

URBAN INDIAN HEALTH SUMMIT

Health Reform Planning Panel



Panelists

- Mayra Alvarez, M.H.A.**, Office of HHS, Office of Health Reform
Teresa Nino, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of External Affairs and Beneficiary Services
Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Indian Health Service
Mat Kendall, M.P.H., Office of the National Coordinator for Health

The Health Reform Planning Panel provided an update from governmental agencies on the status of health reform, a clarification on implementation strategies, a summary of outstanding issues, and a description of how urban Indian health organizations fit into the reform agenda.

During this panel, Mayra Alvarez, M.H.A. from the office of HHS Office of Health Reform discussed the implementation stage of health care reform law, the achievements and advancements of what has already been implemented and what is coming next. Teresa Nino, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of External Affairs and Beneficiary Services discussed the various resources available to American Indians and Alaska Natives through CMS and strategies for remaining competitive health providers in the era of insurance exchanges. Director of the Indian Health Service, Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H. discussed the importance of the UIHO expressing their priorities for implementation of ACA to the Indian Health Service. Mat Kendall from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT spoke about the critical role that health information technology plays within health care reform as well as the recognized need to provide UIHO support and assistance during the adoption of various forms of health information technology.



Mat Kendall



Mayra Alvarez



Dr. Yvette Roubideaux

"...for Urban Indians, for communities of color, the Affordable Care Act presents a key opportunity to really improve the health status of many communities that have been marginalized out of the health care system and have not had the opportunities for improving their health status that others have had."

-Mayra Alvarez

"...what my team is really doing is taking a step back and thinking about how we can...make sure we get you the support and assistance that you need, so you can use these technologies for the best."

-Mat Kendall

"...something that we would very much like to address is: how can we work better on the outreach and the education to make sure that Urban Indian health centers understand the procedure and the process for billing Medicare and Medicaid and get reimbursements for the expenses that they're making."

-Teresa Nino

"...[it's] important that I hear what your priorities are for implementation of the provisions in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act... we want to make sure we're implementing the things that matter the most to you."

-Dr. Yvette Roubideaux