



ARIZONA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE

September 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

Director's Note

AACIHC Agency Updates

- American Indian Health-AHEC
 - AHEC Scholars Two-Year Program
- CDC-CCR Team
 - CHR Quarterly Meeting #4
- COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team
 - Tribal Health Literacy Workshop: Applying Health Literacy, Patient Advocacy, and Data for Stronger Communities
- Technical Support Series Summer Session Wrap Up, and Upcoming Fall/Winter Session Preview!
- Legislative Updates
 - Tribal Health Advisory Workgroup (THAW) Inaugural Meeting

Director's Note

Greetings Everyone!

Looks like we are all making it through this summer with days that seem to be cooling off! As always, this month's newsletter will provide important information to help you and your community achieve the highest level of health and wellness, as well as up and coming events



you may be interested in. Some highlights for the month of August were having our Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 approved by our Agency's Board of Directors.

Dr. John Molina
*Director, Arizona Advisory
Council on Indian Health Care*

Also, we continue as a team to work towards improving the efficiency of our operation to provide the best service to our tribal partners. Some of our staff also attended and participated in the 11th Annual Tribal Summit at Twin Arrows Casino and Hotel sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona and Health Choice. This was a two-day event that featured speakers touching on many areas of improving our health. Finally, congratulations to the staff at Sage Memorial Hospital in Ganado! They had the ribbon cutting ceremony for their new hospital on August 23rd.

Be well!

AACIHC Agency Updates



American Indian Health-AHEC **AHEC Scholars Two-Year Program**

AHEC SCHOLARS TWO-YEAR PROGRAM

The Arizona AHEC Scholars Program (ASP) is a two-year interprofessional program for health profession undergraduate and graduate students. It is comprised of community-based experiential training conducted in rural and/or underserved settings in one of the Arizona AHEC Regions. The ASP builds from the Rural Health Professions Programs (RHPP) at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University. Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in Northern Arizona University Public Health and undergraduate Nursing programs are eligible and encouraged to apply. Priority will be given to Indigenous students focused on healthcare issues.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS OF AHEC SCHOLARS

- Assigned to an interprofessional team of health professions students from the three ABOR universities, a Faculty Mentor, and American Indian Health-AHEC (AIH-AHEC).
- Student must be enrolled and remain enrolled in and meet all academic and didactic training requirements of their respective health professional program.
- Commit to 80 hours each year for two years (didactic + community experiential learning).
- Participate in reflection, active learning and critical inquiry in a group setting with students from various health professions programs.
- Engage directly and indirectly with rural and/or underserved communities and guided by their Faculty Mentor and AIH-AHEC Regional Center Director and team.
- Learn about factors affecting the social determinants of health, cultural competency, behavioral health integration, practice transformation, inter-professional education, current and emerging health issues, connecting communities and supporting health professionals, and seek to improve virtual learning and telehealth training.

PROGRAM BENEFITS FOR AHEC SCHOLARS

- Develop an understanding that individual patients, families, communities and health providers are partners in shaping and delivering the educational experience.
- Progress in learning experiences – reflective journaling; review community health needs assessments in published literature; review publicly available health information and reports; develop and administer surveys; collect, synthesize, and report data; present findings with data visualizations targeted to specific audiences, and make recommendations to improve individual and community health.
- Learn about collaborative relationships, engage in team-based care, and use interprofessional approaches to problems that include community agencies, patients, and health providers.
- More information, including stipends and activity dates can be found on the first page of the online application (link is below).

▶ Apply at: <https://formstack.io/4CAE2>

- [Download PDF](#) AHEC Scholars Manual 2023-2024
2024-25 manual forthcoming
- **Application Deadline: September 15, 2024**



DATE: 3/28/24  THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Arizona AHEC
Area Health Education Centers



CHRs WITH US!

CDC-CCR Team

CHR Quarterly Meeting #4

AACHIC CHR Quarterly Meeting #4,
August 20, 2024

The CDC-CCR team met at Cocopah
Tribe (grant partner), Cultural Center.

There were 17 in-person and some virtual attendees. Tribal representatives from the six (6) Grant Partners from Hopi, Hualapai, Salt River, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and the Gila River Health Care were in attendance. Other guests were from the NAU evaluation team and the Colorado River Indian Tribes, CHR Program. The agenda included four presenters as well.



One speaker on the agenda was Mr. *Thomas Romard*, *IHS Public Health Nurse (PHN)*. Mr. Romard introduced himself and spoke of several areas as the PHN in Cocopah and Quechan. Thomas is new to PHN, from Canada. He spoke of the Fort Yuma Health Center (IHS) Mission. In his role as PHN for the Quechan and Cocopah Tribes, he elaborated on some specific areas he works within the communities, such as Outreach, Challenges, and Goals.



