



OCT 31 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

On October 9, the Indian Health Service (IHS) hosted a meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, with our Tribal advisory committees, which included the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee, Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, in addition to our honored guests from the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

Like many rural health care systems, the IHS faces substantial challenges in terms of finding highly qualified clinical, administrative, and technical staff willing to serve in geographically isolated locations. This meeting explored these challenges and related issues associated with recruiting and retaining health care providers and professionals. Throughout the host-moderated strategic session and a World Café forum, Tribal advisory committee members and other participants focused on generating short- and long-term solutions for health care workforce issues.

The enclosed summary report describes the ideas and recommendations generated during the World Café. I encourage you to review the themes and ideas generated from the World Café as we develop and execute a plan of action to address workforce challenges. The IHS will continue to work through Tribal advisory committees in the near future to take the next step in turning these themes and ideas into actions. In addition, we plan to schedule a national conference call with Tribal Leaders to update you on progress to date and solicit additional input.

I look forward to your participation and engagement. If you have workforce-related questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Gyorda, Director, Office of Human Resources, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-6520 or by e-mail at [lisa.gyorda@ihs.gov](mailto:lisa.gyorda@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

/Mary Smith/

Mary Smith  
Principal Deputy Director

Enclosure