

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
Tribal Foster Youth & Medicaid Meeting
March 3, 2015
8:30am – 1:00pm

Facilitator: Verna Johnson, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

Meeting Participants:

- Eva Sekayumptewa, Hopi Tribe Social Services
 - Marlinda Clendon, White Mountain Apache Tribe Social Services
 - Terry Ross, San Carlos Apache Tribe Social Services
 - Kim Russell, Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
 - Julie Swenson, AZ Health Care Cost Containment System
 - Keith Slim-Tolagai, AZ Department of Child Safety
 - Mary Huyser, AZ Department of Economic Security
 - Bonnie Talakte, AZ Health Care Cost Containment System
 - Beverlee Kroll, AZ Department of Child Safety
 - Chantal Steller, AZ Department of Economic Security
 - Alida Montiel, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
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➤ Welcome

➤ Introductions

➤ Purpose of Meeting

- Confusion has surfaced regarding the extension of Medicaid services to former foster youth who aged out in foster care under tribal jurisdiction. The purpose of this meeting is to identify barriers and recommend solutions to amend the current process to ensure these youth receive the same benefit resources of Medicaid as other foster youth who were/are in state custody.

➤ ACA Provisions/CMS Guidelines – Former Foster Youth

- Language in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the CMS Guidelines dated December 2013 were reviewed regarding the continued provision of Medicaid services to foster youth until age 26 who have aged out of the foster care system. The language in the ACA refers to youth who *were in foster care under the responsibility of the State on the date of attaining 18 years of age...* The CMS Guidelines refer to youth who *were in foster care under the responsibility of the state or tribe...*

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- Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)
 - An overview of the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) was provided on the provision of services provided to foster youth in state custody who are transitioning out of the system. The ACA extends this insurance coverage from age 21 to 26. Currently, foster youth in tribal custody are not participating in this program. The group discussed the inclusion of foster youth in tribal custody in this program. Currently, there is no legal statute that would prohibit the inclusion of foster youth in tribal custody in the program. There would be a need to revise the enrollment form. It was learned the form is being reviewed for revision. Follow-up will be conducted on the form revision.

- Identification of steps for revision
 - The group discussions focused on the use of the Medicaid application forms and processing. It appears the Medicaid benefit application and YATI forms need to be revised to include language for tribal youth currently and formerly in foster care under tribal jurisdiction. It does not appear there are any legal barriers to prevent enrolling these youth in the Medicaid program once they have aged out of the system. Below are recommendations:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Solution</u>
AHCCCS (Medicaid) & HEA+ Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Former foster youth who were under tribal custody are not allowed automatic extension of Medicaid coverage – Current question regarding foster youth refers to Arizona Foster Care – Foster youth question missing from application – Delayed processing of application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and revise policy to include tribal youth under tribal custody. – Review and revise application for language to include current/former foster youth who were in Tribal Foster Care (tribal custody). Change in language may possibly require approval from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). – It was noted by one Tribal Social Services Director that language regarding foster youth was removed from the Application for Benefits obtained from the local DES office. The group determined that the application was an outdated version and follow-up is needed with the local DES offices to ensure current version of the benefits application were on hand. – Another solution to ensure AHCCCS applications for foster youth were being processed timely is to include a cover sheet with the application that clearly identifies the applicant as a tribal foster youth.

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<p>Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster youth in tribal custody not participating in YATI program - Eligibility includes requirement youth was in foster care under the jurisdiction of the state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAA 1097 Form used for YATI is currently under revision. Follow-up to be conducted to ensure language for youth in tribal foster care is included. - Include language that eligible foster youth were in state or tribal foster care.
<p>Medicaid Coverage of AI Youth in Tribal Custody (30-45 Days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dis-enrollment of children who were covered under their families' Medicaid plan when Tribal Social Services removes them and takes custody - Non-removal of code within CHILDS for transfer cases from the state to the tribes causing delay in processing of Medicaid applications submitted by tribes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have the child re-determined for continued coverage. Child is a resident. Income does not include their parent's income. - Review transfer cases to determine which ones did not have the "FC" code removed.

Additional fixes and challenges include:

- Language in the AHCCCS State Plan Amendment
- Language in AHCCCS eligibility manual
- Training documents
- Training staff in state and local offices including contracted organizations (i.e. AZ Children's Association)
- Training for tribal staff on forms and process
- Training for IHS staff on forms and process

➤ Next Steps

- ITCA
 - Schedule next workgroup meeting
 - Follow-up with ADHS participation
 - Gather forms/applications for review
 - Develop draft of application cover-sheet
- AZ Department of Child Safety
 - Follow-up on YATI form revision and process for tribal youth

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- AZ Department of Economic Security
 - Ensure DBME representation in workgroup meetings
 - Follow-up on current forms in local DES offices

- AHCCCS
 - Meet with AHCCCS Director regarding process (forms, policy, etc.)
 - Follow-up regarding foster care question on application – is CMS approval required?
 - Follow-up on language in state plan amendment

- Next Meeting
 - The next meeting will be scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2015 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Location to be determined.