



# TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

P.O. BOX 810 • SELLS, ARIZONA 85634

January 14, 2010

Carol Chicharello  
Tribal Relations Liaison  
Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
Office of the Director  
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System  
801 East Jefferson Street, MD-4100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Dear Ms Chicharello:

I will not be able to join the conference call scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, but I offer these comments regarding the hospice benefit and Community Transition Services from the perspective of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Our Tribal Senior Services Program support continuation of the current hospice benefit under AHCCCS. Even though historically our tribal members are hesitant to utilize the services until the last 10 days or so of their lives, hospice is a good program and will require continued AHCCCS funding. Any additional hospice related delivered services in my opinion are beneficial and usually more than what existing infrastructure in Indian Country is able to provide. As time and word goes about the availability of hospice and its benefit to families, my belief is there will be more frequent requests from Tohono O'odham Nation members to support the client and family in the end of life process.

Community Transition Services (CTS) – Our members generally do not benefit from the program given the fact Tohono O'odham Nation members typically prefer to return home (on the Nation rather than transition to urban apartment living in Tucson). Our Tribal Senior Services do not have anyone who have requested placement in Tucson, most clients would rather return home where there would already be an established support system – housing, family, etc. I recommend that CTS monies should be allowable expense to help pay utilities in arrears or fund minor accessibility modifications to accommodate our clients at homes on the Nation given the acute housing shortage on the Nation. For example, apartments or homes are non existent to clients for sale or to lease.

Please include my comments to the discussion this morning. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Gary Quinn  
Executive Director

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