Tribal Self-Regulation of Health Care

CASE STUDY: CHA/P Certification Board

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What Is a CHA/P?

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P)
  - Currently 550 CHA/Ps in 170 rural Alaska villages
  - Provide frontline care in their communities as part of the spoke and hub model of the Alaska tribal health system
  - Coordinate with itinerant providers, provides referrals
  - Go through training and receive a level: I-IV

- Related community practitioners:
  - DHAs (Dental Health Aides)
  - BHAs (Behavioral Health Aides)

- National expansion coming soon
History of the CHA/P Program in Alaska

• CHAP started in the 1960s because of
  • Tuberculosis outbreak
  • High infant mortality rates
  • High rates of injury in rural Alaska

• 1968: Alaska Community Health Aide Program recognized and received funding from Congress

• History of coordination between local IHS Area Office, State of Alaska and THOs
History of the CHA/P Program in Alaska

• Regional THOs eventually took over program under Title I contracts
  • Tribal initiative to develop CHAM and training centers
  • IHS involved with supervision and coordination
• 1994: IHCIA amended to direct IHS to set up a Board
• ~1996: YKHC leads charge to develop a Board and standards
History of the CHAPCB

- CHAPCB created in 1998 as part of transition from federal government control to tribal control of most Area Office functions
  - move from IHS credentialing to certification
  - wanted Board to maintain federal status, but remain tribally controlled
- Charged with formalizing the process for maintaining CHA/Ps, DHATs and BHAs training and practice standards and policies
Duties of the CHAP Certification Board (CHAPCB)

- A board of the IHS
  - appointed by the Director of the Alaska Area of the IHS, subject to final action of the Area Director
- Oversees CHA/Ps, DHATs and BHAs and serves as the governing board for those programs
- Certifies training centers and individual health aides
Legal Authority for CHAPCB

- Snyder Act, 25 USC § 13
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 USC § 1616/
  - Incorporates S. 1790 as reported in December 2009
- Directives from US DHHS, PHS, IHS and AANHS
  - AANHS Circular 94-138
  - AANHS Circular 98-150
Support for the CHAP Certification Board

- Receives recommendations from Academic Advisory Committees in each of the program practice areas
  - Recommendations are advisory only unless acted on by the CHAPCB
- Receives administrative support from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)
- Funded by application fees
Each of the regional THOs that has a training site
A site with a CHAP in the Anchorage Service Unit
Association of CHAP Directors (a CHAP Director)
Training centers (an instructor)
CHA/P Association (a CHA/P)
*AANHS Director
*State of Alaska
Medical Director
Dental Academic Review Committee Rep
Behavioral Health Director Rep
Controlling Documents

- CHAPCB Standards and procedures:

- Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual

- Community Health Aide Basic Training Curriculum
Takeaways

- Tribal regulation through control of requirements for certification
- Participation of the State, allows Tribes to bill for services of CHA/Ps (expanded through SPA amendments)
- Innovative delivery of health care
  - Started with IHS
  - Expanded upon by THOs
IHS working on national CHAP expansion
- [https://www.ihs.gov/chap/](https://www.ihs.gov/chap/)
- Set up a CHAP Tribal Advisory Group
  - Tribal Chair: Dr. Glorinda Segay, Navajo Nation
  - Federal Chair: Dr. Beverly Cotton
- Meetings started in March 2018
- Current status: waiting for IHS response to second tribal draft