



MAY 12 2003

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Tribal Leaders and Community Alcohol Directors:

The Indian Health Service (IHS), in cooperation with the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), invites you to attend a national meeting, "Building Partnerships To Meet Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Challenges in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities," June 25-26, 2003, in San Diego, California. Please review the enclosed flyer regarding the meeting.

This meeting will provide American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes, Tribal alcohol program staff, urban Indian health alcohol program personnel, and State alcohol and substance abuse officials the opportunity to coordinate responses to the challenges facing AI/AN alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention. It is my hope that by working together, new strategies and partnerships will emerge.

The meeting will highlight the current challenges facing our communities, such as the rise in the use of methamphetamines and the misuse of prescription narcotics. We also seek to bring potential Federal, State, and private-sector funding sources together so that our communities can better access their resources. I am pleased that both CSAT and CSAP have committed to ensure the participation of State prevention and treatment officials from each of the 35 reservation States.

Please consider participating in this opportunity to address difficult issues in the framework of partnership and collaboration.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure