



Dear Tribal Leader:

I write to inform you of a vacancy on the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) and to solicit your recommendation for a new leader to serve on this committee as the *alternate* delegate from the Bemidji Area of the Indian Health Service (IHS).

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee was established last year by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in an effort to create a coordinated, department-wide strategy to incorporate tribal guidance on HHS priorities, policies and budget. The STAC's tribal representation is comprised of seventeen positions: one delegate (and one alternate) from each of the twelve Indian Health Service (IHS) areas and one delegate (and one alternate) for five National At-Large Tribal Member (NALM) positions. By working closely with tribal leadership in this committee, the Department seeks to bring a new level of attention to the government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes and develop mechanisms for continuous improvement of our partnerships with tribes.

Four meetings of the STAC have been held to date. Tribal STAC members, senior leadership from the Department, and Secretary Sebelius, together, have been helpful in focusing our collective efforts on two priorities - tribal access to resources and tribal-state relations.

A vacancy has recently opened up for the *alternate* delegate from the Bemidji Area. The delegate position continues to be held by Cathy Abramson, Tribal Council Representative, Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Sault Ste Marie, MI. I am writing to request your support in nominating a new candidate for the position of *alternate* delegate from the Bemidji Area of the Indian Health Service.

All nominees must either be elected or appointed tribal officials, acting in their official capacity as elected officials of their tribes, or be designated by an elected tribal official with authority to act on behalf of the tribal official. Nominations *must be* made by an elected or appointed official from a federally recognized tribe, acting in his or her official capacity. HHS will support the travel of the primary representative to attend in-person meetings of the STAC or, if the primary delegate cannot attend, will pay for the alternate's travel. We encourage you to submit your nomination letter, no later than December 1, 2011 to:

Paul Dioguardi, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 620-E
Washington, DC 20201
Fax: (202)205-2727
E-mail: STAC@hhs.gov

We will make the selection and notify the individual by December 16, 2011. Thank you for your continued hard work and support of our efforts to build healthier communities. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Stacey Ecoffey, Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at Stacey.Ecoffey@hhs.gov or by phone at (202)690-6060.

Sincerely,

Sally Howard
Chief of Staff

Paul Dioguardi, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs