



ARIZONA ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON INDIAN  
HEALTH CARE

## May 2024 Newsletter

**Mission statement:** *The mission of the AACIHC is to advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.*

### At-a-Glance

#### AACIHC Agency Updates

- American Indian Health-AHEC Celebrating Success
- American Indian Health-AHEC Summer Health Exploration Programs
  - Summer Scrubs Program
  - SCAHC Summer Student Program
  - Native SCOPE Summer Program
- COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team Updates
- CDC-CCR Updates

#### Legislative Updates

### AACIHC Agency Updates



AMERICAN INDIAN  
HEALTH-AHEC

### Celebrating Success: American Indian Health-AHEC Scholars Win Outstanding Poster Award!

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news with our community! Our dedicated AIH-AHEC Scholars, Rebecca Foley, Alexandra McLafferty, Olivia Chavez, and Angel Tarrango have clinched the top spot for their outstanding presentation on "***Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever) in Southern Arizona: Building Capacity for Rural Health Management***" at this year's Arizona Area Health

Education Centers (AzAHEC)'s 12th Annual Interprofessional Rural Health Professions Program Conference.

Their comprehensive research, commitment to excellence, and their knowledge of Valley Fever's impact on rural and underserved populations shone bright, earning them this well deserved recognition. This achievement not only highlights their individual brilliance but also reflects the collective dedication to our mission as the AIH-AHEC toward advancing healthcare knowledge and advocacy in our regions.

Please join us in congratulating our remarkable American Indian Health- Area Health Education Center scholars on this well-deserved success!

The AIH-AHEC is currently recruiting for our 2nd ever AHEC Scholars Cohort and application deadline is September 15, 2024.

Apply Today: <https://formstack.io/4CAE2>

Stay tuned for more updates and continue to support our AIH-AHEC Scholars as they pave the way for positive change in healthcare!

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## **Celebrating Success: Congratulations to the American Indian Health-AHEC 2024 Intern**

***Congratulations, to American  
Indian Health-Area Health  
Education Center 2024 Intern!***

**Shawna Nelson**  
University of Arizona, Phoenix  
Masters in Public Health, Public  
Health Practice

Shawna was awarded with her MPH Saturday, May 11th 2024 in front of friends and family at Centennial Hall in Tucson, Arizona with the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

Our team at AACIHC and AIH-AHEC wish you all the success and happiness as you embark on this exciting new chapter of your life.

Cheers to your achievements and the bright journey ahead!



# Summer Health Exploration Program with the American Indian Health-AHEC: Ignite Your Passion for Healthcare!

This summer, we're thrilled to invite all aspiring American Indian healthcare professionals to apply for the following summer health career explorations programs that the AIH-AHEC is partnering in support in Central Phoenix, San Carlos Apache, and Gila River in Sacaton. They are listed below.

## > **Summer Scrubs Program**


Gila River Healthcare Corporation  
Sacaton, Arizona

> June 10th-July 26th, 2024  
Monday-Friday @ 8:00-5:00 pm

> Who: 14 years of age and older (14-17 require parental consent)

Summer Scrubs is a health career exploration program that helps students prepare for their future in the health professions. With this program, students will get the opportunity to participate in professional lectures, health-related field trips and hands-on lab experiences. "Scrub in" this summer at Gila River Health Care in Sacaton, Arizona!

APPLY TODAY: [GRHC.ORG/Explore-Careers](https://grhc.org/explore-careers)



**Summer Scrubs Program**

**Medical Career Exploration for Students!**

**Program Overview**



Summer Scrubs is a health career exploration program that helps students prepare for their future in the health professions. With this program, students will get the opportunity to participate in professional lectures, health-related field trips and hands-on lab experiences. "Scrub in" this summer at Gila River Health Care in Sacaton, Arizona!

**Ages** | 14 Years of Age and Older  
*AGES 14 - 17 REQUIRES PARENTAL CONSENT*


**Dates** | June 10, 2024 - July 26, 2024

**Time** | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Interested?**  
Email [StudentProgram@GRHC.ORG](mailto:StudentProgram@GRHC.ORG)  
for more information.

