



DEC 11 2018

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to update you on the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the mechanism to distribute behavioral health initiative funding. The enclosure provides a summary of all comments received.

By letter dated May 18, 2018, I initiated Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the mechanism to distribute behavioral health initiative funding that is currently distributed through grants. At the request of Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations, I extended the comment period through August 17, 2018, to provide additional time for comments. I want to thank all of the Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations for your input and comments.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health (NTAC) met on October 25-26 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to review comments and formulate recommendations based on your Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer input and comments. During the meeting, the IHS provided an overview of the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer process to date, including an analysis of the comments received on various topics. To help NTAC members better understand the considerations involved in changing from grant funding to contracts or compacts authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), NTAC members requested additional information from the IHS. Their information requests related to data, funding formulas, and a comparison chart of funding mechanism options.

The NTAC is scheduled to meet again on December 20-21 at the Albuquerque Area IHS located at 4141 Indian School Road NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico, to continue discussing the funding mechanism to distribute behavioral health initiatives. Following this meeting, the NTAC will formally present their recommendations to me for my review and consideration.

Access to the summary report and information on behavioral health initiative funding is available on the IHS Division of Behavioral Health Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Web site at <https://www.ihs.gov/dbh/consultationandconfer/>. If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Miranda Carman, Acting Director, Division of Behavioral Health, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-2038 or by e-mail at miranda.carman@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Principal Deputy Director

Enclosure: Summary of Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Comments on the Behavioral Health Initiative Funding