



## Conference Agenda

### SUNDAY, JUNE 25

- 2 - 7p      **Registration Open**  
*Sales Foyer*
- 5 – 6p      **Speaker/Host/Moderator Orientation**  
*Meeting Room 2*

### MONDAY, JUNE 26

- 7a            **Registration Opens**  
*Sales Foyer*
- 8a            **Tribal Leaders & Self-Governance Professionals Networking Breakfast**  
*Ballroom 4*

An opportunity for Tribal leaders and officials to learn about the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), the DOI Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC), and the Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC); build networks and a community of support; and discuss experiences and identify shared challenges.

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut  
Jennifer McLaughlin, Self-Governance Legislative Associate, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Jay Spaan, Executive Director, Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium

- 9:30a        **Meet Federal Partners in Self-Governance and Self-Determination**  
*Ballroom 3*

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Join this networking opportunity to meet officials from the Federal agencies and offices that are responsible for administering Self-Governance and Self-Determination authority. Participating agencies include Indian Health Service, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is an informal opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee and walk around to meet federal partners.

10:30a **Break**

10:45a **Making Mandatory Matter: Group Dialogue on Enhancing Full-Funding Estimates for the Indian Health Service**

*Ballroom 4*

The President's FY 2024 Budget Request continues its historic advancement of full and mandatory funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and recognizes that it must continue to work in consultation with Tribal Nations to develop this proposal. The White House and Department of Health and Human Services recently held a Tribal consultation on the structure of mandatory funding, but the full funding amount is still under discussion. The National Indian Health Board is working on a project in collaboration with Tribal Nations and health economists to estimate full funding for the IHS. Join the NIHB in a group dialogue to kick off work to establish the full funding for IHS and how estimates could be improved.

Caitrin Shuy, Director, Government Relations, National Indian Health Board  
Tyler Scribner, Budget and Appropriations Counsel, National Indian Health Board  
A.C. Locklear, Director, Federal Relations, National Indian Health Board

10:45a **Listening Session: Tribal Involvement in the Naming of Geographic Features**

*Ballroom 1*

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) maintains uniform usage of the names of geographic features (e.g., mountains, lakes, rivers) for the Federal Government. In 2022, the BGN played a key role in replacing the names for nearly 650 features that contained the word "sq\_\_"—a process that included input from Tribal Nations. The BGN would like to increase Tribal engagement in the ongoing process of naming and renaming geographic features. Such involvement recognizes the historical and cultural relationship Tribal Nations have with the American landscape and the rights of Tribal Nations to exercise inherent sovereign powers over their lands. This session will explain how Tribal governments can request name changes for features on lands under their authority, submit proposals for features outside of their lands, and review and comment on new name and name change proposals submitted by others to the BGN.

Chris Hammond, Head of the Office of Tribal Relations, U.S. Geological Survey, and USGS Deputy Member to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Dr. Christine Johnson, Member, Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names

10:45a **Tribal Funding Opportunities at the National Science Foundation**

*Meeting Room 2*

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports science and engineering. NSF is committed to improving accessibility to NSF's tribal programs and expanding NSF's reach to Tribal Nations. This discussion will focus on funding opportunities for Tribal Nations and learning more about the NSF.

Sandra Richardson, Ph. D., Section Head, National Science Foundation

### **10:45a      Listening Session and Discussion: Veteran Affairs Native Reimbursement Agreement Program – Lower 48 States THPs**

*Ballroom 2*

The VA/Indian Health Service/Tribal Health Programs (THP)/Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Reimbursement Agreements Program provides VA reimbursement to IHS, THP and UIO health facilities for services provided to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. Eligible Veterans do not need VA preauthorization to receive health care services at IHS, THP and UIO health facilities. This discussion will focus on a new enhanced Agreement template for THPs in the lower 48 states. VA is working separately with Alaska THPs and IHS and this discussion will only focus on the lower 48 states THP template.

Hilary Peabody, Deputy Assistant Undersecretary of Health for Integrated Veterans Care  
Kara Hawthorne, Manager, VA-Native Reimbursement Agreement Program, Department of Veterans Affairs

P. Benjamin Smith, Deputy Director, Indian Health Service

Capt. John Rael, Director, Office of Resource Access and Partnerships, Indian Health Service

Moderator:

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation

### **10:45a      IHS Agency Lead Negotiator Meeting**

*Ballroom 3*

### **11a – 5p      DOD/USDA Partners Meeting**

*Meeting Room 1*

### **12p          Lunch Break (on your own)**

### **Plenary Session**

*The Cove*

### **1p          Posting of the Colors**

Este Cate Hoktve Suletawv, Muscogee Nation Women Warriors Honor Guard

### **Opening Prayer**

Del Beaver, Second Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

### **Native Praise Performance**

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Native Praise Choir preserves Indian culture through the native Christian hymns passed down by ancestors. The choir currently has 53 choir members, representing 17 Tribal Nations.

### **For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty**

*For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty*, is a docuseries dedicated to sharing stories that demonstrate Tribal Nations' success and innovation improving the health and wellbeing of their citizens, culture, and communities.