Scan the QR code or visit [GRHC.ORG/Explore-Careers](https://grhc.org/explore-careers)



> **SCAHC Summer Student Program**

San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation  
Peridot, Arizona

> June 10th-July 18th, 2024

> Who: Must be 16 years of age  
Must be a SCAT Tribal Member  
Must be a high school or college student

> PAID 6 WEEK PROGRAM



The poster features a collage of healthcare professionals at the top. Below the collage, the word "SUMMER" is written in large, colorful, 3D-style letters. To the left of "SUMMER" is the SCAHC logo. Below the title, it says "Student Program" and "June 10, 2024 - July 18, 2024". A starburst graphic says "APPLY TODAY" with the text "Applications can be picked up at SCAHC Human Resources Center". A text box explains that SCAHC is accepting applications for a 6-week paid work program for SCAT members aged 16 and over. A "REQUIREMENTS:" section lists: "Must be at least 16 years of age", "Must be a SCAT Tribal Member", and "Must be a high school or college student". A "Deadline: May 24, 2024" is highlighted in a red box. At the bottom, it says "FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (928) 475-1251" and includes the Izee' Baa Gowah logo and name.

> **Native SCOPE Summer Program**

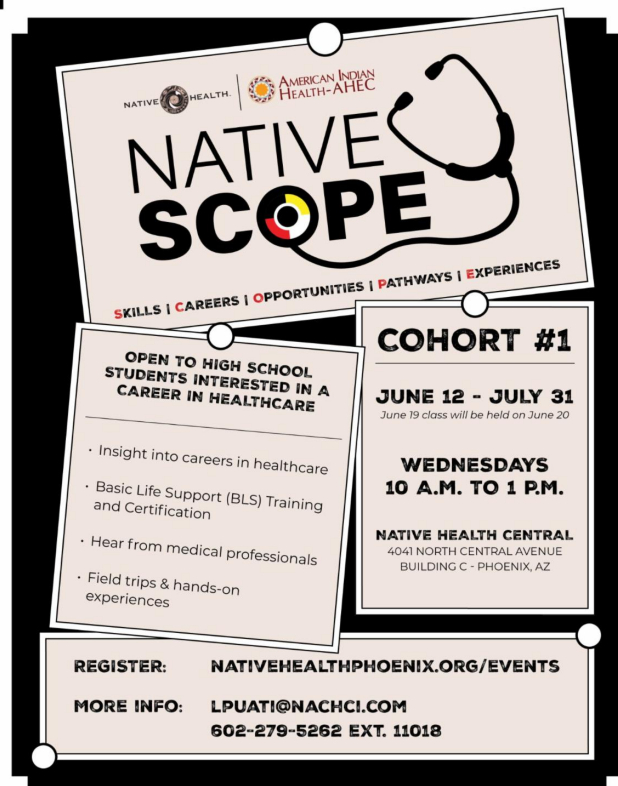
Native Health Central Phoenix  
Phoenix, Arizona

> June 12, 2024- July 31st  
(June 19th class will be held on June 20th)

Wednesday's 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

> Who: American Indian High School Students in the Phoenix Area

Join us for the AIH-AHEC's newly established Native Skills Careers Opportunities Pathways Experience (Native SCOPE) Summer Program in Central Phoenix. Your Wednesdays will be filled with exploration of healthcare careers in Allied Health, Public Health, Specialty Doctors and Nurses and many many more.



The flyer is designed to look like a collection of pinned cards. The top card is the title card: "NATIVE SCOPE" with a stethoscope graphic and logos for "NATIVE HEALTH" and "AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH-AHEC". Below the title are the words "SKILLS | CAREERS | OPPORTUNITIES | PATHWAYS | EXPERIENCES". The middle-left card says "OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE" and lists: "Insight into careers in healthcare", "Basic Life Support (BLS) Training and Certification", "Hear from medical professionals", and "Field trips & hands-on experiences". The middle-right card is titled "COHORT #1" and lists "JUNE 12 - JULY 31" (with a note "June 19 class will be held on June 20") and "WEDNESDAYS 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M." at "NATIVE HEALTH CENTRAL 4041 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE BUILDING C - PHOENIX, AZ". The bottom card provides contact info: "REGISTER: NATIVEHEALTHPHOENIX.ORG/EVENTS" and "MORE INFO: LPUATI@NACHCI.COM 602-279-5262 EXT. 11018".

**COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team**



ARIZONA ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON INDIAN  
HEALTH CARE

# YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR TRIBAL PANDEMIC COALITION MEETING

**Register Here:**

[Registration for In-Person Attendance](#)

[Registration for Virtual Attendance](#)

**Location:**

801 E Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona 85034 on the  
4th floor in the Arizona Conference Room

If you have any questions, please contact Summer at  
[summer.hassan@aacihc.az.gov](mailto:summer.hassan@aacihc.az.gov)

**MAY 29TH, 2024**  
9am - 12:30pm  
(Phoenix Time)



## CHRs WITH US!

### CDC-CCR Updates

Members of the CDC-CCR Team  
gathered in Spokane, Washington April  
16-18th to attend the Community Health  
Worker (CHW) Sustainability Summit  
hosted by Envision in partnership with

the Washington State Evaluation Partnership (WSEP) and Arizona State University Office of Community Health Engagement and Resiliency (ASU).



**CHRs WITH US!**

**GOALS**

- Enhance and expand CHR training and deployment to COVID-19 response efforts
- Build and strengthen community resilience to respond to public health emergencies
- Decrease health disparities and increase health equity in AZ Tribal Communities

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Program to Program Mentoring (PPM)**  
Six CHR Programs successfully engaged in PPM partnerships. Participants reported improvements to record keeping, budget tracking, grant management, and new strategies for increasing clinical and community engagement.
- Digital Referral Tracking**  
Co-developed a digital CHR referral tracking system being utilized by multiple partners.
- State CHW Voluntary Certification**  
Supported 35+ of the CHRs at partner programs to receive AZ CHW Voluntary Certification.
- Training Hub**  
The Training Hub organized or directly provided 60+ trainings – representing a variety of topics, engagement styles, and trainers. Helped partners host mini-conferences that were training-focused for their CHWs and/or the community.
- CHR Annual Summits**  
Held 2 Summits, each with 200+ CHRs, tribal leaders, tribal health advocates, IHS officials and other stakeholders.
- CHR Integration Tools**  
Co-developed 2 integration tools focused on Vaccine Deployment and Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response. Upcoming in 2024: CHR integration in clinical care teams and high-risk care.
- Promoting CHR Integration in Care Coordination**  
Supported integration training and group workshops for:
  - Cervical cancer screening: Hopi CHR Program and Cancer Support Services to improve screening for at-risk patients;
  - Elder care: Hualapai CHR program and Elder Services to improve care coordination for tribal elders.

**CHALLENGES**

- CHR programs are less involved in COVID-response efforts as tribal public health and health care systems shift focus to other conditions.
- Program-To-Program Mentoring (PPM) saw issues with reliable internet access for rural-based partners and long travel distances between programs.
- Utilizing the grant money in ways that are approved by the CDC, tribal governments, and the State of Arizona.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Partners: THE HOPI TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE, ARIZONA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE, NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY, Central for Health Equity Research.

Photos: CHRs WITH US! Quarterly Meeting, Aug 2023; CHRs WITH US! Presenting at NACHW 2023; GRHC Members Receive 'Outstanding Community Health Representative of the Year' Awards; Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community SIRA VVVV May 2022; Annual CHR Summit, Nov 2023; WMAT & GRHC PPM Meeting, Jan 2023; Hopi Stronger Together Workshop, Dec 2022.



The Summit offered recipients of CDC's Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities ([CCR-2109](#)) the opportunity to showcase their work and strategize together about how to continue CHW programs in the absence of CCR grant funding. Grant partners gathered and presented on topics including the CHRs WITH US! accomplishments and new developments in the Emergency Preparedness Checklist.

