



Tribal Housing and Wrap Around Services Workgroup Minutes

American Indian Health Commission
4/22/2025 3:00 PMPDT

I. Attendance:

Marla Tolliver, Councilwoman, Makah Tribe; Deanna Point, Health Housing Manager, Lummi Nation; Julia Ortiz, Behavioral Health and Project Manager, Lummi Nation; Jessica Williams, Program Coordinator for Community Family Services, Puyallup Tribe; Michelle Ruiz, Community Family Services, Puyallup Tribe; Brycelynn Green, CPC, CSP Project Director, Healing to Wellness Court, Quinault Indian Nation; Denise LaClair, Health Director, Skokomish Indian Tribe; Deb Dunithan, Contracts Analyst, Skokomish Indian Tribe; Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, American Indian Health Commission (AIHC); Heather Holzer, PR/Communications Consultant, AIHC; Laura Kluever, Enhanced Tribal Assister, AIHC; Mystique Hurtado, Administrative/Communications Manager, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs; Michelle Gladstone-Wade, Director of Office of Tribal Relations, Department of Commerce; Shannel Squally-Janzen, Tribal Prevention Service Specialist, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Department of Health (DOH); Rosalinda Fivekiller-Turk, Tribal Engagement Director, DOH; Amira Caluya, Health Services Consultant, DOH; Beth Payne, Communications Consultant, DOH; Renee Tinder, Management Analyst, DOH; Lisa Yanagida, Chief of Staff, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS); Lori Pfingst, Senior Director, DSHS Office of Economic Justice; Alex Panagotacos, Strategic Partnerships Director, DSHS Office of Economic Justice; Tim Collins, Senior Director, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Leah Muasau, Tribal Contracts Coordinator, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Brenda Francis-Thomas, Regional Manager, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Heather Hoyle, Regional Manager, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Sher Stecher, Tribal Relations Manager, DSHS Office of Indian Policy; Livey Beha, Senior Program Manager, DSHS Office of Economic Justice; Theresa Slusher, Housing Stability Advisor, DSHS Economic Services Administration (ESA); Brady Rosnagle, Tribal Relations Administrator, DSHS ESA; Denise Kelly, Tribal Liaison, DSHS ESA; Tamara Gaston, Tribal Affairs Administration, DSHS Aging and Long Term Supports Administration (AL TSA); Liz Greil, Tribal Initiative Program Manager, DSHS AL TSA; Julie Jefferson, Tribal Initiative Program Manager, DSHS AL TSA; Jillian Morris, Tribal Initiative Project Manager, DSHS AL TSA; Lisa Pemberton, Tribal Affairs Administrator, DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration; Charlene Abrahamson, Tribal Liaison, Health Benefits Exchange (HBE); Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, Health Care Authority (HCA); Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator; Nakia DeMiero, Tribal Opioid Response Coordinator, HCA; Lonni Rickard, Communications Consultant, HCA; Raina Peone, Medical Assistance Program Specialist, HCA; Melissa Thoemke, Behavioral Health Communications Manager, HCA; Sarah Cook-Lalari, Program Specialist, HCA; Tina Anderson, Medical Assistance Program Specialist, HCA; Anne Paulsen, SOR Communications Consultant, HCA

II. Welcome, Blessing

Co-Chairs: Monica Tonasket, Secretary, Spokane Tribe of Indians; Michelle Gladstone-Wade, Department of Commerce; Lori Pfingst, DSHS

III. Opening Remarks

- Co-Chairs
- Tribal Representatives

IV. Commerce Housing Resources

Presenter: Michelle Gladstone-Wade, Commerce

Michelle said the Department of Commerce is the lead state agency for housing grants and opportunities. She shared some emergency housing services and homelessness prevention opportunities offered by Commerce including a few that provide continuum of care such as behavioral health and/or inpatient opioid services.

- Commerce offers a grant to increase capacity through acquisition, renovation or new construction. There is also a facilities closure prevention project.
- Commerce has a planning and development support opportunity focused on underserved communities to expand housing capacity.
- For continuum wraparound supportive housing, there is Apple Health and Homes Initiatives, that also has a Housing and Urban Development/state partnership.
- Supportive Housing funding is available through the Housing Trust Fund and has fewer wraparound services.
- Commerce has funding for permanent supportive housing and the HOME program which is designed for folks making less than \$80,000 area median income (AMI).
- There is funding through the Housing Trust Fund that can be used to build Tribally owned multi-family or single-family housing, that can also be used for home acquisition. The Housing Trust Fund also offers down payment assistance for Tribal member-owned housing.
- Other resources available are weatherization financial assistance and the Youth Recreational Facilities Program.
- Commerce offers a matching grant for non-residential assistance.

