



NOV 12 2010



Dear Tribal Leader:

We are sincerely concerned by the ongoing tragedy of suicide in Indian country. We know that the consequences of suicide are devastating for our families and tribal communities. We have heard the pleas of tribal leaders for a coordinated effort, both for prevention and intervention strategies, as well as effective community responses when these events occur, particularly among our youth. This is why we all joined together on September 10, as Secretaries Sebelius and Gates announced the creation of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention with tribal youth as a priority population for focused attention.

To help us all address these challenges together, we are now preparing for a national Suicide Awareness Conference. We anticipate the conference will occur early next year and presents an opportunity for the Department of the Interior, Department of Health and Human Services and tribal leaders to develop strategies and best practices for Indian country. In order to best prepare for the conference, we will be holding a series of Listening Sessions throughout Indian country in order to gather information on the needs, concerns, programs, and practices from those of you working in American Indian and Alaska Native communities on this critical issue. Your input will shape the agenda and goals for this national conference. Our most precious resource is our people, and their safety and support is an urgent need, particularly with suicide prevention.

Please plan to join us in this effort. Representatives from the IHS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the BIA will be present at the Listening Sessions to hear your needs and concerns. The scheduled Listening Sessions are enclosed. We are committed to a vigorous, proactive federal response. This step of gathering your input and counsel about how we can best support the goals and programs of tribes for preventing suicide in our communities will be a significant one from which ongoing programs and services will continue to be developed.

Sincerely,

/Larry Echo Hawk/  
Larry Echo Hawk  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

/Yvette Roubideaux/  
Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director  
Indian Health Service

/Pamela S. Hyde/  
Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.  
Administrator  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**Suicide Prevent Summit – Listening Sessions**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Contacts

**Navajo Region**

Date: November 15, 2010

BIA Contact: Vivian Yazza  
(505) 863-8215  
[Vivian.Yazza@bia.gov](mailto:Vivian.Yazza@bia.gov)

**Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regions**

Date: December 13, 2010

BIA Contact: Karinda Eden  
(405) 247-1530  
[Karinda.Eden@bia.gov](mailto:Karinda.Eden@bia.gov)

**Midwest Region**

Date: November 19, 2010

BIA Contacts: Valarie Vasquez  
(612) 725-4572  
[Valarie.Vasquez@bia.gov](mailto:Valarie.Vasquez@bia.gov)  
Todd Kennedy  
(612) 713-4400 ext. 1173  
[Todd.Kennedy@bia.gov](mailto:Todd.Kennedy@bia.gov)

**Pacific Region**

Date: December 21, 2010

BIA Contact: Loretta Goodwin  
(916) 978-6000  
[Loretta.Goodwin@bia.gov](mailto:Loretta.Goodwin@bia.gov)  
Kevin Sanders  
(916) 978-6048  
[Kevin.Sanders@bia.gov](mailto:Kevin.Sanders@bia.gov)

**Rocky Mountain Region**

Date: November 23, 2010

BIA Contact: Louise Reyes  
(406) 247-7989  
[Louise.Reyes@bia.gov](mailto:Louise.Reyes@bia.gov)

**Southwest Region**

Date: January 10, 2011

BIA Contact: Sandra McCook  
(505) 563-3520  
[Sandra.McCook@bia.gov](mailto:Sandra.McCook@bia.gov)

**Alaska Region**

Date: November 30, 2010

BIA Contact: Gloria Gorman  
(907) 586-7611  
[Gloria.Gorman@bia.gov](mailto:Gloria.Gorman@bia.gov)

**Northwest Region**

Date: January 12, 2011

BIA Contact: Marie Howerton  
(503) 231-6796  
[Marie.Howerton@bia.gov](mailto:Marie.Howerton@bia.gov)  
Stella Charles  
(503) 736-4473  
[Stella.Charles@bia.gov](mailto:Stella.Charles@bia.gov)

**Great Plains Region**

Date: December 2, 2010

BIA Contact: Denise Hart  
(605) 226-7351  
[Denise.Hart@bia.gov](mailto:Denise.Hart@bia.gov)

**Eastern Region**

Date: February 10, 2011

BIA Contact: Eric Wilcox  
(615) 564-6712  
[Eric.Wilcox@bia.gov](mailto:Eric.Wilcox@bia.gov)

## **Suicide Prevent Summit – Listening Sessions**

All Local Time: 1:00 – 5:00 pm

### **Navajo Region**

Date: November 15, 2010

Location: Navajo Nation Museum  
Highway 264 and Loop Road  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

### **Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regions**

Date: December 13, 2010

Location: Embassy Suites – Meridian  
1815 South Meridian  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108

### **Midwest Region**

Date: November 19, 2010

Location: Mystic Lake Casino Hotel  
Wabasha Meeting Room  
2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

### **Pacific Region**

Date: December 21, 2010

Location: Federal Building – Cottage  
Conference Room  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

### **Rocky Mountain Region**

Date: November 23, 2010

Location: Hampton Inn and Suites  
3550 Ember Lane  
Billings, MT 59102

### **Southwest Region**

Date: January 10, 2011

Location: National Indian Programs  
Training Center (NIPTC)  
1011 Indian School Road, NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

### **Alaska Region**

Date: November 30, 2010

Location: Egan Convention Center  
555 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

### **Northwest Region**

Date: January 12, 2011

Location: Bureau of Indian Affairs  
911 Federal Building – Auditorium  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

### **Great Plains Region**

Date: December 2, 2010

Location: Best Western Ramkota Hotel  
& Convention Center  
2111 N. LaCrosse Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

### **Eastern Region**

Date: February 10, 2011

Location: USET Conference  
Marriott Crystal Gateway  
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202