

Tribal Technical Advisory Group

To the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

c/o National Indian Health Board 910 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003 (202) 507-4070 (202) 507-4071 fax

February 12, 2021

Mr. Robert DeConti,
Assistant Inspector General for Legal Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Inspector General
330 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: OIG-128-N

Dr. Mr. DeConti,

On behalf of the CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG), I write to you to request additional time for TTAG to prepare its Safe Harbor proposals. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initially set the deadline for these proposals as February 16, 2021. However, due to competing priorities, this has proven difficult to meet. Many of our TTAG delegates have had to prioritize COVID-19 prevention, response, and vaccination. As I am sure you know, the Indian health care system has been hit disproportionately hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and this has caused many Tribes to divert resources towards fighting it. We appreciate the seriousness of this issue and want to ensure that we have adequate time to submit thoughtful proposals.

The TTAG has been very engaged on this issue and wants to ensure that we are able to submit proposals that encourage a dialogue between OIG and TTAG. We believe that an extension would allow us to engage in dialogue that is thoughtful, engaging, and most importantly, thorough. The TTAG has engaged with OIG on this issue on numerous occasions and we look forward to continued dialogue.

Therefore, we hope OIG will honor our request for an additional 45 calendar days (April 2, 2021) to prepare our proposal.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns, and I look forward to our continued conversations in the future.

Sincerely,



W. Ron Allen, Chair/CEO – Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Chair, CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group