



HHS Holds Tribal Listening Session



Flag of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Photo Courtesy of Wiki Commons.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, July 16 and Thursday, July 17, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) held an online two-day Tribal Listening Session. The Listening Session’s focus was on the HHS internal reorganization plans. Plans which include moving multiple departments like the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration into one singular administration known as the Administration for a Healthy America. More of the changes that the HHS is planning to implement can be found on the [Fact Sheet](#) on the their website.

The listening session’s agenda scheduled time for the leaders of different HHS agencies to speak and was attended by over 200 tribal leaders during the two days it was held. Among those present were Delegate Germaine Simonson, Delegate Andy Nez, and Director Thomas Cody from the Navajo Division of Social Services. Delegate Nez emphasized the Nation’s opinion on Medicaid, and Director Cody called to keep the ten regional offices open rather than reducing the number as planned according to the Fact Sheet. The most common sentiment among all tribal leaders the need for the HHS to make an official tribal consultation regarding the HHS Reorganization, as a tribal listening session is simply not enough.