



# AIHC Delegates Annual Meeting Minutes

American Indian Health Commission

12/4/2024 9:00 AMPST

@ Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Red Cedar Hall, Sequim, WA

## **Attendance**

### **Present:**

Members: Michael Christensen (remote), Kim Coombs (remote), Summer Hammons, Liz Henry (remote), Lona Johnson (remote), Maureen Kinley, Steve Kutz, Denese LaClair (remote), Linda Lauch (remote), Jill Malone (remote), Jovan Salazar (remote), Marilyn Scott (remote), Sarah Sullivan, Andrea Thomas (remote), Dana Ward, Jolene Winger (remote), Lucy Hill (remote), Andy Joseph, Toni Lodge (remote), Brent Simcosky

Guests: Kelly Aaron (remote), Mandy Morlin/DCYF (remote), Sheryl Pickering/WIC (remote), Sher Stecher (remote)

AIHC: Kathryn Akeah (remote), Cindy Gamble, Heather Holzer (remote), Terra Horton (remote), Laura Kluever (remote), Vicki Lowe, Ashley Lowe-Thaens, Jessica McKee (remote), Maria Ness (remote), Jen Olson, Pam Priest (remote), Lisa Rey Thomas (remote), Faith Turk, JanMarie Ward

DOH: Michaela Marshall (remote), Macie Parker (remote), Kristin Peterson (remote), Kathy Pierre (remote), Umair Shah, Rosalinda Turk (remote), Candice Wilson

DSHS: Tim Collins (remote), Brenda Frabcis-Thomas (remote)

HCA: Nakia DeMiero, Jaron Heller (remote), Lucilla Mendoza, Lena Nachland, Aren Sparck

NPAIHB: Veronica Warren-Mears (remote)

OIC: Todd Dixon

WAHBE: Charlene Abrahamson

### **I. Welcome, Blessing and Introductions**

Blessing - Andy Joseph

Welcome from Jamestown - Councilwoman Dana Ward

Introductions - Steve Kutz, AIHC Chair

### **II. Establish Quorum**

Maureen Kinley, AIHC Secretary

Quorum is established. [12.4.24 GIHAC Roster](#)

### **III. AIHC Business**

#### **A. Approval of Agenda**

Maureen Kinley, Secretary

#### **Motion:**

Motion to Approve the Agenda with no changes.

Agenda is adopted.

B. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Maureen Kinley, Secretary

 [9.4.24 Delegates Meeting Book OnBoard.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Unable to approve as Minutes were not available.

C. Election

Steve Kutz facilitated.

Vice-Chair - Summer Hammons/Tulalip is nominated. No other nominations. Summer is re-elected.

Treasurer - Lona Johnson/Nooksack is nominated by Summer Hammons. No other nominations. Lona is re-elected.

D. AIHC Finance Report

Presenter: Terra Horton, Finance Administrator, AIHC

**Questions/Comments -**

Michael Christiansen from Nisqually asked if Tribes can assist and/or support the process to enhance the grants in any way. Vicki responded that the best way is to show up to our meetings to provide input on the health needs of each Tribe.

Steve Kutz noted the growth that AIHC has experienced over the last 7 years, and hopefully continue to grow. We need to remain engaged and together as we partner with the state and feds.

Maria Ness invited Tribes to the AIHC Legislative Day on January 22, 2024 in Olympia. This would help a lot to educate the new legislators and make our voice heard. And bring staff so they can learn about the work. It is an import dialogue we have with our legislators and a two-way street for conversation.

 [2024.12 Finance Report-Terra Horton AIHC\\_HHEdit.pptx](#)

**Motion:**

Motion to adopt the 2024 Financial Report.

Finance report is adopted.

E. 2025 AIHC Budget

Presenter: Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, AIHC

Vicki pointed out the our fiscal year is different than the State/Fed fiscal year and did her best to reflect that in the budget. She anticipates more staff to help Terra as well as someone to support Heather with Policy.vc 52.

Vicki and her staff were commended and thanked for their hard work and advocacy on behalf of the Tribes in the State of Washington, and securing funding based on the needs of the Tribes.

 [AIHC 2025 Budget.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Motion made to Approve the 2025 Budget.

Motion is approved.

#### IV. State Agency Updates

##### A. Department of Health

Presenter: Candice Wilson, Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations

[DOH SLIDE DECK](#)

Candice honored the work of Dr. Shah and his support of the work with the Tribes. He created the Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations, and has grown the staff from 1 to 7. Steve and Vicki, on behalf of AIHC, stated Umair Shah has been a great friend to the Tribes and thanked him for his partnership by blanketing him. Dr Shah commented that we have gotten to where we are today by traveling together. He also recognized Candice Wilson and the DOH team for their commitment to the work as well as their words and actions. There have been many obstacles along the way that we overcame. The team at DOH remains committed to honoring Tribal sovereignty, even though he is leaving.

##### B. Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Presenter: Todd Dixon, Tribal Liaison

Todd reviewed the [Issuer's Guidance at an IHCP](#) created in partnership with AIHC.

###### Questions/Comments -

- Concerns re Rising cost of car insurance
- Issues with Tricare - OIC does not regulate Tricare but they can help so keep them in the loop. We need to bring Tricare to the table.

##### C. Washington Health Benefits Exchange

Presenter: Charlene Abrahamson, Tribal Liaison

[WAHBE SLIDE DECK](#)

- AIHC is the successful vendor as the WAHBE Tribal Lead Organization. AIHC has hired Laura Kluever, Yakima Tribal member, as the enhanced user. Vicki would like to see Laura meet with HBE, Regional Tribal Liaisons and Native Resources Hub as well as increased partnership with UIHO's.
- Cascade Care Program

##### D. Health Care Authority

Presenter: Aren Sparck, Administrator, Office of Tribal Affairs; Christine Winn, Lucilla Mendoza, Lena Nachland

[HCA OTA SLIDE DECK](#)

- HCA, along with the whole state, is experiencing a travel freeze due to budget deficits. Exceptions may be granted if letter submitted by Tribes. Please reach out if any questions.
- New OTA Staff
- Opioid Response - Long-acting injectable sublocade, Opioid Abatement Settlement, Opioid Youth Campaign
- INA Contract
- HCMACS - EPIC as a service
- NonOp-Native SUD

- MTP 2.0
- Care Coordination Agreements and Tribal FQHC Agreements

[HCA Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine DTLL](#)

## V. Lunch Break

## VI. American Indian/Alaska Native Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

Presenters: JanMarie Ward and Cindy Gamble, AIHC Public Health Consultants

[PRAMS](#) - Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

### Questions/Comments -

Loni commented regarding developing the questions for the youth survey....(I missed this)

Steve suggested considering doing something regionally with the Tribes.

Andy commented he learned, traditionally, that stress on the pregnant mother gets passed on to the baby. Historical trauma impacts infant mortality as well. Traditional knowledge, beliefs, food is good medicine and can make a difference.

Marilyn Scott commented some of our young adult families are choosing not to have children. It is important to gather information from this group to determine impacts on future generations.

## VII. AIHC Tribal and State Leaders Health Summit Update- 2025-2026 Priorities

Presenters - Steve Kutz, Vicki Lowe and AIHC Staff and Consultants

The best way for Tribes to support AIHC is to attend meetings, summits and work groups.

### 2025 AIHC Delegate Meetings:

- Feb 5th - Olympia
- May 14th - Eastside, The NATIVE Project
- Sept 3rd -
- Dec 3rd - Jamestown

GIHAC approved the Tribal Data Sovereignty Checklist yesterday and moved it forward. There will now be consultation on the Tribal Data Use Agreement with DOH on January 9th in the afternoon.

Roundtable will be Dec 12th 2:00 - 3:30.

Leg Day will be January 22. See flyer below.

Vicki reviewed the AIHC 2025-26 Priorities slides below. Vicki will send out polling to gather Tribal feedback.

It was agreed we need to call Consultation re IRB. (hard to hear)

Kathryn Akeah walked the group through a look at the LMS system that is in beta testing now. If you are interested in testing, please let Kathryn know. [kathrynakeah@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynakeah@gmail.com).

[Behavioral Health Breakout Summaries](#) from the AIHC Tribal and State Leaders Health Summit.

### Questions/Comments -

Steve suggested Vicki send out a list of meetings with dates. Vicki said the AIHC website will launch soon with a calendar of all meetings. Invites will come from [info@aihc-wa.com](mailto:info@aihc-wa.com).

Marilyn asked if this Priorities document has been sent out to the Tribal Leaders. Vicki responded it is in OnBoard as well as she sent out to this group during this meeting. Marilyn has had trouble getting into OnBoard. Vicki will have Pam Priest connect with Marilyn.

 [AIHC 2025-26 Priorities Annual Delegates Meetings \(1\).pdf](#)

 [Leg Day Flyer.pdf](#)

## VIII. Open Delegates Discussion

Heather Holzer from AIHC shared about the social media campaign AIHC initiated recently - Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, online movie viewing, virtual book club, virtual webinars. AIHC is launching a new website as well. They are looking at engaging youth through TikTok.

Lisa Wells from Nisqually is working with Mike Longnecker from HCA on pharmacy billing issue where for those without a managed care plan, they get the encounter rate. But if there is a managed care plan, they are not getting it due to a BIN number issue. It is being looked into.... Steve asked Lisa to send Vicki an email. We can discuss at MTM next week.

**IX. Meeting Adjourn**

3:30 pm - Steve Kutz adjourned meeting.

**X. Executive Session if Needed**

Executive Session not needed.