NIH and Tribal Health Research – Moving Forward

NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee
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Tribal Consultation

• Executive Order 13175 (2000)
  o “Each agency shall have an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications.”
  o “Tribal officials” are elected or duly appointed officials of Indian tribal governments or authorized intertribal organizations.

• Memorandum on Tribal Consultation (2009)
  o “My Administration is committed to regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in policy decisions that have tribal implications…”
HHS Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) (Revised 2010)

• The TCP states that before any HHS action is taken that will significantly affect Indian Tribes, consultation with Indian Tribes will occur to the extent practicable and permitted by law

  o Calls on HHS Operating Divisions to have an accountable process to ensure input by tribes
NIH Responsibilities

• Bring relevant issues/policies to tribes for consultation
• Respond to requests for consultation through specified processes and meeting specified timelines as described in the Implementation Guidance
NIH Guidance on Implementation of the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy (2013)

- “A consultation will occur when HHS, NIH, or an Indian Tribe identifies an NIH action with substantial direct effects for one or more Indian Tribe.”

- The NIH OD, through DPCPSI, will ensure adherence to HHS TCP

- Each IC must have Point of Contact (POC)

- DPCPSI is the central coordinating point for the NIH
Selected Highlights of NIH Implementation of the HHS TCP

• Convened the first annual NIH-wide Tribal Consultation session
  o First consultation occurred on September 21, 2015

• Established a Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee
  o Two meetings to be held per year
  o First meeting held September 29-30, 2015
  o Second meeting is February 25-26, 2016
Selected Highlights of NIH Implementation of the HHS TCP

- Established a NIH Tribal Health Research Office in Fall 2015
- Established a website
Tribal Health Research Office Functions

• coordinate tribal health research-related activities across NIH
• serve as a liaison to and NIH representative on tribal health related committees and working groups
• coordinate and support the NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee
• collaborate with NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) on the development of reports on tribal health topics
• manage information dissemination related to tribal health research coordination
• convene trans-NIH committees, workshops, meetings and other activities related to tribal health research and scientific priorities
• coordinate with NIH ICs to leverage resources or develop initiatives to support tribal health research
• convene at least yearly Tribal Consultation sessions
Tribal Health Research Office
Planned Actions

• Establish a Tribal Health Research Coordinating Committee within NIH
• Conduct a portfolio analysis of the NIH American Indian and Alaska Native research and research training portfolio
• Initiate a strategic planning process
• Recruited for the first Director of the Tribal Health Research Office

• Selected the Director, Dean Seneca, and he will begin working at NIH in April 2016.
Questions or comments?
Feedback?

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