



March 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

Director's Note

AACIHC Agency Updates

- Legislative Updates
- CDC-CCR Team
- Upcoming Trainings & Events

Health Access Survey

Director's Note

Greetings everyone!

I hope you and family are doing well and enjoying the days of great spring weather! April is Stress Awareness Month, which is a time to become aware of and learn how stress can affect our health and wellbeing. Minor daily stress can be expected, and our bodies can usually handle our reactions to stress. However, ongoing or major stressors can have serious consequences for us, such as heart disease, dementia, stroke, accelerated aging, depression, anxiety, and digestive problems.



Dr. John Molina

*Director, Arizona Advisory
Council on Indian Health Care*

Chronic stress can also affect our emotional wellbeing, personal relationships, performance at work and self-care. Any form of

exercise, including walking, especially out in nature, may relieve stress and promote physical and mental well-being by releasing your body's endorphins. Other activities to reduce stress may include having an enjoyable hobby, spending time with friends and meditation. Native American culture has practices that can reduce stress and anxiety, including connecting with nature, participating in ceremonies or talking circles, smudging, and engaging in community activities.

This link offers more information on managing stress: [View Here](#)

This month's newsletter offers information on upcoming training, webinars and meetings that address public health topics that can improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. We also report that our CDC-CCR federal grant funding, for our CHR Program, was prematurely terminated because of this current federal administration's directive. We are disheartened to see this program end as it provided comprehensive training and education, which empowered our CHR workforce to provide exceptional front-line care to our tribal communities. We keep the staff of this program and their communities in our hearts and minds for the great work they accomplished.

Best wishes to all!

AACIHC Agency Updates

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



CHRs WITH US!

CDC-CCR Team

An Update from the CDC-CCR Team

On March 25th, the CDC-CCR Team received news that their grant had been terminated, one of many CDC-funded grants impacted by the funding cuts. The CDC-CCR grant had intergovernmental agreements with six different Community Health Representative (CHR) programs in Arizona (The Hopi Tribe, The Hualapai Tribe, the Cocopah Indian Tribe, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, Gila River Health Care, and Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community) and with Northern Arizona University (NAU). Unfortunately, these programs were also impacted by the loss of terminated funds. See here for the press release from the Attorney General's office:

[View Press Release](#)



Tribal Health Advisory Workgroup (THAW)

Upcoming THAW Meetings

The Tribal Health Advisory Workgroup (THAW)—a collaborative effort between AHCCCS, ADHS, and AACIHC—is dedicated to strengthening partnerships and ensuring meaningful tribal input in healthcare initiatives. We invite you to sign up for our updates to stay connected with THAW's progress and the latest news.

Upcoming THAW Meeting Details:

- Date: April 23, 2025
- Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- [Register Here!](#)

Sign Up Now to receive THAW updates and stay informed on all our initiatives, register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/sHg5urD>



Upcoming Webinar: ADHS Public Health Data Portal (PHDP) Overview

ADHS Public Health Data Portal (PHDP) Overview

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025
12:00pm to 1:00pm**



The Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care (AACIHC) invites Tribal health stakeholders to an overview session on the Public Health Data Portal (PHDP), presented by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

The Public Health Data Portal (PHDP) is a centralized platform that provides access to all Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) public health data in one place. Designed with a user-friendly interface, the PHDP allows users to explore reports, data catalogs, interactive maps, dashboards, and search tools, making it easier for Tribal communities and all Arizonans to understand and compare information about community health in our state.

Join us to learn how this useful tool can support data-driven decision-making for community health outreach, program planning, policy development, and more.

Presenters:

- Wesley Kortuem, ADHS Analytics Section Lead
- Matthew Roach, ADHS Vital Statistics Manager

Intended Audience:

- Community Members
- Tribal Health Directors & Staff
- Tribal Epidemiologists & Data Analysts
- Community Health Representatives (CHRs)
- Indian Health Service (IHS) & Tribal 638 Facility Staff
- Anyone working within the I/T/U system

Registration Now Open



ARIZONA ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON INDIAN
HEALTH CARE

ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH SERVICES

Upcoming Webinar: Housing & Health Opportunities (H2O): Navigating the H2O Waiver Demonstration for Tribal Partners

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has received waiver and expenditure authority to implement the Housing and Health Opportunities (H2O) demonstration, which expands housing services for Medicaid members who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This webinar is designed for tribal partners seeking to understand and access these services.

