



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

August 30, 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

I would like to introduce new leadership staff for the Tribal Support Unit (TSU) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), located in the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. CAPT Craig Wilkins, MPH, will serve as acting director for TSU. In this role, he will be CDC's principal advisor to and main liaison with policy-level officials regarding American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN), the contact for tribal inquiries, and the intradepartmental coordinator of CDC/ATSDR programs and policies that affect AI/AN populations.

CAPT Wilkins has over 24 years of combined federal service with the Indian Health Service and CDC. He has held leadership roles and assignments in many public health programs. Before joining CDC in 1997, he served with the Indian Health Service in Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. Since joining CDC, he worked in areas such as immunizations, emergency response, and in an office that coordinated CDC's management, information, and business services. He also worked in India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. Most recently he was the associate director for training and evaluation for the Field Services Office.

I would also like to introduce CDR (sel.) Bobby Rasulnia, PhD, MPA, MPH, as the acting deputy director for TSU. CDR (sel.) Rasulnia has been with CDC for 15 years in various capacities. He has a multidisciplinary background in areas such as food safety, adolescent and school health, immunizations, quality improvement, evaluation, instrument design, data collection and management, clearance, community engagement, health disparities, and international health.

CDC/ATSDR strongly supports and respects tribal sovereignty and self-determination for tribal governments in the US. We recognize this is a time of transition and that there is a need to continually work together to identify and act on ways to improve our communication, processes, and relationships.

CDC's primary focus is to uphold the government-to-government relationship, serve as a liaison, and build trust between CDC and tribes to meet public health needs of communities. This includes applying the Tribal Consultation Policy and facilitating consultation, managing the Tribal Advisory Committee, supporting partnerships and communication strategies, and leveraging existing cooperative agreements, among other efforts. We will also partner across the agency to support programs, relationships, and policies that promote AI/AN public health.

Please contact CAPT Wilkins at TribalSupport@cdc.gov or 404-498-2208 with any questions. We look forward to our continued partnership and cooperation as we work to strengthen the relationship between tribal governments, partners, and CDC/ATSDR in promoting the health of AI/AN communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith A. Monroe".

Judith A. Monroe, MD
Director, Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support
Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention