



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

January 11, 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

I write to invite you to the 14th Annual U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC), which will take place from March 7-9, 2012, in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, as well as to our 2012 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations hosted across the country. Please see the first attachment for the list of dates of the regional consultations.

HHS strives to continuously improve the consultation process and, in order to facilitate better communication and consultation with Tribes, we developed an improved agenda for the 2012 ATBC based on feedback we received from Tribal and federal participants. The Department understands the importance of hearing from Tribes on national crosscutting issues, regional perspectives, and Tribal-specific concerns, and the new format allows for a comprehensive session.

This letter provides you with a brief description of our consultations, information for participation in the regional sessions, and information for the planning of the ATBC. As in previous years, the Regional Tribal Consultations that take place in the field will be coordinated by the respective Regional Offices and with the Tribes in their regions. They will include one-on-one time with the Regional Director and regional leaders of other HHS agencies.

As for the ATBC session, we will once again host a Tribal Resource Day, on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, at HHS in Washington, DC. The Tribal Resource Session will give an overview of the programs, grants, and services that the Department provides to Tribes. This session is particularly helpful for newly-elected Tribal leaders or others who want a comprehensive introduction to the Department.

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., we will provide individual Tribes time for one-on-one meetings with HHS officials on health and human service issues that are specific to their individual Tribe. Officials from various HHS agencies will be available to add to the conversation. For this specific portion of the consultation we ask that you pre-register so that the meetings run smoothly and all Tribes have an opportunity to meet with HHS representatives. Please note that the amount of time that you are allotted to meet with individual HHS officials will be determined by the volume of requests. To pre-register for one-on-one meeting time, please email your request, and include the agency/agencies you would like to meet, to consultation@hhs.gov.

At 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2012, we will begin the consultation session. HHS will have a few issues on which we would like to consult with Tribes, and our intention is to have these topics identified and sent to you in the next few weeks so that you can prepare your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations.

The consultation will also provide a forum for Tribes to collectively share their views and priorities on national health and human services funding and recommendations for the Department's Fiscal Year 2014 budget request with me, my Budget Advisory Council, and other HHS officials. We hope the consultation will provide a venue for a two-way conversation between Tribal leaders and HHS officials on program issues and concerns that will lead to recommended actions and/or solutions.

In order to ensure Tribal input in the development of the ATBC, HHS will begin hosting planning calls, with the first one scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. EST. The second attachment to this letter provides a recap of last year's ATBC and provides details for this year's planning.

Please contact Stacey Ecoffey, Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at (202) 690-6060 or consultation@hhs.gov with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the consultation process. We look forward to your participation and ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kathleen Sebelius

Enclosures



Department Of Health And Human Services
2012 Regional Tribal Consultation
Dates, Locations & Contact Information

Combined Regional Session: Washington, DC

Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6

Date: February 13-14, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS Areas: Nashville Area

Regional Contact Info:

Deric Gilliard (Region IV)
Email: Deric.Gilliard@hhs.gov
Phone: 404-562-7910

Karen Jordan
Email: Karen.Jordan@hhs.gov
Phone: 404-562-7888

Region 5: Petoskey, MI

Date: February 16-17, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS Areas: Bemidji Area

Regional Contact Info:

Suzanne Krohn
Email: Suzanne.Krohn@hhs.gov
Phone: 312-353-5132

Region 9: Phoenix, AZ

Date: March 20-21, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS Areas: Phoenix and California

Regional Contact Info:

Kenneth Shapiro
Email: Kenneth.Shapiro@hhs.gov
Phone: 415-437-8501

Region 10: Seattle, WA

Date: March 29-30, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS Areas: Portland

Regional Contact Info:

Megan Heahlke
Email: Megan.Heahlke@hhs.gov
Phone: 206-615-2640

Region 8: Billings, MT

Date: April 4-5, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS Area: Billings

Regional Contact Info:

Doyle Forrestal
Email: Doyle.Forrestal@hhs.gov
Phone: 303-844-7335

Navajo: Window Rock, AZ

Date: April 24, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS Areas: Navajo

Regional Contact Info:

Doyle Forrestal
Email: Doyle.Forrestal@hhs.gov
Phone: 303-844-7335

Region 6: Albuquerque, NM

Date: April 25-26, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS: Albuquerque

Regional Contact Info:

Julia Lothrop
Email: Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov
Phone: 214-767-3190

Combined Regional Session: Oklahoma City, OK

Regions 6 & 7

Date: May 2-3, 2012

Location: TBA

IHS: Oklahoma

Regional Contact Info:

Adele Hughey (Region VII)
Email: Adele.Hugley@hhs.gov
Phone: 816-426-2824

Julia Lothrop (Region VI)
Email: Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov
Phone: 214-767-3190

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
14th ANNUAL TRIBAL BUDGET CONSULTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will host the 14th National HHS Tribal Budget Formulation and Consultation Session for Fiscal Year 2014 in March. The three-day session will include a *Tribal Resource Day on Wednesday March 7th, 2012* and the *Annual Tribal Budget Consultation Session, March 8th and March 9th, 2012* in Washington, DC. Below is a summary of the 2011 Consultation Session as well as the planning call schedule.

Summary of 13th Annual National HHS Tribal Budget Formulation and Consultation Session

At the 2011 Consultation Session, Tribal representatives provided testimony, received responses from HHS leadership regarding the budgets and policies of nine HHS agencies, and participated in a department-wide discussion on crosscutting issues.

The following crosscutting issues were identified at the 2011 session:

1. Affordable Care Act Overview.
2. State Budget Reductions Impacting Medicaid

Tribal Recommendations:

1. Behavioral Health – Tribes requested additional financial resources, service integration, and coordination across HHS.
2. Diabetes – Combating diabetes and its resultant complications remains a top health priority in Indian country.
3. Cancer – Tribes noted that limited access to cancer screenings and lack of specialized care contributes to the increasing cancer mortality rate among AIAN, at a time when cancer deaths have been declining overall across the United States.

The President's FY 2012 Budget proposes an increase in HHS funding targeted specifically toward serving the needs of American Indians and Alaskan Natives, including an increase of \$571 million, or 14 percent more than FY 2011, for the Indian Health Service. The budget also includes an increase of \$50 million at SAMHSA for a new Tribal Block Grant Program focused on behavioral health and prevention as well as increases for AI/AN programs at ACF and AoA.

Planning Conference Call Schedule

- Thursday January 19, 2012 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday January 26, 2012 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday February 2, 2012 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday February 9, 2012 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday February 16, 2012 @ 3:00 PM EST

Conference Call Number (for every call)

Call in #: 866-421-8841

Pass Code: 6999396

Deadline for Testimony Submission:

Please have a copy of your testimony submitted to the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs no later than **Thursday, February 23, 2012**. Please note that if you do not meet the submission deadline, we will accept the testimony, but you will need to bring 200 copies to the session for distribution. The consultation record will remain open for 30 days after the formal face-to-face consultation session wherein additional testimony will also be accepted.