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## MEDIA ALERT

September 26, 2013

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### **Family and Culture: Protective Factors in the Promotion of Native Men's Health**

*The Dialogue on Native Men's Health Continues*

(Washington, DC) – The fourth in the Native Men's Health webinar series, *Family and Culture: Protective Factors in the Promotion of Native Men's Health* webinar focuses on men's roles as part of the family unit and traditional indigenous culture as positive ways of promoting men's health. The webinar is being hosted by the Indian Health Service (IHS), Men's Health Network (MHN), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Office of Minority Health (OMH) and Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE).

This webinar affords a unique opportunity to hear from two outstanding speakers - Mr. Al Pooley, founder of the *Fatherhood is Sacred* and *Motherhood is Sacred* programs, who will share his program experience and field work focused on culture-based approaches to improving and maintaining Native men's health – and Mr. William Mousser, Director of Adult Services for the Hina Mauka Recovery Center, who will share his perspectives in promoting sobriety and wellness through the use of traditional Hawaiian culture and his experience in national advocacy for the Wai'anae Men in Recovery group.

**WHAT:** *Family and Culture: Protective Factors in the Promotion of Native Men's Health* webinar

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST  
(Please log in 10 minutes beforehand)

**HOW:** Join the meeting here: <http://ihs.adobeconnect.com/r5pn035rkub/>  
Room Passcode: ihs123

Audio Conference Details:  
Conference Phone Number:  
United States: 1-800-832-0736  
Please enter Room Number 3014886

**ABOUT:** Albert M. Pooley was born to the Hopi and Navajo Native American cultures. He grew up close to both cultures on the reservation where the love of a father taught him outstanding life lessons. Throughout his professional career he has worked and served over 300 Native Tribes across North America and many Urban Indian Agencies. His programs are now being considered for implementation internationally. Mr. Pooley has been recognized by both Native and non-native organizations and groups for his unique approach to addressing issues that face our country by strengthening families and communities.

Mr. Pooley holds Masters of Social Work (MSW) and Masters of Public Administration (MPA) degrees. He also has extensive experience as a marriage and family counselor. He appreciates the role of being a father and he finds joy in teaching principles that are relevant to his Native American culture. Mr. Pooley has been married for 44 years to Julia and they have six children and thirteen grandchildren.

William A Mousser, MA, CSAPA, CSAC, is the Director of Adult Services at the Hina Mauka Recovery Center. Mr. Mousser has been in recovery for 22 years and has worked in the fields of substance abuse and mental health services, providing direct counseling services for over 12 years in both residential and outpatient settings.

Mr. Mousser currently leads program and staff development on the integration of cultural modalities that both promote and strengthen traditional Hawaiian practices and improve the quality and outcomes of care. Mr. Mousser is a strong advocate for the Wai'anae Men in Recovery, having provided presentations and personal testimonies throughout the United States.

**WHY:** American Indian and Alaska Native (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/AN population is the only racial group in which males experience higher levels of self-reported psychological distress than females. The disparities above are similar in other Indigenous populations, including Native Hawaiians. To date, these disparities are not widely acknowledged and subsequently, Native male-focused interventions have rarely been attempted.

*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](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org) and follow us on Twitter @MensHlthNetwork and [facebook.com/menshealthnetwork](https://facebook.com/menshealthnetwork)*

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