



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The rising number of opioid use disorders and deaths is a serious nationwide public health crisis that disproportionately affects American Indian and Alaska Native individuals, families, and communities. Addressing the opioid crisis is one of the top priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and HHS is committed to using its full expertise and resources to combat the epidemic.

In accordance with the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) are announcing a ***Joint Tribal Consultation and Listening Session on the Opioid Epidemic***. We encourage you to participate in this special event, which will be convened on May 21-22, 2018, preceding the National Indian Health Board's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit in Prior Lake, Minnesota. For additional information, please visit the event website, available at the following link:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2018-national-tribal-public-health-summit/agenda-aa505ecade034327994093068dd43bc1.aspx>. A copy of the agenda is enclosed.

This multi-agency consultation is a direct response to a NIH Tribal Advisory Committee recommendation to explore and discuss ways HHS agencies can work together to combat the opioid epidemic, alcohol, and other substance abuse challenges in Indian Country. This unprecedented event will facilitate information exchange and provide an opportunity for Tribal and Urban Indian Organization leadership to have meaningful input as our agencies develop priorities and collaborative strategies to address the opioid crisis.

We look forward to participating, listening, and learning from each of you. If you have additional questions about this event, please contact Dave Wilson, Ph.D., Director, Tribal Health Research Office, NIH, by telephone at (301) 402-9852 or by e-mail at [dave.wilson2@nih.gov](mailto:dave.wilson2@nih.gov).

Sincerely,

/Francis S. Collins/

Francis S. Collins, M.D.,  
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Enclosure:

*Agenda--Joint Consultation and Listening Session on the Opioid Epidemic*