



AIAN Opioid Response Workgroup Minutes

American Indian Health Commission

12/10/2024 3:00 PMPST

@ Virtual

Attendance

Present:

Members: Ofi Brown (remote), Andrew Guillen (remote), Sarah Sullivan (remote), Kara Frizzell (remote), Daylen Gonzales (remote), Lucy Hill (remote), Shelley (remote), Andrew Shogren (remote)

Guests: Charlene Abrahamson/WAHBE (remote), Cassie Anderson/DCYF (remote), Danica Brown/KA (remote), Megan Hatheway/DH (remote), Michelle Johnson (remote), Asa Washines/ATG Tribal Liaison (remote)

AIHC: Kathryn Akeah (remote), Cindy Gamble (remote), Heather Holzer (remote), Laura Kluever (remote), Vicki Lowe (remote), Pam Priest (remote), Faith Turk (remote)

DOH: Rosalinda Fivekiller-Turk (remote), Dan Overton (remote), Kathy Pierre (remote), Travis Sugarman (remote), Candice Wilson (remote)

DSHS: Heather Hoyle (remote), Leah Muasau (remote), Brenda Thomas-Francis (remote)

HCA: Nakia DeMiero (remote), Nicole Earls (remote), Leta Evaskus (remote), Jaron Heller (remote), Lucilla Mendoza (remote), Raina Peone (remote), Kris Shera (remote)

I. Welcome/Introductions

Welcome and Introductions - Lucilla Mendoza

Blessing - Danica Brown

II. Review Meeting Notes from October AIAN ORW Meeting

 [10.8.24 AIAN Opioid Response Workgroup Minutes.pdf](#)

III. Presentation and Discussion on Sublocade (Long-Acting Injectable Buprenorphine) Access Program

Presenter: Leta Evaskus, HCA

Leta responded to the questions gathered from Tribal leaders and Tribal communities. She reviewed responses that are now included in the [Long-Acting Injectable Buprenorphine FAQ's](#).

Other additional Resource Links:

[Sublocade REMS - Home](#)

[Sublocade REMS form](#)

[Sublocade REMS fact sheet](#)

[Brixadi REMS Home](#)

[Brixadi REMS Fact Sheet](#)

[Brixadi REMS Form](#)

Questions/Comments -

Charlene Abrahamson asked how easy/quick is the REMS certification to get? Leta responded that Indivior and Braeburn are the companies that monitor the REMS certification and are very helpful with

the process. The turn around time has been quick, like a couple weeks. Leta will share the contact info with Lucy and she will distribute.

Andrew Shogren asked if there is any discussion around have a Tribal set aside and just letting Tribes in their clinics be eligible under this program. It would make access a lot easier rather than having to take a contract back through our contracting process. It is an administrative burden. Leta responded there will be discussions internally. Lucy added that time was a factor in figuring out the provider piece with such a short window to get this program going. There is room to discuss how this fits in the Indian Nation Agreement.

IV. Presentation and Discussion on For Our Lives

Presenters: Megan Hathaway, DH; Lucy Mendoza, HCA

Megan gave an update on the youth For Our Lives campaign. meganh@wearedh.com

[For Our Lives Update slides](#)

Questions/Comments -

Asa Washines (asa.washines@atg.wa.gov) shared regarding [HearMeWA](#) and the MMIW Task Force. He also shared a notice regarding [HearMe WA recruitment](#). He would like to share Megan's slides with his team as the work overlaps and would be helpful. Megan is happy to share.

V. Updates from AIHC and Discussion

Kathryn Akeah presented a summary on the Behavioral Health breakouts from the AIHC Tribal and State Leaders Health Summit.

[Behavioral Health Breakout Highlights](#)

VI. Updates from HCA and DOH

Presenters: Lucy Mendoza,, Kris, Nakia DeMiero

Lucy shared the the Tribal Opioid Task Force is focusing on getting the subcommittees stood up. There is a legislative report that is due at the end of June. There is talk about using the Tribal State Opioid Fentanyl Summit report as a framework because there were many recommendations/priorities that were outlined. The date for the next Summit has been set for May 19-21 at Cowlitz Ilani Casino.

Travis Sugarman from DOH shared that they are waiting to see what comes out in the Governor's budget. The State Opioid Plan did put in some recommendations that included funding for telehealth buprenorphine prescribing program statewide.

Dan Overton stated there are a few changes coming for residential treatment facilities. If any questions re BH facilities/licensing/standing up, please reach out. Lucy added that there are Listening Sessions coming up on the Residential Treatment Facilities and attestation. Candice clarified that these will be workgroups. Sarah asked about the rulemaking changes for Opioid Treatment Programs re fixed sites and mobile units. Is there someone that can talk about this in the future and what the proposals are? The first hearing is Dec 18th. It came from Lauren Kula/HCA and Michelle Weatherly/DOH. Dan responded that DOH is all about being "easy" and is working closely with Michelle. He suggested going to the [BHA Rules in Progress](#) page and you will find information. Lucy will add this to a future meeting agenda.

Here is a link to the [DOH list of Dear Tribal Leader Letters](#).

VII. Tribal Updates

Andrew Shogren - They have had nice success with their mobile medical unit. They are serving about 35 regular clients out at Clallam Bay. They are waiting for HCA and DOH to complete the regulation around brick and mortar so they can explore their options and hope it gets done early next year. Andrew is happy to share with anyone interested in doing MMU's.

Skokomish - Daylen shared they are hiring a psych nurse practitioner and developing ongoing groups in the new year.

Swinomish - Sarah shared they are in the midst of working on their MMU's for Bellingham and recovery housing.

AICC - Shelley reported they are just working to provide for the homeless as well as working with the Spokane Tribe on a van for the MAT program.

Kauffman & Assoc - Danica reported they are working a couple of state on the 1115 Waiver so if Washington decides to apply for that, let her know. Next week she will be at NIH for a meeting regarding boarding school healing.

VIII. Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings and Wrap Up

Topics for next meeting agenda -

BHA Rules in Progress

Boarding School Healing - Danica/Kauffman & Assoc

IX. Closing

This workgroup is now the Continuum of Care subcommittee of the Task Force.

Blessing - Danica Brown