



JUL 21 2017

Indian Health Service  
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Great Plains Area Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to provide you with a report on the 2016 Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer related to the organization and structure of the Great Plains Area IHS.

In a June 2, 2016-dated Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader Letter and a June 3, 2016-dated *Federal Register* Notice (81 FR 35876), Ms. Mary Smith, former Principal Deputy Director, IHS, announced that the IHS had initiated a 90-day comment period to request comments from Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations on the organization and structure of the Great Plains Area IHS. Additional letters and *Federal Register* Notices published on June 29, 2016, and September 16, 2016, extended this comment period until December 10, 2016. Pursuant to IHS policies on Tribal Consultation and Confering with Urban Indian Organizations, I have enclosed a report that summarizes the Consultation and Urban Confer activities and input on the organization and structure of the Great Plains Area IHS.

As part of our ongoing work to deliver quality health care to patients, and in consideration of available resources, next steps for the IHS will include further development of the Area Tribal Shares tables and scheduling of Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer activities in the near future.

The IHS looks forward to the next steps in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. James Driving Hawk, Acting Director, Great Plains Area, IHS, by e-mail at

[james.drivinghawk@ihs.gov](mailto:james.drivinghawk@ihs.gov) or by telephone at (605) 226-7581.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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

Enclosure: *Report on the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the Organization and Structure of the Great Plains Area Indian Health Service*