Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Prevention, Education and Awareness Campaign Workgroup

February 26, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Co-Chairs: Steven de los Angeles, Vice Chair, Snoqualmie Tribe;

Lucilla Mendoza, Health Care Authority (HCA); Candice Wilson, Department of Health (DOH)

Attendees: Dayna Seymour, Councilmember, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Victoria Joe, Councilmember, Nooksack Indian Tribe; Stephen Kutz, Councilmember, Cowlitz Indian Tribe; Mona Miller, Director of Re-entry Program, Puyallup Tribe; Bryce Greene, COSSUP Project Director for the Healing to Wellness Courts, Quinault Indian Nation; Trelace Burrow, Family Services Department, Squaxin Island Tribe; Jessica Dolge, Health Clinic, Squaxin Island Tribe; Jessica Williams, Assistant Director, Puyallup Tribe; Keri Ellis, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe; Frances Pickernell, Social Services Director, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; Pam Vaughn, Interim CEO, Chief Seattle Club; Scott Pinkham, Equity Program Director, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation; Larissa Molina, Tribal Opioid Response Project Manager, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board; Vicki Lowe, American Indian Health Commission; Lisa Rey Thomas, American Indian Health Commission; Lisa Yanagida, DSHS Chief of Staff; Nakia DeMiero, Tribal Opioid Response Coordinator, HCA; Tim Collins, Senior Director, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Colleen Cawston, Tribal Relations Director, DOC; Candice Wilson, Executive Director, DOH; Lonni Rickard, Communications Consultant, HCA; Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Affairs Administrator, HCA; Leah Muasau, Tribal Contracts Coordinator, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Charlene Abrahamson, Tribal Liaison, HBE; Brenda Francis-Thomas, Regional Manager, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Sarah Cook-Lalari, Program Specialist, HCA; Marcy Jordan, Local Planning Areas in Partnership Program Manager, DSHS; Danielle Koenig, Director of Health Promo and Education, DOH; Anne Paulsen, State Opioid Response Communications Consultant, HCA; Heather Hoyle, Regional Manager, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Gerry Rainingbird, Health Services Consultant, DOH; Kirstin McFarland, Injury & Violence Prevention Manager, DOH; Rebecca Purser, Navie Educator Cultivation Program Supervisor, OSPI; Erika Rodriguez, OSPI; Lonni Rickard, Communications Consultant, HCA; Melissa Thoemke, Behavioral Health Communications Manager, HCA; Tina Anderson, Medical Assistance Program Specialist, HCA; Amira Caluya, Health Services Consultant, DOH; Michelle Gladstone-Wade, Director of Office of Tribal Relations, Commerce; Shannel Squally-Janzen, Tribal Prevention Service Specialist, DCYF; Harj Aulakh, Office of Tribal Relations, DOC; Rosalinda Fivekiller-Turk, Tribal Engagement Director, DOH; Michaelynn Kanichy, OTA, HCA; Christine Winn, Tribal Affairs Deputy Administrator, HCA; Mary Beth Brown, Behavioral Health Strategist, DOH; Kathy Pierre, Management Analyst, DOH; Megan Suter, Epidemiologist, DOH; Nicole Casanova, Youth Engagement Coordinator, DOH; Megan Mills, Desautel-Hege; Paj Nandi, Desautel-Hege; Steve Nez, 7 Directions

**Welcome/Introductions**

*Tim Collins, Senior Director, DSHS Office of Indian Policy*

**Opening Remarks and Tribal Campaign Updates**

*Tim Collins, Senior Director, DSHS Office of Indian Policy*

*Lucilla Mendoza, HCA & Candice Wilson, DOH Tribal Representatives*

Tim noted the progress made to work on Tribal opioid/fentanyl behavioral health, education and awareness messaging and recapped presentations from the January Meeting which were:

* + - * **Vicki Lowe & Lisa Rey Thomas***:* Update on Opioid Task Force needs
* **Aren Spark, Lucilla Mendoza, Sarah Cook-Lalari, Naomi Jacobson**: NorthStar WA State Tribal Prevention System (WSTPS) Overview
* **Meg Mills, Paj Nandi with Desautel-Hege (DH)**: Youth Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Awareness Campaign Updates
* **Annie Hetzel OSPI & TBD – DOH***:* Youth Carrying Naloxone & Free Naloxone to Public High Schools
* **MichaeLynn Kanichy, WSU IREACH-HCA-OTA & Megan Suter DOH***:* Healthy Youth Survey Data Reporting Template

