



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Health & Recovery Services Administration / Mental Health Division
P.O. Box 45320, Olympia, Washington 98504-5320

January 24, 2008

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), in collaboration with The Washington Institute for Mental Health Research and Training (WIMRT) is hosting two, one-day **Tribal Round Table Discussions** to learn from the experiences of tribal representatives, parents, children and youth, providers, and other stakeholders who wish to promote recovery and resiliency for Indian children and families through the Children's Mental Health System in Washington State.

On May 8, 2007, Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law new legislation, championed by Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, intended to substantially improve the delivery of children's mental health services in Washington State. The new bill, SS HB 1088, specifically calls for a report that contains broad community input into the decisions that will guide the transformation of Washington's Children's Mental Health System. The purpose of this letter is to invite your participation to share your perspectives in the **Tribal Round Table Discussions**, which are planned for February 25th in Puyallup and February 27th in Spokane.

We hope you and your tribal families and stakeholders will be able to join us as we move forward to create a true continuum of mental health care for children: A system that treats each child in the context of his or her family and community, focuses on resiliency, and is sensitive to the unique cultural circumstances of children of color; A system that extends from the earliest possible intervention points through the array of services necessary to effectively serve those children with the most intensive needs.

The Mental Health Division welcomes the participation of tribal family members and youth receiving services as deemed appropriate by the Chair. We look forward to your participation and partnership in this process. Flyers and Registration Forms will be distributed through the members of the Health & Recovery Services Administration Tribal Mental Health Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Ellingboe at se7@u.washington.edu or (253) 761-7653.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Kellogg, Director
Mental Health Division

cc: IPAC Delegates Colleen F. Cawston Doug North
Cheryl Strange Deb Sosa David B. Weston