



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

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MICHAEL J. WILLDEN
Director

CHARLES DUARTE
Administrator

November 13, 2009

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Alvin Moyle, President
Daryl Crawford, Executive Director
P.O. Box 7440
Reno, NV 89510

Indian Health Board of Nevada
Larry Curley, Executive Director
1325 Airmotive Way, Ste. 250
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Sirs,

This is to advise you that on November 6, 2009 the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) published a proposed Chapter update to revise citizenship documentation requirements in Nevada Check Up (NCU). Effective January 1, 2010, NCU will require evidence of citizenship as mandated by the CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2009. This policy has been in effect for the Medicaid program since July 1, 2006 but is now mandated for Child Health Insurance programs (CHIP).

Although the change requires the program to verify citizenship an alternative to providing original documents is allowed. The alternative allows states to share data with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify both identity and citizenship. Original documents will only be required if the SSA finds inconsistencies in the data shared. There are provisions specific to Native Americans which allow the use of a document issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe evidencing membership, enrollment in or affiliation with, such tribe. Again, it will only be necessary to provide original documents if there are discrepancies in the data.

Recent federal legislation requires the Division of Health Care Financing & Policy (DHCFP) to solicit advice from the tribal authorities in Nevada, prior to submission, of any plan amendments, waiver requests, and proposals for demonstration projects likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations.

A public hearing will be held on December 8, 2009, to which you both received individual invitations. During this hearing advice or concerns can be expressed on behalf of the tribes. While we believe this policy change has little if any direct impact on Native Americans enrolled in the NCU program, the DHCFP would like to extend an opportunity for a specific consultation regarding this new policy, please contact Glenda Grafton who will schedule a meeting. We would appreciate a reply whether or not you would like this consultation,

November 13, 2009

Page 2

however if we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter we will consider that an indication that no consultation is requested.

Ms. Grafton's can be reached at 775-684-3613 or by email at: glendag@dncfp.nv.gov

Sincerely,



Charles Duarte
Administrator

Cc: Elizabeth Aiello, Deputy Administrator
Glenda Grafton, SSPSIII, DHCNP
John Whaley, Chief, Business Lines
John Liveratti, Chief, Compliance