Dear Tribal Leader:

We are sincerely concerned by the ongoing tragedy of suicide in Indian country. We know that the consequences of suicide are devastating for our families and tribal communities. We have heard the pleas of tribal leaders for a coordinated effort, both for prevention and intervention strategies, as well as effective community responses when these events occur, particularly among our youth. This is why we all joined together on September 10, as Secretaries Sebelius and Gates announced the creation of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention with tribal youth as a priority population for focused attention.

To help us all address these challenges together, we are now preparing for a national Suicide Awareness Conference. We anticipate the conference will occur early next year and presents an opportunity for the Department of the Interior, Department of Health and Human Services and tribal leaders to develop strategies and best practices for Indian country. In order to best prepare for the conference, we will be holding a series of Listening Sessions throughout Indian country in order to gather information on the needs, concerns, programs, and practices from those of you working in American Indian and Alaska Native communities on this critical issue. Your input will shape the agenda and goals for this national conference. Our most precious resource is our people, and their safety and support is an urgent need, particularly with suicide prevention.

Please plan to join us in this effort. Representatives from the IHS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the BIA will be present at the Listening Sessions to hear your needs and concerns. The scheduled Listening Sessions are enclosed. We are committed to a vigorous, proactive federal response. This step of gathering your input and counsel about how we can best support the goals and programs of tribes for preventing suicide in our communities will be a significant one from which ongoing programs and services will continue to be developed.

Sincerely,

/Larry Echo Hawk/
Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

/Yvette Roubideaux/
Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Indian Health Service

/Pamela S. Hyde/
Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Suicide Prevent Summit – Listening Sessions
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Contacts

**Navajo Region**
Date: November 15, 2010

BIA Contact: Vivian Yazza
(505) 863-8215
Vivian.Yazza@bia.gov

**Midwest Region**
Date: November 19, 2010

BIA Contacts: Valarie Vasquez
(612) 725-4572
Valarie.Vazquez@bia.gov
Todd Kennedy
(612) 713-4400 ext. 1173
Todd.Kennedy@bia.gov

**Rocky Mountain Region**
Date: November 23, 2010

BIA Contact: Louise Reyes
(406) 247-7989
Louise.Reyes@bia.gov

**Alaska Region**
Date: November 30, 2010

BIA Contact: Gloria Gorman
(907) 586-7611
Gloria.Gorman@bia.gov

**Southwestern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regions**
Date: December 13, 2010

BIA Contact: Karinda Eden
(405) 247-1530
Karinda.Eden@bia.gov

**Pacific Region**
Date: December 21, 2010

BIA Contact: Loretta Goodwin
(916) 978-6000
Loretta.Goodwin@bia.gov
Kevin Sanders
(916) 978-6048
Kevin.Sanders@bia.gov

**Southwest Region**
Date: January 10, 2011

BIA Contact: Sandra McCook
(505) 563-3520
Sandra.McCook@bia.gov

**Northwest Region**
Date: January 12, 2011

BIA Contact: Marie Howerton
(503) 231-6796
Marie.Howerton@bia.gov
Stella Charles
(503) 736-4473
Stella.Charles@bia.gov

**Great Plains Region**
Date: December 2, 2010

BIA Contact: Denise Hart
(605) 226-7351
Denise.Hart@bia.gov

**Eastern Region**
Date: February 10, 2011

BIA Contact: Eric Wilcox
(615) 564-6712
Eric.Wilcox@bia.gov
### Suicide Prevent Summit – Listening Sessions

All Local Time: 1:00 – 5:00 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Navajo Region</strong></td>
<td>November 15, 2010</td>
<td>Navajo Nation Museum Highway 264 and Loop Road</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Window Rock, AZ 86515</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regions</strong></td>
<td>December 13, 2010</td>
<td>Embassy Suites – Meridian 1815 South Meridian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Oklahoma City, OK 73108</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midwest Region</strong></td>
<td>November 19, 2010</td>
<td>Mystic Lake Casino Hotel Wabasha Meeting Room</td>
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<td>2400 Mystic Lake Blvd. Prior Lake, MN 55372</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pacific Region</strong></td>
<td>December 21, 2010</td>
<td>Federal Building – Cottage Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rocky Mountain Region</strong></td>
<td>November 23, 2010</td>
<td>Hampton Inn and Suites 3550 Ember Lane</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Billings, MT 59102</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Southwest Region</strong></td>
<td>January 10, 2011</td>
<td>National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1011 Indian School Road, NW Albuquerque, NM 87104</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alaska Region</strong></td>
<td>November 30, 2010</td>
<td>Egan Convention Center 555 West 5th Avenue</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Anchorage, AK 99501</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Northwest Region</strong></td>
<td>January 12, 2011</td>
<td>Bureau of Indian Affairs 911 Federal Building – Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>911 NE 11th Avenue Portland, OR 97232</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Great Plains Region</strong></td>
<td>December 2, 2010</td>
<td>Best Western Ramkota Hotel &amp; Convention Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2111 N. LaCrosse Street Rapid City, SD 57701</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern Region</strong></td>
<td>February 10, 2011</td>
<td>USET Conference Marriott Crystal Gateway</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1700 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202</td>
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</tbody>
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