



The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board in
partnership with Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
& the Indian Health Service Portland Area Office

are convening a

*“Northwest Roundtable on Health
Care Reform Policy Options for the
Indian Health System”*

DATE: *June 2-3, 2009*

LOCATION: *Embassy Suites Downtown
319 SW Pine Street
Portland, OR 97204*

Room reservations can be made by calling 800/643-7892 and request the group rate for NPAIHB (\$116 + 12.5% tax). **Reservations must be made by Wednesday, May 20, 2009.** Reservations made after this date will be accepted based upon availability.



“Building a health reform framework for Northwest Tribes”



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
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Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
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Portland, OR 97201
Phone: (503) 228-4185



May 10, 2009

Dear Tribal Leaders and Health Director:

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) in partnership with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indian (ATNI) and the Indian Health Service Portland Area Office (IHS-PAO) are convening a “Northwest Roundtable on Health Care Reform Policy Options for the Indian Health System.” The roundtable will be on June 2-3, 2009, and be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Portland, Oregon.

The roundtable has been organized in response to the Administration and Congress’ health reform efforts to address rising health care costs, quality of health care issues, and the growing number of uninsured and under-insured in this Country. The proposals that are currently being discussed will have a profound effect on the Indian health system that provides care to over 2.2 million American Indian and Alaska Native people. It is imperative, that any health reform changes acknowledge and take into consideration the special relationship that the United States has with Tribal governments and the duty to provide health care services. Any health reform legislation must support and strengthen the current Indian health care delivery system and must include Indian specific provisions that will improve access to health services for AI/AN people.

You are receiving this letter because we feel you offer a unique and expert perspective on Indian health issues and our health care delivery system, which offers an opportunity for us to collaborate among one another to develop recommendations on how our needs can be addressed in national health reform effort. We are convening a group of congressional staff, key Tribal leaders with expertise in health care issues, Tribal health directors, Area Health Board partners, and other experts to conduct a roundtable discussion on health reform policy options for the Indian health system. By the conclusion of this roundtable discussion, our objectives are to accomplish the following:

1. Congressional staff will provide an overview of health reform proposals that their Committees are currently working on for our participants. This will provide better understanding of issues that Congress is working on in order to process their recommendations;
2. Provide Tribal leaders and health directors with an opportunity to discuss recommendations on how the Indian health system should fit with the current reform

proposals and identify additional opportunities to make reform changes to improve the current Indian health care delivery system, and;

3. Formalize these recommendations into a policy document that can be transmitted to Congress and to provide to regional and national Tribal organizations for their collaboration and advocacy to advance our recommendations.

Prior to this meeting we will be distributing a discussion matrix of health reform issues and policy options for your consideration and discussion at the roundtable. We will also transmit other policy recommendations that have been developed by other Tribal organizations. Our hope is that the discussion matrix and other related documents will guide the dialogue and serve for us to develop recommendations for Northwest Tribes.

If you should have questions concerning the meeting and agenda, please contact Jim Roberts, NPAIHB Policy Analyst, at (503) 416-3268, or by email at jroberts@npaihb.org. If you should have questions concerning meeting logistics, please contact Elaine Dado, NPAIHB Executive Assistant, at (503) 416-3268, or by email at edado@npaihb.org.

We look forward to your contributions toward this effort, and vow to put the end product to use by disseminating it widely!

Sincerely,

/s/Brian Cladoosby

Brian Cladoosby,
ATNI Chairman
Chairman, Swinomish Tribe

/s/Andrew Joseph, Jr.

Andrew Joseph, Jr.
NPAIHB Chairman
Colville Tribal Council Member



**Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board &
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians**

*Northwest Roundtable on Health Care Reform Policy
Options for the Indian Health System*

Embassy Suites Hotel – Downtown Portland

AGENDA
June 2-3, 2009

DAY ONE - June 2, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast**
- 8:20 a.m. Invocation & Welcome**
*Andy Joseph, NPAIHB Chairman
Brian Cladoosby, ATNI Chairman*
- 8:30 a.m. Meeting Format & Objectives**
Facilitator: TBA
- 8:45 a.m. Congressional Overview on Health Reform (30 minutes each)**
*House Energy & Commerce Committee, (by teleconference)
Andy Schneider, Senior Policy Advisor
Bobby Clark, Policy Coordinator*
*Senate Finance Committee, (by teleconference)
Richard Litsey, Counsel and Senior Advisor for Indian Affairs*
*Senate Indian Affairs Committee, (invited)
Allison Binney, Staff Director & Chief Counsel
Brenda Shore, SR. Policy Advisor
Rhonda Harjo, Deputy Chief Counsel*
- 10:00 a.m. Discussion with Congressional Staff on Health Reform**

“Building a health reform framework for Northwest Tribes”



- 10:30 a.m.** **Break**
- 11:00 a.m.** **Roundtable Discussion on Health Care Reform Policy
Options for the Indian Health System**
- 12:00 p.m.** **Working Lunch Served**
- 12:30 - 5:00 pm.** **(Continue)**
**Roundtable Discussion on Health Care Reform Policy
Options for the Indian Health System**
- 5:00 p.m.** **Adjourn for the day**

DAY TWO - June 3, 2009

- 8:00 a.m.** **Review recommendations from Day 1**
Moderator:
- 9:00 a.m.** **(Continue)**
**Roundtable Discussion on Health Care Reform Policy
Options for the Indian Health System**
- 10:30 a.m.** **Break**
- 12:00 p.m.** **Working Lunch Served**
- 12:30 p.m.** **(Continue)**
**Roundtable Discussion on Health Care Reform Policy
Options for the Indian Health System**
- 3:00 p.m.** **Break**
- 3:30 p.m.** **Summary of Health Care Reform Policy Recommendations**
- 4:30 p.m.** **Next Steps**
- 5:00 p.m.** **Adjourn**

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