

**SEP 29 2006**

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have established Strategic Imperatives and Health Protection Goals to guide its work in ways that will address both on-going public health needs as well as emerging challenges to health and safety. Recently, CDC staff developed a set of draft starter objectives for these goals that are intended to positively impact health. CDC knows that achieving these goals and objectives will require the work and collaboration of many partners including tribal governments. CDC, therefore, is hosting, in collaboration with the Partners for Prevention and the Keystone Center, a series of partner and public engagements to gain input on what people and communities across the country view as most urgent and important to achieve health impact.

We are pleased that the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) has offered CDC the opportunity to engage tribal leaders and community members about these objectives on Friday, October 13, from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. as part of the NIHB Annual Consumer's Conference in Denver, Colorado. The session will begin with presentations from CDC leaders on several topics related to CDC's partnerships with Indian Country. This will be followed by in-depth listening and exchange of ideas with you about the proposed goals' criteria and objectives. The draft criteria and starter list of objectives can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/osi/goals/workshopPartners.html. We hope you will plan to participate in this meeting so that we may gain your insights into these criteria and objectives.

CDC is committed to achieving true improvements in people's health and eliminating health disparities throughout the nation, and we look forward to working with you to develop strategies and implement plans to improve public health in Indian Country.

If you have any questions about the public engagement meeting outlined above or about CDC's Health Protection Goals, please contact CAPT Pelagie ("Mike") Snesrud, R.N., Senior Tribal Liaison for Policy and Evaluation, at pws8@cdc.gov or (404) 498-2343.

Sincerely,



Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention, and
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry