



MAY 25 2005

Dear Tribal Leaders and Behavioral Health Coordinators:

The Indian Health Service (IHS), the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) invite you to attend the third annual IHS/SAMHSA Behavioral Health Conference on Alcohol, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health to be held June 27-30, 2005, in San Diego, California. This conference, titled "Weaving Visions for a Healthy Future," will be held in conjunction with the annual IHS Behavioral Health Conference. A copy of the flyer containing details on the joint conference is enclosed for your information.

The focus of this national conference is to provide the IHS, Tribal, Urban Indian health, and State alcohol and substance abuse treatment, prevention, and mental health officials with the opportunity to coordinate responses to the challenges facing American Indian and Alaska Native behavioral health programs. The sharing and exchange of innovative approaches and interventions for alcohol, substance abuse, and mental health problems will be highlighted during the conference. It is my hope that by working together, new strategies and partnerships will emerge to address these common behavioral health issues.

The conference will also highlight the current challenges facing our communities, such as the rise in the use of methamphetamines and the misuse of prescription narcotics. One important goal is to bring Tribal, Urban Indian, Federal, and State programs together so that our communities can better access potential resources. I am pleased that CSAT, CSAP, and CMHS have committed to ensure the participation of State prevention and treatment officials from each of the 35 reservation States.

I look forward to your participation in this important conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Charles W. Grim, DDS".

Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Director

Enclosure