DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

JUN 6 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to you to announce the availability of a new behavioral health resource. The *Promoting Suicide Prevention Efforts in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Communities: A Cross-Agency Approach* is a matrix of information on workforce and training activities; telehealth resources and activities; and other resources and tools developed by three agencies in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Indian Health Service (IHS), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) created this resource matrix as the result of a discussion by the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) on behavioral health issues and the need for relevant resources. Following up on that STAC discussion, HRSA, IHS, and SAMHSA convened a workgroup to discuss opportunities for a cross-agency collaboration to prevent suicide in AI/AN populations. The result was the resource matrix, an inventory of key resources and activities that highlighted strengthening the behavioral health workforce, telehealth applications for outreach to behavioral health services, as well as resource tools that could be further disseminated and applied (e.g., screening for depression and suicide).

The resource matrix is posted on the SAMHSA website at http://www.samhsa.gov/obhe/tribal-affairs.aspx. Please take the opportunity to review the matrix and contact the federal staff identified for additional information. We hope you find this information useful as we strive to meet the behavioral health needs of tribes and the AI/AN population.

Sincerely,

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