Office of the Tribal Liaison

ABOUT

America Indian/Alaska Native people experience disproportionate health disparities as compared to the majority population primarily due to the lack of access to quality primary care, higher rates of poverty, lower education attainment and lack of transportation.

In January 2012, the Office of the Tribal Liaison was established as a full-time program with a staff, office space and an operating budget.

The principal goals of this Office are as follows:

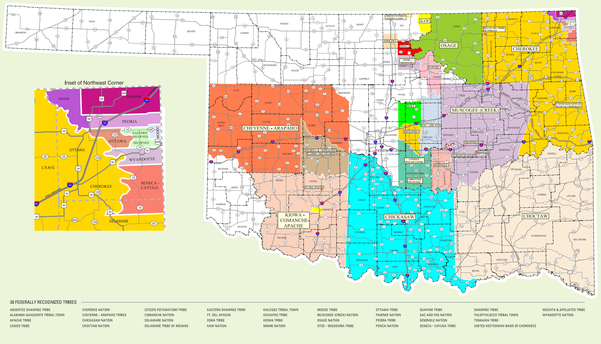
1) Reduce morbidity and mortality associated with tobacco use, obesity, lack of physical exercise and poor nutrition among AI/AN people.
2) Ensure meaningful and timely consultation and collaboration with Tribal Leaders to facilitate better understanding, informed decision making and inter-government cooperation.

OSDH TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY ESTABLISHED

In May 2011, Dr. Terry Cline signed the OSDH Tribal Consultation Policy (Administrative Procedures Manual Chapter 1-39) which was developed to ensure that, pursuant to the special relationship between Indian Tribes and State Government, reasonable notice and opportunity for consultation with Indian Tribes is provided by the OSDH before implementing any high level policy changes that significantly impact Indian Tribes or tribal members located in the state of Oklahoma.

The policy officially established the OSDH Tribal Liaison, set forth procedures on how OSDH staff should seek consultation from tribal nations, and assured that OSDH leadership team was proactively informed about issues important to tribal nations.

TRIBAL JURISDICTIONS IN OKLAHOMA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