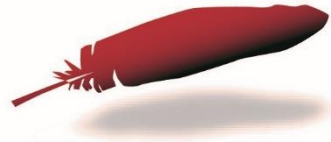


National Indian
Health Board



*Fostering State- Tribal Relations for
Increased Public Health Capacity*

Carolyn Angus-Hornbuckle
National Indian health Board

February 2018

The National Indian Health Board

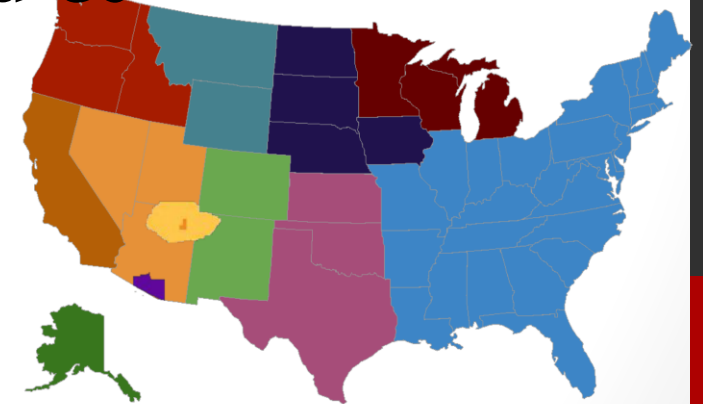
Purpose: To advocate on behalf of all federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to ensure the fulfillment of the trust responsibility to deliver health and public health services as assured through treaties, and reaffirmed in legislation, executive orders and Supreme Court cases.

Mission Statement: One Voice affirming and empowering American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples to protect and improve health and reduce health disparities.



The National Indian Health Board

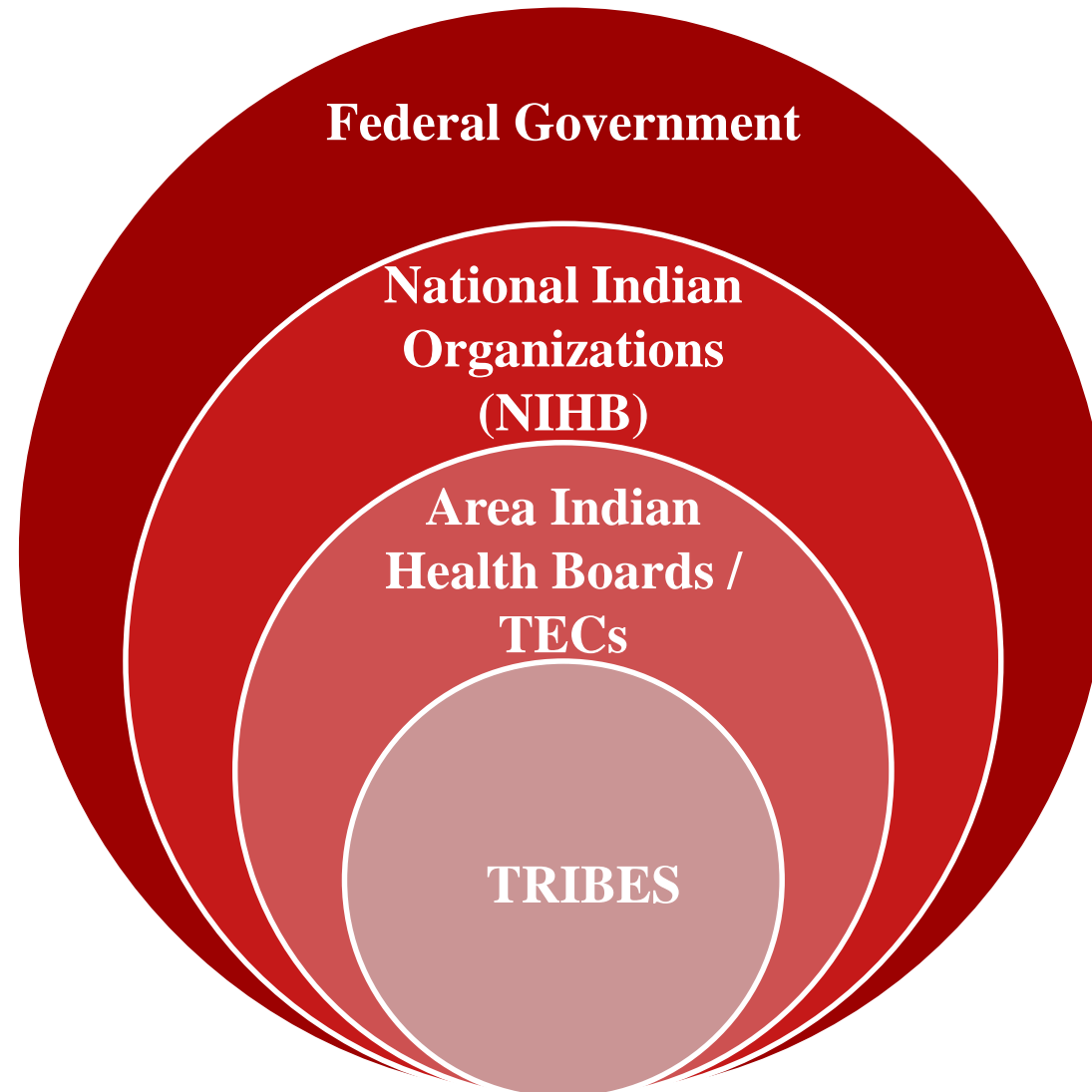
- Serves and advocates on behalf of **573** federally recognized Tribes and ~ **300** Tribal Health Departments
- Works with Area Indian Health Board & Regional Organizations to better serve all federally recognized Tribes



