

# Pacific Islands Primary Care Association (PIPCA)

43<sup>rd</sup> PIHOA Meeting

April 17, 2007

Honolulu, Hawaii



# MISSION

To promote and support quality Pacific Islands primary health care for all member islands.

# MEMBERS

**Ebeye Community Health Center, Republic of the Marshall Islands**

**Northern & Southern Regional Community Health Centers, Guam**

**Palau Community Health Center, Republic of Palau**

**Pohnpei Community Health Center, Pohnpei, FSM**

**Tafuna Family Health Center, American Samoa**

**Wa`ab Community Health Center, Yap**

**American Pacific Nursing Leaders' Council**

**Northern Pacific Environmental Health Association**

**Pacific Basin Dental Association**

**Pacific Basin Medical Association**

**Pacific Islands Health Officers Association**

**Pacific Substance Abuse and Mental Health Collaborating Council**



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# HRSA Funding Update

- **Additional funds received this year to support clinical quality assurance:**

- to expand and increase quality/clinical T/TA in areas that include
  - quality improvement
  - quality management and assessment
  - risk management
  - data tracking and reporting, and
  - overall quality/clinical performance improvement.

# HRSA Funding Update

- **Additional funds received this year to support clinical quality assurance:**

- Initial planning meeting set for Monday-Tuesday, June 25-26, 2007, Honolulu, HI (following the Pacific Global Health Conference, June 19-21 and the PIPCA Board Annual Meeting, June 22-24)
- Welcome PIHOA participation

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- **“Island Designation” with HRSA:**
  - “The Committee recognizes the unique needs of frontier and rural populations and applauds the Department for establishing competitive grants specifically aimed at programs with those designations. The Committee likewise recognizes the limited accessibility of island communities, whether rural or urban, and urges the Department to include an island designation to promote programs in areas geographically isolated from the mainland and neighbor islands. Criteria for island designation includes a clinic, federally qualified health center, or hospital located on a land mass surrounded by water and greater than 2,000 miles from the United States mainland.” *(FY 2006 Senate Appropriations Committee Report, July, 2005.)*

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- **“Island Designation” with HRSA:**
  - HRSA has developed other special designations—e.g. “sparsely populated” and “frontier” designations—which recognizes the additional challenges faced by rural areas and frontier areas.
  - However, while the Pacific Islands also face similar and other unique challenges, they do not qualify for either the sparsely populated or frontier designations.
  - HRSA has established an “Island Designation” Workgroup” (Lynette Araki heading this group) which has made a recommendation to Dr. Duke (HRSA Administrator)

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- **“Island Designation” with HRSA:**
  - In meeting with Dr. Duke in March, 2007, she indicated:
    - her support for such a designation;
    - the need to create a definition that can specifically apply to the Pacific Islands and Hawai‘i;
    - Welcomed the assistance of the Pacific Islands in crafting an acceptable definition.
- ***REQUEST: Ask HRSA to implement an “island designation,” and assist in crafting the definition.***

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- **Health Center Program (Section 330) reauthorization and appropriation:**
  - Congress needs to reauthorize the health center program (Section 330 Public Health Services Act) which funds the federally qualified community health center program.
  - Congress also needs to appropriate funds to the program each year.

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- Health Center Program (Section 330) reauthorization and appropriation:
  - The “President’s Initiative 1” with the goal of expanding CHC access to 1,200 communities, has been declared a success and thus, concluded.
  - The new “President’s Initiative 2” “High Poverty County Initiative” has just been started, which specifically targets the 200 poorest counties in the US that currently do not have a CHC.
  - The Pacific Islands are not eligible to apply under this new initiative.

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- Health Center Program (Section 330) reauthorization and appropriation:
  - The President's budget request for 2008 will only support funding for new CHCs through the PI 2.
  - It is not sufficient to fund new access point CHCs, or fund expanded medical capacity in existing CHCs, outside of this initiative.
  - **REQUEST: Ask Congress to reauthorize the health center program, and appropriate an additional \$200 million in 2008.**

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

## ■ National Health Service Corps reauthorization and appropriation:

- Can help with the recruitment and retention of well-qualified health care providers of medical, dental and behavioral health services in the Pacific Islands.
- A well-funded National Health Services Corps could result in health care providers choosing to serve in the Pacific Islands.
- ***REQUEST: Ask Congress to reauthorize the NHSC and appropriate \$150 million in 2008.***

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- National Health Service Corps reauthorization and appropriation:
  - *Also need to check on renewal of medically underserved area (MUA), medically underserved populations (MUP) designations and health professional shortage area (HPSA) scores for the Pacific Islands.*

# KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

- **Title VII and VIII Health Professions Programs reauthorization and appropriation:**
  - Includes the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs).
  - The Hawai'i/Pacific AHEC is a key resource for human resources for health training in the Pacific Islands.
  - Addresses key health workforce needs with a focus on delivery of community based primary care and minority health.
  - **REQUEST: Ask Congress to reauthorize Titles VII and VIII, including \$30 million for the AHEC program.**

# Thank you.

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