*Segment: Muscogee (Creek) Nation: Looped Square Meat Company*

### **Welcome to the 2023 Tribal Self-Governance Conference**

Nathalie Standingcloud

1:25p

### **Welcome to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a self-governed Tribal Nation located in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The Nation is the fourth largest tribe in the U.S. with nearly 100,000 citizens. The government side of the Tribe is made up of an executive branch, a legislative body, and a tribal court system. Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a diverse entity with many facets, such as: cultural tourism, gaming, businesses, and a higher learning institution.

David Hill, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

1:35p

### **Discussion with the White House Council on Native American Affairs**

Prosperity and resilience for all Tribal Nations is the vision of the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA). The WHCNAA endeavors toward this vision through collaborative inter-agency work across the Executive Branch, regular and meaningful Tribal-Federal engagement, and by fostering an all-of-government approach in meeting treaty and trust obligations to Tribal Nations.

Anthony Rodman, Executive Director, White House Council on Native American Affairs

#### Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

1:55p

### **Video Message from Congresswoman Sharice Davids**

2:00p

### **Congressional Updates and Priorities**

Learn more about legislative priorities and developments that affect Indian Country, including opportunities to expand Self-Governance authorities within the USDA and HHS.

Jennifer Romero, Staff Director and Chief Counsel, Majority, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Amber Ebarb, Staff Director, Minority, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Sofia Deiro, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Tom Cole (OK-4), US House of Representatives

#### Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

2:30p

### **For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty**

*For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty*, is a docuseries dedicated to sharing stories that demonstrate Tribal Nations' success and innovation improving the health and wellbeing of their citizens, culture, and communities.

*Segment: Ak-Chin Indian Community – Securing Access to Water*

2:40p

### **Protecting Sovereignty: Discussions on Recent Court Rulings and Implementation of Decisions, Panel I**

Judicial decisions have a significant influence on the sovereignty of Tribal Nations. The McGirt decision was a landmark ruling by the United States Supreme Court in July 2020 that affirmed the legal jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in eastern Oklahoma. The ruling stated that Congress never explicitly disestablished the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation in Oklahoma and thus the state of Oklahoma did not have jurisdiction to prosecute certain crimes committed by Native Americans within its borders. The decision reaffirmed the sovereignty of Tribal Nations. The McGirt decision also opened the door for other Tribal Nations to challenge state jurisdiction over their lands.

Sarah Hill, Attorney General, Cherokee Nation

Geris Wisner, Attorney General, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Robert Miller, Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, ASU

#### Host:

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsiyoTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

Jason Salsman, Press Secretary, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

3:15p

### **Protecting Sovereignty: Discussions on Recent Court Rulings and Implementation of Decisions, Panel II**

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians filed a federal lawsuit against Mille Lacs county, asking the court to declare that Tribal officers can investigate violations of Federal, State and Tribal law on the Mille Lacs reservation and prohibit the county from interfering. In 2023, the U.S. District Court found the county "improperly limited the Tribe's inherent law enforcement authority" to the land held in trust, when its territory includes all land within the reservation.

The Supreme Court is currently considering whether the Indian Child Welfare Act's provisions that give Tribal Nations a role in child custody proceedings and prioritize the placement of Native American children with Native American families are constitutional. The decision is expected to have significant implications for the sovereignty of Tribal Nations and the protection of Native American children in child welfare proceedings.

Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

David Simmons, Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy, National Indian Child Welfare Association

#### Hosts:

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsiyoTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

Jason Salsman, Press Secretary, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

3:45p

### **Honoring Treaty Obligations: Seating the Cherokee Nation's Delegate to Congress**

In 1835, the United States and the Cherokee Nation signed the Treaty of New Echota, which forced Cherokee ancestors to give up their ancestral homelands and move west on the Trail of Tears. This same treaty promised the Cherokee Nation the right to send a delegate to the U.S. Congress. For nearly two centuries, Congress has failed to honor this promise. Yet the obligation to seat a Cherokee Nation delegate remains as binding today as it was in 1835. In August 2019, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. nominated Kimberly Teehee to serve as the Cherokee Nation's first Delegate to Congress.

Kimberly Teehee, Delegate to Congress, Cherokee Nation

#### Host:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsियोTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

4:10p

### **Welcome to Tribal Nations that Recently Negotiated Self-Governance Agreements**

Please join us in welcoming the Tribal Nations that have recently entered into Self-Governance agreements with the US Department Interior, US Department of Health & Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Office of Self-Governance within the Department of Interior has agreements with more than 285 Tribal Nations, the Indian Health Service has agreements with over 380 Tribal Nations, and the US Department of Transportation has entered into its first agreement last year and is working with several Tribal Nations in planning and preparing for negotiations for future agreements.

4:15p

### **Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council: Overview and Funding Opportunities for Tribal Nations**

The Permitting Council is a unique Federal agency charged with improving the transparency and predictability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for certain critical infrastructure projects. The Council announced the allocation of \$5 million in funding to be made available to Tribal Nations to enhance Tribal engagement in the permitting review and authorization process for FAST-41 covered projects.