Public Health in Indian Country

Roles

- State and county health departments- role and involvement in Tribal public health varies



Roles

- IHS and Tribes- primary health care provider
- Tribes - deliver public health services / 1st responders
- Other federal government agencies have a trust responsibility to Tribes
- National & Regional Tribal Orgs- support Tribes to build capacity, assist with surveillance



Reasons to foster State – Tribal Relations

Common interests

- Responsibility to deliver PH services and ensure health of citizens

Similar status

- Authority to exercise police powers, which encompass public health authorities

Leveraging Resources

- Avoid duplication of services; ensure tailored responses that will work in communities



Compelling Reasons for Tribes to Engage with States

Sovereignty

- Tribes can negotiate with states to provide services and determine appropriate programs

Input

- Increase decision making in planning and implementation of programs that will serve AI/AN people

Jurisdiction

- Complicated and confusing jurisdictional issues can be defined and negotiated before a crisis



Compelling Reasons for States to Engage with Tribes

Duty

- Tribal citizens are entitled to the rights and benefits of state (and federal) citizens

Increased reach

- Working with Tribal Governments will improve ability of the state to get resources to hard- to- reach, rural, Tribal areas

Increased efficacy

- Tribes can design and administer programs that are culturally tailored and appropriate



Persistent Barriers

- Lack of understanding that Tribes are governments with authority and responsibility for Tribal citizens
- Lack of understanding regarding Tribal capacities (which can vary greatly, and rely on funding support)
- Complicated, sometimes unclear jurisdictions