For more information, please contact Michelle at michelle.gladstone-wade@commerce.wa.gov, Alden Andy at aldenandy@commerce.wa.gov or Mary Miller at mary.miller@commerce.wa.gov.

V. Department of Social and Health Services Housing Resources

Tamara Gaston, Theresa Slucher, and Mary Jordan, DSHS

Aging and Long Term Supports Administration (AL TSA)-Tamara Gaston

Tamara shared some resources offered by AL TSA:

- Motel interim stays for transitioning clients who need a safe place to stay while searching for housing is offered.
- Global leasing for high-risk individuals who have difficulty finding permanent housing that covers additional services such as providing stabilization in the home, equipment, etc.
- The Governor's Opportunity for Supportive Housing (GOSH) program is for folks leaving a facility such as Western/Eastern State Hospital and wish to live independently. This program is underutilized.
- The Roads to Community Living (RCL) program has specialists ready to connect with Tribes for folks looking to return to their communities. She shared an example of a Tribal person discharging from an adult family home whose home was determined to be uninhabitable. The RCL folks offered to repair it. The Tribe was able to use their own contractor and replaced her roof, her bed, and installed a ramp. There are many programs for folks with a disability or an elder wanting to return home or to a home and community-based setting.

Tamara shared this link: [Supportive Housing Services | DSHS Roads to Community Living \(RCL\) | DSHS AL TSA Housing Opportunities](#) to help connect folks to supportive housing programs, resources and regional housing program managers at AL TSA.

Economic Services Administration (ESA)-Theresa Slusher

Theresa shared some resources offered by ESA:

- There was funding for folks who were on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program through February 2025, that helped pay rent and utilities for one year.
- The Additional Requirement for Emergent Needs (AREN) program provides a cash payment to prevent eviction, pay a deposit and sometimes repair a safety/health risk in the home. This is available for folks on TANF or State Family Assistance (SFA) programs.
- ESA has a process for Coordinated Entry information that has several access points for TANF families who experience a housing crisis. Commerce releases guidance for counties to develop coordinated entry. This process is included in information provided to folks receiving TANF to ensure they can find it in their community.
- There is a 60-month time limit for TANF recipients. ESA has several time limit extension waivers that can be deployed and families experiencing homelessness are one of them. ESA would like this information to go out to housing providers so they can share with folks.
- Coordinated Entry, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) applications and other resources can be found at www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices. The link connects to the Commerce site, and access points are listed by county. Some are called “211.” ESA also offers resources for foundational community supports, such as domestic violence safe shelters and housing, veterans housing and eviction legal help.
- There is a section on where to find housing that is affordable and where to find housing that meets a special need, such as youth exiting institutions, nursing facilities, adult family homes, Pathways to Housing, recovery housing, and Oxford Houses. Oxford Houses are a safe and affordable way to secure housing and become stable when in recovery and there are resources to build or purchase recovery housing or Oxford Houses. If a Tribe is interested, there’s a lot of support.

Julia will share this information with counselors at Lummi Nation. She said they have a housing authority and there’s a lot of restrictions. There are a lot of homeless folks not in a great position at this time. Lori suggested creating a crosswalk for folks who are serving families, children, and individuals to make it easier to find information they need. She thought there may be resources on her Economic Justice Alliance team to assist.

Vicki agreed and said she envisions a crosswalk that shows programs based on eligibility criteria.

Heather suggested two qualifying factors for resources: 1. The person is about to lose their home; 2. The person is homeless.

Tamara shared ALISA has a crosswalk for determining what housing supportive program a person would qualify for.

Theresa said she is co-chair of the Interagency Council on Homelessness. They are working on putting together a crosswalk. It is currently listed by state agency and it would be great to receive feedback on how to make it useful to the public. She offered to present it at the next meeting for discussion with the group.

Vicki said she would invite folks from the Native Resources Hub to the next meeting, to see if this crosswalk could be provided for them to enter into the system. People who are in need of behavioral health could be connected to these resources.

 [4.22.25 ALISA Housing Opportunities.pdf](#)

 [4.22.25 ESA Housing Info Tribal Workgroup 2025.docx](#)

VI. Health Care Authority Presentation

Presenter: Lucilla Mendoza, HCA

Lucilla shared resources from HCA:

