



MAY 26 2010

Dear Tribal Leader:

Last December, Secretary Sebelius sent a letter to Tribes, asking for your comments on our consultation policy and process at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). I want to thank you and your colleagues for being supportive of this process, and take a moment to outline our next steps in implementing your recommendations.

This summer, HHS will convene a Tribal-Federal Work Group, whose task it will be to review tribal leader recommendations that have been submitted, reports of the regional consultation sessions, held over the past three months, and develop a strategy for implementing improvements to our Department-wide consultation policy.

The work group will focus on the following items as they make recommendations to the Secretary: HHS's Tribal Consultation Policy; the regional consultation format; agency Tribal consultation policies; and HHS Tribal Advisory Committees. The work group will first meet in early July, followed by conference calls throughout the summer, with a goal of presenting final recommendations to Secretary Sebelius by October 2010.

We are currently seeking nominations for a primary representative from the twelve areas of the Indian Health Service, as well as four at-large national representatives. HHS will support the travel of the primary representative to attend in-person meetings. I encourage you to submit your recommendations for these sixteen work group members, no later than June 16, 2010, to:

Stacey Ecoffey, Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW Room 630-F  
Washington, DC 20201  
Email: Stacey.Ecoffey@hhs.gov

Thank you for your continued hard work and support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you as we continue to improve our relationship and build healthier communities throughout Indian Country.

Sincerely,

Paul Dioguardi  
Director, HHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs