

May 4, 2012

Dear Tribal Leader,

This letter is to inform you that the Administration is working diligently to implement the various provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA), which was signed into law by President Obama on July 29, 2010. One provision of TLOA provides that Federally Recognized Tribes may establish a Tribal Action Plan (TAP) to coordinate available resources and programs to prevent and treat alcohol and drug abuse among Tribal members.

As part of our efforts to assist Tribes in developing their TAP, we have developed guidelines that can be found at www.samhsa.gov/tloa. The TAP Guidelines were created by a workgroup of the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee. The TAP Guidelines include sample model frameworks that Tribes can use as models for their TAPs, a sample Tribal resolution, and examples of resources and technical assistance provided by the Federal partners.

According to the law, if a Federally Recognized Tribe does not adopt a TAP, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), where appropriate, and the Indian Health Service (IHS) serving such Tribe(s) are required to enter into an agreement to identify and coordinate relevant available programs and resources that may be of assistance to the Tribe.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OIASA) will be able to assist interested Tribes in identifying technical assistance resources from other Federal partner agencies that can assist Tribes developing their TAPs. Other Federal agencies include the Office of Justice Programs, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, among others.

Finally, Tribes are encouraged to send their official Tribal TAP Resolutions to SAMHSA's Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse at the address below. The Office will, in turn,

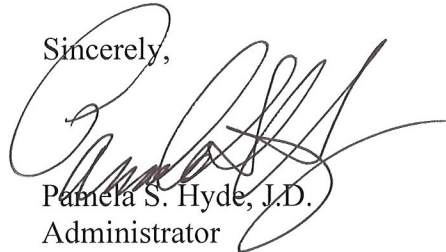
coordinate with the appropriate interdepartmental coordinating workgroups on your respective TAPs.

For more information on SAMHSA's OIASA activities, information, and resources available, please visit the Web site at www.samhsa.gov/tloa, or contact:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
1 Choke Cherry Road, Room # 4-1059
Rockville, MD 20857
Office: (240) 276-2400
E-mail: IASA@samhsa.hhs.gov

We encourage you to contact your local IHS Service Unit Director or your local BIE or BIA Agency Superintendents if you have any questions regarding TAP resources for your Tribe. All of the TLOA Federal partners look forward to working with Tribes to improve the prevention, intervention, and treatment of alcohol and drug abuse in Indian Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela S. Hyde', is written over a circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Administrator