

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Office of Head Start**

Virtual Tribal Consultation – Summary Report

**Geographic Regions 6, 7, & 8
August 18, 2021**

OHS Representatives

- **Dr. Bernadine Futrell**, Director of Office of Head Start
- **Heather Wanderski**, Director of Program Operations
- **Todd Lertjuntharangool**, Regional Program Manager, Region XI American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN)
- **David Kadan**, Grants Management Officer
- **Trevondia Boykin**, Supervisory Program Specialist, Region XI
- **Delroy Grant**, Supervisor Program Specialist, Region XI

Greeting and Introduction

Dr. Bernadine Futrell welcomed and greeted the attendees. She stated that she truly believes conversations like today help build toward my commitment as the Director of the Office Head Start (OHS) is to lead forward towards equity.

Heather Wanderski, Program Operations Division Director, welcomed attendees, and expressed her excitement to attend today's consultation. Before turning the meeting over to Mr. Todd Lertjuntharangool, she recognized his hard work and thanked him for his service as a liaison, keeping her updated about what's happening and the things that can be done to make things better for programs.

Mr. Todd Lertjuntharangool welcomed and greeted the attendees. He gave a brief introduction, sharing his background and allowed the other members of the AIAN leadership team, Mr. David Kadan, Grants Management Officer, Mr. Delroy Grant, Supervisory Program Specialist and Ms. Trevondia Boykin, Supervisory Program Specialist, to introduce themselves before transitioning to the OHS PowerPoint presentation.

OHS Overview and Updates

**Todd Lertjuntharangool, Regional Program Manager
OHS**

FY2020 Tribal Consultations

OHS scheduled four Virtual Tribal Consultations in 2020. We did have one that ended up getting canceled because the tribal leaders who were scheduled to attend could not make it. But, out of those consultations, the topics that we heard most about were internet broadband and technology accessibility for our programs, income eligibility, staffing, funding levels, and the need for support around facilities.

As we move into a second program year in this pandemic, we wanted to provide a summary of operations for our tribal Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The table shown on the screen shows the fluctuations in program operating status between September of 2020 and April of 2021. The table shows programs who reported that they were open and providing in-person services, open and providing both in

person and virtual services, open and providing virtual/remote only, programs who reported that they were closed, and also programs who had not reported. We ended in April with approximately 15% of our programs reporting that they were providing in-person services, 32% reported that they were providing a hybrid service, so in-person and virtual. 30% reported that they were providing virtual services, only. 2% have reported they were closed and we had, at the time of the capture this information, 21% had not yet reported their status for that month. So, as you can see, over the course of the last program year, operations really did fluctuate. Of course, a lot of that was driven by safety in the communities and the various upticks in coronavirus cases and things like that in the community.

FY21 Funding Update

For Fiscal Year 2021 OHS is projected to fund approximately \$302 million to our tribal Head Start and Early Head Start programs and that figure there does include the \$3.5 million increase we received for COLA, in fiscal year 2021. We do also fund \$4 million to Tribal Colleges and Universities and Head Start partnerships. Currently, we have six tribal colleges and universities that receive these grants. The goal of these grants is to increase the number of credentialed staff at tribal Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and American Recovery Plan (ARP)

In 2021 OHS awarded \$6.5 million in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) to tribal programs. Right now, we are projected to award tribal programs \$25.8 million from the American Recovery Plan (ARP). Most ARP awards were issued in early July.

Going back to 2020, OHS awarded tribal programs over \$19 million in CARES Act funding. Here you will see a spend plan that our grant recipients reported to us about how they actually utilize that funding. Most of that funding, approximately 28% went towards equipment and supplies needed to support remote delivery of program services. We were glad to see that a lot of our programs made big investments in terms of hardware and internet accessibility for their families and their staff. At the time this report was compiled, approximately 5% of grant recipients had not reported, so it does not reflect all grant recipients.

What have we been up to in 2021?