Manisha Patel, Deputy Executive Director, Federal Permitting Council

#### Host:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

4:40p

### **Performance: Lil Mike & Funny Bone**

Lil Mike and Funny Bone are brothers and citizens of the Pawnee Nation. The brothers formed a rap duo using their art to spread awareness of issues ranging from homelessness to gang violence. They appeared on America's Got Talent and have recurring roles on Reservation Dogs.

5:30 – 7:30p

### **FDPIR Tribal Meeting (Tribal Officials Only)**

*Main Training Rooms 1&2*

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

### TUESDAY, JUNE 27

9a – 5p      **Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations Meeting & Commodity Supplemental Food Program Consultation**  
*Main Training Rooms 1&2*

#### **Plenary Session** *The Cove*

9a            **Opening Prayer**  
*TBA*

9:05a        **Discussion with Indian Health Service, Indian Affairs, and Department of Transportation Leadership**  
The Director of the Indian Health Services, the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior, and the Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs at the Department of Transportation will provide updates on federal initiatives and activities, and implementation of federal programs that serve Tribal Nations and their citizens.

Roselyn Tso, Director, Indian Health Service  
Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior  
Arlando Teller, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs, Department of Transportation

Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

10a           **For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty**  
*For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty*, is a docuseries dedicated to sharing stories that demonstrate Tribal Nations' success and innovation improving the health and wellbeing of their citizens, culture, and communities.

*Segment: A Dance of Healing – Scott Siquah, 2023 World Hoop Dance Champion*

10:05a      **Discussion with Federal Partners in Self-Governance**  
At the request of a Tribal Nation, the Department of the Interior, Indian Health Service and the Department of Transportation have authority to negotiate Self-Governance compacts that enable the agencies to transfer federal resources and administration of select federal programs to Tribal governments. Learn more about recent initiatives and activities from the offices that administer Self-Governance authority within each of these agencies.

Jennifer Cooper, Director, OTSG, Indian Health Service  
Sharee Freeman, Director, OSG, Department of the Interior  
Eldridge Onco, Sr. Tribal Affairs Advisor, Department of Transportation

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

10:45a

### **PROGRESS Act Rulemaking Status and Next Steps**

On October 21, 2020, the PROGRESS Act was signed into law—enhancing the Self-Determination and Self-Governance authority within the Department of the Interior. The PROGRESS Act called for a negotiated rulemaking committee to develop implementing regulations. Tribal leaders will provide an update on the status of the rulemaking process.

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

11a

### **The Girl Scout Murders – Video**

11:05a

### **Reopening a Cold Case after McGirt – The Girl Scout Murders**

Following the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark McGirt v. Oklahoma ruling in 2020 that confirmed the criminal jurisdiction authority for several Tribal Nations in Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation reopened a 1977 murder investigation of three Girl Scouts that took place on its lands. The State of Oklahoma long considered the case closed following the arrest of a Cherokee man who was later found not guilty by a jury. The reopening of the case was due in part to new information uncovered by Cherokee author Faith Phillips. Faith Phillips and Cherokee filmmaker Jeremy Charles collaborated to create the docuseries “Girl Scout Murders.” Learn how the McGirt ruling and new information uncovered by Phillips could bring justice to the murderers and why it is important for Native storytellers to shape the stories from their lands and communities.

Faith Phillips, Novelist, Publisher, Screenwriter  
Jeremy Charles, CEO, Pursuit Films

Hosts:

Chris Anoatubby, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation  
Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

11:25a

### **Artificial Intelligence in the Delivery of Healthcare**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly used in healthcare to improve patient outcomes, streamline clinical workflows, and reduce costs. For instance, AI can analyze patient data from electronic health records to identify patterns and make predictions about patient outcomes. This can help healthcare providers make more informed decisions and develop personalized treatment plans for patients. However, there are also concerns about privacy, bias, and the ethical implications of using AI in healthcare.

Dr. John Krueger, Undersecretary of Medical Staff & Quality, Chickasaw Nation Department of Health  
Dr. William D. Paiva, Executive Director of the OSU Center for Health Systems Innovation  
Dr. Phillip Champagne, Indian Health Service

Hosts:

Chris Anoatubby, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation



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Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

12p

### **Tribal Co-Management of Federal Lands**

In 2021, USDA and DOI signed Joint Secretarial Order 3403, committing to Tribal co-stewardship, including through written co-stewardship agreements with Tribal Nations. The Order recognizes that federal lands were previously owned and managed by Indian Tribes and that these lands and waters contain cultural and natural resources of significance and value to Indian Tribes and their citizens. The Order directs agencies to increase opportunities for Tribal Nations to participate in their traditional stewardship of present-day federal lands and waters and the integration of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledge and sustainability practices into federal management and operations, subject to the interest of each Tribal Nation.

#### Panelist:

Samuel Kohn, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, DOI

#### Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation

12:30p

### **Lunch Break (on your own)**

1:30– 2:45p

### **Breakout Sessions**

#### **Self-Determination and Self-Governance in the 2023 Farm Bill**

*Ballroom 1*

Indian Country received more funding through U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs than any federal agency in fiscal year 2022. While USDA is currently limited in its Self-Determination and Self-Governance authority, Tribal governments can elect to assume greater control over agriculture and forestry operations. Join this session to learn how the 2023 Farm Bill can expand and enhance Self-Determination and Self-Governance authority.

