



Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

02/10/2026 9:00 AM PST to 5:00 PM PST
American Indian Health Commission
Virtual

Meeting Materials:

- Link to [2.10.26 Tribal-State Monthly BH Meetings Slide Deck](#)
- Zoom Recording:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/buDeJro8z-qJiridAcVyBOU2kZRLLFHV1hgfGAsdBH1LOEny0rqhG1UggHmYvku.an216LMp5jncE1Ch>
Passcode: 8UaKQK!U
- [Participant List by Meeting](#)
- Zoom Chats are linked within each agenda item.
- [Lower Elwha PIP Train-the-Trainer flyer](#)

IV. Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board - A Safe Place for Help

Presented By Vicki Lowe, AIHC, Lucilla Mendoza, HCA, Kathryn Akeah, AIHC

Link to [2.10.25 Zoom Chat](#)

- Participants who joined the meeting after initial introductions were invited to introduce themselves, particularly tribal representatives.
- Brittany Jones was noted to have joined the session, representing the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.
- The Executive Director of the American Human Health Commission, Vicki Lowe, highlighted the collaborative nature of the Advisory Board, supported by the American Indian Health Commission and the Health Care Authority.
- Lucila Mendoza, representing the Office of Tribal Affairs, introduced herself and expressed her role in working with the Commission and Tribes as part of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

A. AIHC Updates: Workgroups, Projects and Legislation (20 mins)

Presented By Kathryn Akeah, AIHC

- The meeting started with an update on scheduling workgroups related to crisis coordination plans and behavioral health codes. A survey was sent out to gauge interest and availability, receiving 16 responses so far.
- Top times for workgroup meetings are Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The workgroups will start in March and April with a focus on crisis coordination plans, followed by behavioral health codes.
- There is a plan to create a flyer and set calendar invites for the workgroups for clarity and to aid planning.
- Funds have been identified to host a second tribal DCR (Designated Crisis Responder) training, potentially to be rolled out by July. The training is intensive, week-long, and open to those in tribal behavioral health programs or social services. The funds will cover location and food costs.
- For the next Tribal-State Monthly Meetings to be held in March, it will be an in-person meeting, hosted by the Chehalis Tribe. Tuesday and Wednesday sessions will be held in the hotel conference room, and Thursday's session is tentatively planned for the Community Center, with details still being finalized. Thursday will be the AIHC Delegates meeting. Final logistics such as addresses for the in-person events will be included in calendar invites.
- The possibility for participation for those affected by travel freezes is acknowledged, particularly to make it feasible for Tribal liaisons to attend.
- The AIHC Delegate's quarterly meeting schedule for the rest of the year includes in-person meetings in June and December, and a Summit in September. All meetings will have a virtual attendance option.
- The discussion revolves around a legislative item HB 6296 re the Involuntary Treatment Act that may be stalled. Staff has sent emails to push for movement. A follow-up will be provided after checking for updates.

B. AI/AN BH-ASO: Payment Models and Governance Structure (Slides Submitted)

Presented By Lucilla Mendoza, HCA

- There is a lack of services and care coordination for individuals in crisis, with historical concerns about access raised by Tribal leaders and health directors.
- The current focus is on developing an operational plan for an AIAN Administrative Services Organization (ASO) focused on behavioral health and crisis.
- The ASOs have requirements such as submitting quarterly revenue and expenditure reports, maintaining a specific reserve level, and being subject to annual audits by the Health Care Authority (HCA).
- Payment models and methods used for ASOs include population-based payments, legislative requirement payments, A19 invoice reimbursement, and Provider 1 billing for fee-for-service Medicaid services.
- The discussion highlighted the flexibility given to ASOs to shift amounts between line items in response to service demand fluctuations.

- There is no mechanism reported for tracking denials of services based on funding availability across ASOs, and the need for a mechanism to collect such data was discussed.
- A Phase 2 approach may look at prioritizing services within allowable resources to gradually implement them, given the complex list of available services.
- There is a discussion about whether implementing a phased approach could help protect funds, though this may depend on how the legislature provides funding.

C. Tribal Programs Updates (if time allows)

- Discussion on tribal updates began with Brittany Jones from Cowlitz Indian Tribe, who shared that they are working on a Behavioral Health Conference and hiring positions for their Tukwila offices.
- Emily Gardner of Cowlitz Indian Tribe added that they are renovating their Tukwila site to offer more services like primary care, pharmacy, and lab services. She will share job announcements to assist in recruiting by using email and social media promotion.
- Emily Sitting Dog from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe shared updates on continuing work with a policy crisis group and noted the new behavioral health management under Brian Burwell.
- January Austin from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe discussed the need for hiring in behavioral health and the development of a new crisis response program.
- Nakesha Edwards from the Swinomish Tribe reported on a youth survey initiative for ages 12-18 to support prevention services and data collection.
- Nicole Patina from the Stillaguamish Tribe mentioned the expansion of their youth program in SUD and mental health, including hiring for a mental health clinician. She will share job links in the chat for promotion through available networks.
- Quintina Bowen from the Snoqualmie Tribe shared plans to open an SUD clinic with a ribbon cutting next Friday. She will provide links for positions they are recruiting for to share broadly.
- Cyndi Coma from the Shoalwater Bay Tribe updated on clinic remodel to integrate behavioral health, reducing stigma, and mentioned plans for a health fair.
- The Department of Children, Youth, and Families is hiring a director, with applications closing on February 15th. The current part-time director, Cassie Anderson, will stay on until a full-time director is hired.
- Positive Indian Parenting Train the Trainer sessions are being offered, with information available in the meeting chat for those interested in becoming facilitators.