We definitely wanted to hear about your concerns and thoughts, in regard to programs moving forward and specifically, around the Program Instruction (PI) OHS issued on May 20, 2021. That PI communicated expectations and provided guidance on operating status and enrollment, specifically the expectation that programs begun to transition to move back toward approved program options, as health conditions in the community allow of course, and the communication that enrollment OHS will begin reviewing monthly enrollment and beginning in January of 2022, OHS will reinstate pre-pandemic practices for tracking and monitoring of enrollment. It also touched on virtual and remote services and clarified that those virtual services will not be considered as an approvable permanent operating option going forward but we encouraged programs to develop policies and procedures for how virtual services could be utilized in the event of emergencies or for weather-related closures. The PI also encouraged programs to initiate new, updated community assessments. As a result of the pandemic, so many factors of communities have changed and we believe new community assessments will be beneficial in identify the current needs of children and families in communities and ensuring program designs are aligned with current needs.

Head Start Forward Campaign

To support programs as they make plans for a transition back to approved program options, OHS implemented the Head Start Forward Campaign. OHS has scheduled a 5 session webinar series to cover various topics of returning to in-person services. These have been scheduled for June 1st, June 23rd, July

14th, August 4th, and August 25th. We encourage all of our programs around the country to register and tune in.

AIAN Director Committees

One additional thing we did want to share with tribal leadership is our work around developing what we've referred to as, AIAN Director Committees. Working in conjunction with the National Indian Head Start Director's Association (NIHSDA) board, we've come up with a plan to develop committees consisting of tribal Head Start directors and those committees will support three different activities for Region XI. The first is we're going to have 5 Directors who will sit on the Region XI Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Steering Committee. These 5 Directors will support OHS by providing input on various aspects of T/TA delivery, including things like materials and the content that's covered within those trainings. Next, we will develop a committee of 5 Directors to support our Annual Regional Needs Assessment. The Regional Needs Assessment is conducted annually to ensure our resources and efforts are targeted and allocated appropriately to meet the most urgent needs of our tribal programs. Lastly, a third committee will support our 2021 AIAN Conference Planning Committee, which we'll be facilitating in November. This committee will support efforts to ensure the sessions being facilitated are targeted, accurate, and relevant to what programs are actually experiencing on the ground. With this support, OHS is working to ensure all sessions offered at the conference are as beneficial and impactful to programs as possible.

2021 AIAN Conference

As stated above, on November 16th – 18th of 2021, OHS will facilitate our 2021 AIAN National Conference. This conference will be preceded by OHS's last tribal consultation session on November 15, 2021. The 2021 AIAN Conference will focus on the top priorities identified through the 2020 AIAN Regional Needs Assessment which include;

- 1.) **Governance/Program Design and Management** – This priorities was identified by the high number of monitoring findings in the previous monitoring season around lack of regular reporting to Governing bodies and a high number of tribal programs being under enrolled (*In February 2020, 1 month prior to the declaration of a national emergency due to the coronavirus, approximately 44% of tribal programs were at some point of the under enrollment process*)
- 2.) **Staffing** – This priority is focused on challenges experienced by grant recipients around recruiting and retaining staff, staff credentialing, and staff wages.
- 3.) **School Readiness** – This priority is focused on systems for staff ongoing professional development, strategic coaching systems to support ongoing development of staff, and ongoing improvements for teacher child interactions and child outcomes.
- 4.) **Fiscal** – This priority area was identified by monitoring findings around lack of fiscal systems and by a high number of programs closing fiscal years with large amounts of unobligated and unused funding.
- 5.) **Health, Disabilities, Mental Health** – This priority area was identified through the large number of monitoring findings around lack of health tracking systems, historical challenges many programs faced around services to children with disabilities, and challenges around securing the support of a licensed mental health professional to support children, families, and staff.

OHS also welcomes input from tribal leaders on ways we can work together to support tribal programs with overcoming some of these ongoing challenges. OHS encourages tribal leaders and tribal programs to register for this national conference. The registration website was opened on August 30th. A link where you can register is provided here – [Click here to register now!](#)

Resources

Lastly in terms of resources, I do want to again refer folks to Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) website - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>. We do have a specific page for COVID-19. This page is updated regularly, and I do want to encourage folks to check this from time to time just to ensure that you have the most updated information, guidance, and support. Additionally, OHS has provided the MyPeers platform as a way for programs to support one another directly. Learn more about how you can sign up and access this platform here - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/article/mypeers-social-network-early-childhood-professionals>

Meaningful Consultation with Sovereign Nations

**Michael Chavarria, Governor
Pueblo of Santa Clara**

Thank you all, from our HHS, Administration and Families (ACF) Head Start Program. It is always important to stress the essential role that HHS has in fulfilling the federal government's trust responsibility and obligation to tribal nations by ensuring our interests are being accounted for through proper tribal consultation such as today.

