



DEC 29 2017

Dear Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to update you on the progress of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Strategic Planning Workgroup (Workgroup) activities and to inform you of changes to the timeline of the IHS draft Strategic Plan 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan).

Over the past two months, the Workgroup met several times to develop the objectives, strategies and measures for each goal in the Strategic Plan. They will resume their work in January 2018. You may view the progress and timeline of the Workgroup, including meeting minutes, on-line at the IHS Strategic Planning web page: <https://www.ihs.gov/dper/planning/strategicplanning>.

I accepted the recommendation and request from several Workgroup members for additional time for the Workgroup to thoroughly consider IHS-operated, tribally-operated, and Urban health care environments. Additional time and meetings have been added to the Workgroup schedule. With the changes to the timeline, we anticipate the Workgroup to complete a draft Strategic Plan by the end of January 2018.

As a next step, we will initiate a 30-day public comment period on the draft Strategic Plan. During the comment period, the IHS will hold a National All Tribal and Urban Leader Call to share updates and provide a forum for comment on the draft Strategic plan. We expect the final IHS Strategic Plan to be completed and published for use in April 2018.

As shared in previous updates, we will continue to accept comments throughout the Strategic Planning process. For additional Strategic Plan updates, including Workgroup progress and instructions on how to submit comments, please visit the IHS Strategic Planning web page.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions to this important activity. If you have any questions about the Strategic Planning process, please contact CAPT Francis Frazier, Director, Office of Public Health Support, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-0222 or by e-mail at francis.frazier@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/RADM Michael D. Weahkee/

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