



AIAN Opioid Response Workgroup (ORW)

Minutes

American Indian Health Commission
5/13/2025 3:00 PMPDT

@ Virtual

Attendance

Present:

Members: Kim Coombs (remote), Lucy Hill (remote), Nicola Patina (remote), Cheryl Sanders (remote), Marilyn Scott (remote), Julia Ortiz (remote), Dana Seymour (remote), Andrew Shogren (remote)

AIHC: Vicki Lowe (remote), Heather Holzer (remote), Jen Olson (remote), Laura Kluever (remote), Lisa Rey Thomas (remote)

DH: Megan Mills (remote), Paj (remote), Megan Hatheway (remote)

DOC: Colleen Cawston (remote)

DOH: Amber Arndt (remote), Beth Payne (remote), Emalie Huriaux (remote), Mary Beth Brown (remote), Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett (remote), Kathy Pierre (remote)

DSHS: Tim Collins (remote)

HCA: Lucilla Mendoza (remote), Nakia DeMiero (remote), Lena Nachland (remote), Christine Winn (remote), Aren Sparck (remote)

Kauffman and Assoc: Danica Brown (remote)

State Representatives: Rep Lekanoff (remote)

WAHBE: Charlene Abrahamson (remote)

WSP: Emily Main (remote)

I. Welcome/Introductions

Presenters - Vicki Lowe/AIHC, Lucilla Mendoza, HCA, Liosa Rey Thomas/AIHC

Blessing - Charlene Abrahamson

Meeting Materials: [Zoom chat](#)

II. Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett, DOH

Update on Naloxone use and how to treat opioid overdose with compassion.

Questions/Comments -

Yes, State Medicaid does reimburse for Naloxone.

Charlene commented it is good to get the word out about rescue breathing as it was not a focus at the last first aid class she took. Tao responded that most CPR classes focus on cardiac arrest and starting chest compressions. It is appropriate to ask the instruction to include rescue breathing.

Is there a supply chain issue with the medication or do you anticipate one? Tao and Emalie are not aware of any currently but are concerned about potential effect of tariffs.

There is no known issue with flying with Naloxone.

 [High Dose Naloxone Tribal Presentation 5.13.2025.pdf](#)

 [FY25 DOH Naloxone for tribes.pdf](#)

III. For Our Lives Update, DH

Presenters: Megan Mills, Megan Hatheway, Paj
Link to the [DH Sliddeck](#).

Questions/Comments:

Rep Lekanoff is interested to read the report when it comes and how it reads as we try and rebuild better recovery centers where people feel welcome. It is also something we legislators consider when we go to fund tribal or non-tribal recovery centers, or critical care centers. Reducing barriers and reducing stigma is so important and that is what the place itself can do.

Marilyn Scott appreciated the presentation. She truly supports all of the Tribal treatment programs that have the wraparound services. The warm handoff and warm welcoming helps when someone is ready for treatment and to take that first step. Many families have been hurt in our communities. Canoe Journey is helping our youth, sing of songs and make gifts is prevention.

IV. Updates from AIHC

Presenters: Vicki Lowe, Lisa Rey Thomas

Vicki reviewed the slides she will be presenting at the Summit for this groups review and feedback.

Questions/Comments -

Rep Lekanoff commented on the work being done to incorporate the language "Tribes and Urban Indian Health Organization" into all policies, legislative bills, programs and fiscal notes. She shared that our House Democratic and republican staff do not automatically do this. It will be a push this year to do better.

As far as housing for recovery, Rep Lekanoff does not see all the various types of housing needed in recovery being fully funded. We need to keep an eye there.

Tim Collins commented on using the new platform to analyze bills to automatically notify folks. It is very robust and works well. Rep Lekanoff was not aware of this platform and likes his suggestion. DSHS has woven in a piece that talks about the Tribal implications. Rep Lekanoff commented that they have to read bills the old school way, with paper, and do not have a platform like the one DSHS created. This is the first she has heard about it and has never received a report from DSHS. Vicki will look into this....

Where are the agencies legislative asks? Aren shared they have a process and go through a decision package legislation process. All these are vetted internally and senior leadership ultimately gives a yes or no. HCA has 5 or 6 ready to go. They probably will not be ready to present to GIHAC until June. Vicki added that the hope is for the legislative asks brought up at the Summit to end up on the agency request legislation list.

 [WA Tribal Opioid Summit Breakout Session Continuum of Care 2025.pdf](#)

V. Update from HCA

Nakia De Miero reported that the contracts have been sent out for the additional funding HCA identified back in February.

[HCA Slide Deck](#)

VI. Group Updates

None shared.

VII. Closing