



AIHC Delegates Meeting Minutes

American Indian Health Commission

2/5/2025 9:00 AMPST

@ DOH, Tumwater Town Center Building 1, 111 Isreal Rd SW, Tumwater, WA 98504

Attendance

Present:

Members: Allison Ball (remote), Caytee Cline (remote), Kim Coombs (remote), Dylan Dressler (remote), Summer Hammons, Liz Henry (remote), Lona Johnson (remote), Maureen Kinley (remote), Steve Kutz, Linda Lauch (remote), Jill Malone, Lorinda Robideau (remote), Jovan Salazar (remote), Katherine Saluskin, Andrew Shogren (remote), Tia Skerbeck (remote), Sarah Sullivan (remote), Lisa Wells (remote), Michael Christensen (remote), Kay Culbertson (remote), Linda Lauch (remote), Toni Lodge (remote), Andrea Thomas (remote)

Guests: Amanda Gorman-Bahe (remote), Theresa Hattori/CHPW (remote), Robert Howard, Andy Joseph (remote), Ali Desautel/UHC Tribal Liaison (remote), Sheryl Pickering/WIC (remote)

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

ATG: Asa Washines

DCYF: Mandy Morlin (remote)

DOH: Amber Arndt, Nicole Casanova (remote), Michaela Marshall (remote), Megan Maxey (remote), Todd Mountain (remote), Kathy Pierre (remote), Lois Scott, Jessica Tordovich, DOH Acting Secretary, Amanda Tjemsland (remote), Julie Tomaro, Rosalinda Turk, Michelle Weatherly, Candice Wilson (remote)

DSHS: Tim Collins (remote), Heather Hoyle (remote), Leah Muasau (remote), Sher Stecher (remote)

HCA: Tina Anderson (remote), Nakia DeMiero (remote), Nicole Earls (remote), Lucilla Mendoza, Lena Nachland, Raina Peone (remote), Aren Sparck (remote), Christine Winn (remote)

NPAIHB: Veronica Warren-Mears (remote)

OIC: Larry Robinette (remote)

OSPI: Rebecca Purser (remote)

VOA: Jeremy Rouse (remote), Amanda WhiteCrane (remote)

WAHBE: Charlene Abrahamson

I. Welcome

Summer Hammons, AIHC Secretary; Steve Kutz, AIHC Chair
Blessing - Maureen Kinley

II. Introductions

DOH Acting Secretary Jessica Tordovich welcomed everyone to DOH. She assured the group that their relationship with the Tribes is a priority for the new administration. Nothing will change.

III. Establish Quorum

Maureen Kinley, AIHC Secretary
Quorum established.

IV. Approve Agenda

[2.5.2025 AIHC Delegates Meeting Agenda](#)

Motion:

Motion to accept the agenda.

Motion carried.

V. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes - 12.4.2024

 [12.4.24 AIHC Delegates Annual Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve 12.4.2024 Minutes.

VI. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes 9.4.2024

[9.4.2024 AIHC Delegates Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion:

Motion to accept 9.4.2024 minutes

Motion carried.

VII. AIHC Chairman Updates

Steve addressed DOH Acting Secretary, Jessica Tordovich. It is challenging for all to keep up with the roller coaster of changes that reverse direction. We will be looking forward to that at DOH. What is happening at the Federal level is affecting Indian country. Steve commented on the removal of the 3,000+ documents from the CDC website, discontinue printing of the weekly MMWR and stopping all scientific literature from coming in. We are accustom to going to the DOH website for CDC recommendations and because their website links to CDC, there is nothing there. Is DOH addressing this?

Jessica responded that the Executive team is discussing this now. They are trying to figure how to backfill broken links and where can we find good information. We are in the process of working with ASTHO to reroute a lot of the links. They are also looking at a banner to alert people coming to the website that link are broken and they are working on a workaround. They will sending out an update later this week to all their partners. Steve pointed out that is just not CDC, it is HHS, IHS, SAMHSA...its everybody. Steve pointed out the Tribes can go to the American Public Health Association (APHA) and request digital or book version on communicable diseases and a companion manual on communicable disease investigations. Tribes need

to get linked into the reporting systems and need to be discussed with the Public Health folks. Jessica will include a contact list.

Steve will reach out to Laura Platero from NPAIHB and ask her to send him periodic updates to him which he will send out as appropriate.

Sarah Sullivan asked how AIHC, DOH and HCA can work more in partnership with the Feds in responding about the importance of some of these programs. Who do Tribes support the State and AIHC to ensure the priorities? DOH is doing weekly updates with the LHI's right now so maybe they can do with the Tribes as well. Jessica will coordinate with Candice.

OFM is looking at all the budgets. They are money people, not program people. Any pot of money that is removed has ramifications somewhere else in the system.

Resources:

In the chat, Veronica attached a website that archives data out on the web...The Wayback Machine at <https://web.archive.org/>. It is not helpful for current data however. Steve asked Vicki and DOH to talk a look at this and if helpful, share it out.

VIII. Approval of Financial Report

Presenter: Terra Horton, AIHC Finance Administrator

[2.5.2025 Financial Report](#)

Steve asked Terra to present a yearend report at the next Delegates meeting.

