



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 08 2007

Dear Tribal Leader:

It is with great pleasure we invite you to join the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by participating in a strategic collaboration event in striving to identify, address challenges, and develop solutions to the delivery of child protection and child welfare services in our Indian communities. We hope you will be able to join us at this first annual conference, "Native Hope, Pride & Strength: A National Conference on Child Protection and Child Welfare in Indian Country" June 26, 27, & 28, 2007, at the Marriott Hotel, 2101 Louisiana Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The conference will be an important event co-sponsored by the BIA Office of Indian Services, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and other organizations involved in Indian child protection services. The conference will also host the Strategic Alliance Memorandum signing ceremony pledging our long term partnerships with various Departments to diligently address improvement of the lives of Indian children, youth and our communities.

We are enclosing an agenda listing the topics and registration information. We hope that you will be able to join us in working together toward developing solutions to these important issues in Indian Country and making our first annual conference a success.

The conference registration deadline is June 1, 2007. Since space is limited, there will be no on-site registration. A block of rooms, "BIA Child Protection Conference", has been reserved. For more information check our web site: www.doi.gov/bia/childconference.html.

If you have any questions regarding this conference, please contact Ms. Tina Cline or Mr. William Snell at In-Care Network, Inc., Billings, Montana, (406) 259-9616. For more information on the Strategic Alliance Memorandum contact Ms. Stephanie Birdwell, Chief, Division of Human Services Washington, D.C., (202) 513-7621.

Sincerely,

ACTING Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Enclosures