



## AGENCY OVERVIEW

**Leadership.** Pamela S. Hyde, J.D., Administrator

**Website.** <http://www.samhsa.gov/>

**Mission.** To reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. To achieve this mission SAMHSA has 8 Strategic Initiatives that will guide the work. They are:

- Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness
- Trauma & Justice
- Military Families
- Recovery & Support
- Health Reform
- Health Information Technology
- Data, Outcomes, and Quality
- Public Awareness and Support

More information on the Strategic Initiatives can be obtained at <http://www.samhsa.gov/about/strategy.aspx>

**Organization.** SAMHSA's core functions are to administer discretionary, formula, and block grant programs; and provide up-to-date information on behavioral health issues and prevention and treatment approaches. This work is achieved through the following Centers:

- Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality
- Center for Mental Health Services
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

### Resources.

- ✓ Access SAMHSA publications at: <http://store.samhsa.gov/home>. Two top items are:
  - The SAMHSA Culture Card is a resource designed to enhance cultural competency.
  - Preventing Suicide by American Indian and Alaska Native Youth and Young Adults - To Live to Meet the Great Day that Dawn". The guide provides community-based suicide prevention and mental health promotion plans.
- ✓ Funding Opportunities: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/>
- ✓ Technical Assistance (TA). The SAMHSA Native American Center for Excellence (NACE) is a national resource center providing information on AI/AN substance abuse prevention programs, practices, and policies. <http://nace.samhsa.gov/index.aspx>
- ✓ Subscribe for the latest SAMHSA News. <http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsLetter/default.aspx>

**SAMHSA Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (SAMHSA - TTAC).** SAMHSA established the TTAC in February 2008. The committee is composed of 14 elected/appointed tribal leaders. The committee is charged with providing information on the public health needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives, especially identifying urgent substance abuse and mental health needs, and discussing collaborative approaches to meeting those needs.

## 2010 – SAMHSA Accomplishments

**Tribal Consultation.** Administrator Hyde participated in or hosted 6 consultation sessions.

- HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation – DC
- HHS Regional Consultation – Denver, CO
- SAMHSA Consultation – Rapid City, SD
- HHS Consultation – Anchorage, AK
- Maine Tribal Leaders Meeting
- TLOA Consultation – Palm Springs, CA

### **SAMHSA – TTAC Meetings.**

2/26/2010 - included introductions, overview of new administration and updates on agency activities i.e. SAMHSA Strategic Initiatives.

6/18/2010 – updates and focused on consultation topics: Strategic Initiatives and Increased access to funding.

### **National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.**

The executive committee of the Action Alliance was officially called to order on September 10. It is a public-private partnership to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The Action Alliance executive committee includes two American Indians – a student from the Mescalero Apache Tribe and an executive director for an AI/AN youth program recognized by SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidenced-based Programs and practices.

<http://www.actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/>

### **Collaboration.**

- Indian Health Service. In September, a Dear Tribal Leader letter signed by Administrator Hyde and IHS Director, Dr. Roubideaux, was sent to Tribes. The letter provides information on the roles and responsibilities of each agency with a list of collaboration activities. The letter is the first in a series of updates to tribes.
- Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA). The recent passage of this legislation mandates the following responsibilities for SAMHSA: create and staff an Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse, consult with Tribes on a framework for the coordination of Federal resources, and collaborate with the Bureau of Indian Education on developing summer programs on alcohol and substance abuse prevention.
- Tribal Justice, Safety, and Wellness (TJSW). SAMHSA partners with the Office of Justice Programs for two national sessions. The TJSW sessions provide workshops and multi-Federal agency consultation opportunities.
- BIA/HHS Suicide Awareness. On November 12, 2010 a Dear Tribal Leader letter was sent out announcing the collaboration among SAMHSA, IHS and BIA on 10 regional listening sessions to plan for a national conference to be held in 2011.

**For more information on SAMHSA, please contact:**

Sheila Cooper, Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs  
[sheila.cooper@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:sheila.cooper@samhsa.hhs.gov)  
1 Choke Cherry Road, Room 8-1055  
Rockville, MD 20857  
Office: 240.276.2005  
Fax: 240.276.2010