The Administration, Congress, and federal agencies and federal officials all serve as trustees of this federal trust responsibility for it is your solemn duty to ensure that tribal interests are protected during any action, program, or policy undertaken by the Federal Government, including the process of consultation itself.

It's very important that the current eligibility of Native American children's entry into Head Start programs are evaluated. Based on requirements such as the current eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment, and attendance (ERSEA) mandated and outlined in 2016 OHS Program Performance Standards. The ERSEA requirement does not take into consideration the generational impacts of poverty and how the current eligibility policies framed exclusion of some of our Native American children, based upon her family economic status. Current research and OHS policies directly include high quality early childhood education as a strong indicator for changing the trajectory of minority children that fall behind academically generation after generation. An important consideration to evaluate or eliminate educational gaps is to eliminate the eligibility barriers defined by the family social economist's status of a Native American child.

OHS mandates don't consider that even though a minority family's earnings are above the federal poverty guidelines it does not mean they are able to contribute enough to reverse generational influences of poverty in their family. It is important that steps are taken to eliminating academic inequities by re-evaluating ERSEA guidelines and reevaluating the federal poverty guidelines so all native children have access to equitable education such as the Head Start program.

For us here in Santa Clara you know I would like to thank HHS, the Indian Health Service (IHS), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Todd, OHS, for joining us in a in an agency call that was held on March, 18 2021 to discuss or concerns related to school opening. I consider that call and an instance of individual government to government tribal consultation. In my dual role as Governor and other public health official for my Pueblo, it is my duty to fully understand your received guidance to help determine the key factors in deciding whether to allow in person schooling.

This is essentially true at a time when I don't sit adolescent children occurring not eligible to receive a vaccine, yet they live in multi-generational home within the polo the founding members who may be susceptible to the virus. So, I do not wish to lift our public health order. Continued remote learning and limited gatherings prematurely or not viable as we are not out of the woods yet. We cannot afford to be complacent well in our guard down now is not that time as Governor, and the public health official I support education of our children.

But I also live-in fear and having anxiety and stress from the unknown because we do not know what the future holds for us with this covert 19 virus and now dealing with this delta very. And it is my duty and responsibility to take into consideration the health, safety and welfare of my Pueblo especially my children, who are the future leaders of tomorrow. For some day they might be sitting in my position in your position, and so it is a difficult undertaking right now to fully navigate the data, the science, but I continue to advocate that these children will hopefully children will hopefully be eligible, soon to be vaccinated.

So there, it is therefore important to know understand confirm the Federal Government will defend our public right to impose a stricter health standard on our schools, including our tribal control school and Head Start this ties directly into respecting for tribal sovereignty and the fulfillment of that federal trust responsibility which must be necessary to include holding us harmless, without any penalty or negative conflict consequences on funding opportunities as we move forward, or public health order is only temporary until till the public and community feel is safe to send our children back for in person classes.

So, we do have a public health order that we amended back in February top of 2021 limits all public gathering within the Community. We still require facemask our gatherings are limited to no more than 10 who does not live in the same household, our adult daycare, or senior Center is still close or Community school and Head Start composition or main close to students until further notice.

All instruction should continue to be provided by distance learning and so these are very important issues as a public health official again going back to the closures our head start program where I seek an understand. What Todd talked about, but we are all unique and so as a political sovereign tribal nation, I make that request to hold us harmless, because of the unknown and now we're hearing that the younger adults and children also been hospitalized with this delta variant, and so, this is very critical and so with the dealing for CDC and an emergency operations Center just yesterday there's 21 new cases within Rio Arriba county the county that we reside in.

It is unfortunate code has bought the light to light the historical in equities and education, which have intensified due to the pandemic, and I do feel that in the students last more ground and others due to this terrible state of educational facility infrastructure. Not simply a lack of Internet connectivity laptop, so this is very critical.

