



AIAN Opioid Response Workgroup (ORW)

Minutes

American Indian Health Commission

2/11/2025 3:00 PMPST

@ Virtual

Attendance

Present:

Members: Ofi Brown (remote), Dylan Gonzales (remote), Lucy Hill (remote), Andrew Shogren (remote), Larain Algea (remote), Quinta Bowen (remote), Jodi (remote)

Guests: Mercedes White Calf (remote), Conner Kankelborg (remote), Melissa Thoemke (remote)

AIHC: Kathryn Akeah (remote), Heather Holzer (remote), Terra Horton (remote), Vicki Lowe (remote), Jessica McKee (remote), Maria Ness (remote), Jen Olson (remote), Pam Priest (remote), Lisa Rey Thomas (remote), Faith Turk (remote)

Attorney Generals Office: Asa Washines (remote)

DH: Matthew Duncan (remote), Megan Mills (remote), Paj Nandi (remote)

DOH: Mary Beth Brown (remote), Rosalinda Fivekiller-Turk (remote), Michaela Marshall (remote), Kathy Pierre (remote), Candice Wilson (remote)

DSHS: Tim Collins (remote), Brenda Francis-Thomas (remote), Leah Muasau (remote)

HCA: Tina Anderson (remote), Sarah Cook-Lalari (remote), Nakia DeMiero (remote), Nicole Earls (remote), Jaron Heller (remote), Jaron Heller (remote), Lucilla Mendoza (remote), Anne Paulsen (remote), Raina Peone (remote), Kris Shera (remote), Megan Tripp (remote)

Kauffman & Assoc: Danica Brown (remote)

NPAIHB: Birdie Wermey (remote)

OIC: Larry Robinette (remote)

OSPI: Erica Rodriguez (remote)

WAHBE: Charlene Abrahamson (remote)

I. Welcome/Introductions

Introductions to include Updates and Upcoming Opportunities - All

II. Presentation and Discussion on Opioid Response Resource Guide

Presenter: Heather Holzer, AIHC

[WTOF Resource Library](#) Heather walked the group through Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Comments:

Asa asked for clarification on the videos. Candice asked that the 5 priority areas be listed in the documents so we can refer back to them as we go along. Kathy Pierre commented it is important to not duplicate other work but be inclusive ie The Resource Hub. Kathy also suggested a map that illustrates how all these resources are intertwined.

From Paj in the chat - Hello all, sharing a video resource (digital asset) from the For Our Lives campaign on how to use naloxone: <https://fornativelives.org/toolkit> (just click on naloxone). It features Levi Horn, Northern Cheyenne Tribe: <https://fornativelives.org/overdose>

III. WA Tribal Opioid Task Force Updates

Presenter: Vicki Lowe, AIHC

A. 3rd Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Summit updates, Recommendations for plenaries

The cadence will follow the last 2 summits with a Lived Experience panel the first day along with sharing about the work that has been done since the last summit. The second day will be the breakout sessions on each of the priorities and Culture night. The third day we will meet with Gov. Ferguson. Asa shared the AG Brown will be attending.

Summit Registration Link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/etf6njl/2630bf69-5eab-4e1a-8a0f-cff2fdaf9c96>. Within this link, are 2 links. One is for the Summit and the other for your hotel room. Please make sure to register for both.

B. Subcommittee Updates

The subcommittees are based on the breakout sessions from the last Summit.

Wellness and the Justice System - Chaired by Councilman James Salazar, Quileute Tribe and Asa Washines, AGO. Meets the 2nd Monday at 10 am.

Housing Infrastructure that Wraps Around People - Chaired by Monica Tonasket, Spokane Tribe. Time Collins shared they are standing up a workgroup in the GTLSSC to explore the resources and the work done under the Poverty Plan. We should probably connect these 2 workgroups. Asa suggested we also connect the Justice subcommittee and invite to the next GTLSSC.

Continuum of Care Across the Life Course - Chaired by AIHC AI/AN Opioid Response Workgroup. Meets every other Thursday from 1:00 - 3:00 starting February 20th.

Family and Community -

Community Preparedness - Chaired by AIHC Emergency Response and Preparedness. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday from 8:30 - 10:00.

[Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Summit Breakout Sessions](#)

Vicki reviewed the priorities for the [WTOF Task Force Continuum of Care Workgroup](#) and updated document with group input.

C. Task Force Report - Policy/Legislative Needs - Review priorities from Summit and identify Leg changes needed

HB 1583 Traditional Indian Medicine - It is in the House/health Committee. It had a hearing and we are waiting to go to Executive Session. Then it will go to Appropriations because HCA put a fiscal note on it. Other states have gotten the waiver and there is a simple pathway. We need to catch up! Legislators that Vicki has talked to are all supportive. Next week is cutoff so Vicki will be in Olympia this week and next.

IV. For Our Lives Campaign Updates by DH

Presenters: Paj Nandi, Megan Mills, Matthew Duncan

DH presented on the youth campaign timeline and breadth of customization done for all 29 Tribes with the funding from HCA. ASa Washines asked if Tribes will have materials ready in time for the Summit in May. Paj responded yes for those Tribes that customized over this last year. For tribes taking advantage of the next round of funding, materials will not be ready by May unless a small order and limited

customization. Vicki reminded the group that the youth summit will be in September so that might work. DH is working on T-shirts for the Opioid Fentanyl Summit in May. It was clarified that the recent budget cut and freeze does not impact this work.

[For Our Lives Slides](#)

For the Summit, Lucy shared that they will again be recording video messages with Tribal Leaders. There will be an opportunity for Tribal Leaders to sign up within the registration link.

V. Legislative Updates from HCA

Presenters: Lucilla Mendoza, Kris Shera, Nakia DeMiero

[HCA Slides](#)

Lucy asked for any feedback on the bills reviewed in the slides.

VI. Agenda item for Upcoming Meetings and Wrap Up

Agenda items for Upcoming Meetings:

- Hear Me WA presentation by Asa Washines.
- Rentery

VII. Closing

[Chat from the Meeting](#)

[Zoom Transcript Unedited](#)