




Native American Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC)

Minutes for May 24, 2021



Time: Start 2:00pm **End:** 4:05 pm **Place:** Virtual meeting


Chair: Shelly Begay, Human Services Department (HSD) Tribal Liaison

Committee Members/Call In: Nicole Comeaux, Medical Assistance Division (MAD) Director; Megan Pfeffer, MAD Deputy Director; Lorelei Kellogg, MAD Deputy Director; Theresa Belanger, MAD NA Liaison; Karmela Martinez, ISD Director; Dr. Neal Bowen, BHSD Director; Camille Vigil, MAD; Tracy Sanchez, Henrietta Lewis, Albuquerque Area IHS; Eldred Lesensee, Indian Affairs Department; Rick Vigil, Tesuque Pueblo; Jean Pino, Zia Pueblo; Emily Haozous, Ft. Sill Apache; Ezra Bayles, Taos Pueblo; Craig Sandoval, Iris Reano, Anthony Yepa, Kewa Pueblo; Amber Carrillo, All Pueblo Council of Governors; Monica Vigil, Nambe Pueblo; Mary Scott, Laguna Pueblo; Joseph Herrera, Governor Cochiti Pueblo; Lonna Valdez, Jicarilla Apache; Valerie Namoki James, San Felipe Pueblo; Ed Ackron, Santa Ana Pueblo

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
I. Invocation/Introductions	Former Governor Rick Vigil from Tesuque Pueblo gave the invocation. Introductions were done.	Completed	All	Completed
II. Review/approval of October 26, 2020 and March 22, 2021 minutes	Minutes for the October 2020 and March 2021 were approved. Jean Pino and Emily Haozous motioned to approve minutes.	Completed	All	Completed
III. Income Support Division (ISD) Update  NATAAC_ISD Updates_19May2021.	Karmela Martinez provided updates on the various ISD programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) - New program that provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills (Details will be shared as we move closer to implementation.) ➤ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - Heating/cooling assistance – Applications start in October of each year. Issuance has not yet been determined. ➤ New Mexico Financial Relief Payment - One-time payment to low-income persons who did not receive the following federal stimulus and recovery rebates. Issuance summer 2021. ➤ Pandemic EBT- Monthly benefit for children 0-21, eligible for the National School Lunch Program who are not attending in person school or child-care. Last issuance date 5/3/2021. ➤ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)- Raises maximum allotments to 115% of the June 2020 value of the Thrifty Food Plan 	Completed	Karmela Martinez, Income Support Division	Next NATAC

Commented [T1]:

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	<p>(TFP) from January 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021. All SNAP benefits were increased in March 2021 for all recipients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emergency TANF dollars - Issue one-time payment to all TANF households. Issuance date has not yet been determined. ➤ ECECD – Payment for children (0-5) attending childcare or in-person learning. 			
<p>IV. Behavioral Health Services (BHSD) update</p>  <p>NATAC May 2021.pptx</p>	<p>Dr. Neal Bowen began by acknowledging our ancestral Tribal lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Federal legislation signed October 2020 to create a national behavioral health crisis line called 988. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People can call 988 instead of 911. Calls from New Mexico will be routed to New Mexico through the NM Crisis Action Line (NMCAL) or AGORA. ○ 80% of the calls on the national line are able to be resolved during the call. ○ Go live planned for 2022. ○ Calls from veterans will be routed to a separate line as well as calls from Spanish speakers. ➤ New Mexico Tribal Behavioral Health Provider Association (NMTBHPA) – new BHSD provider meeting. Meets monthly to provide support and information on behavioral health programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invite NMTBHPA to regular meetings with State ○ Looks at policy and program design ○ Includes private practitioners ○ Learning community opportunities ○ Crisis Triage Centers ○ Expanding access to PSR and CCSS ➤ Expanded Block Grant Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extended time to spend funding – 3 years. No rapid turn around funding; respect internal processes of Pueblo and Tribal authorities. ○ Aligned with HSD Strategic Plan ○ Statewide impact ○ Evidence based or promising results ○ Sustainable after funding is exhausted 	Completed	Dr. Neal Bowen, Behavioral Health Services Division	Next NATAC
<p>V. Medical Assistance Division (MAD) update</p>  <p>Copy of Monthly Native Americans Req</p>	<p>Theresa Belanger provided an update on Native American enrollment in NM Medicaid.</p> <p>Nicole Comeaux spoke about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changes coming to Medicaid coverage when the pandemic is over. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently about 73% of Native Americans in NM are on Medicaid. 	Invite NM Health Insurance Exchange to next NATAC	Theresa Belanger, Medical Assistance Division	Next NATAC

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When the pandemic is over the regular Medicaid rules will apply and people will start falling off Medicaid. MAD will help them find other medical coverage. ○ This fall the Health Insurance Exchange (HIE) will be state based. We want everyone to be aware of these changes and we are seeking guidance and expertise from NATAC. ➤ American Rescue Plan – The state can extend Medicaid for pregnant women for 12 months, currently it is for 60 days (4/2022). ➤ There will be an additional 10% match for home and community-based services. We are reaching out to stakeholders to get feedback. ➤ Kevin S. – Lawsuit involving CYFD and HSD to provide services and supports to Native American children in custody. MAD is working with CYFD to improve care and engage more with Tribes. MAD is also looking at an 1115 Waiver amendment to ask for the Traditional Healing Benefit for children in custody that are on FFS Medicaid. <p>Send 2021 Data Book Vol. 2 to NATAC members.</p>	<p>Stakeholder input needed</p> <p>How should the state reimburse for the Traditional Healing? Sent 05/25/20</p>		Completed
<p>VII. Tribal Consultation/ Tribal Notifications</p>  <p>NATAC Q2 Tribal Notifications.docx</p>	<p>Theresa provided the attached list of Tribal Notifications for the last quarter to the NATAC.</p>	None	Theresa Belanger, Medical Assistance Division	Next NATAC
<p>VIII. Comments</p>	<p>Anthony Yepa – Tribal response is not as robust as it should be.</p> <p>Ezra Bayles - The reports from ISD and BHSD is retroactive. There isn't a lot of forward thinking information. What about CHR reimbursement? Public Health Nurse (PHN) billing?</p> <p>Amber Carrillo - We want the MAD to do better to help take care of Native Americans on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Rick Vigil – We have developed a lot of positive relationships with HSD that wasn't there before. We are aware of ongoing issues of importance and opportunities. We need to work with other partners in Indian country (ISD/BH program representatives) from these programs.</p> <p>Iris Reano – The CHR Association should be a part of NATAC. Getting the representation is hard right now. The Governors' are busy and don't appoint someone.</p> <p>Jean Pino – How many delegates have never been to the meetings previously?</p>			

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	Shelly Begay suggested that a separate meeting be scheduled to discuss comments and questions			
IX. Closing, schedule next meeting	The next NATAC meeting will be scheduled.	Send agenda and attachments prior to meeting	Theresa Belanger MAD	Next NATAC

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Belanger

June 14, 2021