



WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Taskforce

Minutes


American Indian Health Commission
4/22/2025 9:00 AMPDT

I. Welcome

Co-Chair - Councilman James Salazar, Quileute

II. Taskforce Business

A. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

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

B. Approve Today's Agenda

 [Washington Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Taskforce Agenda 4.22.2025.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve today's agenda.

Motion carried.

C. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

 [WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Taskforce Minutes 3.25.2025.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes from 3.25.25.

Motion carried.

III. Discussion

A. Summit - May 20-22 at Cowlitz

Presenter: Vicki Lowe, AIHC

Registration link: [Third Annual Washington State Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Taskforce Summit](#) will be held at Ilani and hosted by the Cowlitz Tribes. Please be sure to register as well as reserve your lodging. There are 2 links within the registration link. The agenda is below and follows the agenda used last year. Attorney General Brown will join on the second day after lunch. The third day the Gov will join from 1:30 - 3:30.

We will have purple t-shirts from the For Our Lives campaign with the 3 quotes this group voted on. Also vendor tables.

 [3rd WA Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Summit May 20-22, 2025_WIP.pdf](#)

B. Legislative Reports- Recommendations

Presenters: Vicki Lowe, AIHC

Part of the work of this Task Force is to build a report to the legislature and make recommendations as well as make policy and programmatic recommendations to work with the different agencies. Vicki provided an update on the reporting.

Questions/Comments -

Regarding support for telemedicine services for MOUD at the Federal level, Dr Fotinos commented there are not specific changes from the telemedicine piece. There were some proposed rules around prescribing some types of controlled substances. Sarah commented that she believes the issue Vicki is referring to is for Medicare, not Medicaid and applies to reimbursement for telehealth services which will go away at the end of September unless it is extended. Dr Fotinos responded that the proposed rule changes are across both all payors but for the prescribing piece. These are 2 different issues.

- <https://telehealth.hhs.gov/providers/telehealth-policy/telehealth-policy-updates>
- <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/federal-telehealth-update-9449381/>

Sen Kauffman provided an update that her budget request is the one that is included in the budget. She also requested that AIHC communicate with her regarding conversations re the non-Native SUD payment issue.

 [WA Tribal Opioid Taskforce Report Recommendations so far.pptx](#)

IV. Department of Health - Update on Opioid Treatment Program Accreditation Program (Presenters: Amber Arndt)

Candice introduced Ian Corbridge and Ramiro Cantu who presented on the [Opioid Treatment Program \(OTP\) Accreditation | Washington State Department of Health](#). The point of today's conversation is that DOH can no longer continue to maintain the accreditation services at no cost. DOH presented on 3 options.

Kristin Petersen reiterated that here isn't an easy decision. There are risks and benefits for each of the 3 options.

Dear Tribal Leader letter: [Collaborative- Opioid Treatment Program \(OTP\) Federal Accreditation](#)

Questions/Comments -

Charlene Abrahamson asked if there is still opportunity for the OTP's to work with the staff within DOH who have a lot of institutional knowledge. Ramiro responded, yes, the agency would be able to provide technical assistance. DOH would still have the responsibility for conducting the licensing inspections of Otp providers as well a programmatic standpoint.

Vicki Lowe asked for the cost per OTP for accreditation. Ramiro responded, with caution, providing an **estimate** of \$33,000. Vicki added that there has been discussion of possibly using the Opioid Settlement dollars for this. Councilman Salazar thanked DOH for the presentation.

Candice shared: Re: Collaborative- Residential Treatment Facility (RTF)/Psychiatric Hospital Tribal Attestation - Fee Rulemaking Hearing & Public Comment | April 22, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-04/DTLL-RTF-PsychiatricHospitalTribalAttestationFeeRulemakingHearing.pdf>

V. Workgroup Updates

A. Community Response

Updated Federal Guidance on Tribal Emergency Declarations under the Stafford Act - [Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance](#).

Is an Emergency Declaration at the State or Federal level still needed? Chairman Hillaire feels it is. It is heavy work and we don't want to just routinely get the work done, waiting for the next

person to die before we take a stronger stance. He recommends keeping it as a recommendation, understanding that there are complexities with it.

B. Continuum of Care (Presenters: Vicki Lowe)

Non-native substance use disorder reimbursement update - Vicki provided an overview of the issue around the non-Native SUD Reimbursement for the State's share for the last 25 years. The language is now for:

- The State to start paying their share of the SUD payments in either January 2026 or 2027.
- GIHAC will work with HCA to:
 - develop a plan to report to understand what the full 100% FMAP savings that the State receives when a Tribe sees IHS eligible enrollees.
 - Looking at how to expand care to more AIAN's
 - How the Tribal OTP's can help the non-Tribal OTP's take back some of their patients and provide the level of care we are seeing at the Tribal clinics.
- \$10M - \$15M set aside - putting these funds into the Tribal Reinvestment Account

C. Family and Community Services

Candice Wilson provided an update. Last month they had a great presentation from Jerry Rainingbird with DOH and Josephine Keefe with Kauffman and Assoc for the Native and Strong Lifeline campaign. The SUD program manager with DCYF briefly shared the opioid education projects he manages. He shared the need for a full family peer program however funding and training resources are needed. The group voted to add this to a priority for the Task Force for funding and legislative tasks. There was also an update on the general public opioid campaign, as well as a listening session on the Healthy Youth Survey report. The next is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00 where there will be a presentation on Project Aware, Overview of the Thrive and Tribal Opiate Response programs from NPAIHB, and an update on the For Our Lives campaigns.

