

# Highlights of Tribal Activities at NIH

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# Topics

- TCAC Members' Expiring Terms, New Nominations
- Tribal Health Research Office Director
- Upcoming Consultations
- NIH-wide American Indian/Alaska Native Strategic Research Plan
- New Initiatives

# TCAC Membership

- Thank you to all TCAC delegates, alternates, and technical advisors for serving on the committee.
- The inaugural year calls for a 1-year term for ½ of the members and a 2-year term for the rest.
- The departing TCAC colleagues are:

Area	Delegate	Alternate	Technical Advisor
Billings Area	L. Jace Killsback	--	--
California Area	Mark Romero	Russell Attebery	--
Navajo Area	Walter Phelps (renominated)	Jonathan L. Hale	Ramona Antone Nez
Oklahoma Area	Liana Onnen	--	Jason Hale
NALM	Bruce Pratt	--	Tom Anderson
NALM	---	Alison Ball	Lisa Rey Thomas
NALM	Kathy Goodwin	--	--

# TCAC Membership

- Nominations were due on Aug. 26 and received by Navajo Nation, Oklahoma Area, and one NALM.
- NIH will announce the new members by September 28.
- Vacancies still exist in the following areas:

Area	Delegate	Alternate	Technical Advisor
Albuquerque Area			
Billings Area			
California Area			
Oklahoma Area	Nomination received		
Phoenix Area			
NALM	1 Nomination received; 2 vacancies	3 vacancies	3 vacancies

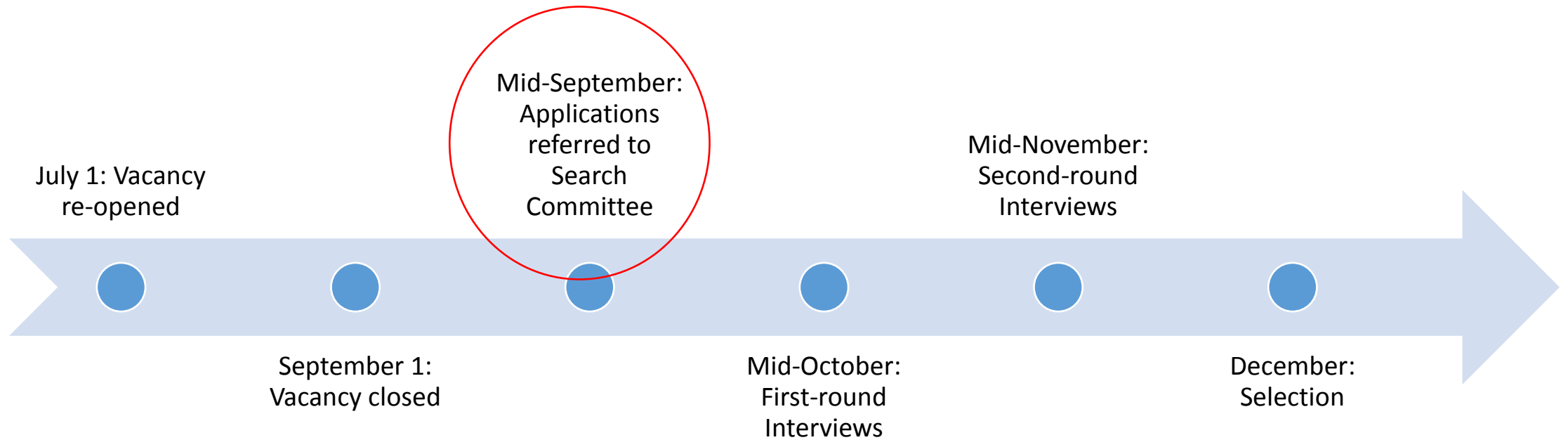
Thank you to TCAC members  
who are rotating off the  
committee

# Tribal Health Research Office Director

- The new Tribal Health Research Office (THRO) is the NIH focal point for establishing agency-wide policies and goals in tribal health research
  - Coordinates the activities undertaken in the performance of this research
  - Provides advice and staff support to the NIH
- The THRO Director must:
  - Possess an extensive, professional scientific background that is normally obtained by meeting the requirements of a Ph.D., followed by post-doctoral research.
  - Be respected within their profession, both nationally and internationally.
  - Engage AI/AN communities, seeking their input into the ongoing work of the office.
  - Have knowledge of appropriate strategies for conducting tribal health research, fostering community engagement, and partnering with tribes and tribal organizations.

