



Men's Health Network
P. O. Box 75972
Washington, D.C. 20013
202-543-MHN-1 (6461)
Fax 202-543-2727

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Alice Alecu
alice.alecu(at)menshealthnetwork.org
(202) 543-6461 ext. 101

***Charting a Course to Hope, Healing and Health
For Native Males***

***Webinar Series Continues with “Running Strong: A Conversation with Billy Mills
on Native Men's Health”***

(Washington, DC) – Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota) was raised on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation and earned a track scholarship to the University of Kansas. He later served as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps. In 1964, Billy Mills shocked the world when he came from behind to win the gold medal in the 10,000 meter race. At the time, he set a world record of 28 minutes 24.4 seconds and he is still the only American to ever win a gold medal in the 10,000 meters. Mr. Mills is a tireless advocate for the promotion of Native health. For his work with *Running Strong*, Mr. Mills received the Presidential Citizens Medal at a moving White House ceremony in 2013. This webinar provides a unique opportunity to hear Mr. Mills reflect on his life's journey and how he is continuing his lifelong commitment to improving Native health, most recently through the Running Strong for American Indian Youth Initiative.

TITLE – Running Strong: A Conversation with Billy Mills on Native Men's Health

DATE – September 10, 2013

TIME – 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT

LOCATION:

To join the meeting: <http://ihs.adobeconnect.com/r4q6wm9okui/>

Adobe Room Passcode: ihs123

Audio Conference Details: Conference Phone Number:

United States: +1-800-832-0736 and enter Room Number 3014886

Mr. Mills turned his 1964 Olympic athletic success into a lifetime devoted to improving the physical well being of Native youth. Mr. Mills has served on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and was selected as a 1990 Healthy American Fitness Leader and was a recipient of the 1993 Distinguished Service Citation, the highest award given by the University of Kansas and its Alumni Association. He was inducted into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984, and is a member of the United States Track and Field Hall of Fame, the National Distance Running Hall of Fame, the Kansas Hall of Fame, the San Diego Hall of Fame, and the National High School Hall of Fame.

His personal story of overcoming hardship to achieve greatness continues to inspire. Men's Health Network, along with the Indian Health Service (IHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Office of Minority Health (OMH) and Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE), is delighted that Mr. Mills will be participating in this, the third of a 6-part webinar series addressing not only the current challenges facing AI/AN young men and boys but also highlight solutions and promising practices now underway. Designed as a dialogue, participants are encouraged to come with questions that will lead to ongoing discussions to positive outcomes and how to make the journey to health a positive one for the entire family.

This webinar series seeks 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 AI/AN Boys and Men* by the Men's Health Network and the Office of Minority Health.

<http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/AIANMaleHealthDisparites.pdf>

Future webinar topics will include obesity and diabetes prevention, family-focused prevention, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, suicide prevention, veterans health, offender re-entry, and challenges associated with caring for the elderly in the community. Previous speakers included Brian Yazzie, National Director of Native American Services, Boys and Girls Clubs of America; Keola Chan, Executive Director, 'Aha Kane Foundation for the Advancement of Native Hawaiian Males; Dr. Sylvester Briggs, Clinical Director, Aberdeen Area Youth Residential Treatment Center (YRTC); and Erin Bailey, Director of the Aspen Institute's Center for Native American Youth

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