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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Webinar Series Focusing on The American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Male Health Kicks Off June 13 during Men's Health Month

*Partnering for Wellness:
Charting a Course to Hope, Healing, and Health for Native Males and Their Families*

Washington, D.C. – Men's Health Network (MHN) along with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and other partners will be hosting a webinar, *Partnering for Wellness: Charting a Course to Hope, Healing, and Health for Native Males and Their Families*, on June 13th, at 1:00 p.m. EST. This is the first in what is planned to be a six-part series of webinars seeking to raise awareness of the health disparities facing American Indian and Alaska Native males and their families, recently highlighted in a report entitled: [*A Vision of Wellness and Health Equity for American Indian and Alaska Native Boys and Men*](#) distributed by MHN. The webinar will both explore current challenges and highlight promising practices currently underway in communities.

WHAT: Men's Health Network (MHN), Indian Health Service (IHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Office of Minority Health (OMH) and Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE), to host ***Partnering for Wellness: Charting a Course to Hope, Healing, and Health for Native Males and Their Families*** webinar

WHEN: **Thursday, June 13, 1:00 p.m. EST** (log in 10 minutes beforehand)

LOCATION: <http://ihs.adobeconnect.com/r77im31j7f9/>

Room Passcode: ihs123
+1-800-832-+0736

WEBINAR PANELISTS: Dr. Susan Karol, Chief Medical Officer, IHS, will present opening remarks; Ana Fadich, Vice President, MHN will introduce MHN; Mose Herne, Director, Division of Planning, Evaluation and Research, IHS, will present an overview and current state of the problem; Rod Robinson, Director, Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse, SAMHSA, will highlight the public and private partnerships of alcohol and substance abuse; and Rick Haverkate, Senior Project Analyst in the OMH

Resource Center (OMHRC), will address the consequence of continued neglect, gaps in data and research, and opportunities for building a collaborative network to achieve Native male health equity.

WHY: AI/AN males experience death rates 200 to 500 percent greater than AI/AN females for suicide, HIV/AIDS, homicide, unintentional injuries, diabetes, firearm injury, and alcohol-related deaths and 10 to 50 percent higher than AI/AN females from cancer, heart disease, and liver disease. The AI/ANs are the only racial/ethnic group in which males experience higher levels of self-reported psychological distress than females. To date, these disparities are not widely acknowledged and subsequently, AI/AN male-focused interventions have rarely been attempted.

The next webinar in the series will focus on youth-focused interventions. Tentative speakers include: Larke Huang, Senior Advisor in the Administrator's Office of Policy Planning and Innovation at SAMHSA; Brian Yassie, National Director of Native American Services; Jeremy Red Eagle, Youth Council Coordinator, Helena Indian Alliance Youth Outreach; Keola Chan, Aha Kane Honolulu; Erin Bailey, Director of the Center for Native American Youth, The Aspen Institute; Sen. Bryan Dorgan, former U.S. Senator from North Dakota.

Men's Health Network (MHN) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to reach men, boys, and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health prevention messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation. Learn more about MHN at www.menshealthnetwork.org and follow us on Twitter @MensHlthNetwork and facebook.com/menshealthnetwork

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