



OCT 2 2002

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Alcohol and Substance Abuse National Consultation was held August 27-28 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Tribal Leaders, Tribal representatives, urban Indian health program representatives, and other interested parties participated in the discussion,

According to the July 30 Dear Tribal Leader letter from Mr. Michel E. Lincoln, former Acting IHS Director, a 5-year strategic plan and proposed fiscal year (FY) 2003 distribution formula to combat alcohol and substance abuse would be developed and discussed. I am pleased to send you the following documents as a first step in reaching our goal of receiving a final allocation recommendation from the Tribes:

1. Recommendations and/or Comments Form
2. Draft National 5-Year Strategic Plan on Alcohol and Substance Abuse
3. Draft FY 2003 National Fund Distribution Formula

During the August 27-28 Consultation, I agreed to provide an additional opportunity for comments and recommendations from Indian Country on these drafts. Please use the enclosed form and send it to Kauffman and Associates, Inc., at the following address:

Kauffman and Associates, Inc.
425 West 1st Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99201
(509) 747-4994
(509) 747-5030 (Fax)
E-mail: wendy@kauffmaninc.com

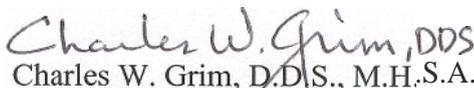
Your comments and recommendations must be received on or before October 25, 2002.

The IHS Alcohol and Substance Abuse Workgroup will reconvene in October to finalize their recommendations for presentation to me by the end of October. I will then make my final decision on the National 5-Year Strategic Plan and the FY 2003 National Fund Distribution Formula.

Page 2 - Dear Tribal Leader

Thank you for your time and participation as together we develop a blueprint for the future to address alcohol and substance abuse in Indian country.

Sincerely yours,


Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Surgeon General
Interim Director

Enclosures