



**MINUTES: ARIZONA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE BOARD MEETING
Monday Aug 19, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Voting Members Present:

Daniel Preston III, Tohono O’odham Nation
Candida Hunter, First Things First
Christine Holden, Tribal Liaison, AHCCCS
David Reede,
Gerilene Haskon, Tribal Liaison, ADHS
Verna Johnson, Inter Tribal Council AZ

Staff, Guests and Visitors Present:

Alison Lovell, AACIHC Business Op Administrator
Archie Mariano, AACIHC Program Specialist - CCR
Ashley Lazaro, AACIHC Grants Manager - CCR
Corey Hemstreet, AACIHC Legislative Specialist
Darien Fuller, AACIHC Epidemiologist - HD
Debra Gonzales, AACIHC Executive Assistant
Dr. John Ward Molina, AACIHC Director
Ernestine Nasingoetewa, AACIHC Grants Coordinator-AHEC
Jeffrey Axtell, AACIHC Grants Director - AHEC
Kiani Becerra, AACIHC Communications Coordinator
Mckayla Keams, AACIHC Exec Projects Coordinator
Sheelee Gartner, AACIHC Training Officer III
Summer Hassan, AACIHC Grants Manager - HD
Tashina Machain, AACIHC Grants Coordinator-AHEC
Alex Demyan, VP Gov Affairs, Contexture

Meeting Called to Order –The meeting started at 10:06 AM.

Welcome and Introductions – was conducted as folks signed on.

Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum - roll call was taken, and quorum was made.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda (Action Item) Candida made the motion to approve the agenda with the change that the Contexture presentation shall move to the first order of business. Gerilene seconded it. Motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes June 17, 2024 (Action Item) Candida made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 17th meeting. Verna second the motion. Minutes were approved.

New Business Contexture Overview, Alex Demyan, VP Gov Affairs pulled up his presentation and introduced himself, he spent the majority of about seven years at AHCCCS doing government relations work with the agency really focusing on our federal relations work with CMS as well as our government to government relationship with the tribes across the state, did a lot of work with Christine and Gerilene (Board Tribal Liaisons) when he was with AHCCCS and is now excited to start to be able to work for Contexture because he thinks that it's been a long time coming for Contexture to have kind of a more robust and thoughtful approach to how we engage with tribes across the state. Although there are really good relationships with some communities across Arizona, we want to make sure that the communities and governments across the state are aware of who we are, what we do, and be the line of sight into patient care and clinical coordination that Contexture can provide essentially free of charge to facilities and communities across the state.

Reports

Director's Report – John Molina

Dr. Molina indicated that during this last couple of months the staff has continued team building exercises to enhance the workflow efficiency communication. We have finalized the Strategic Plan which will talk about in this meeting. We've kicked off multiple training sessions on Healthcare issues. We're continue to work with our budget so that we can maintain financial sustainability accesses. The State has yet to approve a final budget, but we're in conversations with them and so far it looks okay. We talked about forming relationships with ADHS and AHCCCS for work groups to increase our collaborative meetings as we share commonalities with our programs and nutrition Community needs and finally the other work we're doing is to start looking at staff positions functions and roles so we can improve the efficiencies and meeting our goals and for strategic plan for this next three years. There's more detail in my report, and if you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Business/Finance Updates (if State budget is available) - Alison Lovell

She indicated that we haven't received an update on this year's budget but we're anticipating no cuts on our end. We did have some mild cuts that happened last year. So, if we have the same thing that we had last year we'll have to do the same thing where we move a little bit of funds between items to cover salary ERE for the agency, but nothing out of the ordinary for us.

Alison reviewed the budget increase request submitted for the following year. We are requesting an additional four positions and that will increase salary and ERE. The reason we are requesting on those positions is to cover the functions that are Grant roles currently do. Right now, our grant teams do a lot of health education, and we are requesting three (3) Health Educator positions and one (1) training officer level three position, to cover our Arizona revised Statute mandate to provide technical support historically. The agency really hasn't provided technical support, but we must provide it. We did launch

our technical support Series this summer just to get it off the ground. We're hoping that in the future will be able to get some Health Educators to come on board. We did request it for this year, but because of the budget deficit no positions were funded.

