



# Native American Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC)

Minutes for March 22, 2021

**Time:** Start 2:00pm    **End:** 4:00 pm    **Place:** Virtual meeting

**Chair:** Shelly Begay, Human Services Department (HSD) Tribal Liaison

**Committee Members/Call In:** Kari Amijo, Deputy Secretary, Human Services Department (HSD), Nicole Comeaux, Medical Assistance Division (MAD) Director; Megan Pfeffer, MAD Deputy Director; Lorelei Kellogg, MAD Deputy Director; Theresa Belanger, MAD NA Liaison; Karmela Martinez, ISD Director; Dr. Neal Bowen BHSD Director; Donna Lopez, Camille Vigil, Jennifer Vigil, MAD; Sandra Winfrey, Albuquerque Area IHS; Jean Pino, Zia Pueblo; Emily Haozous, Ft. Sill Apache; Eldred Lesanssee, Indian Affairs Department; Ezra Bayles, Taos Pueblo; Craig Sandoval, Ray Tafoya, Iris Reano, Anthony Yepa, Kewa Pueblo; Milton Bluehouse, Yvonne Kee Billison, Navajo Nation; John Gonzales, Troy Campbell, San Ildefonso Pueblo; Amber Carrillo, All Pueblo Council of Governors; Monica Vigil, Nambe Pueblo; Mary Scott, Laguna Pueblo; Joseph Herrera, Governor Cochiti Pueblo; Donalyn Sarracino, BrTribal Liaison Children Youth and Families Department

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
I. Invocation/Introductions	Milton Bluehouse representative from Navajo Nation gave the invocation. Introductions were done.	Completed	All	Completed
II. Review/approval of October 26, 2020 minutes	Deferred until next NATAC	Deferred	All	Next NATAC
III. What is NATAC?  What is NATAC 03.22.21.22.21.pptx	Shelly Begay, Native American Liaison with the Office of the Secretary (OOS) of HSD provided a history and overview of NATAC. NATAC was created for our Tribal leaders to discuss HSD policies and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designed to give HSD and the Tribes, Pueblos and Nations an opportunity to meet and discuss issues of mutual concern and interest on a quarterly basis</li> <li>Goal of meetings is to have committee members identify concerns and make recommendations for program improvement and to track the progress of our efforts</li> </ul> Shelly also went over the NATAC strategic plan goals and objectives. NATAC was asked to think about whether the current goals and objectives need to be changed and to develop tactics for the objectives.	Discussion of goals/objectives/ tactics	Shelly Begay	Next NATAC
IV. Native American enrollment/ data	Megan Pfeffer provided updates on the Medicaid enrollment for Native Americans and MCO care coordination data.  Megan was asked the current rule regarding Health Risk Assessment (HRA) completion:	None	Medical Assistance Division (MAD)	Next NATAC

