

# Please join us!

## HHS Region 10 Annual Tribal Consultation for the Pacific Northwest



**March 23, 2010**  
**Westin Hotel, Seattle, WA**

Tribes of Idaho, Oregon and Washington are invited to participate in a one-day U.S. Health and Human Services Region 10 Tribal Consultation on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Seattle, Washington

This year, the Region 10 session focuses on discussing the policy and format of Tribal Consultation directly with HHS Headquarters Officials

### **STEP 1:**

**To attend the Consultation, register at:**

[http://www.hhs.gov/about/regions/consultation\\_seattle.html](http://www.hhs.gov/about/regions/consultation_seattle.html)

### **STEP 2:**

**To reserve a room at the Westin, contact the hotel directly at:**

**The Westin Seattle**

1900 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101 / Phone: (206) 728-1000

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1003014419&key=C93C4>

Rooms are blocked under "HHS Tribal Consultation" at the government rate of \$159 per night

**For more information, contact:**

- Bobbie Mowery, Executive Officer, HHS Region 10  
(206) 615-2010 / [bobbie.mowery@hhs.gov](mailto:bobbie.mowery@hhs.gov)
- Sonciray Bonnell, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board  
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Dear Tribal Leader:

As you know, President Barack Obama and U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius are committed to building and strengthening our nation-to-nation relationship with tribal governments. Appointed by President Obama to serve as the Regional Director for HHS - Region 10, one of my top priorities is to work in partnership with you to achieve this goal, as well as to ensure effective delivery of health and human services. Since starting this past December, I have met with IHS Portland Area Acting Director Dean Seyler, IHS Alaska Area Director Chris Mandregan, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Executive Director Joe Finkbonner, and Alaska Native Health Board President & CEO Evangelyn Dotomain. Last week I participated in the Alaska Native Health Board's Mega Meeting and the TANF Single Point of Contact meeting. I had the privilege to hear first hand about the many challenges faced by Alaska Native Villages. I look forward now to visiting Pacific Northwest Tribes, as well as to participating in tribal meetings, and serving as an advocate for Region 10 tribes.

I want to take this opportunity to respectfully request your participation at the Region 10 Tribal Consultation. This year's regional consultation session will be different than in the past. In response to President Obama's Executive Order, Secretary Sebelius has asked HHS national leadership to convene one-day regional sessions with tribal officials for discussion on the national tribal consultation policy:

<http://www.hhs.gov/intergovernmental/tribal/docs/tribalconsultationpolicyfeb08.pdf>. Additionally, Secretary Sebelius has asked us to focus on the following specific topics: (1) HHS' Tribal Consultation Policy, (2) the regional consultation format, (3) agency Tribal consultation policies, and (4) HHS Tribal Advisory Committees.

After checking with tribal organizations on key meeting dates, our DC office scheduled dates and locations for the regional sessions. The Idaho / Oregon / Washington session is scheduled for ***Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Westin in Seattle, WA.*** (Please see the attached flyer for registration and hotel information.) There will be a recorder at each regional session. Your input, along with any written submissions, will be analyzed by a national workgroup (to include tribal leadership) charged with making recommendations to Secretary Sebelius on tribal consultation.

We hope that you and your tribe's representatives will participate. We join you in working to ensure that Region 10 tribes are actively involved in this process. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if I can be of assistance. I can be reached at 206-615-2010 or by email at [Susan.Johnson@hhs.gov](mailto:Susan.Johnson@hhs.gov). I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

**SusanJohnson**

RegionalDirector

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*Region10 serving Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,andWashington*