



AIAN Opioid Response Workgroup Minutes

American Indian Health Commission

10/8/2024 3:00 PMPDT

@ Virtual

Attendance

Present:

Members: Kathryn Akeah (remote), Cindy Gamble (remote), Heather Holzer (remote), Maureen Kinley (remote), Theresa Lehman (remote), Vicki Lowe (remote), Maria Ness (remote), Jen Olson (remote), Pam Priest (remote), Sarah Sullivan (remote), Lisa Rey Thomas (remote), Jolene Winger (remote), Jessica Dodge (remote), Kara frizzell (remote), Dylan Gonzales (remote), Andrew Guillen (remote), Lucy Hill (remote), Stormy Howell (remote), Linda Lauch (remote), Shad St Paul (remote), Aaron Soto (remote), Mary Szafranski (remote)

Guests: Megan Hatheway/DH (remote), Rebecca Hunter (remote)

DCYF: Shannel Squally-Janzen (remote)

DOH: Dan Overton (remote), Candice Wilson (remote), Chantel Wong (remote)

DSHS: Brenda Francis-Thomas (remote), Sher Stecher (remote)

HCA: Tina Anderson (remote), Nakia DeMeiro (remote), Nicole Earls (remote), Leta Evaskus (remote), Jaron Heller (remote), Lucilla Mendoza (remote), Kris Shera (remote)

I. Welcome/Introductions

Facilitators - Lisa Rey Thomas, Vicki Lowe, Lucilla Mendoza

Opening Blessing - Cindy Gamble

Introductions to include any Tribal Updates and/or Upcoming Opportunities.

Theresa Lehman commented that the Tribal Leaders at ATNI discussed the need to focus on involving youth at an early age.

II. Review Meeting Notes from August AIAN ORW Meeting

[AIAN ORW Meeting Minutes 8.13.24](#). There was no workgroup held in September.

III. Presentation and Discussion on Sublocade Access Program (Presenters: Leta Evaskus, HCA)

Sublocade is long-acting injectable Buprenorphine.

Leta from HCA shared that the provider agreement is not done yet. HCA received \$3M to fund the Sublocade Access Program from the Opioid Settlement Funds to help increase access for Apple Health clients and the uninsured. They have put together a participating provider agreement that is also an application. This is going through a review by the Attorney Generals office and she is working with Lucy Mendoza to make sure that tribal providers can also apply for the funds. You can not administer Sublocade through this program to patients in jails or prisons. It has to be provider administered. One questions in the application asks if you are REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) certified. There are 2 companies that ensure providers are REMS certified. The funding only goes through June 30, 2025 or until the money runs out, which ever happens first. They are going to limit the number of doses that a provider can order to 3. Once approved for this funding, you will get a wholesaler id number that

will enable you to order 3 doses of Sublocade or Brixadi in bulk from the website. The medication will get shipped to you and billed to HCA. Once administered to a Medicaid patient, you will bill the same as you would for any Medicaid patient and you will be reimbursed as if you bought the medication yourself. The goal is to set providers up for when the funds go away and continue treating patients. Also, this allows for you to have the medication in hand for when a patients presents. If the patient is uninsured, there will be no reimbursement. After your doses are used, there will be a reconciliation and then you can reorder. There will be much more details once the agreement is finalized in a few more weeks. She will get it to Lucy so she can distribute to this group. If any questions you can reach out to Leta at leta.evaskus@hca.wa.gov.

Questions/Comments -

Jolene Winger shared that they ordered a dose over 2 weeks ago from a specialty pharmacy through Molina and it still has not arrived so she is looking forward to this program.

Lucy shared that they are still trying to figure out if this should go under the Indian Nation Agreement or should it be a stand alone. More to come.

Arron Soto asked if the clinic is already using Sublocade, can you bill for doses previously purchased? No, they can not pay for past medications.

IV. Updates from AIHC and Discussion

A. AIAN Opioid Task Force

The Washington State tribal Opioid and Fentanyl task force has begun meeting. The first meeting was September 25 and the next will be October 29th. The task force will pull together the work of the is group as well as others that are working on the priorities supporting the opioid response. They have drafted Bylaws and will be working on the framework in upcoming meetings and how we can make changes through recommendations of the task force through legislature. The task force is not subject to the Open Public Meeting Act so AIHC can continue to allow AI notes. In addition, the meeting will be opened up but those not on the task force will be there to listen only. Any input can be put in the chat however.

