



WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Taskforce

Minutes

American Indian Health Commission

3/25/2025 9:00 AMPDT

Attendance

Present:

Members: Emily Arnesen (remote), Ofi Brown (remote), Dylan Gonzales (remote), Summer Hammons (remote), Maureen Kinley (remote), Jill Malone (remote), Sarah Sullivan (remote), Jolene Winger (remote), Tony Hillaire (remote), Steve Kutz (remote), Frances Pickernell (remote), Chelsea Sayles (remote), Monica Tonasket (remote)

Guests: Kiorstin Scott (remote), Bob Smithj (remote), WilliamL (remote)

AIHC: Kathryn Akeah (remote), Heather Holzer (remote), Laura Kluever (remote), Vicki Lowe (remote), Maria Ness (remote), Jen Olson (remote), Pam Priest (remote), Wendy Stevens (remote), Lisa Rey Thomas (remote), Faith Turk (remote), JanMarie Ward (remote)

COM: Michelle Gladstone-Wade (remote)

DCYF: Shannel Janzen (remote)

DOC: Harj Aulakh (remote), Colleen Cawston (remote)

DOH: Kristin Peterson (remote), Candice Wilson (remote)

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

GOIA: Mystique Hurtado (remote)

HCA: Nakia DeMiero (remote), Nicole Earls (remote), Charissa Fotinos (remote), Jaron Heller (remote), Lucilla Mendoza (remote), Lena Nachland (remote), Raina Peone (remote), Aren Sparck (remote)

OIC: Jeannie Lockhart (remote), Larry Robinette (remote)

OSPI: Rebecca Purser (remote)

State Representative: Rep Lekanoff (remote)

WAHBE: Charlene Abrahamson (remote)

I. Meeting Materials

[Firefly AI Action Items](#)

II. Welcome

Facilitators: Rep. Debra Lekanoff, Taskforce Legislative Co-Chair, Chairman Hillaire, Councilwoman Monica Tonasket

III. Taskforce Business

A. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Roll call was expedited with those attending entering name and who they are representing in chat. [3.25.25 Taskforce Meeting Chat](#)

 [WA Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Taskforce Roll Call.docx](#)

B. Approve Today's Agenda

Rep. Lekanoff asked that the Legislative Update be moved to the beginning.

 [3.25.25 Agenda.doc](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve the agenda with the change to move the Legislative Update before the Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes..

Question called by Chairman Hillaire. Motion carries.

IV. Legislative Updates

Presenters: Vicki Lowe, Rep. Lekanoff

[AIHC Legislative Priorities 2025 Session](#)

Regarding the **Non-Native SUD Reimbursements for the State Share**, the Senate and the House had very different language on how to resolve this opportunity with the language from the House being preferred, much more direct and straightforward, allowing for future funding cycles vs this year. So the bill is now a Proviso in the Operating Budget. Next step will be for GIHAC to oversee further development of the payment plan and how to go forward. Vicki will send out an email today with template language, to the Tribes as well as the Senators, Macri and Sanford and Rep Lekanoff, as what is needed as this is being rushed to the floor so we are not left out in the dark until 2027. Tribes need to direct their lobbyists or contact Rep Macri or Vicki Lowe. Steve Kutz feels the legislature should not be trying to solve the Medicaid problem on Tribes backs. We are willing to help solve the problem. Tribes need to reach out to the Senate side by contacting Derek Stanford. Respectfully, Rep Lekanoff shared that behind the scenes, there are some legislators that believe a lot of money has been given to the Tribes as well as Tribal facilities. There are thoughts that potentially, this could be a payoff to the non-native SUD reimbursement. Keep this in your pockets....

Vicki then reviewed the other legislative priorities. See slidedeck above.

V. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

 [WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Taskforce Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve last month's 2.25.25 meeting minutes.

Question called by Councilwoman Tonasket. Motion carried.

VI. Workgroup Updates

Vicki stated that each of the workgroup chairs should expect to hear from Heather Holzer with AIHC to talk about the logistics of the breakout sessions for the Summit. She will scheduling meeting with each work group.

A. Community Response (Presenters: Steve Kutz, Cowlitz/Suquamish, AIHC Chair)

Vicki Lowe and Steve Kutz attended the Tribal Law Enforcement Conference held at Camp Murray. There was representation from the police force of every tribe along with state and federal military and law enforcement as well as FBI and DEA. This was a broad overlook that centered on what assets are available to Tribes and jurisdictional issues. The work will be done together in the Law and Justice workgroup which is a subcommittee of this Taskforce to address the issues.

