



March 8, 2013

Tribal Leader/Urban Indian Health Program Director

Re: Government-to-Government Consultation

Dear Tribal Leader/Urban Indian Health Program Director:

I am pleased to announce that the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (WHBE) has established a Final Tribal Consultation Policy (Final Policy), which is enclosed with this letter and will be available on our website in the near future.

During the drafting process, the WHBE has collaborated with and sought advice from Tribal Leaders, Urban Indian Health Programs, the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) and other tribal health care organizations, and partner agencies. On January 11, 2012 the WHBE hosted a meeting with Tribal Leaders to discuss our collaboration process. We are grateful to all those who made time to attend that very productive meeting. You will notice the feedback from that meeting has been incorporated into our Final Policy.

The Final Policy also establishes a Tribal Advisory Workgroup (TAW) that will consist of Tribal Leaders, Tribal Programs, Urban Indian Clinics, AIHC Executive and Policy Committee members, and representatives from the WHBE. This TAW will contribute to the collaborative process by providing advice and recommendations on the development of WHBE policies or actions that have tribal implications. In April, the WHBE will provide additional information about the TAW and how to join.

WHBE is committed to honoring the government-to-government relationship between the State and tribal governments and would like to thank Tribal Leaders and AIHC for their active participation in establishing the Final Policy.

Sincerely,


Richard K. Onizuka, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Marilyn Scott, AIHC Chair
D. Brent Simcosky, Interim AIHC Executive Director
Jim Roberts, NPAIHB

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