The co-chairs are - Chairman Anthon Hillaire/Lummi, Councilwoman Monica Tonasket/Spokane, Rep. Debra Lekanoff/Legislator, Councilman James Salazaar/Quileute, Councilman Steve Kutz/Cowlitz.

Each tribe has a seat as well as state agencies, Gov office, AG, GOIA. they are still working on getting 2 with lived experience. There has also been discussion about including the voice of youth.

There is funding for the task force through 2025 and are looking in the next legislative session to extend it another year.

B. 2024 WA AIAN Opioid and Fentanyl Summit

Here is a link to the report as well at meeting materials from the [Washington State Second Tribal Opioid Summit](#).

C. Biennial Tribal and State Leaders Health Summit

[Registration for the AIHC Biennial Tribal and State Leaders Summit November 12-14, 2024.](#)

Vicki shared that there have been meetings regarding the bill that passed for the tribal attestation for inpatient facilities operated by a tribe. There will be listening sessions coming up. There will also be a listening session after October 29th regarding beds. There are a lot of DTLL from DOH going out.

AIHC is beginning to work on the legislative priorities for this next session. Vicki is working with Rep. Lekanoff on capital building funds. There was \$80.5M appropriated for shovel ready projects last session. They are now looking to see if there are tribes who are hoping or wanting to do any other expansions or buildings. She did send out a survey asking about current capacity for providing BH services and if you are looking to expand and what that would look like. She only got 4 response and hopes she hear from the other 25 to make sure we are letting the legislature know. we have heard that the overall budget does not look good but never hurts to ask.

V. Presentation and Discussion on For Our Lives (Presenters: Megan Hathaway, DH, Lucilla Mendoza, HCA)

[For Our Lives Slide Deck](#)

Megan and Lucy are here today looking for feedback on the mini-toolkit materials which is just the beginning piece. The goal is to get these critical materials out as soon as possible and then expand on the campaigns in the spring. You can contact Megan at meganH@wearedh.com.

Links to provide feedback:

Rack card (review link): <https://assets.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:032bb097-2860-49fa-a92c-b45a11a82da1?view=published>

Conversation guide (review link): <https://assets.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:30187804-3f4b-461d-83b2-1602dfd1e823?view=published>

Questions/Comments -

Aaron Soto commented that Megan was great to work with to customize materials for Muckleshoot Tribe and offered his thanks.

VI. Updates from HCA (Presenters: Kris Shera, HCA, Lucilla Mendoza, HCA, Nakia DeMeiro, HCA)

[HCA ED & OD Slides](#)

[HCA WA Opioid Administrator Updates](#)

Link to Slide Deck which includes many more slides than Kris presented on. The last slide lists all opioid settlement funded activities....feel free to take a look at that and let Kris know what you would like to learn about. HCA can provide more in depth info on any of those items you like. We are in a challenging budget environment and will need to look closely at activities being funded. HCA is looking at prioritizing those activities that will go away if they don't have additional funds. One of those things is Scala NW, their Emergency Dept Bridge program.

DOH Overdose dashboard link: <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/opioids/overdose-dashboard>. This dashboard only has data up to 2022 for WA. Jen Olson shared about the data workgroup that will be meeting the second Friday from 10 - 11 each month and can spend time looking at this dashboard. She also said that tribes could access Essence otherwise known as RHINO, that would have ER data around opioids morality and morbidity.

A. SB 6099

Presenter - Nakia DeMeiro. Here is a link to [the Slide Deck](#).

Lucy added that they currently have \$15.4M in Indian Nation Agreements and with the 2 Urban Indian health programs. They do not have a spending plan for funds after these agreements are done 6.30.25. So they have no plan on how these funds will be spent or how they will be

distributed and wanted to make everyone aware. It is past the timeframe that HCA can create a spending plan and has been discussed at the Opioid Task Force.

VII. Agenda Items for Upcoming meetings and Wrap Up

Nothing noted.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 12th which is during AIHC's Summit so **will need to be rescheduled. TBD.**

VIII. Closing