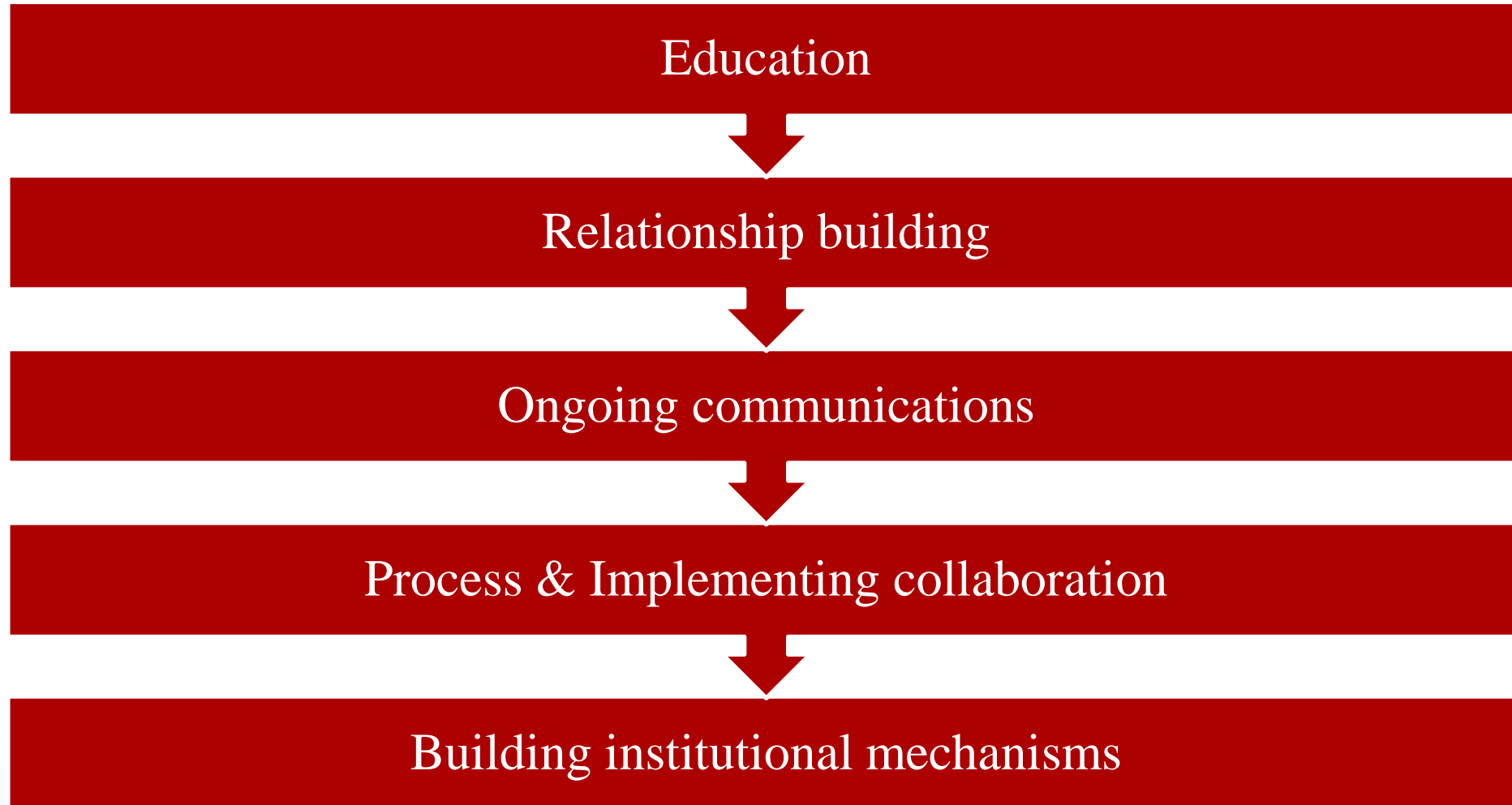


Persistent Barriers

- Lack of trust (sometimes troubled history between the stakeholders)
- Relationships between state and Tribal leaders and staff can be lacking or adversarial
- Tribes may be reluctant to engage with states because of fear it will diminish government – to- government relationship with the federal government



Strategies to Foster Partnerships



Education

- Tribes are sovereign governments and have inherent public health authority
- States have multi-layered state bureaucracy (information that can be used to navigate that bureaucracy can help)
- States need to learn about the assets, gaps, needs and priorities of Tribes (by meeting people where they, many of these aspects can be understood)
- Many differences and variations in Tribal Nations and communities



Relationship Building

- Recognizing the need to overcome mistrust and troubled histories
- Relationships need to be built before a crisis occurs
- Need for in-person meetings, especially when forming relationships
- Need to commit adequate staffing and resources (and recognize that turnover may be an issue)
- Need for internal coordination at the Tribe and state



Communications

- Need to communicate regularly for situational awareness
- Need for ongoing and dedicated forums that can foster information sharing
- Sharing information about resources available will ensure the resources flow to all
- Tribes can provide unique perspectives and solutions
- Tribes are in the best position to share information with their citizens
- Other Tribal Organizations can assist in the flow of information to Tribes
- Dear Tribal leader letters



Process

- Planning should always include Tribes (ensure meaningful engagement with Tribes before programs are developed)
- Track activities and commitments
- Conduct regular review and assessment of policies and programs related to state-tribal relations and provision of services
- Gather recommendations for improvement
- Implementing – have understanding and agreement of how work will flow, triggering events, responsibilities, etc.



Building Institutional Mechanisms

- Creates certainty, stability and sustainability, especially in times of political transition
- Authorizing legislation (and appropriations) to allow for:
 - agreements between states, their operating divisions, and Tribes (contracts, MOUs, or MOA)
 - Committees or commissions or offices to carry out state-tribal affairs
 - Consultation



Building Institutional Mechanisms

- Other Policy and Practice
 - Tribal liaison positions
 - Protocols for regular engagement – Annual or Bi-Annual Summits
 - Regular trainings for state staff
 - State recognition /partnership events (recognizing and affirming Tribal governments and partnerships)
 - Tribal impact analysis for policies and programs



Questions?





Thank you!

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