



October 30, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide an update since my September 8, 2020 letter regarding a partnership with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to support the implementation of the national [Community Health Aide Program](#) (CHAP).

I am pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) has awarded a contract to James Bell Associates to identify the factors that promote or restrict the implementation of the national CHAP. After a very thorough and competitive evaluation of proposals from organizations with demonstrated expertise and experience working with Tribal communities, James Bell Associates was selected to develop, test and implement a toolkit to support Tribal communities in assessing readiness for CHAP implementation. The contract project period is September 30, 2020 through September 29, 2022.

Partnership with Tribal communities and IHS is critical to meet OMH's mission to improve the health of American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Through our close collaboration with Tribal communities, IHS and James Bell Associates, OMH is pleased to have the opportunity to support the IHS policy to expand CHAP from Alaska to the continuous 48 states. I look forward to this continued partnership to support the national expansion of CHAP.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact CAPT Damion Killsback, OMH Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs via email at Damion.Killsback@hhs.gov or by phone at 240-453-6177.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Felicia Collins".

RADM Felicia Collins, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health
Director, Office of Minority Health

Attachment: September 8, 2020 Letter