Advocating for First Nations Health: A Collaborative Workshop on Improving the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA)'s 12th Annual National Conference

November 5-7, 2024
Calgary, AB

Presenters:
Tessy BigPlume, NIHB Navigator, Stoney Nakoda TsuuT'ina Tribal Council, AB
Jenny Gardipy, Senior Policy Analyst, NIHB – Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

Warmup IceBreaker:

- What's one thing you can't live without?

What is your role in this conference?

Outline

Awareness Question (Pre-test)
NIHB Program and the Assembly of First Nations
NIHB Challenges
NIHB Best Practices
Streamline the NIHB Program
Awareness Question (Post-test)

What is your awareness of the NIHB Program, NIHB Navigators, and AFN?

Visit the online interactive poll **Mentimeter** a www.menti.com then enter Code: **3444 4299**

Use the QR code

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Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and the Assembly of First Nations

NIHB Program

Provides First Nations with coverage for a range of health benefits:

prescription and over-the-counter medications	dental and orthodontic services	eye exams and corrective eyewear	medical supplies and equipment	mental health counselling	transportation to access health services

As of March 31, 2023, there were 936,006 First Nations and Inuit clients received benefits

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

First Nations driven, national advocacy organization

Hosts First Nation Chiefs' Assemblies where mandates and directives are established

AFN is guided by an Executive Committee made up of the National Chief and 12 Regional Chiefs

