

MAY 16 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to request your review and feedback on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) revised Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP). Your comments will help strengthen the policy that will guide future SAMHSA tribal consultations.

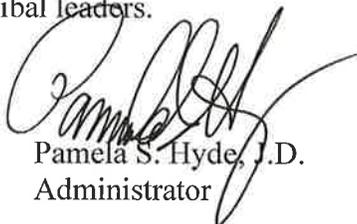
Since 2007, SAMHSA has maintained a tribal consultation policy that outlines protocol and process for SAMHSA and tribes. The original SAMHSA policy closely mirrored the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) consultation policy with SAMHSA related information interspersed throughout the document.

The updated SAMHSA tribal consultation policy is easier to read, is streamlined by eliminating redundancy with the HHS TCP, is focused on consultation with federally recognized tribes, includes updated organizational information, and provides tribes and SAMHSA staff with clear guidance on roles and responsibilities.

The updated SAMHSA tribal consultation policy is available for viewing on the SAMHSA website at <http://beta.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/tribal-consultation.pdf>. The deadline to submit comments is August 29, 2014. Comments can be submitted via email to SAMHSA at tribalconsultation@samhsa.hhs.gov. Questions can be directed to Sheila Cooper, Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at sheila.cooper@samhsa.hhs.gov or at (240) 276-2005.

The updated SAMHSA tribal consultation policy will be a topic for discussion at the SAMHSA Tribal Leaders Listening Session to be held on June 8, 2014 during the National Congress of American Indians Mid-year Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

Thank you for your feedback on this policy document and for your support to strengthen SAMHSA's relationship with tribes and tribal leaders.



Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Administrator