Rebecca Purser shared the Healing of the Canoe has partnered with the Office of Native Education to with our State Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECS), to support them in sending their staff to a Healing of the Canoe train the trainer. Super exciting! May 19 - 22 in Suquamish. This is definitely something that needs to be considered for legislative additional funding for professional development as well as offering grant opportunity for sending folks to the trainings. AIHC needs to know how much money. Rebecca will send over a spending plan proposal. Candice reminded Rebecca of the Bill Frank Jr curriculum to be added to the list on Vicki's slide.

Rebecca also shared that OSPI is diligently working, along with Tribes, to strengthen the relationships between our districts and our Tribes. Candice brought up to Vicki the need for funding to support STI. Culture is prevention. Candice asked when OSP has Tribal meetings? They just hosted one in Pullman last week. The superintendent is tasked to have consultation 2 times a year with one time being the Centennial Accord. Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNEAC) was pushing for more Tribal leader consultation with Superintendent Reykdal which they just got done hosting. Centennial Accord is tentatively 2 days between Oct 21-24.

D. Housing and Wrap Around Services

The housing workgroup is partnering with the Poverty Reduction work.

[Final10yearPlan.pdf](#)

- Increase the state's Housing Trust Fund to build 10,000 subsidized housing units in 2021, and an additional 90,000 subsidized units over the next decade;

- Increase state funding for weatherization and upgrades to preserve existing housing, reduce carbon emissions, and offset increased energy costs due to potential future carbon reduction initiatives; and
- Provide housing vouchers for homeownership in community land trusts that build individual capital while preserving long-term affordability in a community, preventing displacement of future generations

Michelle Gladstone-Wade shared that the Tribal set aside in the Housing Trust Fund was present in the Senate budget and actually had more beneficial language but it did not show up in the House budget. We are hopeful the Senate language survives. She added that she has started a document that follows that continuum of housing all the way from the inpatient down to single family, Tribal owned housing and is happy to share it.

E. Public Safety and the Justice System

April 28- Superior Court Judges Association Training-

- Tribal Warrant Workgroup Outcomes
- Model Court Forms for Tribal Designated Crisis Responders

Resources:

- [MOUD and MAUD in jails standard of care guidelines](#)
- [Reentry from a carceral setting | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)
- [05-0001 Intent to participate in the Reentry Demonstration](#)
- [Reentry initiative readiness assessment form](#)

Tribal Warrants - Regarding Bill 1829, Chelsea Sayles shared the origin bill has already passed and goes into effect July 1, 2025. The trailer bill is just modifying a couple sections and adding a few definitions and a couple procedural issues that the State wanted which the Tribes weren't in favor of. The trailer bill is completely separate from the original passing of the bill. Asa shared the AG's office is preparing for implementing in July.

Asa Washines would like to discuss organizing the Annual Law Enforcement Summit. The summit held a month ago was attended by 28 of the 29 tribes and had great conversation around drug trafficking.

VI. Tribal Youth Councils - Youth Summit Fall 2025

Janmarie Ward with AIHC is still working on the Tribal Youth Council. Application have been sent out and the Summit is scheduled for October. Dates TBD.

Candice shared: NATIVE & STRONG Resources for Tribes and Partner Organizations
<https://nativeandstrong.org/partner-toolkit/>

VII. Program Updates from Tribes

Councilman Salazar shared that they are using their Opioid Settlement Funds for transitional and long-term housing for those in recovery. They have reduced some of the strict internal policies. By October, he should have a good understanding if this program has been effective for his community and will report back.

Chairman Hillaire reported they were able to utilize some of the Opioid Settlement funds for a Pallet Home project. They put in 40 pallet homes to low to no-barrier housing as an immediate response to get our people somewhere safe and have the ability to provide some wrap around services and outreach. It's been a great success. Lummi is also working the State on their capital budget. They are able to secure some funding for their secure withdraw management and stabilization facility, otherwise known as Detox. They are hoping to get that finalized and then built sometime this year. They will have a grand opening and invite the Tribes. Keep pushing forward!!

VIII. Meeting Cadence through June 2025

January 28th, 2025
February 25, 2025
March 25, 2025
April 22, 2025
May 20-22, 2025 (Summit)
June 24, 2025

IX. Adjournment

Motion:

Motion to adjourn

Motion carried.