CHR WITH uS! Grant Success Highlights (YR 3) Ashley Lazaro, Grants Manager, shared photos of previous CHR Quarterly meetings, CDC Site Visits, and the 2022 and 2023 CHR Summits. She also highlighted successes from the previous three years.

NAU-CHER Updates - Louisa O'Meara reported that they participated in the Tribal Community of Practice, organized and hosted by Envision since 2022. Several Arizona partners attended some of these meetings, virtually or in person at NACHW in 2023 or at the Envision Conference in April 2024.

With the end of the CDC-CCR grant, Envision is handling the Tribal CoP over to the participants. The others in this group currently are Mae-Gilene Begay and two evaluators who have been working with [United American Indian Involvement](#) in California. The NAU CDC-CCR also reported updates and discussion on the Digital Referral Tracker and Performance Measure Report they shared.

CDC-CCR Grant - Ashley covered the AACIHC CDC-CCR preliminary Work Plan & Goals for the final end grant cycle. Specific items she discussed are CHR Voluntary Re-Certifications Plans, Spending grant funds, and Training in focused areas. The Medicaid Billing Codes training is scheduled for September 26th by Alison Lovell, Business Operations Administrator at the AACIHC.

CHR WITH us! Grant Partner Presentations - Several Tribal CHR grant partners shared a brief presentation about their CHR Programs and what they've accomplished throughout the grant years. Using PowerPoint, they shared information about program successes, current events and their plans for the 4th year as CDC-CCR grantee. The Tribes who presented are Cocopah, Gila River Health Care, WMAT, CRIT, and Hualapai.

CHR Workforce Strategic Plan - Mckayla Keams shared the agenda items, the goals, and the outcome for the strategic planning event, which was scheduled on 8/26/24.

The Quarterly meeting was a success and the meeting adjourned at 4:00PM.



COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team

Tribal Health Literacy Workshop: Applying Health Literacy, Patient Advocacy, and Data for Stronger Communities

**Tribal Health Literacy Workshop:
Applying Health Literacy, Patient Advocacy, and Data for Stronger Communities**

Date: Day 1: Wednesday, October 16th (Virtual) and Day 2: Thursday, October 17th (In-Person)
Time: Day 1: Virtual 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM Day 2: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Location: Day 1: Zoom Day 2: Memorial Union, 202, Alumni Lounge, 301 E Orange Mall Tempe, AZ 85281

Workshop Overview:

This workshop is the culmination of the work initiated by the COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team. After successfully hosting the first-ever **Tribal Health Literacy Summit** in spring 2024, we received valuable feedback that shaped our subsequent initiatives. In response, we launched the **Closer-to-Home Series**, which allowed our team to engage directly with tribal communities, providing on-demand health education, distributing infographics, and developing **Tangible Tribal Toolkits**. These toolkits were designed to promote health literacy interactively and engagingly, igniting a desire to learn about health and wellness across communities. Earlier this summer, we expanded our reach by introducing an **Online Virtual Training Series** in partnership with the **Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care**, furthering our commitment to health education.

With our grant wrapping up on **December 31, 2024**, this workshop is our **final in-person learning opportunity** under the COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant. It represents our dedication to providing a meaningful and practical learning experience for the community members who have supported our efforts over the past year. We invite you to join us for this hands-on workshop, which focuses on three key areas:

- **Health Literacy:** Gain practical experience in how it affects patient outcomes and communication with healthcare providers.
- **Patient Advocacy:** Develop skills to champion patient rights and effectively interpret basic healthcare information from a patient's perspective.
- **Role of Data in Health Disparities:** Learn how data influences health outcomes and strategies to combat disparities, through storytelling.

Our Intention:

As we approach the conclusion of our grant, this workshop is designed to offer a hands-on learning opportunity and apply the work of the COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant; this is not only a learning experience but also a celebration of the collective progress we have made in promoting health literacy and addressing health disparities in Arizona's tribal communities. By equipping attendees with practical knowledge and tools, we aim to foster stronger, healthier communities that can continue to thrive long after the grant concludes. Together, we will work to ensure lasting, impactful change in health literacy and advocacy.

Sincerely,

Summer Hassan

Summer.hassan@aacihc.az.gov

COVID-19 Health Disparities Grants Manager

Technical Support Series!

