



JUL 13 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to update you on the progress of our ongoing Tribal consultation related to the Indian Health Service (IHS) Office of Information Technology (OIT) programs, services, functions, and activities (PSFAs) and to request your comments on the enclosed plan.

In a letter to Tribal Leaders dated August 16, 2010, I provided background on this subject, explained the need for additional consultation, and requested written comments and participation in Area-based listening sessions. Written comments were submitted by Tribes and additional input was provided during listening sessions that were held in each Area from March through August of 2011. Additional background is available at www.ihs.gov/tribalshares. Consistent with my instructions, the Information Systems Advisory Committee (ISAC) has reviewed the information submitted by Tribes and worked with OIT staff to develop a draft plan for moving forward.

I have reviewed the draft plan and am grateful for the practical approach recommended by the ISAC and the thoughtful contributions by you and other Tribal staff. The enclosed plan incorporates and builds on recommendations from the IHS/Tribal/Urban Information Technology (IT) Shares Workgroup described in my August 16, 2010 letter.

As you can see, the plan covers almost every aspect of OIT operations and calls for extensive collaboration by Tribal, Federal, and Urban Indian health program staff. Successful implementation should result in a much more transparent OIT program and budget, increased Tribal communication and collaboration with the OIT, and improved information technology services for all of Indian Country.

I encourage you and your staff to thoroughly review the plan and to provide any comments to me within 60 days. Comments may be sent by e-mail to consultation@ihs.gov with **OIT Tribal Shares** in the subject line or by postal mail to the following address: Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Director, IHS, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 440, Rockville, Maryland, 20852. Your feedback will help guide me in determining next steps in this consultation process.

Thank you for your continued interest and ongoing support in furthering our development of the services available through the OIT.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosures: ISAC Memo and Draft OIT Tribal Shares Improvement Plan