The fundamental infrastructure for safe, healthy learning environment building and good and proper ventilation functional classrooms libraries gyms. To avoid overcrowding, to have to include physical exercises and activities in all this is very critical. So I appreciate the White House, they did have a call back on June 28 on the White House initiative on American Indian education. So we included that the head start program needs to be associated with this educational Forum, which is very important, and not just the higher education or youth Department of Education or BEI. But a HHS ACF on her head start must be part of this session and then just yesterday Governor Lujan Grisham announced that everybody vaccinated unvaccinated with have is a mask mandate within the state of Mexico it's neither very critical elements of how we must engaged with these discussions. I also received the consolidate Q and A's from a head start for it for the webinar series of lot of information.

Questions that were asked so I'll work with my staff to try to put a written comments together and submit for the record.

Like you appreciate the time, the effort efforts and I just seek your support in supporting by political sovereign tribal government as you continue to deal with the unfortunate time of our lives, so thank you very much.

OHS Response

Dr. Futrell, Director

OHS

Thank you, Sir, we appreciate your comments. We are we do share the concern around the impact of generational poverty and how that shows up when it comes to Head Start eligibility. No currently we are bound by statute as to what that looks like, but we appreciate and recognize that concern it in our and we are thinking of ways to address that. The second concern raised around reopening and getting back to imprison services. We put the guidance out as a marker towards January 2022 but, as you shared and, as we believe in agree that the local conditions are really going to drive what can happen on the ground and programs, and so, while we encourage the continued outreach and support of rolling children and families, we do recognize that the local health conditions to be specific, will drive those decisions moving forward. Todd, Heather Delroy or Trevondia would you all, like to weigh in on any of or respond to any of the questions here again, thank you, Sir, for your testimony.

Todd Lertjuntharangool, Regional Program Manager

OHS

I thought I'll just second Dr. Futrell, do we fully understand it fully expect tribal leadership to exercise their sovereign rights to make decisions in the in the best interest of the Community. Knowing Santa Clara I also know that you know the prevalence sits directly between the Community to Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Espanola. You know, having been there myself, I know that there's heavy traffic all around the level of Santa Clara so we certainly understand. : The position that you take, I certainly also know that you know you want to get the services out to children and families, but also the safety of those families is your highest priority so, as best we can support your program in delivering the services and moving through the fall, you know my hope is, you know that we are here to support, and I know that you'll be in contact if there's anything that you need.

Michael Chavarria, Governor

Pueblo of Santa Clara

Thank you, Director and Todd appreciate the and that's the whole thing about having consultation I wish we could have them in person, but again, we value and respect each other's lives. You know, we have grandparents, we have mothers' fathers who have given their children And so it's having that respect for each and every one of us that's going to get us through this and for us the power of prayer is essential. Yes, we rely heavily on our religious, cultural aspect, but now you know, we have no control over this virus, yes, we can put mitigation measures in place, safety measures in place provide educational material to our community, but we have no stores within our public so our people have to traverse to neighboring town to buy necessities and get health care, go to work, and go to public schools.

And so I appreciate the opportunity, the time this government to government relationship discussion collaboration that we still need to continue to expand and build upon, because we never thought we'd be in this type of situation, nobody has all the answers. I just felt working together to fully understand where we're coming from to help us engage in this is very critical, but I appreciate you. Director appreciate you

Todd appreciate the secretary of HHS and all the folks there in Washington, because without your help, I don't know where we will be right now.

Meaningful Consultation with Sovereign Nations

Dominic Messerly, Councilman Fort Belknap

First of all, I would just like to thank you, Director Futrell for this opportunity and also, I'd like to thank Governor's Chavarria for that beautiful and powerful prayer. Thank you to all of the staff that has made this possible within the office of Head Start and again, my name is Dominic Messily I'm the River District Representative on the Fort Belknap Community Council. I'm here in North central Montana. My Reservation is approximately 600,000 acres. Three communities on my Reservation, two of which have Head Start programs. In Fort Belknap agency one in the town of Hayes which is approximately 36 miles south of Fort Belknap agency and one across the mountain approximately 15 miles east of Hayes of the town of Lodge Pole, which hasn't been able to have a head start because it hasn't been able to reach criteria for enrollment and that Head Start.

