

## **2011/2012 Indian Health Care Legislative Priorities**

On October 21-23, 2010, stakeholders of the California Rural Indian Health Board and Tribal Government Consultation Committee met at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel in Santa Rosa, California. A primary focus of this meeting included identifying Federal, State and Other legislative priorities for CRIHB policy staff and advocates to work on in the upcoming budget-making year. Prior to this meeting staff developed a survey instrument which included the identification and categorization of the priorities. The survey was handed out during the meeting and survey participants were then asked to include any priorities not already on the survey form and this information was made known to the audience. The respondents were then asked to score their most important legislative issues to take on for the upcoming year. The completed surveys, which total 39, were ranked in the order of importance identified by the respondents.

### Survey Results

#### State Priorities

1. Enhance Medi-Cal Program, including reinstating Adult Dental & other Optional Benefits
2. Implement/Participate in State/Tribal Consultations
3. Reinstatement of State Indian Health Program
4. Enhance Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs, including CalWORKs
5. Participate in Health Reform roll out
6. Enhance Healthy Families Program
7. Medi-Cal Electronic Health Record Reimbursement Program

#### Federal Priorities

1. Support Construction of Youth Regional Treatment Centers in CA
2. Implement/Participate in Federal/Tribal Consultations
3. Enhance Medicaid/Medicare
4. Support implementation of Indian Health Care Improvement Act
5. Reauthorize Special Diabetes Program for Indians legislation
6. Enhance Indian Health Service Appropriations
7. Participate in Health Reform roll out

#### Other Priorities

1. Protect Sacred Sites
2. Support Elders Assisted Care
3. Protect Sovereignty
4. Improve Water Quality/Quantity and Related Tribal rights
5. Support Small Facilities Funding for Tribal Health Programs
6. Enhance Information Technology (NextGen system) for Tribal Health Programs
7. Increase Land Acquisition