# Tribal Health Research Office Director

- NIH established a search committee to aid in the selection of a THRO Director.
- A TCAC Delegate is a member of the committee.



# Upcoming Annual Consultation

- To be held in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians on October 9 in Phoenix from 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- NIH will be sending a Dear Tribal Leader Letter with the details
- Agenda topics were prioritized by the TCAC, and two of the top ranked ones were:
  - Environmental Health
  - Mental Health



# Annual Consultation

## **Environmental Health - Examples**

- Routes of Exposure
- Toxic Chemicals and Heavy Metals
- Climate Change

## **Mental Health - Examples**

- Historical Grief
- Resilience
- Health Promotion

# Consultation on Human Subjects Protections

- Requested during the March 2016 STAC meeting
- Possible topics
  - NIH's implementation of the Common Rule and relevant subparts
  - A brief overview on what is involved with studying human subjects from NIH's perspective, particularly an emphasis on protecting vulnerable populations
  - Research design and IRB approval
  - Considerations on how researchers should explore specific areas of tradition and culture appropriately when studying Indian Country.
  - NIH guidance or points to consider on the involvement of tribes in research design
- Planned for the fall 2016

# Possible Additional Suggestion

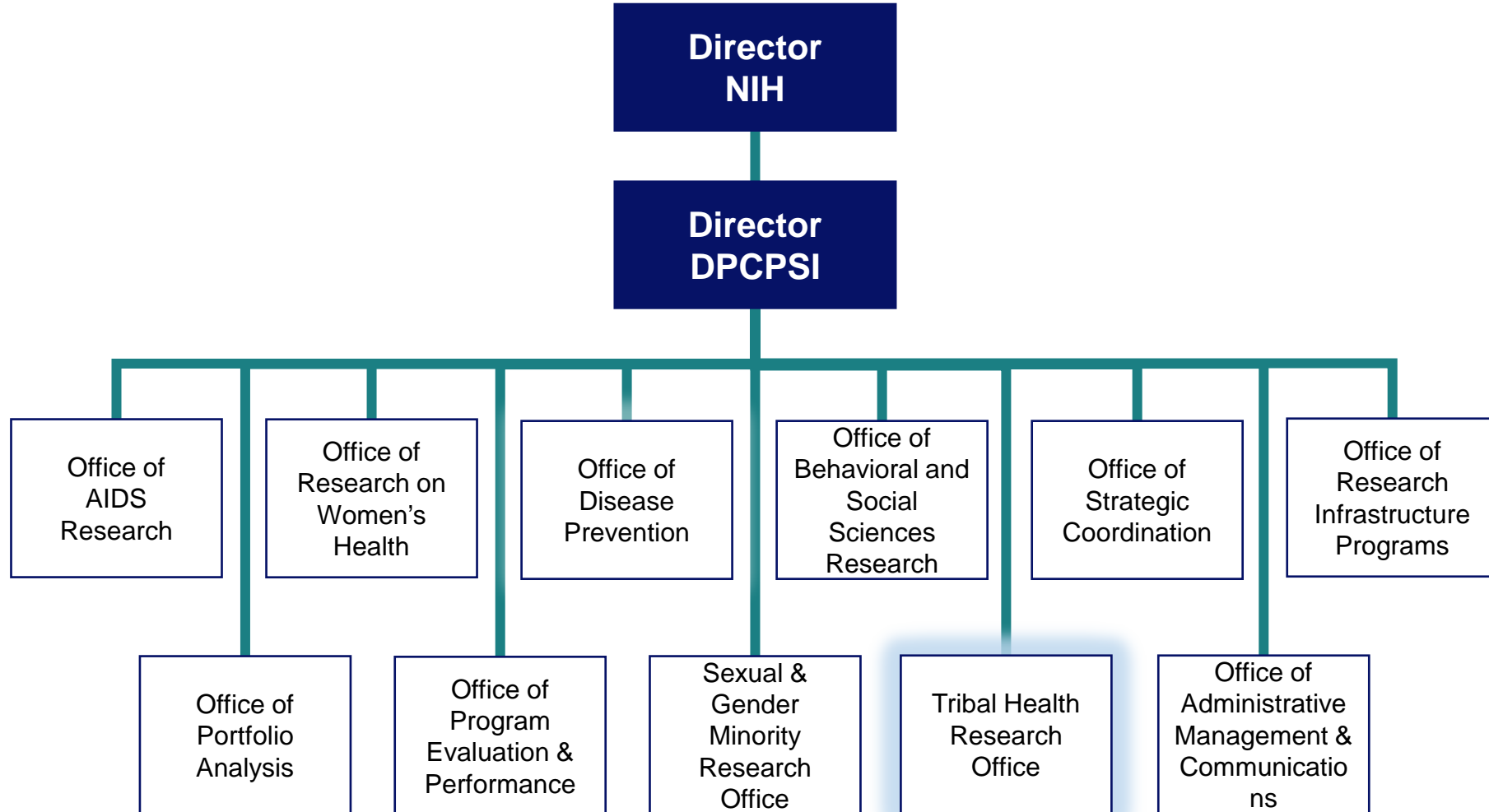
- When asked to prioritize consultation topics, data sharing was near the top of the list
- There are a number of topics to cover in a data sharing consultation, such as
  - Ethical considerations
  - Legal issues, ownership
  - Social issues
  - Privacy and confidentiality
- NIH may recommend a separate consultation on data sharing

