

## **HHS Regional VII and VIII Annual Tribal Consultation**

Denver, CO  
April 8, 2014

**Issue:** Prescription drug abuse has become an epidemic in Indian country because it gets prescribed for pain and is easily taken and the motivations for abusing them can be to get high or manage pain.

**Issue:** There is a lack of funding for prescription abuse treatment centers, as well as a lack of staff for the facilities.

**Issue:** There should be a strong court system, enhanced law enforcement, drug task force involvement, and multijurisdictional collaborations, there is often a need for updated tribal codes.

**Issue:** A cultural approach can be used to help kids understand what they did wrong and move forward in a positive way.

**Issue:** The importance of family structure needs to be emphasized

**Issue:** Implementing grassroots level programs that can have a significant impact on communities.

**Issue:** Tribal communities have developed a culture of learned helplessness, a culture of poverty, which needs to be overcome.

**Issue:** Its suggested for school based programs, to make funds available to tribes without requiring them to have a community health center in place.

**Issue:** Tribes should not have to compete against each other for grants

**Issue:** Indian Health Services need to improve their wait times so patients don't spend all their time trying to be seen.

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**Issue:** Tribes need help in developing policies and procedures to do traditional healing treatment modalities.

**Issue:** The roadmap to success for Veterans that have PTSD is not easy as it is mental illness that can render people unable to function. There should be some funding there to assist those with it.