



JUN 23 2017

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to invite you to attend the upcoming Indian Health Service (IHS) Listening Session on Behavioral Health, being held during the 2017 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) National Behavioral Health Conference. The Listening Session is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, August 15. The conference will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on August 15-17, and the theme is “Fostering Resilience through Celebration of Tribal Best Practices.”

The 2017 AI/AN National Behavioral Health Conference is the nation’s premier opportunity to assemble and hear from nationally recognized speakers, behavioral health care providers, Tribal leaders, and health care officials committed to addressing emergent behavioral health topics in Indian Country. The conference attracts presenters and participants from across the country who want to share their research and promising practices, and provides opportunities for professional development, collaboration, and networking.

During the Listening Session, you will have an opportunity to hear updates from the IHS on our many behavioral health initiatives and projects, such as the Zero Suicide Initiative, Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative, Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative, behavioral health integration, workforce development, recruitment, and retention, Native youth work, and our efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. I invite you to provide your feedback on our current work, as well as suggestions for new, innovative directions we should take to address behavioral health issues in the future.

There is no registration process or fee to attend the Listening Session. However, if you plan to attend the conference, there is a cost. Please visit the conference Web site for the agenda, registration, fee, and hotel information at <http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-ai-an-national-behavioral-health-conference/event-summary-31de468d0e6748f8853fc8dec152a2f0.aspx>. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Beverly Cotton, Director, Division of Behavioral Health, IHS, by e-mail at [beverly.cotton@ihs.gov](mailto:beverly.cotton@ihs.gov) or by telephone at (301) 443-4754.

I look forward to our continued partnership and hope to see you in August.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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