I would just like to mention that I'm a graduate from the head start program I graduated from Head Start 1983 and my former Head Start teachers, is now the Director of Head Start. Former Council President and Councilwoman Julia Doney, is now the Director of our Head Start program I would just like to start off by mentioning that. It was mentioned earlier by Governor Chavarria some of the challenges with that we deal with here, especially in a rural setting like we are here in North central Montana. We have a medium household income of less than \$13,000 a year. We have been sheltering in place for the past 17, 18 months now, our Head Start programs have gone home based we do not have the technology or infrastructure to do any virtual learning. Only 30% of our communities currently have fiber optic connection.

We have need for increased funding to support technology and infrastructure. We have extreme challenges in rural location, especially during the pandemic. We've really struggled at times to provide a learning environment without the proper technology that's needed to really be able to fully engage and connect to our children and families. Also, we, like most tribal communities, we are in a housing shortage, multi-generational families. We also challenge is also to attract and retain qualified staff within our Head Start Program.

We see a great need for facilities and space. Currently in the town of Hayes we have just converted office space to accommodate for childcare. One of the focuses here that's been brought to our attention is behavioral health, especially with the pandemic we've had a number of suicides in our communities this past year related to isolation issues with some of our young folks. We need adequate funding for safe facilities expanded Head Start offering such as cultural and language immersion curriculum. Also, with focus on integrating behavioral health Head Start can play a critical role in that we believe. As far as creating a wraparound system of care for our children and their families in response to behavioral health needs, especially from the effects of alcohol, drug abuse and domestic violence exposure. I wanted to reiterate the need for cultural and language immersion curriculum, also reiterate the challenges of a rural community communities like ours. I invite any of you on a site visit here the Fort Belknap so you can see the challenges of the distances that we have between our communities.

Also, we do have issues maintaining enrollment, especially during this past year. Head Start is funded for 140 we've only had 104 enrolled. A lot of folks were just not comfortable with sending their children to

school this past year because of the pandemic and it really shows are our need and we really recognize our need for developing infrastructure for safe learning environments distant learning environments. With that I'll also be providing written testimony as well. I thank you for your time and appreciate all of the work that you do, on behalf of OHS. Thank you.

OHS Response

Dr. Futrell, Director

OHS

Thank you, Sir. Thank you for sharing that you are a Head Start child, I am as well and I am thankful that you are representing and sharing on perspectives on the work that we can do. I again, I will invite our team to respond more specifically to some of the things you've raised, I do think the culture and language curriculum, as well as the workforce component that you've mentioned is key and it's something that we're committed to and we've been thinking a lot about. I know our team has some things working Todd even mentioned in the beginning, but I, but I am curious and I'm watching that, and I'm interested in, especially as we think about how to deliver services. Given the challenges that you've mentioned with the connectivity with just the lack of staffing and as well as kind of how to bridge all those together in way that it is affirming language and culture, so I hear you and I thank you for sharing that and I want to invite our team to share any specific comments or feedback from at this time.

Todd Lertjuntharagool, Regional Program Manager

OHS

Good afternoon councilman, thank you again for making time today and providing testimony on behalf of you, your program and your community. You know from your testimony the one thing that really jumps out to me is, of course, as you stated, given the geographic isolation, the lack of resources that are in or around the Community to provide and deliver a lot of these services. Specifically around things like facilities. I know facilities for us is certainly a priority currently OHS does not receive an appropriation from Congress specifically for facilities, but we do from time to time do manage to support a lot of our programs with either doing major innovations, or, in some cases building and constructing new facilities. The National Indian Head Start Directors' Association (NIHSDA) just me two or three weeks ago reached out to us and asked us if we can do a session for grantees to talk about how grantees can apply for those funds and how, what we refer to our commonly as one-time funds, how that process works to make sure that grantees have the information they need to be able to potentially access that. So right now, we're working on trying to come up with the way to do that, and it may end up being something like an open Q and A or a quick training on the process and Q and A. We're going to be working with the NIHSDA board to facilitate that and make sure that our grantees have access to that information.

Also, you know in regards to some of the things that you mentioned specifically around behavioral health, mental health, and support for families in general, it was its information like that also that made it a priority for us and something that will focus we're going to be focusing on in our program you 2021 and 2022. Just last night I forwarded out our training and technical assistance event registration booklet to all of our Directors across the country, so, your Director probably receive that so they'll probably see a number of different T/TA events and support targeted specifically around health and mental health, and anything that's not in there anything that that you may need, in addition to that your program certainly can make a specific request to OHS, through your Director, so that we can get some more targeted support out to your communities.