**Overview of Opioid Educational/Campaign Needs from the Opioid Task Force**

*Vicki Lowe & Lisa Rey-Thomas, AIHC, Lucilla Mendoza, HCA-OTA*

* Lucilla said this workgroup is combining forces with the WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Task Force to leverage existing meetings.
* Lisa reported that the Task Force met on February 25 and the related five workgroups are moving forward. The workgroups are **Community Response, Continuum of Care, Family and Community Services, Housing and Wrap Around Services and Public Safety and the Justice System**.
* Vicki said the Task Force is building on the reports from previous Summits and working on developing the WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Response Resource Guide. In doing this work, it is important to let the Governor, Legislature and state agencies know what the needs are. Tribes have indicated it is important to have one place to go and find all of the resources. The guide will be compiled into specific areas to make it easy for everyone to locate information, resources, links, and helpful videos, which will be available on one website.
* Vicki is hoping this workgroup will help address the priorities, such as if there is a need for new policies and programs, and what information exists or should be included in the resource guide. Vicki said Heather Holzer is creating a working document for the resource guide, it will be shared with this workgroup when it is further along and once it goes live, continuing management will be important.
* Rebecca said OSPI is contracting to build something similar to the guide, and ensure there’s funding for professional development for the schools to implement the work. Vicki would like to coordinate with OSPI when their contractor begins work.
* Lucilla asked folks to please submit presentations to her that have been shared with this workgroup for inclusion in the guide. Lucilla’s email address is [lucilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov](mailto:lucilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov).
* Vicki is aware this workgroup has been developing education materials and wondered if continued funding has been recommended to continue the work and if dedicated funding should be included in the maintenance budget.
* Trelace asked if folks will be coming to tribal agencies for materials? Squaxin Island Tribe is trying to build something with youth and a curriculum is needed to educate families and communities. Vicki said the resource guide is for folks responding to the opioid crisis and suggested adding a list of presenters to go along with curriculum.
* Trelace has experience working for treatment centers, has seen multiple generations come through and wondered how do we assist with the gaps in the system? Squaxin Island is a community that has a few gaps and departmental work that needs to be done. It would be helpful if Tribes who have multiple departments could bring their system knowledge to the table to fill those gaps between resources, agencies, and departments. She shared her email, [tburrow@squaxin.us](mailto:tburrow@squaxin.us).
* Rebecca said Suquamish Tribal Government has a tribal school and departments, where there is collaboration between the school and the departments with a few programs, including opioid response task force. Tribal Council appointed tribal members working with law enforcement and social services departments. She agreed having a list of presenters is a great resource, and promotes interconnectedness. She shared her email [Rebecca.purser@k12.wa.us](mailto:Rebecca.purser@k12.wa.us).
* Lisa encouraged folks to send emails with suggestions to include in the resource guide.
* Colleen said it would be helpful for some knowledge to be provided to foster parents under the families and communities section of the guide.
* Vicki said the issue of streamlining/revising licensure requirements to increase workforce and for those with lived experience was moved to Task Force Continuum of Care Workgroup. Workgroup members included the need for two members for each of the workgroups who have lived experience. She said Numerous activities focused on funding allocations were shared. The Opioid/Fentanyl Summit event presenter list and details were discussed.
* Colleen said she knew someone who could share lived experience.
* Vicki asked folks who may know of someone that would like to share their lived experience, including family members affected by the crisis, please email her at Vicki said if you know of someone who would be appropriate and like to share, please email her at [vicki.lowe@aihc-wa.com](mailto:vicki.lowe@aihc-wa.com).
* Vicki said requests will be sent to tribal leaders. They want to have native-owned media involved to help with messaging. They will ensure UIHO’s and native-serving providers are included, official or non, and OSPI-STEC Opioid Programs.
* Rebecca said Erika Rodriguez from OSPI will be supporting as well as others.

**Native and Strong Suicide Prevention Media Campaign**

*Gerry Rainingbird, DOH & Mikayla Holm, Kaufmann & Associates*

* Mikayla: Working in partnership with DOH, Kauffman and Associates, and state tribal partners, the Native and Strong Suicide Prevention Media Campaign goal is to inform and educate tribal communities about suicide prevention, focusing on folks who are two-spirited, veterans and youth. Mikayla shared a video regarding making time to talk, and space to listen. A different PSA video is broadcast each month. She shared a map of WA and who is receiving various media formats, based on community engagement. There are paid publications, radio stations, gas toppers, etc. There are digital and Snapchat ads. Radio PSAs reach both sides of WA, and with “prevention is connection” messaging.
* Candice suggested using Native folks voices on the spoken messages.
* Rebecca suggested paid media spaces going into tribal newsletters for messaging to communities. She also requested a correction as Chief Seattle is the Chief of Suquamish people, not Duwamish.
* Mikayla will share summer communities events information out.
* Support available is Access which is an online toolkit with downloadable resources at NavieAndStrong.org/partner-toolkit, with an email for online requests.
* Native Resilience and Healing webinar will be on March 11, at 10:00 AM. The theme is Connection is Prevention. Here is the [registration link](https://kauffmaninc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_It1DJuyqSpS5M0LsEUJPKw#/registration). Folks can also contact [Rochelle.hamilton@kauffmaninc.com](mailto:Rochelle.hamilton@kauffmaninc.com) and [Cortney.Yarholar@kauffmaninc.com](mailto:Cortney.Yarholar@kauffmaninc.com).
* Gerry said this campaign is in the fifth year. Additional funding is uncertain.

