

**OPIOID AND FENTANYL RESPONSE TASK FORCE**

**October 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome/Introductions** - Councilwoman Tonasket

Tribal Opening- Charlene Abrahamson, WHBE

**Taskforce Business:**

Establish quorum - Quorum Established- See attached rollcall

Approve today’s agenda – *Moved by James Salazar, Quileute Tribe*

*Seconded by Debra Lekanoff, House of Representatives*

*Motion carried*

Approve previous meeting minutes - *Moved by Steve Kutz, Cowlitz Tribe*  *Seconded James Salazar, Quileute Tribe*

*Motion carried*

Vote on Task Force Bylaws - *Moved by Steve Kutz, Cowlitz Tribe*  *Seconded James Salazar, Quileute Tribe*

*Motion carried*

**Review the workgroups** *(See Table Attached with details for each***)**:

Comments from Taskforce members:

* Important for Workgroups to share information to the Taskforce.
* Work to utilize existing meetings, no adding more meetings, ensure workgroups are not working in silos.
* While workgroup meetings are important, we need to using existing meetings as much as possible
* Charlene, WAHBE, asked for clarification on the Exchange’s involvement in Taskforce and workgroups.
* Rep. Jacobsen reminded everyone of the importance of limiting the scope of the workgroups to ensure they can have greater impacts.

1. Public Safety and the Justice System- Co-Chair Lead, Councilman

Possible Co-Leads, Chief Sam White, Asa Washines. Rep. Lekanoff and Councilman Salazar will work on list. Suggested to use Justice Subcommittee of Governor’s Tribal Social Services Council. Normally meet quarterly, this needs to be a monthly meeting. Tim Collins can help

Schedule. Establish meeting and add the list from the table. Will work out date and time. Asa shared that he heard from Brian Saluskin from Yakama. He is interested in being the co-chair of this committee. Rep. Lekanoff

1. reminded that the co-chairs need to be one Tribal and one State. Vicki will connect with Asa to ensure Mr. Saluskin is involved in the workgroup.
2. Continuum of Care Co-Chairs: Chairman Hillaire, Lummi Nation; Amber Leaders, Governor’s Office.

* Proposed utilizing existing AI/AN Opioid Response workgroup that has been meeting since 2018.
* Rebecca Purser, OPSI requested to be part of this workgroup. Kristin Peterson, DOH, asked what their agency participation has been? Candice Wilson and Kathy Pierre regularly attend and bring subject matter expertise to the meeting.

1. Housing and Wrap Around Services Workgroup Co-Chairs: Councilwoman Tonasket, Spokane and either Michelle Gladstone- Wade or Kris Jewel from Commerce.

* Discussion on possible need for subcommittees for this group. Which agency should this be connected to. There is Commerce, Department of Corrections, DSHS. The Co-chairs will discuss this further.
* DSHS meeting with partners to begin assessing where we are at with housing and where it needs to go. Will get feedback from Tribes too. Clarification if this work is already being done, but the meeting is to understand current state. Part of the 10-year plan to reduce poverty.
* Jennifer LaPointe asked that we include the understanding of the importance of just housing, not treatment related.
* Leverage Accountable Communities of Health work on this.

1. Family and Community Service- Co-Chair Councilman de Los Angelos and Rebecca Purser, OSPI; meets 1st Thursday of each month.
2. Community Response- Co-Chair Councilman Kutz, AIHC staff and DOH OHRS staff

* Some cross over in Public Safety and Justice
* Matrix for best practices utilized by communities: Housing, traditional housing treatment related housing, etc.
* Need a connection to Tribal Schools
* Need Tribal Community response plans-similar to MMIWP

**Legislative Report**- New governor= new agency leadership; many new legislators (30-40) to get up to speed on this work.

* What will be included- Activities and recommendations from each workgroup moved up to Taskforce.
* Timelines – focus on what can be done in 2026 Legislative session. Initial report due March 2025, final June 2025. Planned to move this out so we can get generate the recommendations.
* Tracking progress: what data will we use, how will we track it?
* Vote – request a no cost extension for Taskforce and add Governor’s Office to Taskforce.
* Staff will develop the framework of the report, using the summit report with priorities from workgroups.

**Traditional Indian Medicine 1115 Waiver** - 4 states are in the process of having a waiver approved. Steve shared that we are not sure legislative action is needed, don’t want to bind ourselves to what other states are doing. We want the Washington State effort to reflect the needs of Washington State Tribes. Sen. Kauffman is meeting with staff to set up the framework needed for the waiver. HCA will work with Tribes on this but will also need to address staffing needs.

Program Updates:

Update on Tribal/Urban Opioid Abatement Plans - Nakia Demeiro, Tribal Opioid Response Coordinator for HCA-Office of Tribal Affairs. (*See slides*)

Propose agenda items for November 26th Task Force meeting

Update of workgroups

Progress

Reporting structure- how workgroup information will flow to Taskforce

Settlement update Attorney General’s Office

Update on local government work

Adjournment – *Moved by Steve Kutz, Cowlitz Tribe, seconded by James Salazar, Quileute Tribes, Motion carried.*

DOH listening session on WA Health bed registry.