

**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE/CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE  
TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2011**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**CATAC Members  
in attendance:**

**Region  
Represented**

Mr. Stacy Dixon (a)	Northern
Mr. Peter Masten Jr. (p)	Northern
Mr. Robert Marquez (p)	East Central
Ms. Rachel Joseph (p)	East Central
Ms. Debra Ramirez (p)	West Central
Mr. Chris Devers (p)	Southern
Mr. Johnny Hernandez (p)	Southern
Ms. Diane Chihuahua (p)	Southern
Mr. Joe Bulfer (p)	Urban
Ms. Rosemary Nelson (p)	Unaffiliated
Ms. Patricia Schoolcraft (a)	Southern

**IHS Staff In attendance:**

Ms. Margo Kerrigan	Director, California Area IHS
Ms. Beverly Miller	Deputy Area Director
Dr. David Sprenger	Chief Medical Officer
Mr. Steve Riggio	Associate Director-OPH
Mr. Travis Coleman	Acting Indian Self-Determination Program Mgr.

The California Area Tribal Advisory Committee (CATAC) meeting began on June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Sonoma West Room at the John E. Moss Federal Building, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814. In addition to the attendees listed above, the meeting was open to and attended by additional Indian Health Service (IHS) staff.

Ms. Kerrigan, California Area Director, IHS welcomed everyone and facilitated group introductions and reviewed the planned agenda.

**Executive Summary Review:**

The CATAC members reviewed the Executive Summary of the March 14, 2011 meeting and approved them.

ACTION ITEM:

CATAC members requested that the documents sent by e-mail should be in a PDF format.

**California Representatives to the National IHS Workgroup Reports:**

Ms. Kerrigan discussed her phone conversation with the Deputy Director of Inter-governmental Affairs, Indian Health Service, regarding national workgroups containing only duly-elected tribal officials. The Deputy Director could not specify which workgroups for which this applies. Ms. Kerrigan asked the group to review the California representatives on the following committees: Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, HP/DP Policy Advisory Committee, IHS Budget Formulation Workgroup, Director's Workgroup on Improving CHS, IHS Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board, National Behavioral Health Working Group, and Director's Tribal Advisory Workgroup on Consultation. Chairman Robert Smith declined a position on the Director's Tribal Advisory Workgroup on Consultation, but recommended Chairman Mark Romero (Mesa Grande), who has not yet confirmed.

Ms. Kerrigan relayed to the group that Dr. Kathleen Annette, Field Operations; Indian Health Service recommends ballots for Tribes to vote on all California representatives. Nominees can be written in if they give their permission and provide their bio. Ms. Kerrigan asked if each CATAC member would consider sending ballots to their tribal leaders.

When some CATAC members suggested that Ms. Joseph was being purposely targeted, Ms. Kerrigan noted that Dr. Annette recognized Rachel's leadership skills in their phone conversation and doesn't want her to leave the Budget Formulation Workgroup. Ms. Joseph commented that she has served as co-chair for over seven years, but would not volunteer for the position again. Ms. Joseph wishes to remain on the workgroup for another year with Stacy. Alternatively, she recommended Stacy as the representative and suggested that she could act as the Technical Advisor.

Ms. Ramirez read aloud the policy for choosing CATAC members. Ms. Kerrigan added that no one has demanded that CATAC members be tribal leaders. She reiterated that CATAC was designed to have tribal leaders, board members, and non-tribal leaders on the committee. She said CATAC has been successful and helpful to her.

Mr. Devers requested written documentation from Dr. Annette stating new policy for representatives on national workgroups to show to Tribal Leaders. Ms. Kerrigan requested this and noted the time sensitivity to Dr. Annette because the Tribal Consultation Summit is on July 6-7 and we need a duly-elected tribal chairman from southern California before then.

Mr. Hernandez stated that the committee needs to decide as a group what they want to do because there will always be complaints about non-elected officials. Mr. Devers added that respective regions should decide who represents them on committees.