Policy Updates – Corey Hemstreet/Mckayla Keams –

Mckayla Keams provided a quick high-level overview indicating that it looks like CMS is going to approve the Traditional Healing Services waiver as a group approval with three other states. A lot of CMS has been asking questions in regards to certain traditional healing services. We've been part of the Traditional healing work group that was implemented back in 2015 and have just completed the second meeting, the first meeting was just an introductory meeting understanding certain data collections from the Navajo IHS areas the work group has been consistently meeting over the last 10 years, but recently they've been meeting more frequently and primarily what the work group consists of is Navajo, IHS areas and we have a few representatives from San Carlos White Mountain Apache in Gila River. That was at our last work group meeting at Twitter Narrows on July 25th, and we have had a traditional healing check-in where we discussed the historical route that the traditional healing work group has been in through this process since 2015. Once that waiver does go live, there has been a lot of inquiries on when the actual implementation date will be the approval date from CMS will be and it looks like it might be at the end of September but the overall intent of this that day is to get more tribal representation at the work group because once that implementation process does happen the work group will be involved more and the next meeting will be on September 19th, 2024. Corey will be sending out any inquiries for the next meeting and invitations to the next meeting as well.

Corey Hemstreet then spoke about the fraudulent providers in The Sober Living homes. She reminded us that they had launched and conducted a root cause analysis back in March/April and within that root cause analysis there were some recommendations that they are now working on. There was an AHCCCS meeting that happened at the beginning of this month when AHCCCS let us know along with the tribes who were present at tribal consultation about the humanitarian response and that was delivered by Solari. You may have known about the 211 number right now. They are having discussions with tribes, and I believe they sent out Dear Tribal Leader letters and are moving away from a crisis response and more to a maintenance approach. And as I mentioned before that AHCCCS mentioned they are working with tribes on the phase Down plan and our agency did give some recommendations in terms of having Solari present at Tribal Council presentation since they will be the administrator of the H2O waiver and I believe that there were some concerns and challenges surrounding data. So our agency gave some feedback to AHCCCS to help share the information and acquire feedback.

Another thing that we're also working on is a resource guide. This would be a compilation of existing resources. Right now, we are drafting a resource guide for not only community members but also providers, especially with the covered Behavioral Health Services guide that will take effect on October 1st, and we've already been getting some questions around the guide. As of right now we have a meeting with a community member from Tuba City and we're going to be creating a FAQ sheet and there have also been questions around training and billing and then we've had numerous conversations with AHCCCS as well, particularly in terms of the Court proceedings that are happening with the fraudsters who are being prs issue. and we recently met with them with AHCCCS and ADHS so I know some of you have expressed interest in possibly having standing meetings with the governor's office. So I don't know if we could have that conversation now or in the future, but I just wanted to get the advisory board's feedback on what you think if we started having quarterly meetings with the governor's office as an advisory council with the board. One of the questions that we did ask AHCCCS was about the tribal representation at these Court proceedings, and just to give you a quick background on how that would work with tribal representation, that since there was a lot of families that were impacted by The

Sober Living homes issue that perhaps Victim Impact statements could be delivered to the judge and this usually occurs in domestic violence case and you may have heard of it like where other folks talk about a person's character. So we have informed our partners that the court proceedings are going on and that there is no tribal representation. So hopefully, there is a tribe that we can partner at least a tribe that will take forth to be present at these corporate settings to deliver those Victim Impact statements. Moving on to the tribal Health advisory work group also known as thaw this is something that was introduced to you while back last month and that you approved. So this is a collaborative initiative between our agency access and ADHS and I imagine that there may be more partnerships in this initiative. We introduced the concept of thought at the AHCCCS tribal consultation meeting and then we're having a kickoff meeting on September 18th.

Lastly, we've been regularly meeting with the governor's office. When I first started we immediately started having those meetings because of their MMIP.

Old Business - AACIHC Strategic Plan Creation Strategy – seeking final member approval - John Molina (**Action item**)

Dr. Molina reviewed the Strategic Plan Draft recently developed for the AACIHC for years 2024-2027. (The plan is attached to these minutes.) He also indicated that the group has also developed a set of metrics to follow each objective. And it's a way to measure throughout time that we're actually accomplishing our objectives.

Candida Hunter made a motion to accept the new Strategic Plan. Verna Johnson seconded the motion. All voting members voted Yay and the motion to accept the new Strategic Plan was passed.

Call to the Public – no responses

Next Meeting Date - TBD, a poll will be email out to members to find the best date.

Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.