V. Lunch

VI. VOA Monthly Tribal Meeting/988 Subcommittee - Someone to Contact/Someone to Respond

Link to [2.10.26 VOA/988 Chat](#)

A. VOA Updates (Slides Submitted)

Presented By Jeremy Rouse, VOA

- Jeremy Rouse provides a summary of recent statistics and achievements from the Volunteers of America, Western Washington's Native and Strong Lifeline, highlighting a high answer rate of 97% for calls within 30 seconds, increased call volumes, and successful engagements with callers facing suicidal ideation.
- The program has started receiving a significant number of calls from the Department of Corrections since the end of October, with 178 such calls in January. Challenges include logistical differences in handling calls due to the callers' anonymity.
- There was a notable update that involved Rosanna Jackson from Lines for Life, who will meet with the counselors to discuss working directly with inmates, emphasizing the importance of mental health services access within the prison system.
- The presentation includes success stories illustrating the Lifeline's impact, focusing on the support provided to individuals with suicidal ideation. This outreach aims to humanize statistical data.
- The presentation covered updates on chat and text services, showing a monthly interaction of around 400-500 texts and predominant users aged 13-25.
- The presentation mentions a recent transition in the Native Resource Hub staff, with new personnel adjusting to their roles. The month of January saw 22 inbound calls, 21 outbound calls, and 11 after-hours calls being handled.
- Mia Klick-Rush discusses the lack of a specific Native Veterans line, noting a gap where Native veterans must choose between a veterans line or a Native line. This issue will be raised with relevant authorities for potential solutions.
- There is a discussion around employing more Native counselors with lived experiences, especially veterans, to improve service delivery.

B. Legislative Updates (Slides Submitted)

Presented By Amira Joy Caluya, DOH

- A presentation was given on legislative updates for the 988 crisis line. Two important bills were discussed: HB1581, which proposed increasing the 988 line tax from \$0.40 to \$0.70 but did not pass the committee cutoff, and SB5762, which passed but removed the tax increase language.
- The bill SB5762 includes provisions for 988 line tax revenues to be used for LGBTQ youth services but does not specify an amount.
- Several adjacent bills regulating AI chatbots and establishing civilian staffed crisis response teams were monitored, none of which passed the first cutoff.

C. Native and Strong Campaign Update

Presented By Jennifer Almgren, DOH

- Native & Strong would love to have Washington Tribal Leaders join our Advisory Council to help review materials for relevancy and to ensure we're communicating what tribes want to hear and see. The group, coordinated by Kauffman and Associates, meets 1 Monday per month at 12:00 for approximately 60 minutes. You get an opportunity to provide feedback

on upcoming webinars, social media posts, posters etc. If there are any questions or you would like to get involved and/or you know a tribal leader who would like to get involved please email jennifer.almgren@doh.wa.gov or Kathy.pierre@doh.wa.gov

D. Georouting (slides submitted)

Presented By Amira Joy Caluya, DOH

- Information was provided on geo-routing updates for 988 calls, highlighting new routing requirements set by the FCC and timeline expectations for different phone carriers. Major carriers are expected to implement geo-routing for calls by Fall 2024 and smaller carriers by December 2026.
- The viability of geo-routing for 988 texts is being studied, with possible implementation dates by April 2027 for major carriers and October 2028 for smaller carriers, pending the outcomes of feasibility studies.
- **Action Item** - The DOH plans to update stakeholders via a 'Dear Tribal Leader' letter and an upcoming joint press release about the 988 partnership with the Department of Corrections.

E. 988 Listening Session and Membership Intro

Presenter: Maddie Wrolson, HCA

- A listening session was held in the morning from 8:30 to 10:00 for a group of documents called Interoperable Documents. These include clinical documents like the Mental Health Advance Directive and crisis plan documents. This session was to review the content of the documents, identify necessary additions or adjustments.
- Three documents were reviewed during the morning session, and feedback was requested from participants. Feedback can be submitted to Maddie Wrolson for further review.
- **Action Needed** - Another listening session will be scheduled for the remaining two documents. Participants will receive emails with forms to review in advance.
- Lisa Wilson was introduced as the new regional tribal liaison. The introduction was followed by her remarks about transitioning from previous roles to this new healthcare-related position.
- The organization is in the hiring process for several positions, including a Tribal Behavior Health Crisis Coordinator, a Tribal Mobile Crisis Response Coordinator, and positions for the Medicaid Transformation Project.
- Kathy Pierre has provided her email for those interested in joining the Advisory Board.