



AUG 2 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide an update on Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal consultation activities over the past few years. One of the recommendations from the consultation on improving IHS' Tribal consultation process was to review the outcomes of consultation activities. While I provide regular updates on consultations during my meetings with Tribes and at conferences, IHS often has several ongoing consultations on differing topics occurring at the same time.

The enclosed table summarizes IHS Tribal consultation activities since June 2009, and includes a brief description of the content of each letter and any follow up or outcomes to date. The dates of the letters are provided for easy reference and they can be found on the IHS Tribal consultation website at: www.ihs.gov.

Consultation activities over the past few years have included input and recommendations on the IHS Contract Health Services program, Tribal consultation, the Affordable Care Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Behavioral Health, Information Technology Shares, Health Care Facility Construction, Data Sharing, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Contract Support Costs, Long Term Care, the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, IHS priorities, and collaborations with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. While some consultations have resulted in specific recommendations and outcomes, some are still in progress.

The IHS consultation on budget formulation is not mentioned in the summary table but has been extremely important to the Agency over the past few years and certainly helped IHS achieve a 29 percent increase in its annual appropriation since 2008. Tribal priorities are considered during the budget formulation process each year and have helped us achieve significant increases, such as the 46 percent increase in Contract Health Services funding that has resulted in some sites being able to fund more than Priority 1, Life or Limb referrals.

Tribal consultation is a fundamental part of how we are changing and improving the IHS. I am grateful for the input and comments submitted by Tribes during the past few years and believe that IHS has improved as a result of your good ideas and recommendations. While progress has been made, it is clear from your input that there is more still to do. Your input is welcome at any time at our e-mail address for consultation input: consultation@ihs.gov or by mail to Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Director, IHS, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 440, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

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Thank you for your partnership as we change and improve the IHS.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosure: Indian Health Service – Tribal Consultation Activities Summary