



AUG 2 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to request your input on **how to improve the promotion of and access to Traditional Health Care Practices within the Indian Health Service (IHS).**

In 1994, the IHS Director, Dr. Michael Trujillo, issued a Special General Memorandum with a Statement of Policy for the IHS Traditional Cultural Advocacy Program and referenced IHS policy that was issued by IHS Director Dr. Emery Johnson. I have attached these documents for your reference. These documents have helped to guide all IHS facilities and their staff over the years and some IHS and Tribal facilities have developed local policies and programs to promote Traditional Health Care Practices. In my meetings with Tribal leaders, I hear often that Tribes would like to discuss this topic and make further recommendations.

I am requesting your input and recommendations on how the IHS should continue to support and promote access to Traditional Health Care Practices within the IHS. I have listed some questions for your consideration below and look forward to discussing this important subject with you.

1. How should the IHS improve the promotion of and access to Traditional Health Care Practices in the work of the Agency?
2. What should the IHS consider as it updates its national and local policies on Traditional Health Care Practices?
3. Do you know of any innovative strategies or best practices in Traditional Health Care Practices in partnership with IHS or Tribal facilities? Please share any information you have on these best practices and how they inform our future work.
4. What innovative strategies can you suggest for assuring culturally-appropriate facilities and spaces are available in which to provide Traditional Health Care Practices?

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Please submit your Traditional Health Care Practices recommendations in writing to me by September 30, 2012, at either of the following addresses:

By e-mail to consultation@ihs.gov, or by postal mail to Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Director, IHS, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 440, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Thank you for your input on Traditional Health Care Practices.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

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

Enclosure