Carly Griffith Hotvedt, Associate Director Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, University of Arkansas School of Law, Native Farm Bill Coalition

Abi Fain, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Native Farm Bill Coalition

Phillip Baker-Shenk, Holland & Knight LLP

#### Moderator:

Jennifer McLaughlin, Self-Governance Legislative Associate, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

#### **Calculating Tribal Shares and Identifying Inherently Federal Functions**

*Ballroom 2*

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act provides that Tribal governments who decide to administer federal programs using Self-Governance authority are to receive the same funds (tribal shares) that would have been provided had the federal government operated the programs. Generally, the amount of funds available to Tribal governments equals the total amount of funds the federal agency used to operate a program minus residual

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

funds. Residual funds are the funds necessary for the federal government to carry out inherently federal functions that only federal employees may perform. Join this session to learn more about how DOI and IHS calculate tribal shares.

Carla Mayo, Deputy Director, Office of Tribal Self-Governance, IHS  
Vickie Hanvey, Program Policy Analyst, Office of Self-Governance, DOI

Moderator:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

### **Overview of the 477 Program**

*Ballroom 3*

In 2022, 12 federal agencies signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to implement the Tribal “PL477 Program,” named for Public Law 102-477. This authority provides Tribal governments the option to consolidate important federal funding for job training, workforce development, and other economic development purposes into a single plan, with a single reporting requirement, administered by DOI. Join this session to learn more about the experiences of Tribal Nations that use the 477 program and to learn how the 477 program differs from Self-Governance authority.

Jeremy Arnette, Assistant Director, Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
Ashawna Miles, Self-Governance Director, Cherokee Nation  
Andrew Caulum, General Attorney, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior

Moderator:

Heather Washington, Self-Governance Coordinator, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

### **Health IT Modernization**

*Ballroom 4*

For nearly 40 years, all IHS health care facilities and many facilities operated by Tribal governments have relied on the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) to support everything from patient registration to insurance billing, and includes the patient’s Electronic Health Record (EHR). The technology underlying RPMS is outdated, and it is very challenging for each organizational unit to maintain its own RPMS database. Fortunately, health information technology has come a long way in the past 40 years, and the IHS is in the process of modernizing how these critical systems are acquired and managed in support of health care. Join this session to learn more about the status of the Modernization project and Tribal perspectives on the project.

Mitch Thornbrugh, Chief Information Officer, IHS  
Brandy Russell, Technology and Analytics Officer, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Moderator:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation

2:45p      **Break**

3 – 4:15p   **Breakout Sessions**

**ACA/IHCIA 101**

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### *Ballroom 1*

The IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee receives funding to provide outreach, education, technical, research, and analytical support to Tribal Nations on the ACA/IHCIA. Join this session for an overview of resources that are available for Tribal Nations, discuss ways to increase third party revenues (Medicare/ Medicaid/ Other Resources), and to learn more about Tribal Sponsorship opportunities.

#### Presenters:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated  
Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker  
Betsy Barron, TSGAC Project Intern

### **Tribal Consultation: Non-BIA PSFAs**

#### *Ballroom 3*

#### Presenters:

Kelly Titensor, Bureau of Reclamation  
Eldred Lesensee, Associate Deputy Director, Appraisal and Valuation Services Office  
Byron Loosle, Bureau of Land Management  
Dorothy Firecloud, National Park Service  
Scott Aikin, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jason Bruno, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration  
Elizabeth Shollenberger, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

#### Moderator:

Vickie Hanvey, Program Policy Analyst, Office of Self-Governance, DOI

### **Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development's Electrification Program**

#### *Ballroom 4*

The Inflation Reduction Act authorized the Department of Interior to create a Tribal Electrification Program intended to increase the number of Tribal homes with zero emission electricity. DOI was provided \$150 million to distribute to Tribal Nations through this program. Join this session to learn more about the Tribal Electrification Program.

#### Presenter:

Sean Henderson, Infrastructure and Economic Development Coordinator, Office of Indian Economic Development

#### Moderator:

Travis Jansen, Deputy Director, SGCETC

### **Tribal Trust Evaluations**

#### *Ballroom 2*

The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) will present an overview of the trust evaluation process for tribes that compact trust programs. This session will cover recent changes, updates to the process, and how the trust evaluation feedback can help tribes improve trust operations.

#### Presenters:

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Elizabeth Wells Shollenberger, Director, Trust Evaluation and Review, BTFA  
Jason Bruno, Director, Office of Trust Risk, Evaluation, and Compliance, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

4:30– 5:30p **Walking with Tribal Nations & Native Businesses: Helping Guarantee the Economic Future of Indian Country**

*Ballroom 3*

Presenter:

Lisa Wayne, Chief, Division of Capital Investment, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

This session features Division of Capital Investment (DCI) staff sharing relevant information to help American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments and individuals overcome barriers to conventional financing and secure reasonable interest rates. DCI offers a Guaranteed Loan and Loan Insurance Program to Indian borrowers seeking business loans from approved commercial lenders, such as banks and CDFIs. DCI will discuss the Program's history, how loans are made and how it might be an opportunity for your business needs. The Indian Loan Guarantee and Insurance Program help both Tribal Nations and their citizens establish, operate, and expand Native-owned businesses that promote their economic self-sufficiency.

7 - 8p

**Stickball Demonstration Game**

*Outdoor Lawn Area*

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

9 – 10:15a **Breakout Sessions**

### **Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals**

*Ballroom 1*

Rural communities often face challenges in maintaining an adequate health workforce, making it difficult to provide needed patient care or to meet staffing requirements for their facilities. Recruiting health professionals and students to open positions or to future positions is challenging and retention is even more of a daunting task given surrounding urban area competition and incentives that are not available to rural locations or small facilities. Learn more about the experiences of Tribal governments and the Indian Health Service as they seek to recruit and retain healthcare professionals.

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Stephen Stake, CEO, K'ima:w Medical Center

Jennifer Fry, Deputy Director, Office of Human Resources, IHS

**Moderator:**

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

### **Training on Pay Costs Data**

*Ballroom 2*

What is pay cost? What determines the amount of pay cost a Tribal government receives? What Tribal data is necessary? How does the absence of data impact Federal pay costs funding for Tribal governments? This session will answer these and many more questions about funding and pay cost data.

Melissa Fortney, Budget Analyst, Office of Budget and Performance Management, BIA  
Jeannine Brooks, Office of Budget and Performance Management, BIA

Moderator:

Jennifer McLaughlin, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

### **Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association & Data Sovereignty**

*Ballroom 1*

This session will provide an update on OICWA, with a focus on how Tribal sovereignty can be protected and promoted in the face of ongoing challenges. The session will also touch on current Tribal partnerships grants, Tribal best practices and the increasing need to expand Indigenous data governance and sovereignty as it correlates to advocacy of Tribal self-determination.

Te'Ata Loper, Executive Director, Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association

Moderator:

Jessica Imotichey, Chickasaw Nation

### **Using a Section 105(l) Lease Agreement to Help Address Infrastructure Needs**

*Ballroom 3*

Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act allows Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations to be compensated for costs incurred while carrying out select federal programs, services, functions, and activities administered under Self-Governance agreements at Tribal facilities. Join this session to learn more about Section 105(l) authority.

Judith Wilson, Director, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management, BIA  
Jillian Curtis, Chief Financial Officer, IHS

Moderator:

Ashawna Miles, Self-Governance Director, Cherokee Nation

### **Economic Development and Tribal Partnerships**

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

Presenters:

Zechariah Harjo, Secretary of the Nation and Commerce, Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Cory Box, Mayor, City of Jenks, Oklahoma

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Casey Stowe, Senior Vice President, Finance and Real Estate, PartnerTulsa

Moderator:

Rhonda Harjo, Consultant, (Ret.) Deputy Chief Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

10:15a **Break**

10:30– 11:45a **Breakout Sessions**

### **Expanding Health Care Infrastructure**

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

Infrastructure is critical for healthcare programs. As Tribal Nations expand their healthcare systems to offer more services to their citizens, outgrowing current infrastructure is a common challenge. Join this session to learn more about two different approaches that Tribal Nations used to address infrastructure needs—one through an acquisition of an existing healthcare facility and one through ground up construction. Attendees will also learn about one Tribal government's efforts to mitigate construction challenges—efforts that resulted in on time completion, lessening the burden on facility's internal management team, and reducing the overall risk associated with delays.

Rhonda Beaver, Chief Administrative Officer, Muscogee Nation Department of Health

Carrie Sarnicky, CEO, Laguna Healthcare Corporation

Dwayne Robinett, HFG Architecture

Milton Rivers, Partners Healthcare Group

Moderator:

Lee Waller, Partners Healthcare Group

### **Combatting Human Trafficking**

*Ballroom 1*

Human trafficking occurs across the globe and in our own tribal communities. To help combat this epidemic, Tribal governments and gaming facilities are using their unique positions and tools to become an active part of the solution. Learn more about human trafficking and proactive measures that tribal gaming operators and government officials are taking to prevent trafficking.

Jeannie Hovland, Vice Chair/ Director of the Office of Self-Regulation, National Indian Gaming Commission

Moderator:

Rhonda Harjo, Consultant, (Ret.) Deputy Chief Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

### **The Department of Treasury's Tribal Office of Recovery Programs**

*Ballroom 2*

Josh Jackson, Policy Advisor, Office of Tribal and Native Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Moderator:

Heather Washington, Self-Governance Coordinator, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

### **Incorporating Indigenous Food into Food Distribution Programs**

*Ballroom 3*

Menominee Indian Tribe and Oneida Nation successfully incorporated Indigenous foods into their Food Distribution Program because of authority offered through the FDPIR Self-Determination Project. Join this session to learn of their experiences with the project, positive impacts on their communities and food systems, lessons learned, and how attendees can support efforts to permanently expand this program nationwide.

