



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

OLGA DAZZO
DIRECTOR

August 2, 2011

NAME
TITLE
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP

Dear Tribal Chair and Health Director:

RE: Notification of Planning Process for the Possible Implementation of a Health Insurance Exchange

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is notifying you of its current planning process to inform policy made around the possible development of a Health Insurance Exchange as mandated by P.L. 111-148, "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)," which became law on March 23, 2010.

A Health Insurance Exchange, as envisioned by the federal law, would be a more organized and competitive market for health insurance that offers a choice of health plans, offers tax credits/subsidies to purchase coverage for eligible individuals and small businesses, establishes common rules in terms of offering and pricing insurance, and provides consumers with information to better understand the health insurance options available to them. The purpose of a Health Insurance Exchange is to make the process of purchasing health coverage simpler and more affordable for individuals and small businesses. A Health Insurance Exchange is required by federal law to be operational by January 1, 2014.

The State of Michigan received a one million dollar "Exchange Planning Grant" from the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIO) to conduct research and other planning activities to help inform the State regarding its decision on the role a Health Insurance Exchange will play in Michigan. Part of the planning process included a stakeholder involvement process that invited a broad array of health care stakeholders to consider specific questions regarding the design and operation of an Exchange. The Inter-Tribal Council as well as the American Indian Health and Family Services were included in the original invitation to join the workgroup process; however, the Department realizes that these groups do not represent the interests of all the Michigan tribes, and would like to pursue further consultation with all Tribal Chairs and Health Directors.

The Department proposes setting up an initial conference call to consult with Tribal Chairs and Health Directors and discuss questions, concerns, and suggestions regarding issues specific to Indian communities and the planning of a Health Insurance Exchange in Michigan. Those who cannot participate in a conference call, or who want to provide the Department with additional information, are invited to submit their questions, concerns, and suggestions in writing to the Department. We do not expect this conference call or request for written comments to be the only opportunity for Tribal consultation, as many decisions will need to be made over the next few years for which the State will want ongoing consultation with our Tribal partners. However, this initial conference call and written comments will help inform the State in its early recommendations for the creation of a Health Insurance Exchange in Michigan.

Tribal Chairs and Health Directors will be notified and requested to participate in this initiative as well as further stakeholder based activities related the Health Insurance Exchange and other ACA provisions.

We invite Tribal Chairs and Health Directors to submit comments, questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding the establishment of a Health Insurance Exchange in Michigan at anytime. If you would like to discuss the proposal, please contact Mary Anne Tribble, Medicaid Liaison to the Michigan Tribes. Mary Anne can be reached at (517) 241-7185 or via e-mail at tribblema@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Fitton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Fitton, Director
Medical Services Administration

cc: Pamela Carson, Region V, CMS
Leslie Campbell, Region V, CMS
Jerilyn Church, American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan
L. John Lufkins, Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.
Kathleen Annette, MD, Area Director, Indian Health Service - Bemidji Area Office
Mary Anne Tribble, MDCH

**Distribution List for L 11-23
August 2, 2011**

Mr. Jeffrey D. Parker, President, Bay Mills Indian Community
Ms. Laurel Keenan, Health Director, Bay Mills (Ellen Marshall Memorial Center)
Mr. Derek J. Bailey, Tribal Chairman, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
Ms. Loi Chambers, Health Director, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa/Chippewa
Mr. Kenneth Meshigaud, Tribal Chairman, Hannahville Indian Community
Ms. G. Susie Meshigaud, Health Director, Hannahville Health Center
Mr. W. Chris Swartz, President, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Ms. Carole LaPointe, Health Director, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community - Donald Lapointe Health/Educ Facility
Mr. Alan Shively, Tribal Chairman, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Ms. Terry Fox, Health Director, Lac Vieux Desert Band
Mr. Larry Romanelli, Ogema, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Mr. Bob Davis, Health Director, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Mr. Ken Harrington, Tribal Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
Ms. Sharon Sierzputowski, Health Director, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa
Mr. DK Sprague, Tribal Chairman, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Band)
Ms. Phyllis Davis, Health Director, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Potawatomi
Mr. Homer Mandoka, Vice Tribal Chairman, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
Mr. Jon Gardner, Health Director, Huron Potawatomi Inc.- Tribal Health Department
Mr. Matt Wesaw, Tribal Chairman, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Mr. Arthur Culpepper, Health Director, Pokagon Potawatomi Health Services
Mr. Dennis V. Kequom Sr, Tribal Chief, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Ms. Gail George, Health Director, Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center
Mr. Darwin McCoy, Tribal Chairman, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Ms. Bonnie Culfa, Health Director, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians - Health Center

CC:

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