# Tribal Health Research Office Strategic Plan

- Top priority for the Tribal Health Research Office Director, when hired, is to work with the NIH community and consult with AI/AN communities to develop a trans-NIH American Indian/Alaska Native Strategic Research Plan
- As part of developing the AI/AN Strategic Plan, DPCPSI will refine and complete a portfolio analysis
- The AI/AN Strategic Plan will guide trans-NIH coordination and prioritization and NIH's efforts with other agencies.

# Tribal Health Research Office

Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives



# New Initiatives

- Research
- Training
- Infrastructure

# New Initiatives

## Research

- The National Institute of Mental Health and National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities issued a Request for Applications for Collaborative Hubs to Reduce the Burden of Suicide among American Indian and Alaska Native Youth (RFA-MH-17-350) in March 2016.
- The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and National Cancer Institute released a [Social Epigenomics Research](#) program announcement (PAR-16-355) in July 2016 which may address some elements of historical trauma.

# New Initiatives

## Training

- In August 2016, the National Human Genome Research Institute held its annual Short Course in Genomics. This three-day course offered middle and high school teachers, community college faculty, and Tribal College faculty the opportunity to hear lectures and receive teaching resources from leading NIH researchers, clinicians, and staff.
- This year, seven Tribal College faculty participated in the course. Following the three-day course, a morning meeting was held with the Tribal College faculty to discuss the possibility of an internship program for AI/AN students.



# New Initiatives

## Infrastructure

- NIH supports workshops and conferences that focus on critical health issues for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
  - In August, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (with ODP, NIEHS, NIMHD, and the IHS) initiated a multi-agency forum: Heart, Lung and Sleep Disorders in AI/AN/NH Youth, including a discussion of research gaps and promising opportunities and recommendations for future research.
  - In July, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases supported a collaborative conversation series meeting in Seattle with health care providers and community advocates focused on hepatitis C and substance misuse among two-spirit individuals in AI/AN communities.

COMMENTS?