During the webinar, we will cover:

- Eligibility and covered services

- Service delivery considerations for rural and tribal communities, including guidance on accessing services and available resources
- Implementation and program updates since the official launch on October 1, 2024
- Key points of contact for further engagement and support

**Register
Now!**

AACIHC Training Schedule

April 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](#).

Health Access Survey

Healthcare and Health Insurance Access Survey, Story Telling, and Next Tribal Pandemic Coalition Meeting Date Poll

The AACIHC is currently engaging in Medicaid defense and healthcare/health insurance access advocacy, and to prepare for this we are distributing a survey and collecting stories surrounding these topics. To make this successful (we are in the very early stages of this) we need your assistance. We have outlined this

further below.

1. Healthcare and Health Insurance Access Survey: We have a survey that we are distributing to partners to hopefully take, and we would love if the CHR Directors could also distribute as they see fit to their own distribution lists. This survey will provide additional baseline information on healthcare and health insurance access. [Health Insurance Access Survey - Google Forms](#)
2. Story Telling: We are collecting personal stories from members of Tribes regarding challenges they have had with accessing healthcare and using health insurance. This is to assist in our efforts to expand health access in tribal communities. These stories can be kept anonymous if the provider of the story prefers. The reason for story collecting is to provide decision-makers a tangible, human connection to show the downstream impact of health policies and regulations, since important policies and legislation are often decided upon by individuals who are not directly impacted by the regulations they take part in creating. Any stories provided will be used *only in accordance with the permission and comfort levels of the story provider and we would consult the individual in regards to how we may use their story prior to using it*. The story collection and topics requested are *broad*. These can be provided by setting a time up with us to discuss or through the survey link sent out.

Examples can be things like:

- A family who has struggled to find transportation to healthcare;
- A family who cannot find a specialist within the I/T/U system or that is in-network through their health insurance;
- Difficulty navigating the in's and out's of health insurance;
- Success with using the Health Insurance Marketplace to purchase private health insurance;
- High cost of care stories;
- Dental access stories;
- How healthcare has impacted chronic diseases or acute/communicable illnesses in their community or within their own families; and
- Anything else someone can think of

Marketplace Training Series coming soon:

In an effort to further reduce health disparities and ensure greater health insurance coverage for all American Indians and Alaska Natives in Arizona, we will soon be rolling out an informational series on the Health Insurance Marketplace. The Marketplace acts as a type of 'gap filler' insurance, for those who do not qualify for Medicaid, but do not have employer-sponsored health insurance. Additionally, as mentioned above, we are gathering stories regarding the experiences of AI/AN communities when it comes to a lack of health insurance and a lack of access to health insurance, to assist in advocacy efforts in support of Medicaid protections and expansion of the Marketplace plans (and hopefully more affordable plans). Stories provided can include Marketplace storytelling as well.

Quick facts about the Marketplace:

- Plans are often available with tax credits at a low cost per month (often \$10 or less);

- While the I/T/U system is available, a lack of health insurance can result in difficulties accessing care when not near an I/T/U or when needing a specialty appointment that is not available in the nearest I/T/U, when purchased referred care is not available, so the Marketplace can provide protection from high bills when care is sought elsewhere;
- Available for families;
- Offers *both* health insurances *and* comprehensive dental plans; and
- Allows individuals to shop and compare between all plans to see what works best for their family.

Our request for our partners is three fold:

1. We would love if CHR Directors and Advocates could take the survey regarding healthcare and health insurance access;
2. We would also love it if the survey was shared with additional members of Tribes in Arizona or workgroups;
3. Provide any storytelling (that you feel comfortable with) that would help all of us in our end goal is to collect information about healthcare access and health insurance access, so as to help navigate and mitigate health disparities affecting tribal communities.

If you have any questions please let me know (Alison.lovell@aacihc.az.gov) and we here at the AACIHC truly appreciate you and all of the work you have done for tribal communities here in Arizona.

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!

CONNECT WITH US!



ARIZONA ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON INDIAN
HEALTH CARE

Follow us on Instagram



Sign up for our Newsletter

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



Try email marketing for free today!