Panelists:

Jennifer Webster, Councilmember, Oneida Nation

Gary Besaw, Director of Agriculture and Food Systems, Menominee Tribe of Indians

Vanessa Miller, Food and Agriculture Area Manager, Oneida Nation

Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

### **Self-Governance for Finance Professionals: Understanding Reprogramming Authority, Accountability, and Reporting Requirements**

*Ballroom 4*

Panel I:

Linda Austin, COO, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo

Kasie Nichols, Director, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Panel II:

Rufina Villicana, Office of Self-Governance, DOI

Moderator:

Terra Branson-Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Clause Law P.L.L.C.

11:45a      **Lunch (on your own)**

### **Plenary Session**

*The Cove*

1p      **Discussion with the U.S. Department of Treasury**

The US Treasurer plays a crucial role in managing the US government's finances, promoting financial education and literacy, and advocating for policies that promote economic growth and stability, including policies that address the unique challenges experienced by Tribal governments. For instance, dual taxation on Tribal lands (i.e., taxes levied by both state and Tribal governments on the same persons, properties, or transactions) inhibits Tribal economic development and economic sustainability because it diverts tax revenue from Tribes to non-Tribal governments and deters private sector capital investment in Indian country. The Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC) issued a report in 2021 that documented the effects of dual taxation and provided recommendations for federal partners. In 2022, President Biden appointed the first Native American, Chief Lynn Malerba,

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

to serve as Treasurer. Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Malerba is the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe and is the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history.

Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba, Treasurer of the United States and Chief, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut  
W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and Chair of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee

Host:

Chris Anoatubby, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation

1:35p

### **Discussion with the ANA Commissioner**

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) is a division within the United States Department of Health and Human Services that promotes the social and economic well-being of Tribal communities. ANA supports Tribal Nations and organizations through a variety of grant programs and technical assistance. These programs focus on a range of issues, including language revitalization, economic development, health and wellness, and education.

Patrice Kunesh, Commissioner, ANA

Hosts:

Chris Anoatubby, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

2:00p

### **For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty**

*For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty*, is a docuseries dedicated to sharing stories that demonstrate Tribal Nations' success and innovation administering governmental programs and taking actions that improve the health and wellbeing of their citizens, culture, and communities.

*Segment: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe – Healing Our Community*

2:10p

### **Healing Our Communities from Substance Abuse**

In recent years, Tribal Nations across the country have seen a significant increase in overdose deaths and addiction associated with the use of fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that is many times more potent than heroin, and opioids. Fentanyl is often mixed with other drugs, including heroin, cocaine, and counterfeit prescription pills, without the user's knowledge, making it extremely dangerous. Tribal Nations have increased efforts to combat the crisis, including increased access to addiction treatment, harm reduction strategies, and law enforcement efforts to crack down on the illicit fentanyl trade.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation

Geoffrey Standing Bear, Principal Chief, Osage Nation

Jamie Azure, Chairman, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Captain Karen Hearod, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, SAMHSA

Hosts:

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsioTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film



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3:00p

### **For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty**

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*Segment: Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians - Greyson's Initiative*

3:10p

### **The Greyson Initiative: Increasing Organ and Tissue Donation in Tribal Communities**

Greyson Parisien's time on earth was short but his impact on Indian Country will be monumental and long-lasting. Greyson's difficult journey to correct an irregular heart led to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians becoming the first Tribal Nation to include organ and tissue donation designation on its Tribal IDs.

Jamie Azure, Chairman, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians  
Joan Azure, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Host:

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsiyoTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

3:30p

### **Discussion with the Office of Management & Budget (OMB)**

The OMB plays a crucial role in the budget process and management of federal programs. It is responsible for developing the President's budget proposal to Congress. This involves working with federal agencies to develop budget requests and making decisions on how federal resources should be allocated. OMB is also responsible for tracking the implementation of the President's budget proposals and reviewing and approving regulations proposed by federal agencies.

Elizabeth Carr, Tribal Advisor to the Director, Office of Management and Budget

Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

4:00p

### **Tribal Self-Regulation of Gaming Operations**

Tribal self-regulation is an innovative and logical approach when gaming is conducted pursuant to Secretarial procedures instead of a Tribal-State gaming compact. Self-regulation directly promotes Tribal sovereignty by vesting primary authority for the regulation of gaming with the Tribe. Self-regulation applies for both Class II and Class III gaming. The flexibilities found in NIGC regulations also exist in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act which provides for a multijurisdictional regulatory framework (federal, state and Tribal) that recognizes the inherent sovereignty of Tribes.

Jeannie Hovland, Vice Chair/ Director of the Office of Self-Regulation, National Indian Gaming Commission  
Kathy Clenney, Executive Director, Barona Gaming Commission

Host:

Robert Miguel, Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community  
W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

4:20p

### **Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Massacre**

Black Wall Street was the name given to the thriving black business district located in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma in the early 20th century. The district was home to many black-owned businesses, including grocery stores, banks, restaurants, and other types of shops. However, on May 31, 1921, a violent racial massacre occurred in Tulsa. A white mob attacked the Greenwood neighborhood, killing an estimated 300 black residents and destroying many of the buildings and businesses in the area.

