

Councilor Giovannetti appointed as California alternate on the Tribal Advisory Committee

December 4, 2023



Dr. Joseph Giovannetti, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (Nation) councilor, has been appointed to serve as the California Alternate on the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). Councilor Giovannetti represents the Nation on this platform.

He attended his first meeting in Wisconsin in late September. The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribal governments, established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and judicial decisions. In recognition of that special relationship, under Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, executive departments and agencies are charged with engaging in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications and are responsible for strengthening the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes.

On February 4, 2010, in compliance with President Obama's Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, signed on November 5th, 2009, HHS proposed a set of initial activities to step up the Department's efforts to improve services, outreach, and consultation efforts. The establishment of the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC), was one key piece of this plan.

The STAC works to bring the work of HHS's reform and improvement efforts to a whole new level. The STAC signals a new level of attention to the Government-to-Government relationship between HHS and Indian Tribal Governments. In addition, their primary purpose is to seek consensus, exchange views, share information, provide advice and/or recommendations; or facilitate any other interaction related to intergovernmental responsibilities or administration of HHS programs, including those that arise explicitly or implicitly under statute, regulation or Executive Order.

This purpose will be accomplished through forums, meetings, and conversations between Federal officials and elected Tribal leaders in their official capacity. The STAC is comprised of seventeen positions to be filled by voluntary representatives: one delegate (and one alternate) from each of the twelve Indian Health Service (IHS) areas and one delegate (and one alternate) for five National At-Large Tribal Member (NALM) positions.