



**NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release  
February 16, 2016

Contact: Gerson Gomez  
Media Advisor  
(202) 376-8371  
publicaffairs@usccr.gov

**U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Panelists for Briefing Related to *Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs In Indian Country, 2016 Update***

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced today the names of the panelists who will speak before the Commission on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The briefing will examine education, health, public safety, housing, rural development and economic opportunity in the Native American Community for the Commission report titled “Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country, 2016 Update.”

Commissioners and Panelists will have the opportunity to discuss the steps taken to implement the recommendations presented in the 2003 report as well as future actions that must be taken to address unmet needs in Indian country.

**WHAT:** Briefing on Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country, 2016 Update.

**WHEN:** February 19, 2016, from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. EST  
**Please arrive early as seating is limited or participate via teleconference.**

**WHERE:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1150  
Washington, DC 20425 (Entrance on F Street NW)

**LISTEN IN:** To listen to the Commission’s Briefing via telephone, please follow the instructions below:

Dial toll-free number 1-888-510-1765; Provide operator conference #1772246.

**AGENDA:**

**I. Introductory Remarks by Chairman: 9:00 a.m.**

**II. Panel 1: Native American Advocacy Groups: 9:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Speakers' Remarks**

- Jacqueline Pata, National Congress of the American Indians
- Ahniwake Rose, National Indian Education Association
- Stacy Bohlen, National Indian Health Board
- Dante Desiderio, Native American Finance Officers Association
- Sarah Deer, Mitchell Hamline School of Law
- Terry Anderson, Property and Environment Research Center (via teleconference)

Questions from Commissioners

**III. Panel 2: Federal and State Government Officials: 10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Speakers' Remarks**

- William Mendoza, White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education
- Tracy Toulou, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice
- Robert McSwain, Indian Health Service
- Randy Akers, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Native Programs
- Michael S. Black, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Carlyle Begay, Arizona State Senator (via teleconference)

Questions from Commissioners

**IV. Adjourn Briefing – 12:00 p.m.**

**DOCUMENTS:** **The Commission is going green!** Electronic versions of the briefing documents, including the agenda and witness testimony will be accessible on 02/18/2016 via the following link: <https://goo.gl/iYULoE>. Please consider the environment before printing, we are.

#####

Deaf or hearing-impaired persons who require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact Pam Dunston at (202) 376-8105.

The public may submit written comments on the topic of the briefing to [qcomments@usccr.gov](mailto:qcomments@usccr.gov) within 30 days after the briefing.