Chairman Marquez suggested we add terms to CATAAC representatives such as 3, 5, or 10 year terms. He suggested we send ballots to get feedback on who the tribal leaders want on the boards.

Mr. Masten said there are not enough tribal chairmen to sit on all national committees. When the chairmen are on these committees, they don't show because they don't have time. He added that the more you travel, the more susceptible you are to being replaced. Tribal members often complain that the chairman is always gone. He suggested sending a letter identifying each committee's functions and how the representative has benefitted California. For example, the budget, CHS, and diabetes workgroups have advanced our California health programs. Mr. Masten stated that this is the single most important thing that has advanced Indian health care within the Indian health care system – having representatives from all over make recommendations to IHS; otherwise, IHS will do what they've always done.

Ms. Chihuahua said current CATAAC members are committed regardless of jobs, families, and other responsibilities even though they may not be elected officials. She suggested that the committee draft a letter saying everyone on CATAAC was elected by chairmen and regions at the Annual Tribal Leaders' Consultation Conference, and IHS staff were not involved. The committee agreed that a survey, questionnaire, and/or ballot would confuse tribal leaders. Ms. Kerrigan added that Dr. Annette suggested we have sign-in sheets for our regional caucuses in the future so we know who elected the representatives.

Following a ten-minute break, the CATAAC members reviewed the Sample Ballots provided to them.

Ms. Chihuahua suggested CATAAC members speak with the Tribal Leaders and notify them as to which representatives CATAAC supports. Ms. Kerrigan suggested 30 days as the election duration and noted that all tribal chairmen can be reached by email if you hit "Reply to all" on emails from her. Ms. Schoolcraft reiterated that she would like direction from Dr. Annette in writing.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Ms. Kerrigan asked all CATAAC members who sit on national workgroups to send a short bio in addition to their workgroup charges to her.

**Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC):**

Ms. Kerrigan provided an update on the North and South Youth Regional Treatment Centers.

- On March 30, IHS received advance approval from the House Appropriations Committee to purchase properties for both North and South YRTCs. Ms. Kerrigan thanked IHS Headquarters and Dr. Roubideaux for their work with this.
- The South YRTC is in escrow for the Taylor Ranch property. The package has gone to the Department of Justice (which is the final stop), and must be approved within 30 days. Immediately following approval by Department of Justice, we will close escrow. This should be happen at end of July. Then, Dr. Roubideaux will announce it. The California Area will host the following three events related to the southern YRTC: Dedication of Land, Groundbreaking (start of construction), and Grand Opening. We will not set the date for the dedication until the property is closed. Ms. Kerrigan will contact CATAC and see what they want to do at that point. Invitations will be sent from Dr. Roubideaux's office. After the groundbreaking, the southern YRTC will open 1 ½-2 years later because staffing takes some time. Ms. Chihuahua expressed her excitement on behalf of the southern tribes.
- Ms. Joseph stated that both facilities are in the IHS five-year plan, but this will probably be a two-year process because the money may not be available all at once. Dr. Sprenger said the design will occur first until funds are available for construction.
- The North YRTC was in escrow for the Honeyrock Property in Oroville (Butte County) until December. Five alternate properties have been reviewed since January. (Mr. Masten and Ms. Joseph were on that review committee.) DQ offered property once they heard IHS was planning to spend money on a property, but then discovered GSA owns their property. DQ needs to revert 12 acres back to GSA in order for GSA to sell it to IHS for fair market value. DQ will not receive proceeds from the sale of the land. The DQ board met on Saturday and did not discuss situation. DQ asked IHS Headquarters if IHS would reestablish infrastructure, but IHS is unable to do so.
- Ms. Joseph said the second and third sites are prettier locations in nicer settings and suggested to Ms. Kerrigan and the committee that we move forward from the DQ site. Mr. Masten mentioned that he had concerns about the second and third sites because of their proximity to housing. Ms. Ramirez added that she doesn't think DQ has a stable board. Mr. Coleman stated that DQ is still questioning who holds the land.

