

2026 Tribal Assisters Training Conference



aihc
AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH COMMISSION

Hosted by:



Day 1: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

8:00

Registration Check-in & Continental Breakfast available

8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- Vicki Lowe, AIHC Executive Director
- Heather Erb, AIHC Lead Policy Advisor
- Laura Kluever, AIHC Enhanced Tribal Assister Support

9:00 a.m.

Muckleshoot Tribal History and Blessing

- Warren King George, Muckleshoot Tribe Historian

9:30 a.m.

Washington Health Benefit Exchange

Charlene Abrahamson, Kelly Aaron, Alex Jonson, Elena Milholland

- Reporting income
- Tax credits
- Partnering with applications
- Tribal enrollment
- HR1 and more

10:30 a.m.

Health Care Authority (HCA)

Aren Sparck, Mike Longnecker

- Medicaid (FFS) vs. Managed Care Plans
- Payment differences
- Reading P1 codes on eligibility printouts (HR1)

11:00 a.m.

Break

11:10 a.m.

HCA Regional Tribal Liaison

- Regional Support Areas and How They Assist Tribes

11:25 a.m.

Attorney General's Office (AGO) – William (Stephens)

- How AGO Supports Medical Care

11:40 a.m.

Tribal Assister Challenges in the Field

Discussion and Q&A

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH PROVIDED working lunch with MCO Presentations

- Lunch provided by Gold Level Sponsor MOLINA

1:30 p.m.

Social Security Administration – Kirk Larson

3:00 p.m.

WAHBE Tribal Liaison – Charlene Abrahamson

- Tribal Sponsorship

3:20 p.m.

Short Break / Activity

- Afternoon Snack provided by Red Level Sponsor Community Health Plan of Washington

3:40 p.m.

Tribal Assister Discussion

4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Day 2: Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

8:00

Continental Breakfast available & new Check-ins

8:30 a.m.

Muckleshoot Tribe Blessing and Tribal Sovereignty

- Valerie Bellack and Eileen Richardson

9:00 a.m.

DSHS – Washington Connection

- Tribal Liaison contacts
- Washington Connection applications
- Explanation of coverage
- MyWA Benefits

10:30 a.m.

SHIBA – Tim Smolen

- Medicare Part D formularies
- Prescription formularies at IHS
- Medical referrals with Part C
- Payment coordination (MCR, Part C, Medicaid)

11:00 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m.

Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) – Larry Robinette

- Role of the OIC in Washington State
- Resources for Tribal Assisters

11:30 a.m.

Tribal Assister Conversions

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH PROVIDED working lunch with MCO Presentations

- Lunch provided by Gold Level Sponsor WELLPOINT

1:00 p.m.

AIHC What's the Violations Game

- 10 Key Rules
- Game Time
- What Happens When These Rules Are Not Followed?
- OIC Enforcement

2:00 p.m.

Break / Activity

2:30 p.m.

Tribal Assister Conversions

3:00 p.m.

Adjournment