Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is the primary federal agency with responsibility for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated and economically or medically vulnerable, including American Indians and Alaska Natives.

I am writing to inform you of activities under development by the Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality (ACIMM), which HRSA administers, to improve birth outcomes among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) mothers and infants. ACIMM consists of up to 21 members with subject matter expertise who are appointed by the HHS Secretary and come from the public and private sectors. ACIMM advises the HHS Secretary on department activities, partnerships, policies, and programs directed at reducing infant mortality, maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, and improving the health status of infants and women before, during, and after pregnancy. The Committee provides advice on how best to coordinate federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governmental efforts designed to improve infant mortality, related adverse birth outcomes, and maternal health.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community will be hosting the September ACIMM meeting (September 13-15, 2022) in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Approximately 30 days prior to the meeting, HRSA will publish a Federal Register Notice with meeting location and other details, including instructions for making public comments orally or in writing. This public meeting will allow the Committee to hear directly from tribal communities to inform their recommendations to HHS related to improving the birth outcomes of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) mothers and infants. There will be a virtual option for those who cannot attend the meeting in-person.

As a Federal Advisory Committee, ACIMM welcomes input from all stakeholders and parties interested in its objectives. For more information about the Committee, its Charter, and the September meeting, please visit: https://www.hrsa.gov/advisory-committees/infant-mortality/index.html

Sincerely,

Michael Warren MD MPH
Associate Administrator