



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



DEC 02 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

Dr. Richard A. Stone, Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), joins me in initiating a joint Tribal Consultation to seek input on a draft revised memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two agencies. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of a draft revised MOU.

We entered into an initial MOU to improve access and health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans in February 2003. Building upon a decade of successful collaboration and further established mutual goals to advance collaboration, coordination and resource-sharing, we revised the MOU in October 2010. We believe the proposed revisions support our objective to improve access and health care outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Engaging in meaningful Tribal Consultation will assist us to achieve our goal to execute a revised MOU. Your input and recommendations will assist us in making improvements to the MOU and encourage collaboration between our federal entities to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Please send your written comments and recommendations on the VA-IHS MOU Update by Friday, February 12, 2021:

• By E-MAIL to:

consultation@ihs.gov

tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov

Subject Line: VA-IHS MOU Update

• By POSTAL MAIL to:

RADM Michael D. Weahkee
Director
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E86
Rockville, MD 20857

ATTENTION: VA-IHS MOU Update

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (075F)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 915G
Washington, DC 20420

ATTENTION: VA-IHS MOU Update

In addition to written input, as part of this Tribal Consultation, we plan to hold a series of informational and listening session webinars to share and gather input. We will provide further details soon.

Thank you for helping advance this partnership and enhance care delivery for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public
Health Service
Director, Indian Health Service

/Richard A. Stone/

Richard A. Stone, M.D.
Executive in Charge
Veterans Health Administration

Enclosures: *Draft Revised VA-IHS Memorandum of Understanding*