The Summer Technical Support Series is a wrap! With 36 trainings conducted for over 700 people between the months of June and August, we are happy to say it was a resounding success!

Interested in taking part? The AACIHC's Health Education team holds both in-person and virtual training sessions for both health care providers and members of the community, to provide technical support and health education on a variety of topics.

- Want to learn more about how viruses, the immune system, and vaccines work, so you can more effectively answer questions about vaccines in the

community? We've got you covered!

- Want to learn more about 4 Walls requirements as a free-standing clinic? Perhaps your new billing staff is clamoring for information on First and Third Party Liability for patients who have more than one type of health insurance? Or maybe you are just wanting to understand the different health insurance options available for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Arizona, and need a quick refresher on how to navigate the Health Insurance Marketplace with open enrollment coming up? Well, we have trainings for all of that too!

Our technical support series is designed by subject matter experts in their fields. Individuals with years of experience either working in things like billing, provider training, health and wellness fields, or with experience in clinical settings and vaccine clinics, all play a role in the creation of our trainings.

Our technical support series will be launching up again for the Fall/Winter session beginning in October. Once it's launched, you will be able to find the updated training schedule on the AACIHC's website at: <https://aacihc.az.gov/>

In the meantime, for requests for 1:1 trainings, please outreach Alison Lovell at alison.lovell@aacihc.az.gov and we can meet to discuss your request and your team's training needs. Depending on the training being requested, we request between 1-3 months of lead time, so get your requests in early!

We look forward to seeing you in one of our upcoming sessions! Upcoming sessions will include things like:

Data and Epidemiology Series

- Data Sovereignty
- Epidemiology 101: Part 1
- Epidemiology 101: Part 2

Health Insurance and System Navigation Series

- Medicaid Health Insurance Options for American Indians and Alaskan Natives: Managed Care and Fee-for-Service System Navigation
- Health Insurance Marketplace: Private Insurance, Medicaid and Medicare Options

Foundations in Infection Control Series

- Chain of Infection
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Mask Wearing 101
- Traveling Safely During a Pandemic or Outbreak of Infectious Illness

Foundations in Virology Series

- Virology 101: What are Viruses?
- Viruses: What's with all the Variants? – Part 1
- Viruses: What's with all the Variants? – Part 2

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Vaccines Series

- Vaccines 101: What are Vaccines and How Do They Work?

- Vaccines 101: Vaccine Safety and Manufacturing
- Combatting Vaccine Hesitancy – Part 1
- Combatting Vaccine Hesitancy – Part 2
- Combatting Vaccine Hesitancy – Part 3
- COVID Vaccine
- Flu Vaccine
- RSV Vaccine

Grant Writing 101 Series

- Grants 101: Searching for Grant Opportunities and Grants.gov
- Grants 101: Navigating Grants.gov
- Grants 101: How to Read a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Mental Health Topics

- Burnout
- Self-Care and Mindfulness

Health Topics

- Sneaking Physical Activity Into Your Busy Daily Life
- Long COVID: Part 1
- Long COVID: Part 2

Standing Up Medicaid/Medicare Reimbursement - Billing Series

- CHR Billing – Claim Form and Coding Basics
- CHR Billing – Documentation Basics and Provider Registration
- The “Four Walls” and Billing
- Third Party Billing: Part 1
- Third Party Billing: Part 2

See you in a training soon!

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:

LEGISLATIVE TRACKER



www.aacihc.az.gov

The AACIHC identifies and tracks legislative bills that may have a potential impact on the American Indian health care system in Arizona. Please scan the QR code to see the bills we are currently tracking!

If you have any questions regarding AACIHC's Policy Initiatives, please reach out to: Corey Hemstreet, Legislative Specialist |
Email: corey.hemstreet@aacihc.az.gov

Tribal Health Advisory Workgroup (THAW) Inaugural Meeting



TRIBAL HEALTH ADVISORY WORKGROUP (THAW)

INAUGURAL MEETING



September 18, 2024 09:00 AM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The Tribal Health Advisory Workgroup (THAW) meetings aim to support and enhance collaboration between state agencies, Tribal Leaders, Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs), Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHAs), and IHS/638 facilities.

These sessions will provide a vital platform for tribal communities in Arizona to offer meaningful input on the development of programs, policies, and health care initiatives. Additionally, the meetings facilitate the sharing of information and feedback, promoting coordinated efforts and improving health outcomes and services across tribal communities.



Contact Information: Corey Hemstreet, AACIHC Legislative Liaison | Email: corey.hemstreet@aacihc.az.gov

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AACIHC's Office Location



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on Indian Health Care
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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**

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