The CATAC members agreed to visit two other sites for northern YRTC instead of meeting for the second day.

Dr. Sprenger provided an update on his meeting with the new DQ board in May.

- At the meeting, Dr. Sprenger reiterated that they would not receive funds for the sale of the land. He noted the potential benefits for DQ such as publicity and a possible referral relationship, therein providing students for the University. He told them we've given ourselves a 6 month timeline and we are at 6 months. When he told them about the second and third site options, they said they didn't want that and just need to do more research.
- Ms. Ramirez added that DQ previously refused help to fundraise and become accredited. Mr. Hernandez stated that DQ is determined to open the University with money from IHS, but the board is to include 16 members, and it's going to take some time for them to assemble their new board.

Ms. Kerrigan described her relationship with Yolo county.

- At their first meeting, Yolo County was supportive of the YRTC. At their second meeting, they were concerned that we weren't going to build the YRTC in the middle of the DQ campus for "urban sprawl". They demanded we defend why we picked that location, and our answer was "easy access". In the past, DQ students have blocked roads when protesting.
- Ms. Kerrigan stated that Congressman Mike Thompson is supportive of the YRTC in Yolo County.

Mr. Devers made a motion to relocate northern YRTC, sight unseen, and Mr. Hernandez seconded that.

Mr. Hernandez suggested we expand site in south if necessary. Ms. Ramirez agrees that's a good last resort, but said it's sad that we've been discriminated against and rejected from our lands.

Dr. Sprenger said right now we're able to treat 60 kids a year out of the risk pool. Depending on the length of the program developed in the south, we could treat 80-120 so we have increased our capacity just there.

Ms. Kerrigan stated that we cannot combine the north and south appropriations. We would have to submit new documents to congress. That would take 3-4 years to get to the point we are at right now. Mr. Hernandez then reiterated that we should move on from DQ and look for another location in the North.

Margo said she'd pursue the second rate property politically without sending a letter to DQ since they haven't sent anything to us or updated us on their status. She added that there's a lot of land in Redding if Yolo County doesn't work. Mr. Sisson said the airport in Redding is not a commercial airport, but Ms. Kerrigan said United Airlines flies into the Redding airport so there are commercial flights in and out of the major cities.

Mr. Devers suggested we ask the Forrester Service to see if they have excess property. Dr. Sprenger said we looked at a lot of federal property that was excess property, but they ended up not panning out (ex: next to railroad tracks, bad areas). Ms. Ramirez added that Trinity College in Ukiah is vacant and the structure and playground are still there. Ms. Kerrigan said we looked at that facility a number of years ago, but found that facility was fairly old and the number of buildings would make surveillance almost impossible. She added that the appropriation is for a brand new facility. If we switch to restoration, we have to start over with the process.

Ms. Kerrigan mentioned that government land is often undeveloped, so we'd have to add roads, etc. She said IHS generally tries to stay away from places with low infrastructure because it costs a lot of money. Taylor Ranch already has water, sewage, and roads. Pit River, on the other hand, was insistent that they had land they wanted us to see, but they didn't know where. While Pit River has a lot of tribal land, they do not have the infrastructure to support a hospital facility for 32 kids. Our facility needs to be close to a town and away from neighbors.

The CATAC members reviewed map of greater Sacramento area, identifying order of preference: number one site is DQU, number two site is Winters, number three site is Vacaville, number four site is Esparto, and number five site is Fairfield. Committee will travel to Winters and Vacaville tomorrow to see other sites. Ms. Kerrigan said the minimum acreage needed is 10. Taylor Ranch has 20 acres, and we asked for 12 acres from DQ.

### **Tribal Leaders Consultation Conference Evaluation:**

The CATAC members reviewed the Evaluation Summary from the 2011 Tribal Leaders' Consultation Conference.

