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 Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) charter. Your comments will help strengthen a charter that governs the work of the TTAC and the relationship between SAMHSA leadership and the tribal leader advisory committee.

Since 2008, SAMHSA has supported an advisory committee comprised of tribal leaders that serves as an advisory body to SAMHSA on policy, process, and the delivery of behavioral health resources and services. The current governing TTAC charter is technically correct and complies with the Federal Advisory Committee Act exemption on intergovernmental communications between federal officials and elected tribal officials. The revised TTAC charter provides clearer and more precise information on the nomination and selection process, committee composition and meetings.

The updated SAMHSA TTAC charter is available for viewing on the SAMHSA website at http://beta.samhsa.gov/about-us/advisory-councils/tribal-technical-advisory-committee-ttac/committee-charter. The deadline to submit comments is August 29, 2014. Comments can be submitted via e-mail to SAMHSA at tribalconsultation@samhsa.hhs.gov and questions can be directed to Sheila Cooper, SAMHSA’s Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at sheila.cooper@samhsa.hhs.gov or at (240) 276-2005.

If you are interested in serving on the TTAC, there is a tribal leader vacancy representing tribes in the Indian Health Service Phoenix area and for an at-large representative. Thank you for your input on the SAMHSA TTAC charter and for assisting in strengthening SAMHSA’s relationship with tribal leaders to improve behavioral health services for all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Administrator