



**Issue 9-10**  
**May 26, 2010**

**IHS, HHS, Initiates Tribal  
Consultation on IHCIA and  
Affordable Care Act**

IHS and HHS are seeking input from tribal leaders on the implementation of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) and the Indian provisions of the Affordable Care Act. In a “Dear Tribal Leader” letter dated May 12, 2010, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director of the Indian Health Service, and Paul Dioguardi, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs for HHS, initiated a formal Tribal consultation as the agencies move forward with implementing the IHCIA and the Affordable Care Act.

The letter states that input from Tribal leaders is needed as the agencies review every provision in the two laws. Additionally, the consultation also seeks input on how to consult with Tribes on an ongoing basis as various provisions are implemented. Comments are due by July 1, 2010, and can be submitted by mail or by email. However, the agencies are encouraging comments be submitted as soon as possible.

The National Indian Health Board has provided information about the

consultation online. Visit [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org) to view the “Dear Tribal Leader” letter, as well as tables that include all the provisions of the IHCIA and Indian specific provisions of the Affordable Care Act and a fact sheet on health care reform.

**White House Releases Childhood  
Obesity Report**

On May 11, 2010, the White House released a report on childhood obesity. President Obama convened a task force composed of federal officials to learn what the federal government could do to address the issue of childhood obesity. The report, “Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity Within a Generation” analyzes the causes, factors and risks of childhood obesity.

The report focused its efforts around four pillars: 1) empowering parents and caregivers; 2) providing healthy food in schools; 3) improving access to healthy, affordable foods; and 4) increasing physical activity. The report also developed recommendations for early childhood actions to prevent the onset of obesity.

The report also included recommendations for the federal government to implement to decrease the rate of childhood obesity. 31.3 percent of American Indians and Alaska



Natives (AI/AN) four year olds are considered obese, making it a significant issue for Indian Country. Childhood obesity also increases the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes and heart disease at a much younger age.

During the development of the report, the National Indian Health Board provided recommendations and suggestions to ensure that it properly addressed the issue for AI/ANs.

The task force report did include several provisions specific to AI/ANs. NIHB produced a summary of all the relevant provisions. To view the full report and the NIHB summary, visit [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org).

### **Public Health Conference Held in Albuquerque**

The National Indian Health Board convened its second annual Public Health Summit in Albuquerque, NM. The event began with a training on quality improvement on May 18, with the summit running through May 20. The theme of the conference was “A New Decade of Indigenous Public Health” and hosted speakers within four pillars including: health promotion and disease prevention; behavioral health; public health preparedness and emergency response; and tribal-state relations. Informational materials from the conference are available online at [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org).

### **Congress Makes Push Ahead of Memorial Day**

Congress is scheduled to adjourn for a district work period the week of Memorial Day. However, several items are scheduled to be completed prior to

leaving Washington. The House is scheduled to consider a tax bill, as well as the National Defense Authorization. The Senate hopes to pass a tax bill, a supplemental spending bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and emergency spending for the oil spill in the Gulf Coast.

### **Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Holds Listening Session**

Senator Byron Dorgan will hold a listening session on tribal priorities for Congress on May 27, 2010 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. In 2005, the Senate Democratic Policy Committee developed an agenda for Indian Country with input from tribal leaders. Senator Dorgan is revising the document for current and future Senators, and is seeking additional input from tribal leaders. Comments can be submitted by facsimile to 202-228-2589 or by email at [comments@indian.senate.gov](mailto:comments@indian.senate.gov) or in person during two listening sessions. The second listening session will occur at the National Congress of American Indians’ mid-year conference in Rapid City, South Dakota in June.