- Ms. Kerrigan said the next meeting will be in San Diego (U.S. Grand). She acknowledged that it's hard for central and northern California to host the annual event because there aren't hotels that can accommodate 250-300 people.
- Many CATAC members lamented about the audio problems at Chukchansi. Ms. Kerrigan added that Chukchansi didn't offer anything complimentary. Ms. Nelson noted that they wouldn't even allow coolers into the tent (which is a problem for diabetics who carry insulin).
- Ms. Kerrigan said we couldn't afford the health fair this year, and may not be able to afford it next year. Chairman Marquez suggested we ask health programs to donate to the health fair. He said these programs have the money for outreach, but they don't participate because they aren't asked.

Ms. Joseph asked Ms. Kerrigan and the other CATAC members if they could acknowledge Mr. McSwain. Ms. Kerrigan said no one at IHS Headquarters is allowed to travel, but suggested that the group treat him to dinner when visiting Washington DC.

### **HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC):**

Chairman Dixon provided an update to the committee on STAC. He said alternates are not permitted to ask questions unless the delegate excuses himself. Tribal leaders are not allowed to sit in on the discussion, but this may not be the case in the future. Regardless, tribal leaders will not be allowed to ask questions. Committee received updates on grants, FAFSA, etc. The Secretary attended and updated group on her background. She also appointed a Secretary (who was an individual from her hometown in Kansas). Group is still drafting policy. Chairman Dixon will email policy to CATAC members or to Mr. Coleman to forward to committee. STAC only meets four times out of the year, and he has only attended two meetings. In addition, the teleconferences have conflicted with his schedule. Secretary said we are the first in the country to have this committee and Obama wants to know tribal concerns and how U.S. government can help with deficiencies. Chairman Dixon said Secretary is very open to Native Americans.

### **Discussion:**

#### **CAIHS Circular 10-A, Tribal Consultation**

Mr. Devers motioned to remove Section 6 (on page 5) and Ms. Kerrigan agreed.

Mr. Devers also asked that the policy include the process to initiate additional consultations by the Area Director or Tribal Leaders (e.g. "a minimum of Annual TLCC and other meetings, if necessary")

#### **ACTION ITEM:**

Ms. Kerrigan asked the CATAC members to send highlights to her to create summary.

#### **CAIHS Circular 10-B, Tribal Advisory Committee**

Ms. Chihuahua suggested the policy state that a designee can elect CATAC members in addition to Tribal Leader. Ms. Chihuahua will provide suggested changes to Ms. Kerrigan.

Ms. Ramirez noted that there is no formal procedure for the election process of CATAC members at the Annual Tribal Leaders' Consultation Conference (beside the sign-in sheet). The CATAC members suggested each region provide a sheet with the final count (i.e. one page summary).

Mr. Devers questioned Section 7 (on page 6) and said this is not the case. Ms. Joseph suggested Ms. Kerrigan present on budget formulation to each region every year (including repeating North region).

The CATAC members agreed to move Section 7 (on page 6) to the CAIHS Circular 10-A, Tribal Consultation.

### **CAIHS Circular 10-C, California Area Representatives to National IHS and HHS Workgroups**

Ms. Kerrigan agreed to change Section 3 (on page 2) to reflect prior discussion about involving tribal leaders in selection of California representatives. Ms. Joseph suggested using the word “endorsing” instead of “resolution” in case Tribal Chair writes a letter instead of a resolution, and Ms. Ramirez agreed.

Many CATAC members asked that we allow the Tribes to endorse these processes. Ms. Kerrigan said she’s sent these circulars to the tribal leaders twice and received no comments.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Kerrigan will send email to tribal leaders with list of currently appointed California representatives to national workgroups, asking them to endorse these individuals or create resolutions. They will not be required to create a resolution. She will identify why these individuals were selected, related to their expertise. (Ms. Chihuahua and Ms. Schoolcraft may not be able to participate because their tribes “go dark” in July and August and do not meet, but Ms. Chihuahua may be able to walk a written letter to her Chairperson for signature.)