The Tulsa Race Massacre, as it came to be known, had a devastating impact, including the destruction of the Black Wall Street district. It took decades for the community to recover from the massacre and rebuild the businesses and institutions that had been lost.

Quraysh Ali Lansana, Author, Historian and Visiting Associate Professor, University of Tulsa  
Michelle Brown Bordeaux, Program Coordinator, Greenwood Cultural Center

#### Hosts:

Lincoln Cochran, Black Wall Street Alliance  
Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsiyoTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

7p

### **Evening Reception**

## THURSDAY, JUNE 29

**Tours** (sign up in advance to participate in tours)

### **Black Wall Street/ Greenwood District**

*Estimated Departure – 1p*

*Estimated Return - 3:30p*

Black Wall Street was the name given to the thriving black business district located in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma in the early 20th century. The district was home to many black-owned businesses, including grocery stores, banks, restaurants, and other types of shops. It was a stronghold of black economic prosperity, a symbol of resilience and strength. However, in 1921, a violent racial massacre occurred in Tulsa. A white mob attacked the Greenwood neighborhood, killing an estimated 300 black residents and destroying many of the buildings and businesses in the area.

The Tulsa Race Massacre, as it came to be known, had a devastating impact, including the destruction of the Black Wall Street district. It took decades for the community to recover from the massacre and rebuild the businesses and institutions that had been lost.

### **Cherokee Nation's Durbin Feeling Language Center and Cultural Center**

*Shuttle Departs - 10:30a*

*Estimated Return - 3p*

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On November 15, 2022, the Cherokee Nation opened its Durbin Feeling Language Center, named after Durbin Feeling who was known for being the single-largest contributor to the Cherokee language since Sequoyah. The 52,000 sq ft facility houses the entire Cherokee Nation Language Department that includes the Cherokee Immersion Charter School, the Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program, and the Cherokee translation, language technology, curriculum development, and community language departments. Visit some of the facility's 17 classrooms, a library, archive room, gymnasium, playground, cafeteria, and office space and learn more about the Cherokee Nation's work to preserve the Cherokee language and reach their goal to expand Cherokee speakers.

### **Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Council Oak Health Care Facility**

*Shuttle Departs – 1p*

*Estimated Return - 3:30p*

Council Oak first opened in August 2021. The 20-acre campus comprises 336,385 square feet of health care facilities including inpatient and outpatient accommodations. It includes a 30,386-square-foot medical office building and about 40 hotel rooms that are being remodeled to better accommodate family members and patients with added amenities for longer stays. The focus is on helping tribal citizens with urogynecology, pulmonology, an HIV and hepatitis clinic, a diabetes clinic, a surgery center and a neurology clinic focusing on general neurology, stroke prevention, and post-stroke treatment. There's also a hospice wing with a negative pressure room for those who want to be close to their loved one without sharing the same air. The hospital also has some of the best technology in the region for helping find a problem and then treat it-- with a 512-slice CT machine and a DaVinci Robot for the surgery suites.

### **Cherokee Nation Film Studio**

*Shuttle Departs – 1p*

*Estimated Return – 3p*

Cherokee Nation Film Office launched in 2019 and became the first certified Native American film commission to open in the United States. The Cherokee Nation Film Studio creates and maintains unique, all-inclusive talent, crew and consulting online directories featuring Native American actors, extras, voice actors, crew, cultural experts, and other industry resources. In early 2022, Cherokee Nation and its businesses launched a powerful economic tool within the Tribe's reservation and expanded its effort to help grow the film and television industries in Oklahoma when Cherokee Nation Film Office became the first tribal film commission to offer an annual \$1 million film incentive for productions filmed within its Tribe's boundaries. The Cherokee Nation Film Office assists filmmakers worldwide who are looking to film within the Cherokee Nation and to accurately portray the lives of Native Americans in film and television. They are driven to expand the presence of Natives in the film and television industries both in front of and behind the camera.

Join us on a tour of the Cherokee Nation Film studio, a 27,000 sq ft facility, that houses the sound stage, edit suites, control room, pro-grade audio booth, crew and cast lounges, and hair and makeup rooms.

### **Chickasaw Nation Medical Center**

*Shuttle Departs - 8:30a*

*Estimated Return - 3p*

In 1980, the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility was opened, bringing healthcare to Native people living in Ada and surrounding communities. The facility was built to serve about 20,000 patients annually; however, the facility saw over 10 times that estimation resulting in long wait times and overcrowding.

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The Chickasaw Nation entered in to a compact with the Indian Health Service in 1994, allowing the Nation to provide healthcare that met the needs of its community. Tribal funds and an Indian Health Service joint-venture award were used to construct a new facility, help with staffing, and provide health care programs, services, functions, and activities. This facility was the first facility to receive such an award from the Indian Health Service and is the largest health care facility in Indian Country. Tour the medical facility and learn how the Chickasaw Nation has been integrating and enhancing health care services to people in Southeastern OK.

### 9 – 10:15a **Breakout Sessions**

#### **Negotiating Self-Governance Agreements**

*Ballroom 3*

Learn from Tribal and Federal representatives on the process of negotiating Self-Governance Agreements. You will gain a better understanding on ways to plan, prepare for, and negotiate Self-Governance agreements from experts that will identify best practices, lessons learned, and share their experiences in the realm of negotiations.

