



# AIHC Outstanding Priorities for Next Biennium

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Annual Delegates Meeting  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024





Our mission is to support and protect Tribal sovereignty, and to improve the health and cultural well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives through convening, advocacy, public education, and technical assistance.

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## AIHC Mission Statement



# How We Do Our Work: Meeting, Workgroups and Summits

AIHC Quarterly  
Delegates Meetings

Biennial Tribal and  
State Leaders Health  
Summits

AIHC Tribal Centric  
Behavioral Health  
Advisory Board

WA Tribal Opioid  
Fentanyl Taskforce and  
Summit

American Indian and  
Alaska Native Opioid  
Response Workgroup

Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women  
and Persons Taskforce

Current Issues in  
Public Health and  
Emergency Response

Tribal Foundational  
Public Health Services  
Workgroup

Tribal and Urban  
Indian Health  
Immunizations  
Coalition

Maternal Infant Child  
Health Workgroup

Governor's Indian  
Health Advisory  
Council

Technical Assistance  
for Tribal Roundtables  
and Consultations



# AIHC Priority Areas

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For Washington State Tribes and Urban Indian Health Programs





# Tribal Health Areas of Focus

Government to Government

Access to Health Care and Third-Party Revenue

Tribal Behavioral Health

Public Health – Foundational Public Health Services





# Government to Government

- Ensure state agencies touching health care are following state laws and federalers:
  - RCW 43.376
  - Indian Health Care Improvement Act
  - Federal Managed Care Rules
  - Indian Self Determination and Education Act
- Supporting a Washington State Uniform Consultation Policy
- Ensure Tribal Representation on state level boards, commissions and workgroup
- Ensure Tribal Representation for interviews for executive level positions at Health Agencies
- Technical assistance/background documentation of consultation issues.



# Access to Health Care and Third-Party Revenue

- Washington Indian Health Improvement Act - Tribal Reinvestment Account
- Coordination between Tribal Behavioral Health and Washington State Crisis System
  - Updated RCW for better Coordination
  - Creation of a process for Tribes to appoint their own Designated Crisis Responder
  - Update Behavioral Health Crisis Coordination Planning
  - Ensure notification to Tribes when Tribal Citizens are in crisis
  - Native Resources Hub and Native and Strong Lifeline
- Institutionalized Trainings on Tribal Sovereignty and Indian Health Care 101 for non-Tribal Providers



# Tribal Behavioral Health Services and Coordination

- Support Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- Track State legislative changes
- Trainings – DCR Academy, Forensic Navigators, BH Providers
- Tribal BH Code development
- Tribal DCR Funding – case rate
- DCR Planning Meetings
- Crisis Response Planning
- Support Native Resources Hub and Native and Strong Lifeline
- Information gathering with attorneys, judges, evaluation and treatment facilities
- Sustainability planning





# Foundational Public Health Services

- Support for FPHS funding to Tribes and UIHOs
  - Support for contracting and project reporting
- Tribal Data Sovereignty
  - Support for Tribes to access their data in state systems
  - Support for implementation of Data Use Agreements between Tribes and the State
- Tribal Immunizations Coalition (first in the nation)
- Support for Maternal Infant and Child Health Programs
  - Support for the Maternal Mortality Review Process
  - Support for the WIC program understanding Tribal income, including traditional foods
  - Culturally appropriate Tribal pregnancy risk assessment monitoring surveillance
- Environmental Public Health Services



# Public Health Emergency Response

- Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis
- Support to implement recommendations of the After-Action Reports from Washington State Tribes and Urban Indian Health Programs.
- Regional Public Health Emergency Response Planning Meetings - Tribal and Local Health Jurisdictions
- Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements between Tribes and Counties.
- Cross jurisdictional planning and training



# Accomplishments

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2023 through 2024





# GIHAC Accomplishments

• Trained DOH Executive Leadership on Tribal Sovereignty and Indian Healthcare

• Uniform Consultation Policy Checklist

• Support of Tribal Emergency Declarations for Opioid/Fentanyl Public Health Emergency

• 2022-23 Indian Health Improvement Plan

• Tribal Reinvestment Account - Support of Tribal FQHC and Care Coordination agreements

• Tribal Data Sovereignty Committee

• GIHAC Meetings - Legislative Priorities

• 2023 - 20% Tribal set aside State Opioid Abatement funds; Support for MMIWP Taskforce recommendations, funding to Tribes for Mobile Crisis Teams

• 2024 - WA Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Taskforce proviso, HB 1877- Indian Behavioral Health Part 2, Capital Budget Funds, Tribal Attestation for inpatient facilities