AFN Health Sector

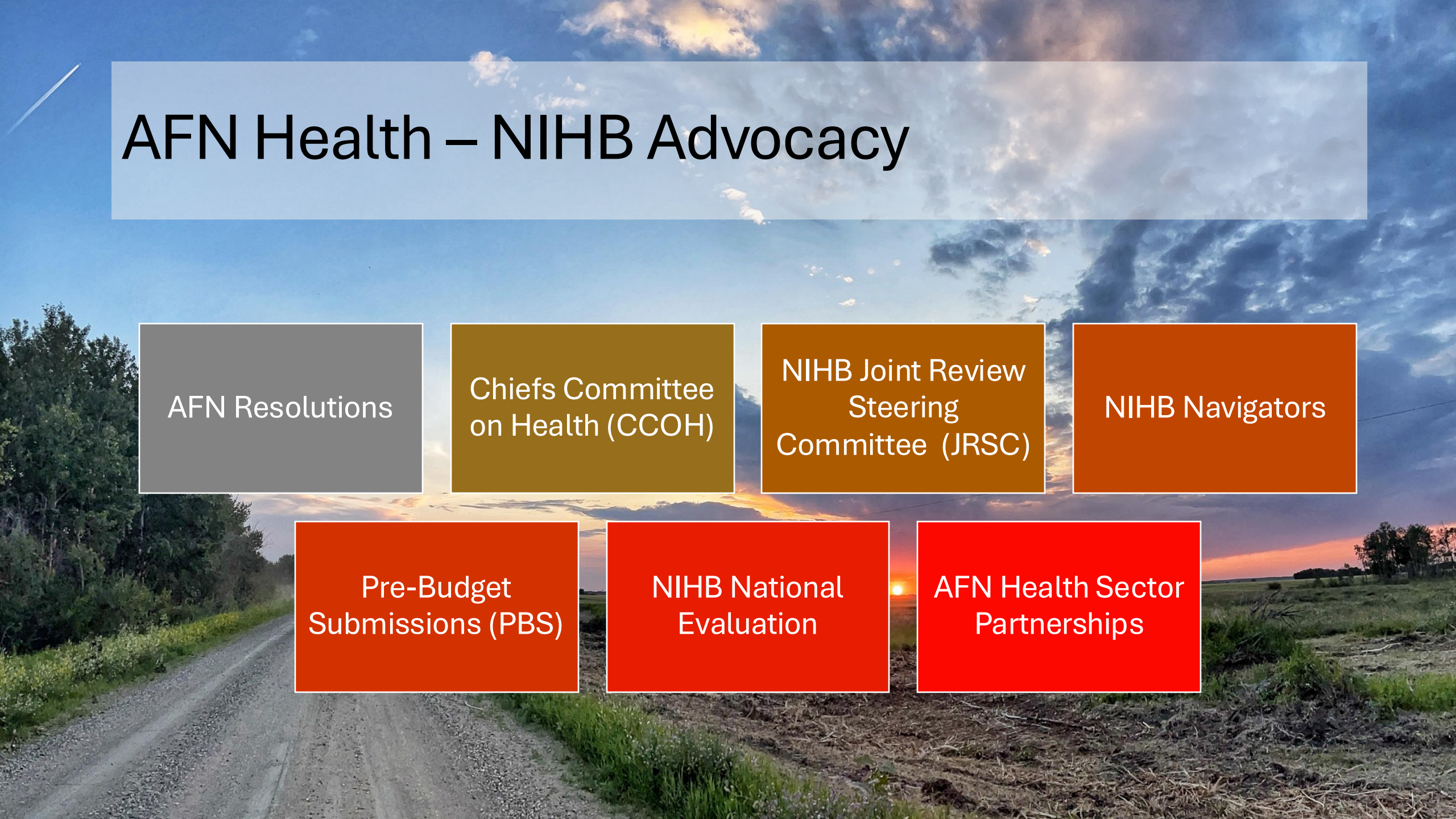
Mandate

- To protect, maintain, promote, support and advocate

Central Goal

- First Nations' control to control of all their health services and programs

AFN Health – NIHB Advocacy



NIHB Navigators

Mandate

- AFN health technicians network to plan and advocate for First Nations NIHB national priorities
- Hired by First Nation regions

Composition

- Regional NIHB Health Technicians to guide and promote First Nation NIHB health needs and priorities
- We have representatives from eleven regions – BC has the FNHA

Current work

- NIHB National Dialogue Session – October 2023
- Move First Nations' health priorities, such as allied health services
- Discontinuation of the Sole Prescriber Restrictions

NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC)

Mandate

74/2018, *NIHB: Ongoing Commitment to a Joint Review Process*

61/2022, *Reforming NIHB Travel Policies*

Composition

10 First Nations Caucus

10 ISC – FNIHB – NIHB

Objectives

Identify and address gaps

Streamline service delivery

Increase program efficiencies

Joint Reviews Completed

2016

- Mental Health Counselling

2018

- Dental and Vision

2019

- Pharmacy

2020

- Medical Supplies and Equipment

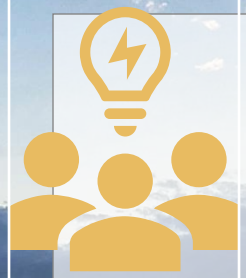
2023 to Present

- Medical Transportation

AFN Health Sector – Partnerships

AFN Regional Tables

- CCOH
- NIHB JRSC First Nations' Caucus
- NIHB Navigators



NIHB Working Groups and Advisory Committees

Strategic Partners

- Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada
- Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors

What is your role?

Visit the online interactive poll **Mentimeter** at www.menti.com then enter Code: **5434 6672**

Challenges with Navigating the NIHB Program

What are the challenges and barriers to access and navigate the NIHB Program?

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Best Practices Navigating the NIHB Program

What are the best practices to navigate the NIHB Program for First Nations organizations?

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Streamline the NIHB Program

What are ways to streamline the NIHB Program's Processes?

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Is there anything else you would like to hear us talk about?

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Now...as a result of this workshop...

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Moving Forward: NIHB Advocacy and Partnerships Road Map

2024

- Advocacy with First Nations' lead and direction
- NIHB Joint Review – Ongoing
- PBS 2025
- Continue to partner and build linkages
- Analysis of the NIHB Program
- Draft communications with First Nations and regional perspectives

2025 +

- Continue to advocate for NIHB to align with First Nations' realities
- Progress the NIHB Joint Review with First Nations' lead
- Continue to improve NIHB communications
- Build and renew partnerships

Ninanskomatin (Cree)
Sīyìsgáàs (Dene)
Thank you

If you would like more information on this workshop, please contact:

Tessy at tessybigplume@g4tc.org or Jenny at pjgardipy@afn.ca