## Legislative Updates:



Every year, the AACIHC identifies and tracks legislative bills that may have a potential impact on the American Indian health care system in Arizona. Please see the information below on the bills we are currently tracking:

### **MMIP Bills:**

#### **[HB2764- long-term care; enforcement; memory care](#)**

Sponsor: Representative Dunn

Bill Overview: Requires the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish by rule standards for memory care services for assisted living facilities that are licensed to provide directed care services. Modifies DHS duties and authorities relating to oversight of health care institutions. Establishes requirements relating to Adult Protective Services (APS) investigations into abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult. Modifies the membership of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers (NCIA Board). Establishes the Vulnerable Adult System Study Committee (Study Committee) and outlines Study Committee membership, duties and reporting requirements

Status: **Signed by the Governor on 04/08/2024**

#### **[HB 2249: residential care institutions; inspections](#)**

Sponsor: Representative Carter

Bill Overview: Prohibits the Director of the Department of Health Services (Director) from accepting an accreditation report in lieu of conducting compliance investigations for a behavioral health residential care institution.

Status: **Died in the Senate**

#### **[HB 2205: fraud unit; investigations; annual report](#)**

Sponsor: Representative Livingston

Bill Overview: Specifies that monies appropriated to the Department of Insurance and Financial Institution (DIFI) for DIFI's Insurance Fraud Unit (Fraud Unit) are exempt from lapsing.

Status: No movement since 03/19. Awaiting assignment to the Rules Committee agenda

#### **[HB 2587: adult protective services; reporting; records](#)**

Sponsor: Representative Dunn

Status: No movement since 03/19. Awaiting assignment to the HHS and Rules committee agendas.

#### **[SB 1655- behavioral health entities, regulations](#)**

Sponsor: Senator Hatathlie

Bill Overview: Makes various changes related to the licensing, oversight and regulation of behavioral health entities (BHEs) and sober living homes.

Status: No movement since 03/21. Failed in the HHS committee.

### [SB 1361: sober living homes](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Carroll

Bill Overview: Modifies requirements of the Department of Health Services (DHS) relating to the licensing, oversight and regulation of sober living homes. Prescribes guidelines for the inspection and penalizing of sober living homes that are noncompliant with applicable state and local regulations. Repeals certified sober living homes.

Status: No movement since 03/26

### Oral Health Bill:

### [SB 1037: AHCCCS; comprehensive dental care](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Shope

Bill Overview: Expands Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) coverage of dental services, from only emergency dental care and extractions, to include coverage of comprehensive dental care for members age 21 and older.

Status: Thus far, there has been no movement. Please see possible next steps.

Next Steps: A Letter of Support for SB 1037 to be included in the budget was sent to the Governor's Office on Friday (04/19).

[Legislative Tracker](#)- Here is the legislative bill tracker which is more comprehensive. We are also following an array of other bills surrounding the social determinants of health. Updated as of 05/09/24.

## **Restructuring ADHS Licensing Bureaus**

You have probably learned that the Arizona Department of Health Services has made some changes to their Division of Public Health Licensing to better serve the needs of the State of Arizona and our vulnerable populations. The changes are as follows, but not limited to:

- The new BBHL will be responsible for licensing and regulating all behavioral health-related facilities. These were previously licensed by three separate bureaus. Going forward, facilities like sober living homes, counseling facilities, behavioral health outpatient treatment centers, and residential behavioral health facilities will belong under this new licensing bureau.
- The licensing and regulation of assisted living facilities, adult foster care homes, adult day health care facilities, and nursing-supported group homes will be under the purview of BALF, a bureau dedicated to assisted living facilities.
- Ensuring that related facility types are licensed and regulated by common, specialized team members will help the Department better protect the health and safety of patients and residents. It will also promote consistency, maximize the Department's use of resources, streamline processes, help ADHS identify emerging trends, and provide better customer service to licensees and the public.



To learn more about these changes, please visit: <https://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/restructuring-our-licensing-bureaus-to-better-address-the-needs-of-the-state/>

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Click or scan the QR Code below to learn more!



### AACIHC's Office Location



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*The AACIHC, utilizing its knowledge of Indian healthcare issues and tribal sovereignty, serves as a resource for Tribal governments and the State of Arizona, and supports prevention, training, education, and policy development as the keys to meeting the unique health care needs of the Arizona Indian population.*

**AZ Advisory Council on Indian Health Care**  
**602-542-5725**

**Visit the AACIHC  
website**

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