



## January 2025 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

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- Upcoming Trainings

### Director's Note

Greetings everyone!

We are now into the second month of this new year, which is traditionally associated with love. February is also recognized as Heart Health Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), which remains the leading cause of death worldwide. Sometimes it's easy to overlook the health of our heart until something goes wrong, but taking care of your heart is one of the most important things you can do for your overall health and your loved ones.



**Dr. John Molina**

*Director, Arizona Advisory  
Council on Indian Health Care*

The heart is the engine that powers the human body, pumping blood, oxygen, and nutrients to every cell. Yet, over time, factors like poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking, and stress can take a toll, leading to conditions like heart

disease, high blood pressure, and stroke. The good news? Many of these conditions are preventable. I encourage you to take time to stay active, eat healthy, stay away from smoking and do self-care to reduce stress, all actions to love yourself and your heart.

Be well everyone!

## AACIHC Agency Updates

### Legislative Updates



#### Traditional Healing Legislative Initiative

Bill Number: [SB1671- traditional healing; AHCCCS](#)

**Overview:** On October 16, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment's (AHCCCS) 1115 waiver request to reimburse traditional healing services provided in or through Tribal 638 and Indian Health Services (IHS) facilities. These services are to be eligible to all Tribal 638 and IHS beneficiaries, including non-natives.

**Sponsors:** The primary sponsor is Senator Gonzales and the co-sponsors are: Senators Alston, Bravo, Diaz, Epstein, Gabaldón, Hatathlie, Kuby, Miranda, Ortiz, Shope, Sundareshan; Representatives Garcia, Hernandez A, Hernandez C, Peshlakai

#### Traditional Healing Policy Brief

Traditional Healing Policy Sub-Workgroup Meetings are every Friday @ 9-10am via Zoom and is led by the Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care. If you are interested in registering for the Traditional Healing Policy Meeting, you can register here:

**Register Here**

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](http://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](mailto:corey.hemstreet@aacihc.az.gov)



## CHRs WITH US!

### CDC-CCR Team

**CHR WITH us! Program Quarterly Meeting**



The CDC-CCR Team held its first quarterly meeting on Wednesday, January 22, at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital in Sacaton, organized by Gila River Health Care. Attendees included grant partners from Gila River Health Corporation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa, Hualapai Tribe, and White Mountain Apache Tribe, along with virtual participants from the Colorado River Indian Tribes, Hopi Tribe and Cocopah. The meeting focused on CHR Strategic Planning, updates from the CDC-CCR Grant Team, and forthcoming Medicaid Reimbursement events.


## **CHR Spotlight: Gila River Health Care submits first claim for Medicaid reimbursement!**




The Gila River Health Care CHR Program has successfully implemented

Medicaid reimbursement through Phase One and has submitted its first claim. This achievement comes after more than two years of dedicated work. With the support of organization leadership, the program began certifying eligible Community Health Representatives (CHRs) to obtain Community Health Worker (CHW) certification through the Arizona Department of Health Services. As CHRs earned their certifications, program management worked closely with Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) and IT to create a streamlined process for submitting billable claims.

## Scholarships for CHR Voluntary Certification



 **CHR WITH US!**

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHR VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION**

**THE DETAILS**

- ✓ First come, first serve!
- ✓ Applications must be filled out before your scheduled appointment.
- ✓ Schedule a time for your payment by clicking the link below!

Northern Arizona University's Center for Health Equity Research (NAU-CHER) and the CDC Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CDC-CCR) Grant Team have partnered up to pay for CHRs/Tribal-Serving CHWs certification and recertification.

**[SCHEDULE HERE!](#)**

## AACIHC Training Schedule

### February Schedule

The AACIHC's Health Education team holds virtual training sessions for:

- 1) Community members seeking to learn more about health topics, such as managing chronic diseases, health and wellness (e.g. nutrition and exercise),

navigating the healthcare system, health insurance, and general health literacy topics (e.g. how vaccines work, what are viruses and how do they transmit from person-to-person, what is Personal Protective Equipment and how can you use it in your daily life?) etc.

2) Health care providers serving the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) community.

All training sessions are held via ZOOM.

**Take a Look!**

To request a health education training or a technical support training on a topic of interest, please use the [Google Form](#).

## Sign Up for AACIHC News Updates & Newsletters!

[Sign Up Here!](#)

Stay up to date and access more information about our agency! Click or scan the QR Code below to learn more!



# AACIHC's Office Location



**Arizona Advisory Council  
on Indian Health Care  
AHCCCS | 801 E. Jefferson  
Street, MD 4600  
Phoenix, AZ 85034**

**Office #: (602) 542-5725**

*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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