Motion:

Motion to Approve the Financial Report

Motion carried.

IX. State Agency Updates

A. Department of Health

Presenter: Candice Wilson, Executive Director, OTPHR 1:30

[DOH Slide Presentation](#) includes slides for topics below.

- [DOH Transformational Plan](#) - Presenter: Todd Mountain
- **Tribal DSA Consultation**- Presenter: Amber Arndt. Candice clarified for Sarah Sullivan that the template, which is a beginning point, that was approved through GIHAC, was what the consultation was held on and the one adopted for Tribes to move forward on. Each Tribal will now negotiate with DOH on specific modifications they want to make. Amber added the consultation on the template will be closed in a few weeks and DOH will be adding details on the steps for negotiating to modify this template. Each template will be specific to each Tribe. Tulalip has signed their DSA with DOH. Summer shared one of their goals was to always align with GIHAC goals and work. They are in the implementation phase and have a lot of work to do. She shared about the process.
- **Residential Treatment Attestation Rulemaking Update** - Presenter: Michelle Weatherly. Vicki clarified that the attestation process produces a paper that has the licensing document and should be the same as any non-tribal agency. Michelle further clarified that it is recognized by the courts and insurance companies. Accreditation is a federal process. Jill Malone shared that Tricare has been the only one to not recognize

the attestation, they had to provide both the attestation AND accreditation. Vicki provided the [Issuer's Guidance](#) document which addresses these issues with payors as well as comments in the chat.

- **WA Health Rulemaking/Workshops.** Presenter: Amber Arndt.
- **Healthy Youth Survey and State Health Assessment**
- **Overdose Data to Action-Tribal RFA.** Presenter: Amber Arndt
- **Adolescent & Young Adult Health Updates.** Presenter: Nicole Casanova

[Tribal Story Maps](#)

[Seven Directions report on School Based Health](#)

[Youth Friendly Care Certification](#)

- **Native and Strong Lifeline** - Presenters: Kathy Pierre/DOH, Amanda WhiteCrane/VOA

X. Lunch Break

XI. Agency Updates Continued

A. Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Presenter: Larry Robinette, Tribal Liaison

Larry will be meeting face-to-face with each Tribe at least once in the next year as well as continuing to work with organizations and other individuals working within the Tribal entities. One of the goals of the Commissioner is to provide transparency and accountability and to streamline the process of filling consumer complaints and resolving disputes as well as giving regular updates on legislation. A dedicated Tribal liaison has been added to the staff. Steve committed to AIHC meeting with Larry to discuss the Tribe's issues.

Here is the link for the OIC webpage: <https://www.insurance.wa.gov/ask-insurance-expert>

YouTube Health Insurer Requirements for AI/AN and IHCPs November, 5, 2024 -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=273IkZnjdKY>

B. Washington Health Benefits Exchange

Presenter: Charlene Abrahamson, Tribal Liaison

 [AIHC Delegates Mtg WAHBE February2025.pptx](#)

C. Health Care Authority

Presenter: Aren Sparck, Administrator Office of Tribal Affairs; Lena Nachland; Lucilla Mendoza
[HCA OTA Slide Presentation](#)

AIR Process. Presenter: Christine Winn. - This is a longstanding, complicated issue for the Tribes. The questions that HCA is working on that came out of the 1st Roundtable were:

- How much the State is saving through 100% FMAP for Tribes providing services to AI/AN Medicaid enrollees. This is a complicated question....
- The PMPM rate being paid to MCO's.
- the Tribes also request a breakdown of how claims are paid, specifically to MCO's for SUD encounters.
- A decision tree for IAR determination.
- Vicki added this additional question - MCO's are being paid to provide SUD services. What part of that money are they paying towards the State portion, not counting the federal match, on the non-native SUD claims. Aren clarified that the crux is there is no State match being paid for the non-Native SUD claims. Vicki agreed.
- Steve also requested that HCA look at Access to Care issues when people are forced to go to ER's vs primary care or urgent care.

- Sarah is confused on the budget request to the State. She saw \$70M under the budget summary but not in the appropriations. Aren responded that Rep Lekanoff did confirm it is \$70M.

DTLL Encounter Rate Reimbursement

Vicki Shared the following documents:

[One Facility One Rate 1998](#)

[1996 MOA IHS and HCA](#)

Non-Native SUD CPE - Decision Package for \$60M to pay for Non-Native SUD in Governor Inslee's budget. Steve asked about the deadline of paying for HCA to pay the encounter rate by the end of March. Aren responded that CMS and IHS are working on the guidance. It was further clarified that the entire FQHC system as well as the IHS AIR is a cost-based rate system. Vicki placed language related to this in the chat that dates back to 1998. Heather Erb requested any documentation related to the the 2024 conversations where CMS asked HCA if they ever gave the choice to the Tribes to be responsible for the local match.

Vicki shared the following documents-

[FMAP Talking Points](#)

INA Updates. Presenter: Lucilla Mendoza. There will workgroups, roundtables and consultation before goals will be finalized by 7/1/25 on the INA Restatement.