# Accomplishments in Access to Care and Third-Party Revenue

- Complete reporting/funding for Medicaid Transformation Indian Health Care Provider Projects
- Hired staff/contracted with Washington Health Benefit Exchange to support Tribal Assisters
- Ongoing training to non-Tribal providers, insurance carriers for better coordination
- Completion of Learning Management System for non-Tribal Provider





# Accomplishments in Access to Care and Third-Party Revenue

- OIC/AIHC Issuers Requirements Document and OIC compliance efforts:
- [https://www.insurance.wa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/issuer-requirements-ai-an-ihcp\\_0.pdf](https://www.insurance.wa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/issuer-requirements-ai-an-ihcp_0.pdf)

- Continuing Legal Educations (CLE) for Insurance Carriers, Office of Insurance Carriers and Tribal staff and attorneys

- Creation of HIPPA Basics for IHCPs and Tribal Governments

- Tribal Assister Support Contract and staff



# Tribal Behavioral Health Services and Coordination Accomplishments

• State legislative changes – Washington Indian BH Act HB 1877

- First Tribal Designated Crisis Responder:
  - Development and implementation of Tribal DCR WAC
  - Tribal DCR Funding – case rate

• Behavioral Health Crisis Tabletop Exercises with 4 Tribes

• Meeting with Washington State Hospital Association and plan to address hospital Emergency Room Issue

• Updated Tribal BH Code Template

• Supported establishment of the Native and Strong Lifeline (Tribal 988)

• Tribal set aside funding for mobile crisis teams



# AI/AN Opioid Response Workgroup Accomplishments

- Several Tribes have made emergency declaration and have asked local counties to also make declaration
- Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Response Taskforce established and funded
- Funding to continue AI/AN Opioid Response Workgroup
- \$80.5 million State funding to complete current tribal and urban operated facilities - shovel ready projects
- Opioid settlement funds for Tribes in state's maintenance budget
- Support Tribally owned/operated Opioid Treatment Programs





# Foundational Public Health Services Accomplishments

- Tribal Contracts - \$200k per Tribe per year, \$75k per UIHO per year
- Simplified reporting through attendance of Tribal FPHS Workgroup
- Provide contracting support and underspent funds support

- Development of Tribal Public Health Code templates

- 13 Tribal /UIHP Representatives on Local Boards of Health

- 10% set aside of the state's PHEP funding

- Completed COVID AARs for the state, individual Tribes, and authored the Washington portion of the Region 10 AAR.

- Restarted regional emergency preparedness meetings

- Develop Tribal Data Sharing Agreement Checklist



# Healthy Tribal Communities Accomplishments

- Initiated PRAMS Tribal Steering Committee
  - Begin development of Tribal PRAMS-like survey
- Held 4 in-person and 10 virtual Community Conversations about the “Health of Native Pregnant, Birthing, and Postpartum People”
- Maternal Mortality Review listening session - conducted 8 meetings regarding a Tribally led Maternal Mortality Review Panel in Washington State
- Developed Tribal addendum to Washington Maternal Mortality Review
- Shared Tribal Report with Tribes and UIHOs leadership and staff across the State
- Technical assistance in 20 sessions implementing Pulling Together for Wellness framework
- Hosted Tribal Food Sovereignty Speaker Series



# Healthy Tribal Communities Accomplishments

- Convened 5 WIC Listening Sessions and Strategy Sessions

- Developed: WIC Tribal pilot project materials with 3 sites; WIC Recruitment and Retention Engagement Project, partnering with new staff; Breastfeeding Engagement Project, beginning baseline data collection

- Presented at the 2024 National WIC Association (NWA) Annual Education and Training Conference

- AIHC received the 2024 National WIC Association (NWA) National Leadership Award at the 50th Anniversary of the WIC NWA Conference

- Provided 10 workshops/presentations

- Developed youth-oriented Generational Clarity trauma-informed workshop content



# Outstanding Priorities

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For Washington State Tribes and Urban Indian Health Programs



# Ongoing Priorities for Government to Government Priorities

- Updating Agency consultation Policies
- Ensure a clear confer process for UIHOs
- Update State Agency contracting with Tribes to support G2G
- Formalize Tribal Data Sovereignty Principles through GIHAC
- Support Governor's Tribal Leaders Social Services Council staff
- Early consultation with new Governor and Health Cabinet to share priority work
- Raise the Tribal Liaisons position up to the appropriate level as required under RCW 43.476.020(2):

*“Designate a tribal liaison who reports directly to the head of the state agency.”*



