



Northwest Portland Area
Indian Health Board
Indian Leadership for Indian Health



April 13, 2018

Via electronic transmission: ORDHHSRegion10@hhs.gov

John R. Graham
Regional Director
U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services, Region 10
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600, MS-01
Seattle, Washington 98104

Re: Region 10 HHS Tribal Consultation

Dear Regional Director Graham:

On behalf of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and American Indian Health Commission for Washington State, we would like to congratulate you on your position as Region 10 HHS Regional Director. We look forward to meeting you at the Region 10 HHS Tribal Consultation and working with you on addressing the health concerns of the tribes and American Indians/Alaska Natives in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Past Region 10 HHS Tribal Consultations have resulted in frustration from the tribes in our area as to the lack of decision-making authority of HHS representatives and lack of follow-up on issues brought up by tribal leaders at these consultations. Given this, we have received a request from tribal leadership to request more information and clarification on the HHS representatives scheduled to attend the one-on-one meetings with HHS representatives and tribal consultation on May 1st and May 2nd, respectively.

In order to make the Region 10 HHS Tribal Consultation more productive and meaningful for tribes, we include language on the purpose of tribal consultation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Tribal Consultation Policy," dated December 14, 2010,

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Indian Tribes share the goal to establish clear policies to further the government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes. True and effective consultation shall result in information exchange, mutual understanding, and informed decision-making on behalf of the Tribal governments involved and the Federal Government. The importance of consultation with Indian Tribes was affirmed through Presidential Memoranda in 1994, 2004 and 2009, and an Executive Order (EO) in 2000.

The goal of this policy includes, but is not limited to, eliminating health and human service disparities of Indians, ensuring that access to critical health and human services is maximized, and to advance or enhance the social, physical, and economic status of Indians. To

achieve this goal, and to the extent practicable and permitted by law, it is essential that Federally-recognized Indian Tribes and the HHS engage in open, continuous, and meaningful consultation.

This policy applies to all Divisions of the Department and shall serve as a guide for Tribes to participate in all Department and Division policy development to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law.

When tribal leaders bring their issues to the consultation, they expect to engage in discussion and decision-making with HHS leadership and its agencies, including determining next steps and future action items. Thus, the Region 10 HHS Tribal Consultation must include HHS leadership who are in positions to make decisions and commitments to tribes consistent with HHS's Tribal Consultation Policy. If meaningful tribal consultation does not occur at this consultation, it will result in merely being a roundtable or listening session.

We hope you understand that we want to ensure that the allocated time for tribal consultation is well spent by all involved so we request the draft agenda by noon on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, so we can provide feedback and recommendations on the draft agenda.

In addition, we also request that Region 10 track all decisions made (and other requests) and provide a written correspondence acknowledging tribal issues to be addressed and next steps following the tribal consultation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laura Platero, Director of Government Affairs/Policy Analyst, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, at (503) 407-4082 or contact Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, American Indian Health Commission at (360) 460-3580.

Sincerely,



Andy Joseph, Jr., Chairman
Northwest Portland Area Indian
Health Board



Stephen Kutz, Chair
American Indian Health Commission
for Washington State

cc: Barbara Greene, Executive Officer, Region 10, HHS