Terri Parton, President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes  
Karen Fierro, Director of Self-Governance, Ak-Chin Indian Community  
Matt Kallapa, Northwest Field Office Manager, DOI  
Lindsay King, Director, Office of Tribal Self-Determination

Moderator:

Terra Branson-Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Clause Law P.L.L.C.

#### **EMS Telemedicine Initiative**

*Ballroom 2*

Rosebud Sioux Tribe is the first Tribal Nation to implement a Telemedicine in Motion program in South Dakota. The initiative mitigates a critical shortage of experienced paramedics by connecting a doctor or nurse via video and audio to the paramedic in the back of the ambulance.

Panelists:

Eric Emery, Program Director, Rosebud EMS  
John Gruber, Operations Manager, Avel eCare

Moderator:

Heather Washington, Self-Governance Coordinator, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

#### **Identifying Community Needs & Priorities**

*Ballroom 1*

Many Tribal Nations that administer programs to their communities through Self-Governance have found that identifying the needs and priorities of the community is key for the delivery of services that meet the needs of their citizens. This session will share the experiences of two Tribal Nations that effectively engaged with the community and how the results of the community input guides the delivery of governmental programs.

Debra Danforth, Division Director, Oneida Comprehensive Health

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Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

### **Unwinding Medicaid**

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

This break-out session will include a discussion with Tribal and Federal representations surrounding the current status and activities that Tribal Nations and States are engaging in to prepare for and operationalize the unwinding of the continuous coverage requirement to minimize coverage losses. States are on different timelines for initiating Medicaid eligibility redeterminations following the end of the continuous coverage requirement on March 31, 2023 and therefore in different stages of the process.

Yvonne Myers, ACA/Medicaid Consultant, Citizen Potawatomi Health Services  
Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker

Moderator:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

### **Contract Support Costs 101**

*Ballroom 4*

Vickie Hanvey, Program Policy Analyst, Office of Self-Governance, DOI  
Johnnita Tsabetsaye, IHS Director, Division of Contract Support Costs

Moderator:

Terra Branson-Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Clause Law P.L.L.C.

10:15a                **Break**

10:30 – 11:45a    **Breakout Sessions**

### **Administering Tribal Appraisal Programs Through a Self-Governance Agreement: Understanding AVSO's Workload-Based Formula**

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

Some Tribal Nations have taken over the responsibility of carrying out the Real Estate Appraisal Services program through their Title IV Self-Governance agreements and have negotiated Memorandums of Understanding with the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office (AVSO) to identify the coordination, implementation, duties, and responsibilities of the Tribe and AVSO in the operation of the Real Estate Appraisal Program. This session will provide a better understanding of AVSO's workload-based formula which was established in 2011 by a Tribal-Federal workgroup and approved by the Special Trustee for American Indians.

Eldred Lesensee, Associate Deputy Director, Appraisal and Valuation Services Office

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### Moderator:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

### **Background Checks: Complying with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act**

*Ballroom 2*

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (ICPA) is a federal law that was enacted in 1990. The purpose of the law is to protect Native American children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by requiring background checks for individuals who work with or have regular contact with Native American children in federally-funded or Tribal programs.

Under the ICPA, individuals who seek employment or volunteer opportunities in these programs are required to undergo a background check that includes a review of their criminal history, child abuse and neglect registries, and other relevant records.

Debra Danforth, Division Director, Oneida Comprehensive Health  
Shirl Eastep, Deputy Director, Office of Human Resources, IHS

### Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

### **Tribal Sovereignty in Community Based Participatory Research**

*Ballroom 3*

Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) is a collaborative research approach that involves community members, researchers, and other stakeholders in the research process from start to finish. The goal of CBPR is to produce knowledge that is relevant to the needs and priorities of the community and to empower community members to use that knowledge to make positive changes in their lives.

Jami Bartgis, Ph. D., President/CEO, One Fire Associates, LLC

### Moderator:

Terra Branson-Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Clause Law P.L.L.C.

### **Contract Support Costs – Discussion of Current Issues at DOI**

*Ballroom 4*

Linda Austin, Chief Operating Officer, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo

**Red Lake Nation Rep**

Vickie Hanvey, Program Policy Analyst, Office of Self-Governance, DOI  
Sunshine Jordan, Bureau of Indian Affairs

### Moderator:

Jennifer McLaughlin, Self-Governance Legislative Associate, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

### **What the FACA: Impacts on Tribal Leader Consultation Meetings and Next Steps**

## TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

### *Ballroom 1*

Over the years, Tribal and federal representatives have often wrestled with whether or not FACA applies to meetings between federal officials and Tribal leaders and their appointees. This session will include experts who will discuss whether and how FACA applies to federal meetings with Tribal leaders, and it will offer alternative ways that Tribal Nations can think about approaching FACA applicability to meetings in the future. The goal of this session is to empower Tribal leaders with information on current law so that Federal agencies receive more meaningful input from Indian Country.

#### Presenters:

Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker

#### Moderator:

A.C. Locklear, Director, Federal Relations, NIHB