Ms. Kerrigan will send revised circulars to group.

#### **Indian Health Care Improvement Act:**

Ms. Kerrigan provided each CATAC member in attendance with a document containing talking points about the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Mr. Coleman added that the items considered to lower cost aren’t lowering costs yet. He also said the implementation date is 2014, but some provisions are effective immediately.

#### **Emerging Issues:**

##### ACTION ITEM:

Mr. Devers asked Ms. Kerrigan to write a letter to Veteran Affairs (VA) so they would be more inclined to talk with him. He asked that the letter be sent as a PDF with her signature, and state that Mr. Devers is a representative of the California tribes who want to work with the VA.



Ms. Chihuahua provided a brief update on Tribal Leaders' Diabetes Committee (TLDC). The Committee wants feedback on their strategic plan, which was never finalized. The strategic plan is much like a charter to maintain the TLDC. Ms. Chihuahua will forward a copy of the strategic plan to Mr. Coleman and Ms. Maldonado to send to the CATAC members.

Mr. Hernandez reviewed his workgroup's suggested changes to contract health services (CHS), but said suggestions were not accepted. He said there is \$21 million left and recommends everyone send in their CHEF cases now. The California Area Office will be responsible for notifying programs why they were not approved. The Government Accountability Office is also scrutinizing CHS, especially in the California Area. Ms. Kerrigan said she has never reallocated funds, especially CHS funds.

Ms. Joseph provided an update on the IHS Budget Formulation Workgroup. She said Toiyabe is out of catastrophic money. She also said the committee is focusing on FY12 even though their job is formulating FY14. Talking points have been distributed about our recommendations for HHS budget. Some, such as Chairman Hayes, are voicing issues such as, "What happens if our budget is cut?"

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Additional Tribal and program leaders, Indian Health Service staff, and guests in attendance during the June 21, 2011 CATAC meeting:

#### **Name**

#### **Representing**

Ron Sisson

Redding Rancheria

#### **IHS/CAO staff**

Karen Nichols, Contracting Officer

Helen Maldonado, Diabetes Consultant

Dawn Phillips, Behavioral Health Consultant

**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE/CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE  
TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**John E. Moss Federal Building  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**June 21-22, 2011**

**June 21, Location: Sonoma West Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Ms. M. Kerrigan</b>
	<b>Review Executive Summary-March 14, 2011</b>	<b>Ms. M. Kerrigan</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>California Representatives to National IHS and HHS Workgroup Reports</b>	<b>Representatives</b>
	<b>HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee:</b>	
	<b>STAC</b>	<b>Mr. S. Dixon</b>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Discussion: California Representatives to National IHS and HHS Workgroups</b>	<b>Ms. M. Kerrigan</b>
<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>1:15 PM</b>	<b>Youth Regional Treatment Center North and South updates</b>	<b>Ms. M. Kerrigan</b>
<b>2:15 PM</b>	<b>Tribal Leaders' Meeting Evaluation</b>	<b>Ms. M. Kerrigan</b>
<b>3:15 PM</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>3:45 PM</b>	<b>Discussion: CAIHS Circular 10-A, Tribal Consultation CAIHS Circular 10-B, Tribal Advisory Committee CAIHS Circular 10-C, California Area Representatives to National IHS and HHS workgroups</b>	<b>Ms. M. Kerrigan</b>
<b>4:45 PM</b>	<b>Emerging Issues</b>	<b>Ms. M. Kerrigan</b>
<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Recess</b>	

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TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**John E. Moss Federal Building  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**June 21-22, 2011**

**June 22, Location: Sonoma West Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Visit Youth Regional Treatment Center sites in the greater Sacramento area.**