We know also that are you know, as I stated in my opening OHS funded a pretty significant amount of CRRSA and ARP funding and so while that's not permanent funding and while it's what we consider one time funding, we certainly are encouraging our programs to consider what potential operating costs that could go to that will have lost term or lasting benefits to the program and to the community. This may include renovating facilities, supporting staff recruitment and maybe temporarily supporting staff retention. I think that there are some potential options outstanding that we can explore, and so I what I'll probably do after today's session is reach out to you Head Start Director, so that we can maybe facilitate some more specific conversations about the factors that are impacting these challenges in your community and see if we can potentially find some remedies or support for you guys in those areas.

Meaningful Consultation with Sovereign Nations

Sadie Jandreau, Head Start Director

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

Hello nice to meet you guys. One thing that we really struggle with our local Head Start is that they raised the base pay for the teacher aide salaries at the elementary school the \$15 an hour. Currently our budget, last year we were completely under funded with staff receiving their certifications and their associate's degrees. I diminished a couple positions to inflate the budget of where they could receive the salaries that are needed. However still with our teacher aide positions were still unable to give them the amount of funds that they need so we're having a lot of teachers just leave our program and walk 200 yards to the elementary school to get a couple more dollars an hour. That's one of our largest concerns right now, just for the fact that we have turnover rates of teachers and qualifications issues. I guess it's kind of our main certificates or concerns, so thank you.

OHS Response

Dr Futrell, Director

OHS

Thank you and thank you for the time and the testimony and we are hearing that. As you know, there are opportunities that we were hopeful that we could use, and I want to turn it to you Todd I know even short term incentives things that we can do with ARP and I think there may be other incentives ways or support that could be offered to help with that. Especially as related to providing access to some of the professional learning opportunities and aligning that credentialing requirement with compensation.

Todd Lertjuntharangool, Regional Program Manager

OHS

Good afternoon Sadie and thank you for joining. Certainly, the topics of staffing and the challenges around it are what I would describe as historic. They've been around for some time and it's a reason why it's become a priority for us, and we really want to target a lot of resources to that area. It sounds like you've already taken on some pretty significant steps to try to address it like as you stated, doing away with some positions to try to reallocate funding towards increasing salaries. You know that I do think that's a big step for a lot of our programs. One thing I will suggest in terms of additional funding I know that currently OHS is working on a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that we're hoping to maybe put out potentially this fall potentially in the winter was specific to AIAN for expansion. We ran this competition last fall. We were not able to make awards for the full amount, so the remainder of that amount we are running a competition for again. And again, this is going to go to those for those programs that are serving at capacity, but still have an unmet need in the community. That is, one potential thing that we can explore and maybe some additional conversations about how that can potentially address some of your ongoing operation costs.

So that would definitely be my first my first suggestion. I do think it would benefit us to have some specific conversations about your current program design just to see if by chance there's anything else that maybe we can suggest from the Federal side that could be potential options to support you in this area. Lastly, you know one thing I will put on the table, although we know this is not finalized, but the American Families Plan that is a part of this Administration's proposal is on the White House website. It does include significant increases for the field of early child development. It also proposes for Head Start and childcare minimum wages have at least \$15 an hour. It also has some funding in there, a significant amount of funding in there, potentially for universal pre-K. If you've not seen that, yet I certainly do encourage you to go looking and we what's in that American family's plan, you know as stated. It's not something that is in legislation, yet, and even if it does get to that point, it's probably going to be a couple of years before. That program gets rolled out and assuming it is approved the debt funding makes its way to the communities, but certainly I think it's good to know at this point for the purpose of program planning and Community planning, thank you.

Closing

Dr. Futrell

I want to say thank you to everyone for participating and being part of today's conversations. We consider this as one of many inputs that supports OHS having an accurate lens when it comes to supporting tribal communities. I hope this conversation has been helpful to you all. It was helpful to us.

Todd

For any tribal leaders who couldn't join, our next consultation session will be facilitated on Sept. 21st and is targeted for geographic Regions 9 and 10. We encourage any tribal leader to join if that date fits your schedule, most important is that we do hear from you and get the opportunity to receive your testimony. Our last session is November 15th. Right before our National conference. We will notify you once registration for that virtual conference is open.