



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
Health and Recovery Services Administration  
P.O. Box 45502, Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

September 30, 2009

Dear Tribal Chair:

I am writing in regard to the state's 1915(b) Freedom of Choice waiver, more commonly known as the Regional Support Network (RSN) waiver. The Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA) has made a commitment to consult with tribes about the RSN waiver and has scheduled the consultation for **December 3, 2009** from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The meeting will be held at DSHS Headquarters – Office Building II (OB2) in the Lookout Conference Room. The meeting is scheduled as required by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and administration policy for consultation with tribes prior to the waiver submission date of December 31, 2009.

It had been announced at the January 2009 Indian Policy Advisory Council (IPAC) meeting that a waiver meeting would be held to develop a schedule for review and discussion of the waiver. The loss of staff and budget and program changes has interfered with the hosting of a series of meetings, as have circumstances surrounding the waiver.

A planning meeting to discuss the agenda for the December 3, 2009 meeting is scheduled for **November 17, 2009** from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The location will be determined prior to the meeting.

We wish to reaffirm our commitment to partnering with the tribes on this very important issue and welcome your input in the development of the waiver.

To review the current proposal for the Section 1915(b) RSN waiver, please go to:

[http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/mh/waiver\\_2008\\_2010\\_PIHP\\_NEW\\_%200408\\_with\\_final\\_revisions.pdf](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/mh/waiver_2008_2010_PIHP_NEW_%200408_with_final_revisions.pdf)

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Gregg Twiddy at 360-902-0848 or via email at [twiddgw@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:twiddgw@dshs.wa.gov). You may also contact Melena Thompson at 360-725-1073 or via email at [melena.thompson@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:melena.thompson@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Doug Porter  
Assistant Secretary