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 <p>NATAC Q4CY20 Data.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At initial enrollment into an MCO</li> <li>When there is a change in medical status</li> <li>Member can request an HRA</li> </ul>			
<p>IV. Behavioral Health Services update</p>  <p>988 Participation in planning statewide m</p>	<p>Dr. Bowen thanked everyone for the work they have done for behavioral health services during the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>988 implementation – This will be a new number to call for behavioral health crisis of all types in 2022</li> <li>The FCC has mandated that all covered telecom providers implement the 988 dialing code in their networks by July 2022</li> <li>There may be a small fee added to your phone bill to keep this line sustainable</li> </ul> <p>Behavioral Health Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SB 317 prohibits cost sharing for behavioral health visits (for private ins.)</li> <li>➤ SB 285 allows for EMTs to provide transportation to places other than ER or jail</li> <li>➤ HB 287 Public Education Department (PED) must provide cultural social services in schools</li> <li>➤ HB 125 extends behavioral health licensure to more providers</li> </ul>	<p>Send out 988 information to NATAC (sent through minutes)</p>	<p>BHSD</p>	<p>Next NATAC</p>
<p>V. Income Support Division (ISD) Update</p>  <p>NATAC_SNAP_22MAR2021.pdf</p>	<p>Karmela Martinez appreciates everyone's patience with applying for services during the pandemic. She provided COVID updates for ISD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISD allows three months of eligibility. That will continue throughout the pandemic. The Federal government has allowed HSD to extend recertifications for SNAP regardless of customer contact</li> <li>ISD does have curbside assistance from 10-12 daily</li> <li>Recipients will receive a 15 percent increase to their monthly food benefits for January through September 2021</li> <li>People need to make sure and recertify when their case comes up</li> </ul> <p>The question was asked if you include stimulus checks or unemployment income on the ISD application. Karmela said it is best to report all income and ISD will exclude whatever income is not counted.</p> <p>Karmela talked about the Pandemic EBT program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The P-EBT program provides nutrition assistance to New Mexico families to offset meals missed because schools are in a remote learning mode</li> </ul>	<p>None</p>	<p>ISD</p>	<p>Next NATAC</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility for the P-EBT benefit is determined by the New Mexico Public Education Department, which shares student information with the Human Services Department to distribute the P-EBT cards and issue benefits to over 340,000 students</li> </ul> <p>Karmela provided a list of BIE schools providing P-EBT (see attachment)</p>			
VI. Medicaid Update	<p>Medicaid related Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SB 317 No cost sharing for behavioral health. This bill establishes the affordability fund. Replaces a federal tax to a state tax. Implementation in 2023</li> <li>➤ HB 67 Primary Care Council Act - This would establish an unpaid primary care council to advise state government and especially HSD to find means to increase New Mexicans' access to health care while improving their health and controlling the costs of health care. NM currently has an ongoing shortage of 100-200 medical providers</li> <li>➤ HB 2 General Appropriation Act (Budget bill) – There is a significant increase in Medicaid enrollment. The increased FMAP during the pandemic hasn't met the shortfall. Budget is short \$30 million.</li> <li>➤ HB 122 Health Insurance Premium Surtax - provides for a decrease in the health insurance premium surtax if the annual fee on health insurance providers is re-imposed at the federal level</li> </ul> <p>COVID update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States will get 100% federal match for testing, treatment, and hospital coverage</li> <li>• Reimbursement rate from NM Medicaid for vaccine administration will match the Medicare rate</li> <li>• Health Insurance Exchange (HIE) – State based marketplace. When pandemic comes to an end, we will try to get people on another kind of coverage through the HIE</li> <li>• Indian Managed Care Entity (IMCE) – Suspended. Pending further IMCE efforts</li> <li>• Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) call with CMS – scheduled for April 12, 2021 to inform the 2021 Tribal leadership and interested parties that if Indian Health Care Providers (IHCP) want this change in designation they need to inform MAD. IHCPs will continue to be paid at the OMB rate and can see patients outside the “four walls” of the clinic if they have the FQHC designation</li> </ul>	None	MAD	Next NATAAC

Question if there will be info on the HIE and changes happening after PHE?  
Yes.

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VII. ICWA update	Brian Blalock Secretary of CYFD provided an update on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) legislation that did not pass. It got stuck in Judiciary committee. Consultation is needed – government to government. Non profit Tribal organizations don't have a formal voice in the process.	None	CYFD	N/A
VIII. Tribal Consultation/Tribal Notifications  November-March TNs2021.docx	Twelve Tribal Notifications were sent out this quarter, including those that are still open for comment. There was not time during the NATAAC to go over each of the Tribal notifications. (see attachment)	None	Theresa Belanger	Next NATAAC
IX. Comments from meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more reminders of NATAAC meetings</li> <li>• Have slides provided to members before the meeting so they be reviewed</li> <li>• American Rescue Plan (ARP) – CMS will be sending out information and powerpoints for webinar with Tribes</li> <li>• Rep from AIPC would like to learn more about the Tribal consultation over the ICWA bill. Are transcripts available? (Refer to CYFD Tribal Liaison – Donalyn Sarracino)</li> <li>• Is there a seat at NATAAC for AIPC representation?</li> <li>• What about having CHRs appointed to the NATAAC (Theresa - we currently have several CHRs appointed by their Tribal leadership to the NATAAC)</li> </ul>	Theresa will follow up with CYFD, AIPC, and send minutes and attachments for next NATAAC prior to the meeting so members can review ahead of time	Theresa	Next NATAAC
X. Closing, schedule next meeting	The next NATAAC meeting will be scheduled Monday, May 24, 2021 from 2-4 pm	Send agenda and attachments prior to meeting	Theresa Belanger MAD	Next NATAAC

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Belanger

April 14, 2021