

National Indian Health Board



Overview of NIHB's 2010 Public Health Summit

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is proud to announce the success of the 2nd Annual NIHB Public Health Summit ***“2010: A New Decade in Indigenous Public Health”*** held on May 18-20, 2010 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over 200 participants attended the event and received expert public health information from over 20 speakers and purchased one-of-a kind Native arts and crafts from 18 vendors and exhibitors. This Summit brought together Tribal leaders, federal representatives, and public health professionals from across Indian Country. Attendees were able to hear from a wide variety of programs going on in Indian Country that provide the resources and tools to promote prevention in various areas of public health, support tribal community-based research, and build public health capacity, all of which help reduce the disease burden of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

In addition to continuing in the advancement of NIHB's overall mission to eliminate health disparities in Indian Country, the NIHB also tried a new full day plenary style structure and green-friendly, paperless agenda book for this year's Summit. The plenary style format was different, providing “Pillars” instead of Tracks or Breakout Sessions as the guide for the public health topics discussed, where all presentations were held in the same Main Conference room. As a part of the green-friendly Summit, all attendees were given flash drives containing the electronic agenda, presentations, handouts, and associated documents instead of printed hard copies. The NIHB found this to be a successful and healthy progression in the way conferences are held and it was a process that was well received by the attendees.

The NIHB Public Health Summit featured distinguished Keynote Speakers including Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Dr. Marcia Brand and Dr. Judith Monroe from various federal agencies.

The Director of the Indian Health Services (IHS), Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, provided attendees with an update on the IHS services and how IHS is working toward 1) renewing and strengthening their partnership with tribes; 2) bringing reform to IHS, in the context of health care reform; 3) improving the quality of and access to care; and 3) making IHS work accountable, transparent, fair and inclusive.

Dr. Marcia Brand, Deputy Administrator of the Health Resources & Services Administration, provided information on the resources available at HRSA and their current activities including: Re-establishing their workgroup to look at various ways to strengthen their support of Tribal and urban Indian populations; Increasing their communication with IHS and NIHB; HRSA's Tribal web-page that will be going live soon; The co-signed Dear Tribal Leader and Dear Title V Program Leader letters with IHS. Dr. Brand stressed that HRSA to continuing their work with Tribes and exploring new and better ways of engaging with Tribal communities.

Dr. Judith Monroe, Deputy Director of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS), provided attendees with an overview of the new CDC office and how the Tribes will be directly involved with this new arm of CDC.

Following the Keynote Speakers, the attendees were introduced to the Pillar 1 of the Summit focused on **Health Promotion/Disease Prevention**. This Pillar featured presentations from:

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Heart, Lung and Blood Institute on the “WE CAN! (Ways to Enhance Children’s Activity & Nutrition)” program.
- The Alaska Native Tribal Consortium on palliative care and their Men’s Cancer Survivorship Retreat in Alaska.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on HIV/AIDS awareness and methamphetamine use.
- The American Indians for HIV Prevention on their Strengthening the Circle program to integrate tradition into practice.
- The CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control on effective strategies to reduce motor vehicle injuries among American Indian Tribes.
- The IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention on the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and how the data collected from grantees matters.

Pillar 2 of the Summit focused on **Behavioral Health** and featured presentations from:

- JBS International, Inc. on the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI).
- The Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) on the Indian Country Methamphetamine Initiative (ICMI).
- Native Pride on their Native H.O.P.E. Program, a culture-based peer counseling program for Native youth.
- The Coalition for Health & Resilient Youth, Inc. on their Project TRUST that promotes mental health throughout all age groups.

Pillar 3 of the Summit focused on **Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response** and featured presentations from:

- The Oklahoma City Indian Clinic on response and planning for community outreach and education for Novel *H1N1 A* Influenza in Urban Indian settings.
- The Gila River Health Care on their use of incident command structure for *H1N1* immunization.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures initiative.

Pillar 4 of the Summit focused on **Tribal-State Relations** and featured presentations from:

- The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin on the work of the Department of Health & Human Services Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC).
- The Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC) on the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey.
- The Teen Life Center of the Native Area IHS on the Multi-Agency Collaboration: School Health Assessment of BIE Schools in New Mexico.
- The NIH on the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act.

Additionally, throughout the Summit attendees were provided public health statistics, given program updates, and encouraged to become more engaged in activities. The Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Epidemiology Center provided quick, epidemiologic information on public health issues effecting Indian Country today as well as background on the Tribal Epidemiology Centers. The IHS featured Physical Activity Breaks based on the exercises included in the IHS Physical Activity Kit (PAK). A short video from Kaye Bender, CEO of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), was shown where she discussed how the public health accreditation process works and how it will impact the Tribal Public Health Accreditation (TPHA) process.

Thanks to all the speakers, exhibitors, vendors and participants for attending the 2nd Annual NIHB Public Health Summit!

**Please join us next year for the
3rd Annual Public Health Summit!**