



WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Taskforce

Minutes

American Indian Health Commission
2/25/2025 9:00 AMPST

Attendance

Present:

Members: Aurelia Bailey (remote), Amber Caldera (remote), Summer Hammons (remote), Chelsea Sayles (remote), Dana Seymour (remote), Monica Tonasket (remote), Dylan Gonzales (remote), Andrew Guillen (remote), Lucy Hill (remote), Steve Kutz (remote), Jill Malone (remote), Sarah Sullivan (remote), Dana Ward (remote), Jolene Winger (remote)

Guests: williamL (remote)

AIHC: Kathryn Akeah (remote), Cindy Gamble (remote), Heather Holzer (remote), Laura Kluever (remote), Vicki Lowe (remote), Jessica McKee (remote), Maria Ness (remote), Pam Priest (remote), Wendy Stevens (remote), Lisa Rey Thomas (remote), Faith Turk (remote)

ATG: Asa Washines (remote)

Cities/Counties: Mayor Chris Roberts (remote)

COM: Michelle Gladstone-Wade (remote)

DCYF: Bob Smith (remote), Shannel Squally-Janzen (remote)

DOC: Harj Aulakh (remote)

DOH: Mary Beth Brown (remote), Michaela Marshall (remote), Kristin Peterson (remote), Kathy Pierre (remote), Sher Stecher (remote), Rosalinda Fivekiller Turk (remote)

DSHS: Brenda Francis-Thomas (remote), Amber Leaders (remote), Leah Muasau (remote), Sher Stecher (remote)

GOIA: Mystique Hurtado (remote), Tim Reynon (remote)

GOV: Caitlin Safford (remote)

HCA: Tina Anderson (remote), Nakia DeMiero (remote), Nicole Earls (remote), Charissa Fotinos (remote), Jaron Heller (remote), Lucilla Mendoza (remote), Lena Nachland (remote), Raina Peone (remote), Kris Shera (remote), Aren Sparck (remote), Megan Tripp (remote), Christine Winn (remote)

OIC: Jeannie Lockhart (remote), Larry Robinette (remote)

WAHBE: Charlene Abrahamson (remote)

I. Welcome, Introductions

Facilitator: Steve Kutz

Blessing: Steve Kutz

II. Taskforce Business

Heather Hoyle had a question about where to get Fentanyl (Naloxone) Kits in Chehalis. Jessica shared this link in the chat: <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/drug-user-health/overdose-education-naloxone-distribution>. Mary Beth Brown from DOH will reach out to the Naloxone team at DOH. Steve also suggested contacting the local Dept of Health.

A. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Quorum initially not established but was met later in the meeting.

B. Approve Today's Agenda

 [Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Response Taskforce Agenda 2.25.2025.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve today's agenda was made.

Motion carried.

C. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes - 1.28.25

 [1.28.25 WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Taskforce Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve the 1.28.25 minutes.

Motion carried.

III. Workgroup Updates

A. Community Response

Presenter: Jessica McKee, AIHC

Jessica shared the Community Response that utilizes the AIHC Thursday morning Current Issues Public Health & Emergency Response meeting. She reviewed the [WTOF Taskforce Community Response Workgroup.docx](#) from their first meeting, February 20, 2025.

Here is the Resource List this group is beginning to compile: [Community Response Workgroup Resource List.docx](#)

Comments/Questions:

Steve Kutz suggested we pull out the Mutual Aid Agreement and catalog who has signed them as we don't know what kind of emergencies tribal communities will be facing. We need to discuss again as a tool we all can use. Vicki added that conversation need to begin again with Nate Weed at DOH. Jessica and Heather are planning some regional meetings as well.

B. Continuum of Care

Presenter: Vicki Lowe

Vicki reviewed the [Continuum of Care document](#) created by the AIAN Opioid Response Workgroup and meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 3:00 - 5:00..

[Opioid Response Response Guide.xlsx](#)

Link shared by C Fotinos in chat: <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2025/01/16/dea-announces-three-new-telemedicine-rules-continue-open-access>

BH1813 - Crisis Funding. We've made a request to ensure the Fee-For-service Medicaid program is mentioned in the bill and the Indian healthcare Providers as well. The bill turned

into a workgroup with the GOV office, the ASO's and the MCO's along with Vicki talking through what the care model should look like. Good conversations.

Comments/Questions -

Steve asked if we have worked to define under what circumstances we might consider involuntary commitment for treatment when it comes to Fentanyl, and do we have places/facilities where that would work. Vicki responded that they wanted to focus on Ricky's la and have more conversation.

Dr. Fotinos shared that if a facility/jail got a DEA license and had someone coming in on methadone, they would be allowed to continue the methadone.

