

Chief's Address to the Nation

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opportunities to expand Medicaid coverage to include Americans with family incomes at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level (generally \$31,322 for a family of four in 2013). This expansion includes adults without dependent children living at home, who have not previously been eligible in most states.

• All American Indians and Alaska Natives who are eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider (as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 447.50) may receive an exemption from the shared responsibility payment if they do not maintain minimum essential coverage under the ACA. Prior to HHS' announcement of the exemption, only a portion of the American Indian and Alaska Native population – members of federally recognized tribes – would have access to such an exemption. The exemption reflects comments and feedback received from Indian Country through rulemaking and the tribal consultation process.

• With greater numbers of American Indians and Alaska Natives with some form of coverage, including Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and private insurance, IHS will be better able to provide needed health services. This coverage will improve reimbursements to IHS and will also benefit Indian health programs.

To learn more about the Health Insurance Marketplace, please visit: www.HealthCare.gov. For the most recent information on the ACA and IHCA implementation, please visit: www.HealthCare.gov/tribal and www.ihs.gov.

Information from Audrey Rockwell, Executive Assistant to the Native American Liaison, Office of Governor Mary Fallin, 2300 North Lincoln Blvd., Ste. 212, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Phone: (405) 522-8861. Email: Audrey.Rockwell@gov.ok.gov

NATIONAL NEWS-IHS Tribal Self-governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC). Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe, Chairwoman, TSGAC, wrote a letter to Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director of the HIS, Department of Health and Human Services, under date of August 23, 2013 regarding the Process for Implementing Indian-specific exemptions from the Patient Protection and ACA Tax Penalty. She wrote the letter to provide suggestions from the TSGAC for working together on this process to implement the exemptions and further says:

As you know, under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), as of January 1, 2014 Americans are required to secure health insurance coverage, referred to in the ACA as "minimum essential coverage." There are two Indian-specific exemption categories from the tax penalty:

1. The first exemption was established in the ACA and is available to members of federally-recognized Tribes and shareholders in Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations.

2. In response to Tribal requests, a second exemption was established through regulations by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – referred to as a "hardship" exemption – and is available to persons who are not included in the first exemption and who are eligible for health care services from Indian health care providers.

3. It is vital that the exemptions may be applied for, and eligibility verified, in a way that ensures American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) actually

receive the exemptions they are eligible for and the process minimizes administrative hassles on these individuals. In addition, it is important that the processes do not place unnecessary burdens on Indian health care providers who may assist AI/ANs in applying for the exemptions nor on Exchange and other government staff and contractors who may process the applications.

Our ability to collaborate on this issue as well the recent TSGAC work on electronic verification options is an example of how we work to develop viable choices for resolving issues facing us. We believe the TSGAC has useful suggestions to offer on how our mutual goals may be achieved.

Therefore, the TSGAC respectfully requests that a joint working group of IHS and Tribal Self-Governance representatives be established to design approaches that are efficient and effective at securing exemptions for AI/ANs, whether intersecting with the paper or electronic application mechanisms to be established by CMS. There is an urgent need to design workable options for the interim period when only a paper-based application process may be available.

REGIONAL NEWS United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas (UINOKT) The organization will be hosting its first Annual Convention September 16-17, 2013 at the Muscogee Creek Nation Spirit Bank Event Center, Tulsa, OK.

Requirements for membership are, according to the bylaws, Article III - Membership:

A. Tribal Membership. All Indian nations recognized within the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas shall be eligible for membership in this organization; however, only those nations submitting a tribal resolution officially signifying a desire to become members shall be accepted to membership; provided any member nation may withdraw at its own discretion by submitting a tribal resolution by its tribal governing body.

B. Individual Membership. Any person of legal voting age who is a member of an Indian nation within the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas is eligible for individual membership.

C. Organization Membership. Tribal, corporate, and nonprofit organizations within the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas are eligible for organizational membership.

Annual membership dues are in three classes:

A. Tribal Membership: Payment shall be made on or before the day of the annual convention. A tribal resolution authorizing the voting delegate and alternate(s) will accompany payment. The following scale shall be the basis of assessment for each tribe. The Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of this organization, has discretion to reduce, raise, or waive such dues to adapt to the times.