- Apple Health Homes is part Commerce, part HCA funds. It's a Medicaid program waiver allowing the bypass of certain rules. Foundational community supports are available at those homes through Well Point, a third party administrator, that does eligibility oversight and payments for services. It has been challenging to implement for Tribes. If interested, please reach out to Lucilla so she can connect you with subject matter experts who can address barriers. It pays for staff to help folks seek supportive, long or short term housing and employment services.
- There are foundational community supports that help with the discharge process for folks from Western and Eastern State Hospital.
- There is Glidepath, for folks who are transitioning off of the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program due to increased income. There are funds for rental assistance and work readiness.
- There is also a short term, Transitional Assistance Program to help folks into housing who have health-related social needs.
- Recovery residences are safe, healthy, family-like, substance free living environments that support individuals in recovery from SUD who meet criteria. There is a revolving loan for recovery housing available that could be used to upgrade or provide needed supplies, about \$5,000/each. There are recovery housing residential treatment facilities with cost-based rates and three tiers.
- HCA has forensic HARPS short term housing bridge subsidies for individuals at risk of exiting and entering inpatient behavioral health settings, anchored in recovery principles.
- HCA has the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program, designed to do outreach and assists folks to access supportive services, basic needs resources, and connection to care. It includes housing resources, systems and benefits advocacy, mental health care, substance use treatment and disabilities support.
- Oxford Housing is another HCA works with which is recovery, peer-managed housing. She thinks medication assisted recovery folks are able to qualify. There's also a loan to stand them up. There is currently one Tribal Oxford House in a community.
- There are paths to employment, recovery and education. The application process is minimal and designed for historically underserved communities.
- If Tribes are interested in listing their Tribal recovery residences on the WA Recovery Housing Directory, please reach out to Lucilla. HCA also offers technical assistance on their model Washington Alliance for Quality Recovery Residences (WAQRR).
- Trueblood housing voucher and subsidies are available for folks that were waiting for a competency evaluation in jail. This was the result of a lawsuit that directed the state to ensure timely evaluations. In some areas, there is still a wait and there are many services to prevent it from happening such as diverting folks from the justice system, and providing housing for those with behavioral health conditions that could contribute to their entry into justice.
- The Housing First Program provides permanent housing to those experiencing homelessness or instability. It doesn't mandate participation in services or treatment to obtain housing or other services. It operates under a right-based, client-centered philosophy that underscores recovery orientation, and social and community integration. She said a subject matter expert will be at the Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Summit. There are limited funds available in the program to implement it statewide.

Folks can contact Lucilla at lucilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov.

VII. Department of Children, Youth and Families Housing Resources

Presenter: L Shannel Squally-Janzen, DCYF

Shannel shared a presentation and housing resources available from DCYF:

- DCYF has Family Unification Program (FUP) housing vouchers available for families with children if they meet one of two conditions: Their child(ren) might be placed in out-of-home care because the family doesn't have stable housing, or their child(ren) can't return home from

out-of-home care because the family doesn't have stable housing. The family can be on the program as long as needed or until their income exceeds the limit of the program.

- DCYF has Foster Youth to Independence housing vouchers for those in foster care between 16-18 birthdays and currently between 18 and 25 years old and have left foster care or will do so within 90 days. This voucher lasts three years with a possible two-year extension for school, job training or employment. It's important to note, the applications are sent to the Public Housing Agency (PHA) for approval that checks income and background. Income limits are based on area median income (AMI) and priority is given to households earning 30% or less.
- For those who don't qualify for the housing vouchers, there are supportive services they can be referred to that help find housing, provide cash for move-in costs, provide help with financial literacy, and education on renter rights and responsibilities, and other resources.
- Tribes can enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with their local housing authority if available, and can choose who will provide housing services for their community. Tribes can send referrals to the DCYF Housing Liaisons at dcyf.housing@dcyf.wa.gov.

There are DCYF Regional Housing Liaisons contact information in the presentation (attached) and Shannel can be reached at Shannel.Squally-Janzen@dcyf.wa.gov.

Brenda wondered if there was a program to help with application fees, as this can be a barrier.

Shannel said some Tribes assist with that and there may be other resources or crisis assistance programs available to help pay for these offered by the Tribe.

 [DCYF Housing Vouchers- Housing and Wraparound Workgroup Services 4.22.2025 .pptx](#)

VIII. Economic Justice Alliance Advisory Council Participation and 10-Year Plan Update

Presenter: Lori Pfingst, Alex Panagotacos, DSHS

Alex said they previously sent a DTLL to Tribes with a request for at least two Tribal representatives from Eastern and Western Washington to join the Economic Justice Alliance Advisory Council. The goal is to ensure Tribal voices are included in recommendations sent to the Legislative Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight (LEWPRO) Task Force for action. The mission of the Economic Justice Council is for all to thrive. There were no responses received from the DTLL. They would love to have someone from this group or the Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) to participate.

Tim will send out a reminder to Tribes about the ask. He also committed to adding it to the agendas of the upcoming IPAC Subcommittees.

IX. Meeting Wrap-Up/Next Agenda

Presenters: Monica Tonasket, Secretary, Spokane Tribe of Indians; Michelle Gladstone-Wade, Department of Commerce; Lori Pfingst, DSHS

X. Adjourn