



Public Safety and the Justice System Workgroup Meeting

March 10, 2025

Goal of Workgroup:

Effective responses to the opioid and fentanyl public health crisis are complicated by the complexity of jurisdiction on Tribal lands, providing appropriate services in carceral settings, and linking people to care at release.

In Attendance: Co Chairs: None available; Stephanie Akin, Reflections Counseling, Clallam County; Kris Shera, State Opioid Administrator and Lucilla Mendoza and Nakia Demiero, Office of Tribal Affairs, Health Care Authority; Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, American Indian Health Commission.

Stephanie shared with the group

Vicki reviewed the priorities for this workgroup and Stephanie shared resources that would help with the work.

This Workgroup will provide updates on these will address the following priorities:

- Addressing complexity of jurisdiction on Tribal lands: Tribal Warrant Workgroup has addressed. Issues with PL 280, local authorities have worked well together to address TWWG outlining procedure for working together. Will be addressed through new legislations
- Providing appropriate services in carceral settings, including detox and re-entry at both state and local levels. Move to Continuum of Care Workgroup. Will connect in Summit if needed.
- Linking people to care at release/ Re-entry program at the health care authority. Justice side knows about the programs and able to connect. Back into Medicaid 30 days prior to release.
 - MOUD in jail settings for jail to provide medications for those in treatment-grant program only one of two Tribes participating right now.
 - [MOUD and MAUD in jails standard of care guidelines](#)
 - [HCA MOUD & MAUD in jails program expansion Q & A](#)
 - Asking for letters of interest, the program is not fully up implemented.
 - Medicaid Re-entry program begins rolling out in July:



- Establishing Tribal warrant reciprocity -Tribal Warrant Workgroup has addressed, putting practice into policy. AG's office will do the verification for Tribes meeting TOLA criteria. Has moved from AG to Governor's Office. Chelsea Sayles worked to develop checklist of criteria and worked with Workgroup to create forms, checklists, bench cards and other documents. Will be reviewed by AG's office and other related agencies. Once approved, they can share out sign off documents. Have not determined if there will be a formal license or certification, there will be a list on the AGO website. To make it easy for law enforcement to find an up-to-date list. The Workgroup will develop a "trailer bill" to make adjustments identified through the Workgroup process to improve implementation. This won't be until 2026.
- Increasing coordination with Tribal wellness courts (Court). It is unique to each tribe: What is the standard for a tribal wellness court? TLPI- Conduct a significant amount of tribal training, (IE: startup of a program, sample documentation). This item should be in the resources. [Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training](#)
 - Is funding from the state the best way for tribes to be supported within this initiative?
 - How else can the state support this?
- Supporting Tribal drug task forces (State). State funded drug task force (State likes the idea). There used to be 22 local/regional drug taskforces. Funds went away, some were federal and some were state. Can the funds be routed for cross training initiatives from WSP to Tribes for high level investigations/operations. [Further clarification on our ask to the governor](#). What is feasible with current standards/government affairs? DOJ led taskforce in the past. Speak to AG Brown about what funding is available for Taskforces. BIA was trying to send more law enforcement officers to PWN. Asa will follow up and see if that will still happen.
- Strengthening and integrating traditional judicial systems and cultural practices (Court). State court/making them aware of cultural issues *Educational. AOC and HCA need to be connected to healing to wellness courts. Work together to do some engagement to understand the needs. Tribal State court consortium. Can State partners help us plan how to implement the education? [Washington State Courts](#) [Washington Courts](#) could help. Need to reach out to them.
- Including Tribal representatives on the Jails Standards Task Force (Is this an issue that this workgroup can adequately address?) – Established by legislator Assigned to the AG. Work is there but it is [no longer active remove from priorities](#).



- Enhancing collaboration between Tribal police and other law enforcement agencies. (Already established through local MOU's, will be further defined within the Tribal Warrant Workgroup rollout)
 - Social workers embedded with law enforcement (Yakama is doing this)
 - Law enforcement involvement with Mobile Crisis Teams.
 - Tribal Designated Crisis Responder – Involuntary commitment under Ricky's Law.

Need to understand how these programs operate.

- Create clear, consistent process for jurisdictional transfer between counties and Tribes (Already established through local MOU's, will be further defined within the Tribal Warrant Workgroup rollout)
- Strengthen collaboration between different sectors including law enforcement and providers (Medical/Behavior health)- Social Workers imbedded within Departments. Having a tribal DCR, Yakima has a family care individual that responds with Law Enforcement. Worked to a certain extent. State law allows law enforcement to use state benefits to determine if someone is
- Assess local laws to determine where they need to be strengthened or revised (Clarifying question, is this in reference to tribal law or state? Also, is this something this workgroup has the authority to address? In my opinion, no). Ask this question at the summit.
- Juvenile Justice, where does this fit. (PL-280, who has the jurisdiction over the juveniles). For Tribes that don't have capacity, the state also doesn't help out. Pose this to Gov. Ferguson. Asa will bring to his attention. Asa had a discussion with Rep. Lekanoff re a retro session law. Castro V. Huertas is an issue. Councilman Salazar is interested in being involved in this conversation.
- Create and review list of resources and resource documents for this priority to support development of WA Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Response Resource Guide.