* Total Tribal Membership of 0 to 500 members: \$200

* Total Tribal Membership of 501 to 1,000 members: \$400

* Total Tribal Membership of 1,001 to 2,000 members: \$500

* Total Tribal Membership of 2,001 to 3,000: \$1,500

* Total Tribal Membership of 3,001 and above: \$2,000

B. Individual Membership: Individual Membership dues shall be \$35.00 per

individual and shall become due on or before the time of registration at each annual convention.

C. Organization Membership: Organizational Membership dues shall be \$500 per organization and shall become due on or before the time of registration at each annual convention.

Short Takes - * Congratulations to the newly elected SFN Secretary Mary McCormick!

* Welcome to our new employees: Sam Caruso, Chief of Staff, Office of Govt.; Wolfgang Hinker, Police Officer, Police; Maria Starr, Resident Advisor, Juvenile; Geoffrey Peden, Resident Advisor, Juvenile; Michelle Yost, Resident Advisor, Juvenile; Trisha Cooper, Housekeeping, Juvenile; Katrina Hinshaw, Food Service Coordinator, Juvenile; Harriett Nanaeto, IT Assistant, Information Technology (IT); Dustin Rollette, HR Assistant, Human Resources; Juan York, ICW Specialist II, Indian Child Welfare (ICW); Vicki Wood, ICW Coordinator, ICW; Malerie Lee, Licensing Investiga-

tor, Gaming; Larayne Schultz, Executive Assistant, Gaming; and Erica Hurrill, Surveillance Observer, Gaming.

Our temporary hires are: Joshua Fry, Police Officer, Police; Raymond Penock, Capital Security, Police; Roy Gilman, Capital Security, Police; Valarie Patterson, Accounting Clerk II, Finance; Janis Jackson, Receptionist/Certifier, USDA; Terre Boydiddle, RAP Specialist I, RAP.

Seasonal hires are: Luis Balderas, Temp Laborer, Maintenance; Jarrod Cline, Temp Laborer, Maintenance; Eddie Crispin, Temp Laborer, Maintenance; Allyssa Werschky, Certified Lifeguard, Maintenance; Jacquelyn Whiteside, Certified Lifeguard, Maintenance; Darcy Hightower, Temp Maint. Laborer, Juvenile.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Principal Chief and look forward to serving with a new Secretary and Treasurer.

Sincerely,
George Thurman, Principal Chief

Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC Program Stroud Clinic

USDA Building 920883 S. HWY 99

Open 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each Month

Hours: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Closed for Lunch 12:00pm - 1:00pm

1-800-648-2302 or 918-968-1784 for information

Closed last business day of each month for staff training.

Standards for participation are the same regardless of age, race, sex, color, national origin or handicap.

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Get an application from your counselor

2013 Elders Health Fair & Conference

<p>Sept. 26 Health Fair Where: Sac and Fox Community Building at the Powwow Grounds from 10 am to 2 pm</p> <p>Continental breakfast to be served at 9 am, lunch at 11:30, informational speakers from LIFE senior services to present "Care Giving 101" and from the Absentee Shawnee's to speak on domestic violence during the health fair. Enjoy fellowship, learning, and fun!</p>	<p>Sept. 27 Elders Conference and Olympics at Sac and Fox Community Building from 9 am to 4 pm</p> <p>Continental breakfast at 9am and "Healthy Brain Strategies" presented at 10 am by Cathy Sullins, Alzheimer's Association's Education Coordinator</p>
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alzheimer's association
the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

Contact person for Health Fair: Anthony Ramirez (918)968-9531 ext 205 Anthony.Ramirez@ihs.gov

Contact person for Conference and Olympics: Cheryl McClellan Boeing Cell: 405-343-9167 Cheryl.L.McClellan@boeing.com

URGENT

NOTICE TO VETERANS

Men and Women especially WW1, WW2 and Korean

The Sac and Fox National Public Library is asking for your DD 214's for their records and **Memorial Monument Purposes**

See Cathrine Walker

1-918-968-0705