



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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February 16, 2010

Dear Tribal Health Leaders:

The relationship between the Tribes of Oregon and the State of Oregon is paramount as reflected in Senate Bill 770. Communication between the Tribes of Oregon, the Urban Indian communities and the Department of Human Services is an important tool to ensure services to the Indian people of Oregon.

In that spirit, the department would like to begin a dialogue between the Tribes of Oregon and the department about an important change that is coming to the department.

Beginning in 2011, the Department of Human Services will become two state agencies. This change came about from legislation passed in 2009 by the Oregon legislature. The legislation creates a new health agency called the Oregon Health Authority that will combine several divisions that reside in the Department of Human Services with other state health agencies.

The goal is to create an umbrella agency – the Oregon Health Authority – to meet our shared long-term goals of lowering the cost of health care, expanding health care to everyone in Oregon, improving the quality of care and adding preventative medicine into the discussion.

At the same time, the department is committed to continuing the important work of providing care to seniors, children and families, and the disabled through the Department of Human Services.

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*

Oregon Tribal Health Leaders

February 16, 2010

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It is very important to the department that as we make this transition we continue to meet the needs of the Tribes and Urban Indian communities of Oregon and improve on our services.

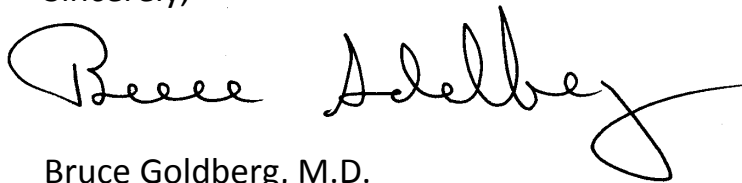
The beginning of this conversation will be at the Senate Bill 770 meeting being held at the ChristieCare, Clackamas River Cedar Bough Campus (see attached directions) in Oregon City on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

There we will have more detail about the transition. We look forward to the discussion and seek your counsel to ensure that we meet our mission of approaching these changes in a way that will not disrupt – but will bring improvements – to health care for Tribal communities and members.

The State of Oregon has long enjoyed a special government-to-government relationship with Oregon Tribes, and Senate Bill 770 reflects the importance of cooperation and communication between and among the Tribes, Urban Indian communities, and the Oregon Department of Human Services in providing essential health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives across the state. It is our desire that the creation of the Oregon Health Authority honors that relationship.

Please contact Rick Acevedo at 503-945-7034 for additional information. We look forward to seeing you on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Bruce Goldberg, M.D.

Director, Oregon Department of Human Services

Director-designee, Oregon Health Authority

CHRISTIECARE'S  
CEDAR BOUGH PROGRAM AT CLACKAMAS RIVER LOCATION:

Street & Mailing Address: 15544 S. Clackamas River Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045 \*MapQuest\*

**From I-205 Northbound:** North on I-205, take OR-213 Exit 10 (toward Park Place/Molalla). Keep right at the fork onto OR-213/Cascade Hwy. S. Follow OR-213/Cascade Hwy. S., and turn left at Clackamas River Drive. Follow Clackamas River Drive approximately 2.6 miles to ChristieCare's Clackamas River campus.

**From I-205 Southbound:** South on I-205, merge onto OR-213/Cascade Hwy. S. via Exit 10 (toward Park Place/Molalla). Follow OR-213/Cascade Hwy. S., and turn left at Clackamas River Drive. Follow Clackamas River Drive approximately 2.6 miles to ChristieCare's Clackamas River campus.