Asa Washines from the ATG's office added that the conference was great and something that's been in the works for quite some time. Sauk-Suiattle got the funding to get it organized. Its been 10 years since we have had Tribal law enforcement come together in this capacity. It was good for for Tribal law enforcement to learn about all the resources. This was the 1st time that [Northwest High Density Drug Area](#) (HDDA) met with the Tribes and can provide many resources and assets like helicopters, profiles of drug dealers. The discussion that needs to follow this conference is bringing together the law and justice policy side with law enforcement in the subcommittee. Vicki added that funding was made available for Tribal law enforcement to attend and we need to make sure to include that in our recommendations to the legislature. Chairman Hillaire commented that figuring out how to have mutual aid agreements between Tribes as we are at different levels of capacity and ability to have full, sole jurisdiction would go a long ways. We also need to consider the Federal laws in addition to the state laws.

Steve remarked that it is all about our tribal law enforcement establishing these close, working relationships and work together in a broader system.

Link to courses at this website: [Welcome to Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center | Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center](#)

10th Civil Support Decontamination Video: <https://youtu.be/oNiAtBTl0uw>

 [AGENDA - Tribal Police Counterdrug Leadership Conference Final.pdf](#)

B. Public Safety and the Justice System (Presenters: James Salazar, Quileute Tribal Council, Asa Washines, Attorney General's Office)

- **Tribal Leaders Conference on State and Federal Resources to Fight Opioid/Fentanyl on Tribal Lands**- Asa Washines
- **Superior Court Training April 28th Tribal Warrants**- Vicki Lowe/Chelsea Sayles - The Tribal Warrants bill goes into effect in July. Chelsea along with 2 Tribal prosecutors and a Superior court judge will be speaking regarding the Tribal warrants and should be a really good training to inform Superior court judges what's coming, how to respond, and what the next course of action will be. It will aim at mostly State Court judges.
- They will also be doing a training at the **WA State Bar Association's Indian Law Training** May 15th and 16th. AIHC will be speaking on the model court forms for Tribal DCR's.

If anyone would like trainings in their area, just let Chelsea know. She is also looking at a law enforcement training and be beneficial for most jurisdictions.

Questions/Comments:

Asa Washines would like to observe the 28th training. Chelsea will check on that. He can def observe the training on May 15-16. The AG will be rolling out the forms and has an interest. Chairman Hillaire voiced a desire for a Tribal judicial training. Chelsea will work on this.

 [\[6\] FBI IC and TOC \(1\).pptx.pdf](#)

C. Continuum of Care (Presenters: Anthony Hillaire, Chair Lummi Nation, Vicki Lowe, AIHC, Lucilla Mendoza, HCA, Lisa Rey Thomas, AIHC)

Vicki noted that the atmosphere is very strained with the budget. She reminded the group that there is work to understand the Medicaid savings the State is receiving when a Tribal member is seen at a Tribal clinic. So when the State is looking at the cost of things, they need to think in terms of this savings. It is also important to note that when they are investing in a Tribal or UIHO operated clinics, those are long term investments into healthcare in their communities. Chairman Hillaire noted that all here today give Tribes great hope in responding to the drug epidemic. Together, we are doing something to get through it.

- **WA State Legislative support to complete facilities projects-** Chairman Hillaire, Vicki Lowe.
Chairman Hillaire shared they have prioritized a detox facility Swims and were able to get it written into the capital budget and are now waiting for that budget to be released next week. We have been able to amplify our voices through this work.
- **Hospital Coordination efforts with Washington State-** Vicki Lowe
 - Care Coordination Agreements with Hospitals
Heather Erb and Vicki Lowe have had a couple of uncomfortable meetings with the Hospital Assoc. to better coordinate care through Care Coordination Agreements.
- **Development of Culturally Appropriate Evaluation** - tool for Involuntary Treatment Commitment- Vicki Lowe
Vicki shared the Culturally Evaluation Tool is for involuntary treatment for the non-Tribal DCR's. They are working with Danica Brown who is now with Kauffman and Assoc as well as getting input from some of the Tribal DCR's and people who have worked as DCR's. There needs to be more training around the Indian Behavioral Health Act esp around notification when someone is in crisis. Asa will add it to the agenda of the 2nd Law Enforcement Conference.
- **Implementation of BH 1877 (2024)-** Vicki and Lucy
 - Superior Court Training April 28th -Tribal Designated Crisis Responder Model Court Forms
 - Updating Medicaid- Managed Care and BHASO Contracts.
These contracts are under review and to make sure they follow the updates in the law.
- **Tulalip now has the 2nd DCR in WA State** - Lucy Mendoza

 [Tribal 638 Health Programs - Care Coordination Agreement.docx](#)

 [DTLL MCO ASO Contract Updates V2 .pdf](#)

D. Family and Community Services (Presenters: Rebecca Purser, OSPI, Steve de los Angeles, Snoqualmie Tribal Council, Vice-Chair IPAC)

Rebecca reported she is leading an effort on Tribal Schools, OPIoid Education Prevention Pilot project with our State Tribal Education Compact Schools. This workgroup continues to have a strong partnership with Tribal leaders, HCA, DOH and DSHS. DSHS hosts the workgroup and meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Last month they discussed related resources within the workgroup:

- Tribal NPAIHB campaigns
- Naloxone Education materials

- Prevention Models
- Native and Strong Lifeline
- Healthy Youth Survey
- For Our Lives - youth material development. Upcoming outreach for Tribal set aside funding for campaign localization and review of last years materials
- New campaigns that Tribes are developing.

This month they will continue to share updates and provide feedback. Topics will include the Native and Strong Lifeline materials for veterans, info on the DOH Opioid general population campaign, SUD educational materials and programs within the DCYF as well as a Listening Session to gather feedback to help develop a Native youth specific Healthy Youth Survey data report. OSPI has contracted with Kauffman and Assoc to host the first meeting of this group. Chairman Hillaire shared that the Tribes are trying to start up the Association of Washington Tribes in collaborate with the Gov's Office for Centennial Accord and the Millennium Agreement. Education was noted as an issue at the last CA. He voiced his appreciation for OSPI being at the table and that the work being done in this workgroup is spot on. Councilwoman Tonasket echoed his appreciation. Maureen Kinley added that Lummi would be interested in looking at Rapid Housing as well. They are getting ready to open their Pallet Homes which is low to no barrier housing. They also have their transitional housing and in the works of building permanent tiny homes which will be temporary housing until folks can get into actual housing. Chairman Hillaire shared that there has been discussion in Olympia about how to shift the some of the BH funding in the capital budget to address housing need. We've always determined that housing is a health disparity at Lummi.

E. Housing and Wrap Around Services (Presenters: Monica Tonasket, Spokane Tribal Council, Michelle Gladstone-Wade, Commerce)

Meeting Dates and Times- Coordination with DSHS Poverty Reduction Committee
Michelle shared the workgroup has been planning the breakout session for the upcoming Opioid Summit.

She has also been working with her staff of Commerce and their Housing division to compile an index of existing housing services being offered. She acknowledged that Commerce is difficult to navigate and find the grants that meet the needs of the Tribes right now. They have a very messy draft that she will share in the chat but hopes to share something more concrete to share at the Summit.

Monica explained that the workgroup just had their first meeting last month. Monica has been doing a little research about other methods of housing and wraparound services. She hasn't heard of the concept of Rapid ReHousing, which is a short term crisis response program, at previous Summits. Are any Tribes doing this? It has proven to be a low cost intervention that allows homeless families to quickly leave shelters and find stable housing. She would like to see this concept explored. Michelle will look into how COM could work a form of Rapid Rehousing into services.

VII. Discussion

A. Summit - May 20-22 at Cowlitz

Here is the registration page....[Third Annual Washington State Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Task Force Summit](#). Remember there are 2 links at this link. One is for the registration to the Summit and the other is for lodging. Portions of the Summit will be virtual.

Here is the current draft of the agenda....[3rd WA Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Summit May 20-22, 2025.docx](#). Here is a copy created of the [2023 National Tribal Opioid Summit mural](#).

Sarah Sullivan proposed having a brief discussion within the breakout session for potential impacts of Federal budget changes on any of the agency dual-funded programs or services. Aren Sparck asked that HCA receive clear guidance to ensure that this is still a priority for all of the agencies working with the Tribes since they are in a travel freeze.

VIII. Tribal Youth Councils - Youth Summit Fall 2025 (Presenters: JanMarie Ward)

She shared that they are convening a group of youth leaders to work with them in the development of the agenda and activities for a October Youth Prevention and Leadership Summit. They have identified the week of October 13th at this point for the Summit.

 [Youth Leadership Committee.pptx](#)

IX. Program Updates (Presenters: All)

Nakia DeMiero shared a powerful video on the Tribal Leader Prevention campaign videos for the For Our Lives campaign.

X. Meeting Cadence through June 2025

April 22, 2025

May 20-22, 2025 (Summit)

June 24, 2025

XI. Adjournment