



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Region 10
2201 Sixth Avenue, MS/RX-40
Seattle, Washington 98121

February 9, 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

I write to update you on the Native American Contact (NAC) position in the Seattle regional office of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). You may be aware that Cecile Greenway has moved to a management position in CMS Seattle's Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations. Therefore, Cecile will no longer be fulfilling the duties of the NAC. Cecile was a great asset to AI/AN healthcare in the Pacific Northwest and I know she will be missed. We're sad to see her leave her NAC role but delighted she is lending her smarts, work ethic, and compassion to Medicaid and CHIP work.

I want to assure you that having a full-time NAC in CMS Seattle is a high priority for me. Our office provides service to about half of our country's Tribes. The need is great for a knowledgeable and dedicated person to work on AI/AN health for our region and I'm committed to finding that person. Within a month or so, I will publicly post the NAC vacancy announcement to launch the recruitment process. Internal advisors familiar with AI/AN health from across CMS will help me select the best candidate. I'll do my best to complete this process as quickly as possible within the federal hiring requirements. Finding the right person is my motivator.

In the meantime, NAC duties will be divided among a few key staff in my office. So, while the NAC role is "vacant," I can assure you that we are continuing to provide high quality service to Tribes during this time. Should you need assistance, please contact my office directly at (206) 625-2306 and we will do our very best to assist you in this time of transition.

Sincerely,

John T. Hammarlund
Regional Administrator, Region 10