



Indian Health Service
California Area Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 7-100
Sacramento, California 95814-4708

Elliot Schulman, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer
Santa Barbara County
Public Health Department
300 San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

December 5, 2006

Dear Dr. Elliot Schulman,

The following letter has been sent to the Indian Health Clinic(s) in your county. In the coming weeks, you may be contacted by the executive director and/or the emergency preparedness coordinator from the Indian Health Clinic(s) in your counties. We hope the information below will encourage beneficial and lasting partnerships between your office and the Indian Health Clinic(s) in your county. The Indian Health Clinics in your county that have received the letter below with your contact information are as follows:

Mr. Alfred C. Granados
Executive Director
American Indian Health and Services
4141 State Street A-1
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 681-7356 Fax: (805) 683-6108

Dr. Jess Montoya
Executive Director
Santa Ynez Tribal Health Clinic
P.O. Box 539
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
(805) 688-7070 Fax: (805) 686-2060

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator:
Mr. Dudley Conneely

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator:
Executive Director



[Letter to the Clinics]

Dear [Executive Director or Emergency Preparedness Coordinator],

One primary goal for every Indian Health Clinic should be a comprehensive and tested emergency operations plan and trained staff ready and able to implement the plan when faced with an emergency. As health care providers, the communities you serve will no doubt depend upon the clinic as a primary resource for not only medical care, but as a leader during and immediately following an emergency. Early preparation may prevent patients and tasks from destabilizing the existing infrastructure of the clinic by the sudden influx of a high volume of patients. Furnishing the clinic with the necessary basic equipment and resources is an important step in preparing for a potential emergency or disaster.

Local public health officers (PHO) and departments coordinate the distribution of supplies and resources to clinics and hospitals during natural or man-made emergencies or disasters. Despite the important role of PHO in allocating resources, few have developed working relationships with the Indian Health Clinics. This letter is being sent to provide you with the contact information of the local public health officer in your respective county. It is anticipated that meetings with your respective county public health department will provide an opportunity to network and establish a vital relationship which will lead to discussions regarding the needs of the American Indian communities. Establishment of working relationships before the development of a potential public health emergency will ensure appropriate and adequate distribution of resources to the clinic during emergencies/disasters. The Public Health Officer(s) for your respective county (or counties) is listed below:

[List of respective PHO in their county (counties)]

The following are the Emergency Medical Services Agencies in your respective counties (if available):

[List of respective EMSA in their county (counties)]

In addition, the following County Health Executives Association of California Members for your respective county (or counties) is listed below (if applicable):

[List of respective CHEA in their county (counties)]



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Please feel free to contact us with any questions or specific concerns which we can forward to our network of specialists and collaborators.

Margo Kerrigan, MPH
Director
California Area Indian Health Service

Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief
Primary & Rural Health Care Systems Branch
California Department of Health Services

CC: The following:

Clinic Executive Director

Clinic Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Betsy Lyman, Deputy Director
California Department of Health Services
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
1501 Capitol Avenue, Suite 6001
MS 7002
Sacramento, CA 95814