

# CDC/ATSDR Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC)

## *Summary of Recommendations* July 11-12, 2007

### **TCAC recommends that CDC,**

- Establish within the Financial Management Office (FMO) a process to:
  - Periodically brief the Financial Strategy Committee (FSC) regarding the CDC/ATSDR portfolio of tribally-related programs and resource allocations;
  - Bring TCAC specific proposals and recommendations to the attention of the FSC.
- Ensure that CDC is appropriately represented at the annual HHS regional and national tribal consultation sessions.
  - Work with TCAC members and other tribal leaders to identify the regional issues of concern and tailor CDC funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) to address these identified priorities.
- Provide guidance and technical assistance to NIHB in redesigning their webpage to display CDC's public health information and activities, new funding opportunities, and public health alerts.
- Engage CDC's Portfolio Management Program leadership and state-based Senior Management Officials (SMOs) to enhance collaboration among state, tribal, and local public health leaders to ensure that CDC's public health resources allocated to state health departments appropriately benefit tribal communities in those states and maximize the positive health impact of these resources and partnerships on tribal populations.
- Create an opportunity for the Director, Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) and the Acting Director, Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL), to meet with TCAC to discuss action steps by CDC, states, and tribes based on states' receipt of PHEP funds.
  - Provide TCAC and other tribal leaders with contact information for the CDC Project Officer responsible for each state and for each state's PHEP program director;
  - Determine a process to enable tribal consultation related to the development of a the new PHEP and Pandemic Flu program announcement to be released in 2008.
- Support the Community Health Education Team in developing, marketing, and evaluating a pandemic influenza public service announcement tailored for American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

## **Inventory of Past TCAC Recommendations to CDC**

### **TCAC recommends that CDC,**

- Continue to fully implement the procedures of the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) giving high priority to:
  1. Expand efforts to ensure that funds currently awarded to state health departments through CDC cooperative agreements are appropriately benefiting AI/AN people in those states.
  2. Provide authoritative guidance in new funding opportunity announcements (FOA) related to how states engage and work with tribes.
    - Require that applicants who use tribal populations to justify proposals document tribal involvement in both design and implementation of proposed activities.
  3. Implement standardized language for CDC program announcements that specifies tribal eligibility for all FOA unless precluded by authorizing language, single eligibility approval, or similar contingencies.
  4. Provide training for project officers assigned to States with established AI/AN communities.
  5. For competitive applications responsive to AI/AN-focused program announcements, seek objective review panel members who are knowledgeable about working with AI/AN communities.
  6. Assure adequate staff and resources are available within the Office of the Director to support TCP implementation.
  7. Assure that Dr. Gerberding and other executive leadership responds in a timely and effective manner to the recommendations made by TCAC.
- Establish a formal 'orientation to CDC' for TCAC members.
  - Assist in the orientation of TCAC members and other tribal leaders to CDC and ATSDR by developing and distributing a directory of CDC and ATSDR services and resources.
  - Consider producing an educational film clip that would include an overview of CDC's history, its domestic and international activities over the years, highlights of CDC's programs for tribal communities, and CDC's vision for improving public health in Indian country.
- Continue discussions with the Financial Management Office to establish guidelines and a timeline to allow tribal stakeholders to provide annual input into the CDC budget formulation process.
  - Monitor and track where tribal recommendations have influenced CDC priorities and goal process, and have enhanced tribal access to CDC resources.
  - Re-analyze the CDC AI/AN Resource Allocation Portfolio such that resource allocations are a) stratified by categorical programs (e.g., diabetes, cancer, smoking, HIV/AIDS, etc.) that are of high priority to Indian country; and, b) stratified geographically (e.g., by IHS Areas or HHS regions).

- Develop a CDC-wide AI/AN action plan that will:
  1. Strategically integrate AI/AN – focused policies, resources, and programs
  2. Align these activities with CDC’s Health Protection Goals
  3. Serve as a roadmap and portfolio management tool for CDC’s overall efforts to optimally impact the public health of AI/AN people and communities
- Increase tribal stakeholders’ knowledge of CDC funding opportunities and how to obtain technical assistance during the grant application process.
- Within selected CDC programs, explore the possibility of designating a certain proportion of cooperative agreement funds as intended for tribal/tribal organization awardees.
- Assist TCAC in establishing a technical subcommittee to evaluate how CDC program announcements and the grant application process could be modified to encourage more tribal applicants and to help ensure that tribal applicants have equal opportunities to compete successfully.
- Continue to engage TCAC and other tribal stakeholders in the CDC goals management process
- Reconsider recent decisions regarding funding for HIV and STD prevention programs in Indian country.
- Develop, in partnership with the National Indian Health Board, a process to assure ongoing communication of important information, funding and training opportunities, major issues, and updates on CDC responses and actions to tribal stakeholders.
- Ensure that the TCAC, NIHB, Direct Service Tribes, Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, National Tribal Environmental Council, and the National Council on Urban Indian Health are all on the master list for the Annual CDC Leaders to Leaders Conference.
- Strengthen the relationship between the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) and tribal stakeholders to maximize resources and opportunities to address issues facing AI/AN youth.