Upcoming Tribal CPE Trainings. Presenter: Lucilla Mendoza. Quinault Tribe will host a training February 24-28 at the Quinault Beach Resort.

Reentry Initiative. Presenter: Lena Nachland. Vicki commented that the Tribal Assisters can help with enrolling/disenrolling.

Care Coordination Agreements/Tribal FQHC Affiliate Agreements. Presenter: Lena Nachland. Vicki reported that the State Hospital Association wants to have a second meeting re making the CCA that blanket level from the Hospital to the Tribes and save people a ton of work statewide.

Nicole added that the more they learned about the Affiliate Agreements, they realized that Tribes already had these in place ie PCR Agreement and meets the definition of an Affiliate Agreement.

TIM Update. Presenter: Aren Nachland.

Link to testimony given on Indian Traditional Medicine on 2.4.25 <https://tvw.org/video/house-health-care-wellness-2025021124/?eventID=2025021124>

Andy Joseph shared that the Healing Lodge of the 7 Nations has a video of a young non-Native man that went to court after he completed his treatment. The judge asked his what he learned and he pulled out his drum and sang a song. TIM is evidence-based, best practice as well as faith-based.

GIHAC. Presenter: Aren Sparck. Dates for the 2025 3 yearly meetings need to be scheduled. One will be December 3, 2025 at Jamestown.

Target Decommission. HCA does have to shut Target down at some point but it will be awhile. The first step is, as Lucy reported, they have a pilot going to see if Tribes can extract their EHR data. The issues is that Target has 450 data elements but the system they moved to in 2016 only has 150 which caused Tribes to have to do double entry. There needs to be larger conversations. 4:33

D. Attorney General's Office

Presenter: Asa Washines, Tribal Liaison

[Attorney Generals Office Slide Presentation](#)

Budget Proviso - Vicki asked if the legislators on the MMIW Task Force are working on the budget proviso? Can you send the language to Vicki so they can advocate for it? Asa just found out about it today so he will get it out.

Federal Indian Boarding School Healing Summit w videos: <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/thro/news-events/news/nih-tribal-health-research-office-host-federal-indian-boarding-school-healing>

Tribal Response to Recent Trump Admin Exec Orders re Freeze -
<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/raa5sn1v/production/216c469a64b8a03d98ec860e3e2ccc71ee5c348e.pdf>

XII. AI/AN HIV/AIDS Working Group

Presenters: Gabriella Olague, Legacy Project Coordinator Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center; Brian Minalga, Deputy Director

Contact Info: bminalga@fredhutch.org, golague@fredhutch.org

Here is our website where all of these resources can be found: <https://www.hanc.info/> and a direct link to the webinar recording with Dr. Bear Don't Walk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OCiCpQ0mqg>

 [AIHC Presentation 2025.pptx](#)

XIII. Executive Orders

Presenter: Veronica/NPAIHB

[NPAIHB Slides](#) regarding recent Executive Orders.

Sarah Sullivan added SNAP and TANF to the list as there are bid reductions there as well. Veronica clarified that the Bill will be introduced next week. She understands the House wants to do one, and the Senate wants to do 2 bills. NPAIHB are finalizing letters written in response. Sarah asked if AIHC could utilize the Boards template letter and write our own letter on behalf of the AIHC. Vicki will work with Heather Erb and then collaborate with Tribal delegates.

XIV. AI/AN Pregnancy Risk Assessment Surveillance Update

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

They are asking for the passage of a resolution. AIHC is working on a draft resolution to share with Tribes by the end of the week to assist with making connection to the appropriate people and to work with AIHC Delegates, Tribal and Urban Indian Health Leaders, allies and funders to assure a sustainable long-term plan and continuity of funding. The funding comes from FPHS dollars.

They are shifting to a Maternal Child Health Statewide Assessment to identify maternal, child, family health needs of Tribes and Urban Indian communities with a timeframe of Sept 1, 2024 - June, 30, 2025 and hold 6 regional convenings. Funding is coming from a block grant. They are looking for Tribes to host these convenings. Steve asked JanMarie and Cindy to write a description letter to include intent and talking points to be used to present to Tribal councils. They are working right now on that with Heather.

 [2-5-25 AIHC DELEGATES QUARTERLY - PROJECT UPDATE AND RESOLUTION - FINAL.pptx](#)

XV. 2025 Legislative Update & 2025-26 Priorities Update

Presenters: Ashley Lowe-Thaens and Maria Ness, AIHC Legislative Staff

[Legislative Update Slides](#)

- Sarah requests we figure out where exactly in legislative language that non-native SUD funding request is going to be. Send out a letter to lobbyists? Vicki is working on a one-pager.

- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund. Hoping to increase the \$25M. Hoping they are flexible in what they can use it for. Sarah is forwarding Vicki the email from Michelle/COM.

AIHC has launched their new website - <https://aihc-wa.com/about/>

Sharing the link to our new newsletter: <https://aihc-wa.com/blog/quarterly-newsletter-2025-edition-1-january/>

XVI. Adjournment

The Native Project will have their Grand Opening on March 21, 2025. Everyone is welcome! Contact Dylan Dressler for more info.

XVII. Executive Session

(if needed)