C. Family and Community Services

Presenter: Lucilla Mendoza, HCA

Meeting Dates and Times: 4th Thursday of the Month

Current groups meeting - Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Prevention, Education and Awareness Campaign Workgroup.

Their focus is on educating families. [WTOF Taskforce Family and Community Services Workgroup.docx](#)

D. Housing and Wrap Around Services

Vicki shared there has been a struggle to get this workgroup going. The GTLSSC is starting a workgroup under them so will work together with them. The priorities are the Tribal Set Aside and the Housing Trust Fund.

[WTOF Taskforce Housing and Wrap around Services Workgroup.docx](#)

E. Public Safety and the Justice System

Presenter: Chelsea Sayles

This group combined with the Tribal Warrant Work Group.

[WTOF Taskforce Public Safety and Justice Workgroup.docx](#)

Comments/Discussion -

Steve Kutz shared that a meeting has been planned for March 12th with the police chiefs, members of the police departments at Camp Murray, and the Feds - from the federal prosecutors to the BIA, the HDAFSA, the high density drug task force, the military side of things. There will be conversations to identify ways we haven't pursued to be able to handle some of the issues on our reservations. Vicki and Steve will attend. It will not include local law enforcement at this point. The next step may be to bring in the court issues. It is a whole system of problems and barriers.

Summer shared that Tulalip worked on a bipartisan bill at the Federal level and is called the Protect Act to help with the non-Tribals in Tribal jurisdiction in possession of drugs, as well as research when it comes to Facebook, social media. Tulalip is happy to support or brief other Tribal Leaders. Summer will update at the next Task Force meeting.

IV. Legislative Updates

A. BH 1583 - Traditional Indian Medicine

Presenter: Vicki Lowe

BH1583 passed the Health Committee and will be heard in Appropriations due to HCA putting a fiscal note on. Lots of support across the aisle.

B. Budget Non-Native Medicaid Reimbursement for SUD Payments

This is a \$70M budget ask and we are asking to, basically, see the math. It is a big ask but also CMS has told the State they need to pay full amount of this unless Tribes agreed to take only

the Federal reimbursement which they have not agreed to. We have also asked the State to consider the cost of the non-native payments against those other savings that are received.

V. Summit - May 20-22 at Cowlitz

Presenter: Vicki Lowe, AIHC

[Third Annual Washington State Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Task Force Summit](#). Please complete: 1) registration for the hotel and 2) register for the Summit.

A. Poll - Summit Theme

Results:

1. Healing Together - Culture, Community and Recovery

B. Poll - Quotes for T-Shirts

Results -

1. Culture is Prevention
2. We Don't Give Up on Our People.
3. Our Roots Belong Where We Began

VI. Legislative Report

Presenters: Vicki Lowe, AIHC; Lucilla Mendoza, HCA

A report is due to the Legislature by June 30, 2025. This will be our opportunity to speak directly to them about legislative changes that we determine we need to be made as well as policy recommendations and new programs that we feel need to be developed.

Comments/Questions -

Steve commented that we need concentrate on in the report is what we need from the legislature. We don't want the important things lost with the budget cuts.

 [WTOF Response Taskforce Report to the Legislature 3.2025.pdf](#)

VII. WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Response Resource Guide

Presenter: Heather Holzer, AIHC Consultant

[WTOF Resource Library](#)

VIII. Tribal Youth Councils - Youth Summit Fall 2025

Presenter: Vicki Lowe for JanMarie Ward, AIHC Consultant

There is planning for a Youth Leadership Prevention and Wellness Summit. They are recruiting for 10 youth to serve on the planning team and will get the recruitment notice out next week. It requires commitment to meetings and trainings. They will be compensated for their participation. The proposed dates for the Summit are the week of October 12th. They will be working with school systems re excused absences and potential school credits. They are asking for a member of the Task Force to join the planning team.

Comments/Questions -

It was pointed out that the week of October 12th is ATNI Fall Convention. There was support for having the Summit during school and gaining credits.

IX. Program Updates

A. Tribal/Urban Opioid Abatement Settlement Dollars

Kris Shera - No updates other than, as everyone knows, the budget is very tight. However, it does not impact the Opioid Abatement funds. Also, he has a check in with OFM next week and apologized for not having information on the deposits in to the Opioid Abatement Settlement account. He can share at the next meeting.

Nakia DeMiero - Last week, she sent out the second biannual check-in template for all the Opioid Abatement INA's, which is one of the reporting deliverables. If anyone has questions or needs assistance, let Nakia know.

X. Meeting Cadence through June 2025

March 25, 2025

April 22, 2025

May 20-22, 2025 (Summit)

June 24, 2025

XI. Adjournment