

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Topics to raise with Director Tso

2. Information Systems Advisory Committee (ISAC) Vacancy

Background: ISAC was established to guide the development and management of information technologies and health information technologies used in the delivery of care within the Indian health system. The Tribal Chair is a 2-year term that alternates between a DSTAC, TSGAC, and One of the At-Large Tribal Leaders. ISAC meets at least twice annually, in person or virtually. The next ISAC meeting is April 11 - 12, 2023 from 8:30am-5pm. This will be a hybrid meeting, in person will be located IHS headquarters, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

The charter can be found at: <https://www.ihs.gov/ihtm/circulars/2019/information-systems-advisory-committee-charter/>

Current Situation: TSGAC holds a position on ISAC and is currently serving as the Tribal Chair of the committee. **Stewart Ferguson was serving as TSGAC's representative but retired in February.**

For Discussion: TSGAC is looking to fill its ISAC position.

3. Behavioral Health Funding Workgroup

Background: For the last few meetings, TSGAC voiced its concerns regarding the IHS decision to distribute behavioral health funds through a grant mechanism. TSGAC has asked the IHS to reconsider this decision and allow Tribes the option to receive these funds through ISDEAA agreements. IHS recently awarded 5-year behavioral health grants and Director Tso asked if we could wait until the end of the current granting period and reconsider a new decision for the next granting period. At our last meeting, TSGAC talked about having a workgroup that identifies how the current process is working and how it can be adjusted into a formula-based model. The goal is to come up with plan and then transition to that plan. A suggestion to start the discussion with NTAC was raised.

For Discussion: Do we want to form a workgroup to review the current process and make recommendations on how to adjust it into a formula-based model or do we want to pass this to NTAC to consider? Is anyone interested in serving on this workgroup?

4. Self-Governance Expansion Discussion

Updates:

- Legislative discussions are ongoing
- STAC- September 2022 meeting Secretary Becerra's comments suggested that he needs more education on Self-Governance. STAC suggested Lt. Gov. Anotubby & Chairman Allen meet directly with the Secretary.

5. *VA Reimbursement Agreement Negotiations*

We received a request to discuss VA Reimbursement Agreement Negotiations during Tribal Caucus.

Tribal Caucus March 9, 2023, Day 2 8:30-9:00am

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. *Health IT Modernization*

Background: At the last meeting, the IHS said they have completed Phase 1 of the Health IT Modernization project and is moving into Phase 2 which includes demonstration sites within the I/T/U system. TSGAC requested IHS to form a special advisory committee to ensure Tribal involvement and compatibility with Tribal systems. Since then, the IHS developed an advisory group. We're asking for an update/status of the advisory group.

The IHS sent out a DTTL dated February 6 which initiates a series of Tribal Consultations.

For Discussion: What are the current issues of concern related to Health IT Modernization?

2. *SAMHSA*

Background: Congress authorized a new behavioral health and substance use disorder resources for Native Americans program. It provides authority for a Tribe or Tribal Organization to request funds be awarded through ISDEAA agreements. In addition, the Secretary, in consultation with the IHS Director, shall develop a formula to determine the amount of an award.

- SAMHSA is taking the position that they have the authority to use ISDEAA agreements for funding provided through this new program, but no additional funding was appropriated.
- Although the law says “may” award funds through ISDEAA, Senator Smith (D-MN) sent a letter to SAMHSA stating that the intention is to use ISDEAA agreements if the Tribes want it.

For Discussion: What issues and questions do we want to raise with SAMHSA?