

Dear Tribal Leader:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your input on the draft Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP), *Behavioral Health Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives*. The TIP is part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) continuing effort to support the behavioral health of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The document is intended to serve as a resource in providing culturally appropriate and responsive services to American Indian and Alaska Native clients.

SAMHSA placed importance on creating a TIP that weaves together practice-based experience with available published research relevant to behavioral health among American Indian and Alaska Native people. SAMHSA sought American Indian and Alaska Native individuals with considerable expertise in the behavioral health field to contribute to the development of this TIP. A list of Consensus Panelists is enclosed for your reference.

In addition to the contributions of the Consensus Panelists, the TIP reflects direct input from writers and reviewers from over 15 diverse tribal communities, all of whom worked to create a product that would be inclusive of, and a helpful resource for, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

This TIP addresses the more common behavioral health needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. However, the treatment concerns and pathways to healing presented in this document will not—and cannot—equally represent all American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. Instead, the TIP is meant to serve as a starting place; the content and recommendations can be adapted to meet the cultural identity, treatment setting, community, and culture of the person being served.

Your input on the draft TIP is requested during the comment period, which closes on Friday, July 28, 2017. To obtain an electronic copy of the draft TIP and/or provide comments online, please go to <http://store.samhsa.gov/TIP/feedback/>.

Should you have questions, please contact Sharece Tyer, Communication Lead, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, 240-276-2432, or Candi Byrne, TIP Project Coordinator, 240-276-1572. SAMHSA looks forward to working with you to improve the behavioral health of American Indian and Alaska Native people and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kana Enomoto'. The signature is stylized with a large 'K' and a long horizontal line.

Kana Enomoto
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental
Health and Substance Use

Enclosures:

Draft TIP, *Behavioral Health Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives*
List of TIP Consensus Panelists