# Ongoing Priorities for Access to Health Care and Third-Party Revenue

- Support Health Care Management and Coordination Services (HCMACS) – formerly known as EHR as a Service – Need help finding funding
- Finalize Tribal Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) Affiliate Agreements
- Finalize Care Coordination Agreements with Health Systems
- Primary Care Case Management Entity Implementation and Health Home
- Implementing Medicaid Billing for Behavioral Health Aides and Community Health Aides- SPA submitted
- Implement a “Native Hub” to support health related social needs referrals
  - Hold two-day workshop with Tribes, UIHOs and HCA to create framework for hub



# Ongoing Priorities for Access to Health Care and Third-Party Revenue

- Workforce Development – Support/funding to Tribes to train Native Providers
- Protect the encounter rate for all Indian Health Care Providers - Tribal consultation for Agency policy of I.H.S. All Inclusive Encounter Rate
- Implement billing for Traditional Indian Medicine through a Medicaid State Plan Amendment
- Support 340 B pharmacy for Tribes and UIHOs
- Follow the impacts of Universal Health Care and Federal changes on the Indian Health Delivery System
- Ensure data systems work for all - Tribes/State/Fed systems.
- Twice-yearly joint meeting Governor’s Health Subcabinet GIHAC and GTLSSC



# Ongoing Priorities for Behavioral Health And Opioid Response

- Work needs to continue to be Tribally led, focused on youth, normalize wellness and getting help
- Help find financial support to Tribes/UIHOs for workforce recruitment
  - Ensure flexible funding that pays for providers across different sectors; ICW, EMS, embedded BH Providers
- Continue educating all parts of the Behavioral Health system on the harms done by the system, historically and currently. System needs to be responsive to needs of AI/AN
- Support Education to implement HB 1877 - Tribal Crisis Coordination
- Address Hospital ER Issue
- Continue supporting Tribal/UIHP behavioral health crisis response
- Expanding Tribal/UIHO operated health and behavioral health facilities
- Cost based rates for Tribal Inpatient Facilities





# Ongoing Priorities for Behavioral Health And Opioid Response

- Continue education of to all branches of government on Indian Health Delivery, Tribal Jurisdiction, need to remove stigma from medical systems
- Address DCYF subpoenaing Treatment Facilities
- Support Washington State Tribal Opioid Response Taskforce
  - Support Taskforce workgroups
  - Respond to priorities that are operational and programmatic asap
  - Build report for legislative and budget priorities
  - Regular reports to Tribes/UIHOs on the Opioid Abatement Escrow Account
- Re-entry programs with DOC and county/city jails
- Support \$60 million Tribal set aside in Housing Trust Fund (Commerce)
- Keep youth in forefront of prevention, but also during treatment. Youth services for kids losing parents to opioids/fentanyl.



# Ongoing Priorities for Foundational Public Health Services

- Consolidate contracting for 10% of all Federal Funds received by DOH
  - Increase Tribal/UIHO FPHS funding to 10% of total funds
- Develop and implement Tribal Public Health Code templates
- Provide more robust policy support and infrastructure building
- Complete Tribal Public Health Training and Implement for both Tribal and State staff
- Create Model Pandemic Plan
- Continue seating Tribal /UIHP Representatives on Local Boards of Health
  - Ask legislature for clarifying language
- Support Cross Jurisdictional Coordination – continue regional emergency preparedness meetings
- Coordinate with Tribes and Local Health Jurisdiction to hold Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement meeting
- Tribal Public Health legal preparedness training
- Connect health and natural resources through environmental public health



# Ongoing Priorities for Healthy Tribal Communities

- Continue support of the Tribal Immunizations Coalition
- Complete and administer PRAMS-like survey
- Continue working with NIHB and CDC Foundation on a National Tribal Maternal Mortality Review Panel
- Generational Clarity Training (trauma informed) - in person, both sides of the state, two-day trainings
- Implement Maternal Infant Health (MIH) Workgroup to identify MIH needs for Tribes and UIHOs
- Follow up on priorities from WIC listening sessions
  - Inclusion of Traditional Foods in benefits
  - Contracting with Tribal/ Native owned business for WIC
  - Address administrative burden/cost mismatch for providing WIC services
  - Address General Welfare Income issue
- Support Tribal Prevention Frameworks - Holistic approaches - healing and hope

An aerial photograph of a resort building at night, illuminated with vibrant, multi-colored Christmas lights. The lights are shaped like trees and other festive decorations, in shades of purple, red, yellow, and blue. The resort is situated on a peninsula or near a large body of water, with a road and parking lot visible. The sky is dark, and the water reflects the ambient light. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

Thank you



# Ways to Contact Us

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