

The Region 9 Federal Tribal Affairs Committee will be meeting on March 15 @ 3:00.

- This year, we will meet every other month starting in January. PLEASE NOTE the date and time below.
- Please see the notes from our January meeting below.
- Please send me agenda topics that you would like to share.

**\*\*Let me know if you need to be removed from this list. And please let me know if you would like to add people from your agency\*\***

Date: **March 15, 2017**  
Time: **3:00**  
Place: SF Federal Building  
90 7th Street  
Conference Room 5-010

**Call In Information:**

Call: 866-743-7943  
Pass code: 8517660 #

**Notes from January 26 meeting:**

**Attendees:**

**In Room:**

- Michelle Baker, EPA
- Marisol Anaya, EPA
- Nico Anderson, EPA
- Sara Russell, FEB
- Schuyler Hall, HHS/ORD
- Allen Applegate HHS/HRSA
- Steven Wiener HHS/ACF

**On Phone:**

- Cindy Lemesh HHS/CMS
- Libby Vianu, HHS, ATSDR
- Kimberly Yellowrobe, SSA
- Dennis Dudley HHS/ACL

- Loren Ellery HHS/IHS-PHX
- Terry Bentley, VA

**Discussion:**

**Steve, HHS/ACF**

- Provided a brief overview of the FRC and it's recent history. Welcomed three new colleagues from EPA.

**Sara Russell, FEB:**

- **Proposal:** Since the form FRC does not exist anymore, the FED would be like to host this group and can offer staff and support.  
A brief discussion followed. The Outer Pacific is the only other active remnant of the FRC besides this tribal group.  
Consensus was that this would be a good move.

**Allen Applegate, HHS/HRSA:**

- Initial discussions about contracting 2 grant workshops (capacity development) for Tribes. R5 did this with success.
- One in AZ, one in CA/NV. \$ behind this. Looking for space. Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona for AZ. CA Rural Indian Health Board for CA.
- Contact Allen if you want to get involved: [AApplegate@hrsa.gov](mailto:AApplegate@hrsa.gov)

**Schuyler Hall, HHS/ORD:**

- HHS Tribal Consultation: May 16-17 at UNLV. Working on the quarterly call.

**Michelle Baker, EPA:**

- Winter RTOC, virtual meeting ONLY. 80+ participants. 2 new people. General Assistance Program to Tribes.
- EPA administration transition team is underway.
- The Regional Tribal Operations Committee was this week (today) it was the first ever virtual RTOC and it was very successful with over 100 participants. The RTOC meeting included presentations about assessing lead and copper vulnerabilities in tribal educational facilities, impacts to permitting under DOT's FAST Act, and planning for the leadership transition at EPA. The updated virtual meeting agenda have been posted on the RTOC website, linked below. Presentation and meeting notes will be posted on the RTOC website.
- Next RTOC is scheduled for May-2nd through the 4th and will be held in San Francisco, CA.
- EPA GAP grants proposals for FY18 were due in December 1st and we are currently in the process of reviewing these proposals.

**Requests:**

- Are other agencies working on administration transitioning materials for tribes or that tribes could use in regards to tribal programs in different agencies? If so, can they share what materials they are working on or what approach they are taking to developing these materials?

**Sara Russell, FEB:**

- She is arranging 3 speakers talking about various aspects of the election.

**Terri Bentley, VA:**

- **VA / THP / IHS Reimbursement Agreement:**
  - 92 THP Agreements; \$48M in reimbursement impacting 7,553 unique Veterans
  - Agreements are being extended through 6/30/19
- **HUD/VASH Homeless Vouchers Released to Indian Country:**
  - 500 Vouchers, approximately \$5.9 million dollars distributed to 26 tribal grantees
- **Recognition of Tribal Organizations for Representation of VA Claimants**
  - Final Rule Published in Federal Register on 1/19/17
- **Trump Transition Team**
  - During first 100 days transition team to visit Indian Country
  - Specific invite to SECVA
- **Three Tribal Consultations in 2016**

Consultation 1: Priorities for serving Veterans in Indian Country

Consultation 2: Accreditation of tribal Veterans Service Offices; and

Consultation 3: A proposed consolidation of non-VA care into a more standardized system under the Choice Act

- Report in concurrence process at DC
- Future consultation in 2017

**What priorities were identified?**

- 23 priorities – 13 of which were part of VA's current programming, 10 other were identified
- Top 5:
  - 1) Access to health care
  - 2) Addressing housing and homelessness
  - 3) Treatment for PTSD and mental health
  - 4) Understanding benefits, including benefits for families
  - 5) Transportation

- **June 14-16, 2017 – Idaho Veteran Training Summit (hosted by Nez Perce Tribe) at Clearwater River Casino Resort.**
  - Starts Wednesday June 14 at 1pm and ends 12 pm Friday, June 16
  - One day will be devoted to Tribal Veteran Representative Training
  - Half day to VA specific programs for Veterans and family members
  - Chief Joseph Memorial Powwow held June 16-18 at Lapwai Community Center
- **June 25-26, 2017 – Nevada Veteran Training Summit (hosted by TBD) at Reno, NV**
  - Details forthcoming
- **July 2017 (date TBD) - Washington State Tribal Veteran Representative Training (hosted by Suquamish Tribe) at Suquamish Casino Resort**
  - Details forthcoming
- **July 7-8, 2017 – Grand Ronde Gathering of Warriors** (hosted by Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) in collaboration with Native Wellness Institute and OTGR

- **August 20-26, 2017 – Veterans Camp Chaparral** – (hosted by Yakama Indian Nation) in collaboration with VISN20

**Cynthia Lemesh, HHS/CMS:**

- The training event for the Navajo Nation is scheduled for March 21 and 22 in Gallup, New Mexico.
- The training event for California tribal health programs is scheduled for April 25 and 26 in Sacramento.

**Loren Ellry, HHS/IHS-PHX:**

- Chris Buchannan Acting HQ Director for IHS.
- NV: Tribes anxious about ACA and changes and how it will affect them. Medicaid expansion was also an area of positive change and folks are concerned about losing coverage.