



MAY 08 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation to seek your input and recommendations on a draft Indian Health Service (IHS) policy to implement, outline, and define a National Community Health Aide Program (CHAP), with a 30-day comment period that closes on Friday, June 7. Amendments to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) in 2010 authorized the IHS to establish a National CHAP outside of Alaska – paving the way for an expansion of this evidence- and community-based, culturally responsive, and efficient model of health care to the continental 48 states.

Last year, I established and charged the CHAP Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) to develop a policy and implementation plan for a National CHAP based on the 2017 Tribal Consultation findings and report on a draft policy statement on creating a National CHAP. With much admiration and gratitude of the hard work and dedication of the members of the CHAP TAG, I present a copy of the draft policy for your review, input, and recommendations. To assist in your review, the enclosed draft policy includes footnotes to provide context on specific provisions of the draft policy that differ or vary from a CHAP TAG recommendation.

The IHCIA defines specific requirements of the National CHAP, including the National Certification Board, Area Certification Boards, Academic Review Committees, training standards, and Federal certification process. We intend for the draft policy to assist the IHS, Tribes, and Tribal Organizations during Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contract or compact negotiations when considering or proposing the inclusion of CHAP programs, services, functions, or activities.

At the conclusion of the comment period, I will charge the CHAP TAG to review the compiled comments and make a final policy recommendation to consider prior to making a final policy decision.

Please send your written comments and recommendations on the IHS National CHAP:

- By e-mail to: consultation@ihs.gov
- By postal mail to:

Subject Line: IHS National
CHAP Consultation

RADM Michael D. Weahkee
Principal Deputy Director
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E86
Rockville, MD 20857
ATTENTION: IHS National CHAP Consultation

Thank you for your continued partnership in assisting us to advance the mission of the IHS to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Principal Deputy Director

Enclosure: *Draft Community Health Aide Program Policy*