



JUL 30 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

As part of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) ongoing commitment to Indian Country's healthcare needs, I am pleased to announce that HRSA will be conducting a Tribal listening session at the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Consumer Meeting on September 24, 2012, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., at the Denver Sheraton in Denver, Colorado. I invite you to join me at this listening session to share your comments on HRSA's programs and their impact on the healthcare issues in Indian Country. The listening session will allow us to have an interactive exchange of ideas and information. Additionally, the listening session will allow HRSA to receive your input to help us plan for a full HRSA Tribal consultation meeting in March 2013, in conjunction with the Annual HHS Tribal Budget Consultation in Washington, D.C.

HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving access to healthcare services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. We do this through grant funding to provide healthcare to uninsured people, people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and children, homeless individuals and families, and other populations. HRSA grantees train health professionals across the nation and work to improve systems of care in rural communities.

For your review, please see the enclosed draft of the agenda. Please know that there will be ample opportunity to provide us your feedback and questions on HRSA's programs during the listening session. In addition, if you are unable to travel to Denver for the listening session, we will have a toll-free conference phone line available for your participation. By September 10, 2012, we will post the listening session conference call information on the HRSA and NIHB websites. Tribal leaders may also send comments and questions to AIANhealth@hrsa.gov before and after the listening session.

I look forward to seeing you in Denver to receive your input as we work to improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. Wakefield".

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.
Administrator

Enclosure