**Healthy Youth Survey Data Reporting Template**

*MichaeLynn Kanichy, WSU IREACH-HCA-OTA & Megan Suter DOH*

* MichaeLynn said the survey is an effort between DOH, HCA, OSPI and Liquor/Cannabis Board to better reflect Tribal communities. The survey responses are collected bi-annually from students in 6th-12th grade and administered at school and includes a wide range of topics such as mental health, substance use, family risk/protection, COVID-19, and others. A new reporting model will compile data from students who are AI/AN and share with Tribal communities statewide. They are hosting listening sessions to hear from Native youth and adults. The focus on Tribal adults is current reporting and reference to other reports such as MMIWG. For Tribal youth, they are exploring what types of data are most useful to tribal youth, focusing on health concerns and priorities. They are trying to leverage existing meetings. They have been promoting listening sessions through school outreach and targeted ads, and making comfortable space to share their voices. Please email [Healthy.Youth@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Healthy.Youth@doh.wa.gov).
* Lucilla wondered if this workgroup would like to have a listening session at the March or April meeting, and folks liked this suggestion.
* Megan shared the DTLL: <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/DTLL-ListeningSessionsTribalDataReporting.pdf>.
* Rebecca said OSPI has various organizations and a committee that works with the Office of Native Education and provides recommendations to OSPI Superintendent, Chris Reykdal.
* Tim noted Loni Greninger, Vice Chair, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, updated the Governor and Tribal Leaders Social Services Council org chart and asked for all Tribes to be added.
* Rebecca said in a meeting today, a topic was federal strategy discussion and the importance of having all the key players in the room, with Tribes, CBOs, state agencies. Updates shared from universities were cuts to grants and funding.

**DOH Updates Tribal School-Based Health Report from Seven Directions**

*Kathy Pierre, DOH, Nicole Casanova, University of WA, Steven Nez, 7 Directions*

* Nicole shared a presentation, Community Listening Sessions Report: Tribal School-Based Health Centers Programming, Needs, Interests & Preferences.
* Steven said 7 Directions used community-based participatory research practices to advance AI/AN health and wellness in Tribal schools.
* There are 70 school-based health centers in WA and only 1 at a Tribal school.
* 7 Directions went to school sites to see if there was interest in school-based health programs, what would it look like and how it could be supported. Listening sessions were collected in the east, central, west and north regions of WA. 86 community members participated.
* Following the listening sessions, data showed the health services desired most were behavioral health. Others included sexual/reproductive education, primary care, school nurse on site, vaccinations.
* Here’s the link to the full report: <https://waportal.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Tribal%20School%20Based%20Health%20Final%20Report%20%28Submitted%20to%20WADOH%29.pdf>.
* Recommendations were for DOH to learn the history of each Tribe, get familiar with their Tribal health system, and then build relationships with Tribal community members via meetings, to include an in-person site visit to each school.
* Long term strategies are for DOH to prioritize an equitable approach to grant distribution.
* Kathy said these grants are competitive, creating a barrier for Tribes to apply and DOH is working on this.
* Tim suggested leveraging school advisory boards to reach the community.
* Lucilla said this presentation was shared at the Advisory Board and HCA/DOH are trying to bring resources together as both have pots of money that could help. For example, there may be funding opportunities through Medicaid for those that can’t get the grant.
* Stephen wondered if the list of school-based items are possible without putting a clinic in a school. Housing it on school campus is unlikely to happen. It would be great to build capacity.
* Kathy shared Lummi Nation has a Tribal school that has a school based health system. They have a primary care provider that sees students and does referrals, and a mobile dental clinic.
* There was discussion about leveraging services brought into the school by health providers versus services provided by school staff and Tribes asked for guidance on these options.
* Nicole Casanova shared SBHC program information link, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3a3b02ef316642c693dba9ad260c14da>.
* Stephen suggested including this in a Task Force workgroup. Lucy will add SBHC services to the task force workplan.
* Charlene shared she loved Paper Tigers and what they achieved in their school. It was based on ACES.
* Luc said there are also resources for Urban Indian Health Programs and Native Serving Organizations, Tribal schools, etc.

**Youth Opioid/Fentanyl Education and Awareness Campaign Updates**

*Meg Mills & Paj Nandi with Desautel-Hege (DH)*

* DH received funding for more customized outreach for Tribes this year. In 2024, DH created 50 materials, with 300 unique customizations. They shared other items besides t-shirts that are available to Tribes based on need such as bags, journals, air fresheners, tablecloths, tents, water bottles, etc.

**Adjourn**