



JAN 30 2002

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to announce the Tribal and Federal representatives who will serve as members on the Restructuring Initiative Workgroup. A list of the members and their alternates is enclosed.

I informed Tribal Leaders in a December 13, 2001, letter of my intention to form a new workgroup with a draft charge to identify changes to the design of the Indian health system that will best enable accessible and acceptable health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives during the next 5 years. To complete this task, the Workgroup will 1) revisit the Indian Health Service's (IHS) functions and structure and the Indian Health Design Team's previous recommendations and their implementation and 2) consider changes along with the internal and external factors impacting healthcare delivery to American Indian and Alaska Native people.

The Workgroup will meet at least four times in the next 4 months. The first Workgroup meeting will be February 5-7 in Bethesda, Maryland. You can follow the Workgroup's progress by checking Restructuring Initiative postings in the Nationwide Programs and Initiatives section of the IHS website (<http://www.ihs.gov>). As meeting dates and locations are confirmed, they will be posted on the IHS website. Meeting summaries will also be provided on the website as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continuing commitment in working to improve the health of our people.

Sincerely yours,

/Michael H. Trujillo/

Michael H. Trujillo, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Assistant Surgeon General
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Enclosure