

# NATIONAL TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THINK TANK

## Meeting #2 Summary Suquamish Clearwater Resort and Casino Suquamish, WA August 25, 2011

### Meeting #2 Purposes:

- 1) Discuss, prioritize, and narrow lists of major environmental health concerns/issues as developed by NTEH Think Tank members
- 2) Develop clear goal statements based on top 10 broad issue areas  
Brainstorm long- and short-term strategies and activities which can be undertaken by OTA to address the priority issues

### Day 1, August 25, 2011

#### Welcome, Meeting Agenda, and Meeting logistics

Annabelle Allison, Tribal Liaison  
Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA)  
National Center for Environmental Health/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
(NCEH/ATSDR)  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

Paul Allis  
National Indian Health Board (NIHB)  
Contractor for NTEH Think Tank

Annabelle Allison welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> NTEH TT Meeting and briefly provided an overview of the day's agenda. She indicated the overall purposes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NTEH TT meeting and how the activities on the agenda would be used to achieve those purposes. Paul Allis informed the group that the meeting would be recorded and a transcript would be developed for recordkeeping purposes.

#### Overview of strategic planning task and schedule

Montrece Ransom, Legislative Analyst  
Office of Program Development  
National Center for Environmental Health/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
(NCEH/ATSDR)  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Montrece Ransom provided an overview of the proposed strategic planning task and the update on the framework that will be used for the strategic plan. She explained how the Think Tank would use this strategic planning session to begin to develop goal statements with strategies and activities for each. Ms. Ransom conveyed the overall goals during the strategic planning session and the outcomes that were to be achieved during the meeting.

## **OTA Mission, Vision, and Principles**

Chinyere Ekechi, Public Health Analyst  
Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation (OPPE)  
National Center for Environmental Health/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
(NCEH/ATSDR)  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

Ms. Chinyere Ekechi and Ms. Annabelle Allison presented a recap of the draft Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) Mission, Vision and Principles that were established in meeting #1. They summarized the revisions made to the draft OTA mission, and asked for confirmation from the participants about the usage of certain words and terms, in order to capture the appropriate meaning. Ms. Ekechi and Ms. Allison indicated that the OTA Mission, Vision, and Principles would be revisited one last time at the end of meeting #3 to ensure that it supplemented the direction of the OTA strategic plan.

Ms. Allison also presented updates on the progress of the NCEH/ATSDR reorganization evaluation. Ms. Allison indicated that the internal NCEH/ATSDR Reorganization Public Comment period expired and that she had submitted comments on behalf of OTA. Ms. Allison conveyed that most likely a public comment period would commence later this year and that NTEH TT participants were welcomed to submit comments relating to the proposed re-structuring.

Ms. Allison also mentioned that the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Consultation Policy was being revised and how it provides a process for tribal consultation and specifically outlines trust responsibility, government to government relationship, and tribal sovereignty. Ms. Allison indicated that she would forward the draft Tribal Consultation Policy to the TT members for their review and comment.

## **Presentation of Issues**

Montrece Ransom facilitated the presentation of Tribal environmental issues from the NTEH TT participants. Ms. Ransom provided the ground rules for the presentation of issues and Each participant was asked to present their issues separately on flip charts that were located throughout the meeting room. Based on the issues that the participants brought to the meeting, 14 broad categories were identified initially.

## **Narrowing of Issues and Developing Goal Statements**

After the flip-chart exercise was completed, the NCEH/ATSDR staff and participants narrowed the categories into 9 broad categories including; environmental protection, housing, food safety/security, mental health/spirituality, injury prevention, sustainability, preparedness/response, and systems and vector control. Each of these broad categories were then defined as goal statements.

During this process, the group began discussing Health Impact Statements (HIAs) and how to implement this tool in Indian Country. Based on the discussions, it was determined that HIAs could be a valuable supplement to some of the assessment activities conducted in tribal communities and that this topic should be revisited.

## **Development of Goal Statement Language**

Montrece Ransom facilitated discussion with the participants as they worked on each broad category area to finalize goal statement language. The following is a draft list of the goal statement language:

Environmental Protection Goal statement: OTA will collaborate to empower tribes to take appropriate action to address environmental health impacts in AI/AN populations

Mental Health/Spirituality Goal statement: CDC/ATSDR's will demonstrate understanding of the importance of spiritual/mental needs of tribes and incorporate this awareness in its policy-making and decision-making and funding.

Preparedness and Response Goal Statement: Tribes will be prepared to respond adequately to emergencies

Sustainability Goal Statement: OTA will encourage and advocate for policies and programs which preserve and protect sacred sites and practices, natural resources in a proactive

Injury Prevention Goal Statement: Reduce morbidity and mortality from injuries (intentional/unintentional)

Housing Goal Statement: OTA will work with tribes and federal partners to promote awareness of and access to healthy housing

Food Safety/Access/Security Goal Statement: OTA will collaborate with partners to raise awareness of food security and safety (and the restoration of traditional diet)

Systems Goal Statement: In addressing EH concerns, OTA will honor the sovereignty of AI/AN tribal governments, respect the inherent rights of self-governance, commit to work on a government to government basis, uphold federal trust responsibility and encourage federal partners of the same.

Vector Control Goal Statement: Reduce vector-borne illness in the AI/AN population.

It is important to note that the goal statements are still in draft form and will be revisited again in meeting #3 to verify accuracy.

## **Developing Strategies and Potential Activities**

Due to a tight schedule, it was determined that the participants would again use a flip-chart format to write down their strategies and activities for each of the goal statements. Montrece Ransom then took the language from the flip charts and began inserting them into a strategic plan template. The participants provided clarifying language and input during this session.

## **Adjournment**

Annabelle Allison thanked everyone for their participation and for taking time to reach out to their colleagues to collect the initial list of environmental health issues. Ms. Allison mentioned that the 3<sup>rd</sup> NTEH TT meeting would be held in Anchorage, AK and would coincide with the National Indian Health Board's (NIHB) Annual Consumer Conference (ACC). Mr. Paul Allis shared meeting logistics, lodging, meeting space, and potential environmental health related tours in the surrounding area of Anchorage. The participants were all in agreement with the meeting location and supportive of the potential tour locations. Mr. Allis indicated that additional information would be forthcoming and the meeting was adjourned.

## **I. Participation**

*Meeting #1 Summary*

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**Members Present:**

- Rosemary Ahtuanguak, Barrow, AK
- Kristin Hill, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, WI
- Susan Hanson, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, ID
- Jennifer Irving, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board, SD
- Jerry Waukau, Menominee Nation, WI
- Carol Rollins (alternate representative to Alec Thundercloud), Ho-Chunk Nation Health Department, WI
- Michael Brubaker, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, AK
- Isaiah Brokenleg, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, WI

**By Phone:**

- Syndi Smallwood, Pechunga Band of Luiseno Indians, CA
- Jerilyn Church, American Indian Health & Family Services, MI

**Facilitation & Staff Team:**

- Annabelle Allison, NCEH/ATSDR
- Chinyere Ekechi, NCEH/ATSDR
- Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR
- Paul Allis, NIHB