerns and wants to make sure that as VA consolidates community of care that it also works well for Tribes. VA is about to announce a contract for a total overhaul of their health billing systems. She underscored VA’s commitment to open communication and understanding of Tribal concerns and committed to continue their engagement and collaboration with the TSGAC for the long haul.

**Indian Health Service Budget Update**

Elizabeth Fowler, Deputy Director for Management Operations, IHS provided an update on the status of the budget for each of the following fiscal years: (1)FY2017 Budget – IHS is finalizing year end distributions; (2) FY2018 - Short term funding has been provided under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through December 8th. Legislation has been introduced to reauthorize funding through end of 2019. Discretionary House mark of $5.1 billion includes increases totaling $97 million for IHS. Senate mark not rescheduled so cannot compare yet; (3) FY2019 – In the middle of pre-decisional part of process. Submitted 2019 budget to OMB in September and expect pass back and President’s Budget being released in February 2018; and, (4) FY2020 – Area meetings are underway – National Budget Formulation will meet in February 15-16, 2018 in Crystal City, Virginia.

**Legislative Update**

Caitrin Shuy, Director of Congressional Relations, National Indian Health Board,provided an update on current legislative issues and bills being addressed in Congress, including:

1. ACA Repeal and Replace – Draft bills were introduced in House, and Senate considered similar provisions, but didn’t have the 50 votes to pass. Each of the bills included major reductions to Medicaid over a period of time impacting care and reductions in third party revenues. Numerous joint letters were sent from National Indian Health Board, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of Urban Indian Health and Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium. Recent actions include a bi-partisan effort which is underway in Senate (Alexander-Murray bill). Unclear where the President stands on this.
2. Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) - Renewed on September 29, 2017 for the first quarter of FY2018 (October 1 – December 31, 2017). October 4 – House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced 2 year renewal as part of Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) reauthorization. SDPI Reauthorization Act of 2017 has now been introduced in both Chambers. Tribal leaders are encouraged to advocate with their Congressmen/Senators.
3. Restoring Accountability at IHS Act S. 1250/HR 2622; includes pay flexibility and other important Tribal provisions. Committees are working on amended language in a bicameral process and looking to markup sometime this fall.
4. Native Health Access Improvement Act & Native Health and Wellness Act; looking at public health – special behavioral health similar to SDPI.

**Office of Information Technology Update (OIT)**

CAPT Mark Rives, DSC, Director, Office of Information Technology, IHS, provided a presentation (See PPT in meeting packages – link below). He noted that these are exciting times as OIT looks to where they want to go with health electronic records.

1. Update from ISAC Meeting (September 2017) – Continues to work on ISAC Charter; updates to the OIT Human Capital Management Plan; and revising the FY2018-2019 IT Priorities to add Information Technology (IT)/Health IT (HIT) programs, services, functions, and activities and HIT modernization. The IT priorities will be shared with IHS management, Area, Tribes and other stakeholder groups. Other recommendations were made (See PPT).
2. VA migration to Cerner and impact on the IHS Resource Patient and Management System (RPMS). Four listening sessions held and comments are being gathered. Engagement at all levels within HHS. Have received 22 sets of comments. Developed Request for Information; Goal is to ask industry what they would propose as a solution with an anticipated outcome of good understanding of HIT as a foundation for a larger strategy; Status: undergoing revision.
3. Future plans for RPMS. IHS is taking an advanced posture to plan for HIT systems modernization. RPMS and the existing VA system, VISTA, will continue to be supported in the near term. RPMS development to date has always been supported by and dependent upon the VISTA platform. IHS has unique needs for patient care, population health management and referral management and many of those are different from the VA and DoD. Must continue to develop interoperability functionality to ensure access to patient data. All options are still in consideration.
4. Update OIT Service Catalog. (Randy Hughes, IHS Tribal Liaison, Office of IT); 12 Webinars have been held; and 3 in-person consultations. Action memos are under development.

**Implementation of the IHS Quality Framework and Associated Initiatives**

Capt. Michael Toedt, M.D., IHS Chief Medical Officer met with the TSGAC and provided an overview of the work in the following areas. These documents can be found in the meeting materials (link below):

1. “National Quality Accountability Dashboard.” This Dashboard is the result of a collaborative process that reflects input from a diverse group of subject matter experts from across IHS in the areas of clinical and public health care, quality improvement and health informatics.
2. “Credentialing Software and Policy Update” – Three Area Offices have completed implementation with two more targeted for completion by the end of October 2017 and the remaining Area Offices by the end of the year.
3. “Patience Experience of Care Survey” – A pilot was conducted at four facilities, representing the diversity of health care settings in IHS.
4. “Patient Wait Times”

**Contract Support Cost (CSC) Update**

The CSC Workgroup met recently in August 2017 to review what is working and not working. Tribal representatives expressed concerns that despite the fact the law provides for 100% payment of CSC, they are still not receiving their full amounts and settlements. This has resulted in an expensive amount of time and funding expended by attorneys, Tribes and IHS to enact and support what the law states in order to receive the amounts due to the Tribes. IHS responded that it is their hope to talk through and resolve these items of conflict in order to understand these different perspectives.

**Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Implementation Update**

Technical representatives provided an overview of the recent TSGAC policy briefs on the ACA. They also noted that project funding has been provided for 2017-2018 from the Office of Tribal Self-Governance to continue national outreach and education efforts, including: trainings, webinars, technical assistance and information sharing, and policy analysis. All information is posted on the Health Care Reform portion of the Self-Governance Communication and Education website: [www.tribalselfgov.org/health-reform/](http://www.tribalselfgov.org/health-reform/) Copies of the recent policy briefs and Webinars can all be found on the website.

**“Re-Imagine HHS” Initiative and HHS/IHS Strategic Plan Development**

Sarah Potter, HHS Official, noted that they are engaged with Tribes on the 5 goals on the Draft HHS Strategic Plan FY2018-2022 (see PPT included in the meeting packages). Comments were due on October 27, 2017 and Tribal representatives were encouraged to submit comments. (Please note: TSGAC submitted their formal comments on 10/27/17. Please contact Melanie Fourkiller at [mfourkiller@choctawnation.com](mailto:mfourkiller@choctawnation.com) for a copy.)

**Meeting Packages:** You can download all PPT presentations and materials from the October 24-25, 2017 meeting here: [TSGAC/SGAC 4th Quarter Advisory Committee Meeting '17 - Tribal Self-Governance](https://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/event/tsgacsgac-4th-quarter-advisory-committee-meeting-17/). If you have any questions or issues you would like TSGAC to consider at the next quarterly meeting, please contact Melanie Fourkiller at [mfourkiller@choctawnation.com](mailto:mfourkiller@choctawnation.com). Thank you!

Self-Governance 2018 Calendar of Events

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| **Date** | **Meeting** | **Location** |
| January 23-24 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| January 24-25 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting |
| March 27-28 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| March 28-29 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting |
| April 22-26 | Annual Tribal Self-Governance Consultation Conference | Albuquerque Convention Center  Albuquerque, NM |
| July 17-18 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| July 18-19 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting |
| September 5-6 | Tribal Self-Governance Strategy Session | TBD |
| October 16-17 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| October 17-18 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting |