



Sovereign Nations

TribalSelfGov.org

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Annual 2016 Tribal Strategy Session Summary



W. Ron Allen

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The Quinault Indian Nation, one of the first Self-Governance Tribes, recently hosted the 2016 Annual Tribal Strategy Session for more than 100 Tribal leaders, policy advocates, and technical experts to set and discuss the next Administrative, Budget, and Legislative priorities for Self-Governance Tribes.

During the Session in Ocean Shores, participants discussed and identified priorities for the upcoming presidential transition and the White House Tribal Nations Conference, held September 26-27, 2016 in Washington, DC. Through these discussions, Self-Governance Tribes created action plans to ensure the Tribal priorities continue to move forward. Strategy Session participants considered strategies to improve the government-to-government relationship, to expand Self-Governance, and to advance Tribal Health Programs throughout the Presidential transition and next Administration.

The outcomes from the 2016 Strategy Session are available on www.tribalselfgov.org. Tribal leaders and others active are invited to download the documents as they prepare to visit with presidential campaign teams, congressional members and staff, and new administrators.

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Internal Tribal Audits

Launching the Next Phase of Self-Governance Programs



The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Talking Stick Golf Course, one of the seven tribal enterprises owned by the Community.

In 1995, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) signed its first Self-Governance Compact with the Department of the Interior, taking on nearly 20 programs and services.

Over 20 years later, SRPMIC is an excellent example of how a Tribe through Self-Governance and advancements in infrastructure, economic development, and are leading in the field of new tribal methodology for auditing and evaluation.

SGCE had a chance to speak with veteran Self-Governance Coordinator, Robert Scabby, about the SRPMIC evaluation methods and the future of Tribal self-auditing practices.

"Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) has a mandate to conduct annual audits [of Self-Governance Compacted Tribes]," said Scabby. "We also saw a need to conduct audits internally and with our Tribal enterprises, and created an internal audit department that reports to Council that performs audits similar to OST."

Scabby expanded further and explained that OST is mandated to complete 300 audits per year, but averages only 20-30 due to lack of resources and lengthy timelines. With the foresight and support of a nine-member Tribal Council, SRPMIC set up its own internal auditing department staffed with certified professional accountants to conduct professional annual audits with each of their enterprises based on the OST audit framework.

Using the same methodologies as OST and under the oversight of SRPMIC Tribal Council, SRPMIC internal audit department has completed two audits with zero material findings. But the process is still in flux as SRPMIC continues to work with OST to get the methodologies and federal reporting perfected utilizing electronic data collection and additional hardware.

"SRPMIC is a living thriving community... [we want] to be more progressive," said Scabby. "We always have to be protecting and advocating for Self-Governance locally and nationally. If OST does their job, and we do our job, the payoff is far better services for Tribal members."

When asked what the most important piece of information he could provide to other Tribes new to Self-Governance, Scabby explained, "If you want to do it right, you have to chip in Tribal funds. Self-Governance costs money and you have to supplement your programs. If you want to serve your people better, Self-Governance is a vehicle to do just that."

For more information on the OST Tribal internal audit methodology contact Mr. Robert (Bob) Scabby via email at Robert.Scabby@SRPMIC-nsn.gov.

A Journey Towards Wellness

Individualized Care in Indian Country



Late Chairman Leroy Elliott from the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Indians holding a gourd, which plays a key role in the Kumeyaay Culture.

As integrated health systems rise to the topic of conversation around the country, the Southern Indian Health Council, Inc. (SIHC) is putting the theory into practice with its individualized health care with a focus on balancing wellness and improving access to medical, dental, pharmacy, and family services.

SIHC's ideology is patient-centered care which SIHC has made a concerted effort in focusing on the concept of a journey toward wellness, focusing on every aspect of the wellness and not just medical.

With the vision to be: "An innovative leader continually evolving to meet the comprehensive health care needs and desires of the communities we serve." SIHC is pushing the boundaries on quality patient care by taking into account every aspect of a patient's life, including looking outside of their own four walls.

According to SIHC, they are looking to truly provide integration of care and providing continuity in services, they have acknowledged the importance of being trauma informed and taking a step back, looking at family violence, domestic violence, and historical trauma.

With that framework SIHC staff address what it means for that patient to have balance and access to services and their ability to be at the center of their care.

SIHC is out of the ordinary when it comes to their Self-Governance journey. Originally established in the 1980's as a satellite operation of Indian Health Council in Pauma Valley, California to serve San Diego-area tribes, SIHC has grown into its own entity serving a seven-member tribal consortium including Barona, Campo, Ewiiapaayp, Jamul, La Posta, Manzanita, and Viejas.

In 2012, SIHC decided to explore the idea of a Self-Governance Compact with Indian Health Services and found that they were one of the first consortiums of tribes to consider a Self-Governance Compact. To prepare themselves, SIHC attended IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meetings to initiate the conversation and learn the Compacting process. Two years later in November 2014, SIHC signed its first Self-Governance Compact with Indian Health Service. In an effort to ensure a smooth transition and continuity in programs and the very essence of self-governance a "self-governance team" was formed. This allows for self-governance efforts to continue despite staff and service program changes. Each team member is active in a different way and brings various expertise to the team for the betterment of program growth.

SIHC serves over 7,500 Tribal and Non-Tribal patients, including nearly 400 veterans and growing.

When asked about the success of their wellness approach, SIHC is confident that it all comes down to team work. Through the true integration of the whole person health care approach with warm introductions from care providers to patients, and care providers asking questions like "What does wellness mean for this patient?" is the core of the success of SIHC. SIHC believes true integrated health care really brings the focus to what is truly best for the patient.

One impactful way SIHC has exercised being a self-governance program is through the addition of an optometrist. Adding this service has allowed improvement in access to care and increased linkages to services. The addition of this program was an idea that was quickly put into action demonstrating the very essence of being self-governance and providing services that are most responsive to community needs.

The SIHC team believes having a team approach to shaping the clinic and making it reflect the community requests and creating that network of support is the most important aspect of SIHC.

To learn more about SIHC and their wellness of the mind, body, and spirit approach visit <http://sihc.org/>.

Tribal Consultation Through the Years

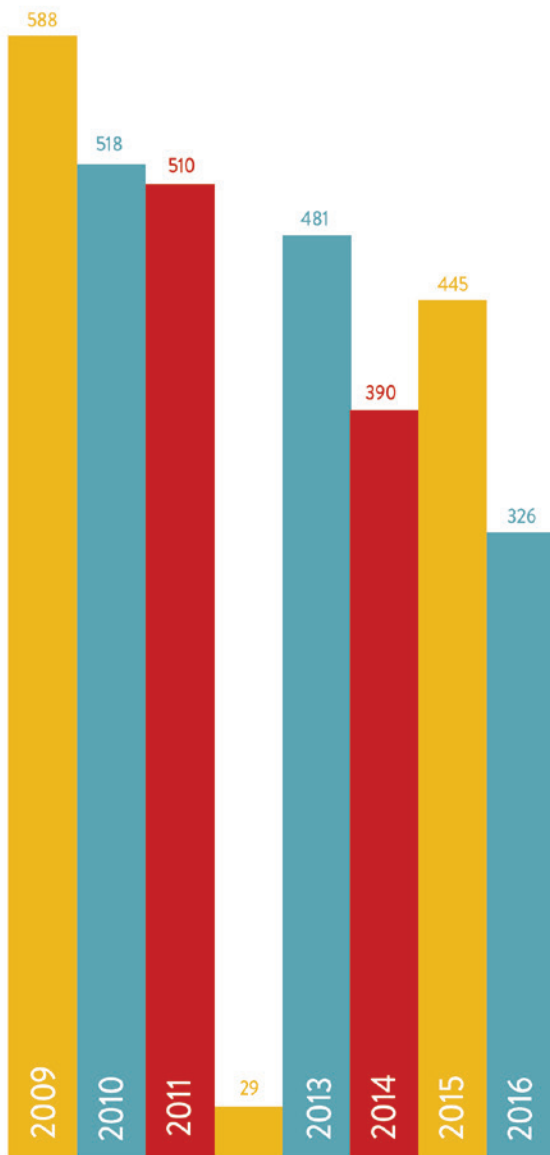
As the end of the Obama Administration nears and the important conversation about the future of Tribal Consultation continues, SGCE looked back through the archives of the Federal Register to collect the history of Tribal Consultation Notices from 1995 to 2016. SGCE found the Obama Administration to be one of the most influential in rebuilding the government-to-government relationship. Tribal Consultation allows Self-Governance Tribes to increase flexibility and strengthen Tribal governments' pursuit of self-determination. Learn more about of SGCE's findings on the next page.

32%

Tribal Consultation Notices posted in the Federal Register during the Obama Administration (2009-2016) account for 32% of the total Federal Register Tribal Consultation Notices in the last 20 years.

Total Tribal Consultation Notices in the Federal Register (1995-2016)

10,206



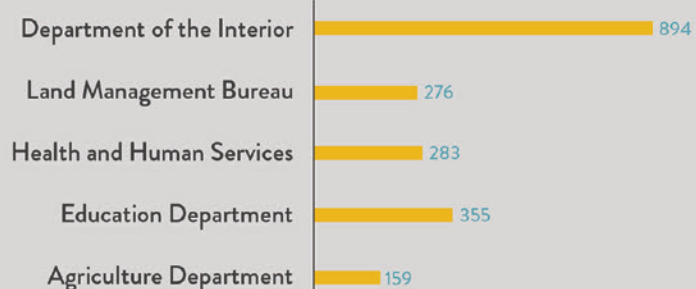
Total Number of Tribal Consultation Notices During the Obama Administration

15

AGENCIES

In accordance with Executive Order 13175 filed in 2000, and reaffirmed by a memorandum written by President Obama in 2009, all U.S. Government Agencies must establish a Tribal Consultation Policy. There are more than 30 agencies required to develop Tribal Consultation Policies, only 15 are currently in compliance.

Top 5 Agencies Publishing Tribal Consultation Notices in the Federal Register During the Obama Administration (2009-2016)



The data represented in the image above was collected directly from FederalRegister.gov in September 2016 utilizing keywords "Tribal Consultation" and filters for Notices, Years, and Departments.



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