



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are pleased to present you with the enclosed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Tribal Consultation Policy. In 2001, CDC committed to a tribal consultation development process by which we would engage Tribal leaders at regional and national meetings around the country – seeking your input as to what you would like to see in a consultation policy and how that policy would best be implemented. Since that time, CDC’s Senior Tribal Liaisons and other staff met with Tribal leaders during multiple consultation sessions across the country. Each session was hosted by Tribal health boards or similar regional Tribal organizations, and summaries of each of these sessions were reviewed and approved by the host organizations.

Although it has taken a long time to get to this point, the culmination of these efforts coincided with the recent issuance of the newly revised Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tribal Consultation Policy. With your input and new HHS guidance in hand, we wrote a Policy and established procedures that we feel will provide for meaningful and effective Tribal consultation. Better consultation should lead to enhanced communication, stronger partnerships, and ultimately safer and healthier American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

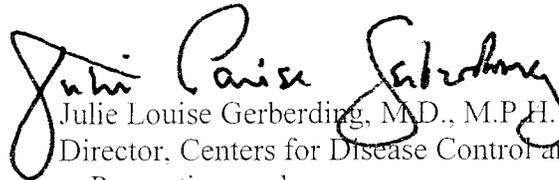
Except for the final step that requires my signature, this Policy has been vetted, reviewed, and cleared within CDC. Prior to my final approval, we would like to provide you with an opportunity to comment. If you would like to do so, please send your comments (within the next 60 days) to CAPT Pelagie “Mike” Snesrud, R.N., Senior Tribal Liaison for Policy and Evaluation, Office of Minority Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Mailstop E-67, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, (telephone (404) 498-2343). You may also e-mail your comments to CAPT Snesrud at pws8@cdc.gov or fax them to her at (404) 498-2360. If you have

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any questions or concerns about this process prior to June 18, 2005, please contact CAPT Ralph T. Bryan, M.D., Senior Tribal Liaison for Science and Public Health at rrb@cdc.gov or (505) 248-4226.

Thank you for helping us in this important endeavor and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Louise Gerberding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention, and
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry

Enclosure