

# **Joint Panel Tribal And State Leaders Learning from our Ancestors, Transforming Health Care for Our Descendants**

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**AIHC State and Tribal Leaders Health Summit**



**American Indian Health Commission**  
*for Washington State*

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# About Us

## **Pulling Together for Wellness**

We are a Tribally-driven, non-profit organization providing a forum for the twenty-nine tribal governments and two urban Indian health programs in Washington State to work together to improve health outcomes for American Indians and Alaska Natives.



# Inherent Sovereignty of Tribal Nations



- Every Tribe has its own culture, infrastructure, traditions, governance, financing, and health priorities that shape how health care is provided in each community.
- The Supreme Court determined in the 1830's, as part of the "Marshall Trilogy", that each Tribe's right to govern their own people existed before the United States was born.
- Despite the inherent Sovereignty of Tribal Nations, many of the practices and teachings of our ancestors were considered illegal or, later, not trusted by outsiders as being practice based, but not evidenced based.

# Learning from Our Ancestors, Transforming Healthcare for Our Descendants

## Tribal Leaders Questions:

- Can you share how your Tribe is using “learning from our ancestors” in addressing the health needs of your people?
- While treaty/trust responsibility belongs to the Federal Government, in what ways can you see the State government relationship support this?
- What about the Urban Indian Health Programs, who see Tribal Members away from their Tribe and its healthcare delivery system?



# Tribal/State Government to Government

- There are twenty-nine Sovereign Tribal Nations in Washington State. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, has called out the relationship the these governments have with the State of Washington as an example other States can learn from.
- 2019 will mark 30 years since the signing of The Centennial Accord.
- In RCW 43.376, The State of Washington has codified the responsibility to collaborate and consult with Sovereign Tribal Nations.



## How State of Washington is Supporting Tribal Sovereignty in Healthcare:

### State Leadership Questions:

- How do you see the State of Washington is Supporting Tribal Sovereignty in Healthcare?
- Where do you see opportunities to strengthen partnerships with the Tribes?
- Although the relationship with Urban Indian Health Programs, UIHPs, is different, how can their work be supported?

# Tribes Request Consultation over Legislation

- In February of 2017, Tribal Leaders requested consultation with the Governor's Health Cabinet on Senate Bill 5259 and Senate Bill 5779. These bills addressed many issues which would have significant impacts upon Tribes and Indian health care providers in Washington State including the integration of care, the development of new payment structures, the change of authority over licensure and certification of providers and facilities, and the change of authority over the State's behavioral health system.
- Tribal Leaders and the Governor's Health Cabinet met twice in 2017, March 24 and September 7, to discuss how to address barriers currently with the system and keep more from happening.

# Future of Governor's Indian Health Council

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Established in FY 2019 budget proviso, the GIHC has specific work to be accomplished by December 2018.

Legislation for the 2019 session includes continuation of the GIHC.

- Tribal Leadership will be needed to govern the Tribal Reinvestment Account.
- Continued Partnership to address issues that can't be resolved within one agency

