



Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board

04/14/2026 10:30 – 12:00

American Indian Health Commission

Meeting Materials:

1. Zoom

Recording: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/HggLWgzoQv0UecoXGgE_FlSCFI81FOOpVvPI2J72t9zAddwiw-WT8C0M_z9YuyHE.xaUm4LqXRWysJUyt

Passcode: 7p@rnUdw

2. [4.14.26 Participant List](#)

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 [Zoom Chat](#)

- The meeting is the beginning of a three-day session focused on tribal health, specifically the Behavioral Health Track, emphasizing crisis services coordination between Tribal Behavioral Health Services and state agencies in Washington.
- The agenda includes updates from Washington Thriving, a discussion of Tribal-Centric Behavioral Health Work Plan, and evaluation of the American Indian-Alaska Native Behavioral Health Administrative Services operational plan.
- Vicki Lowe emphasizes the importance of aligning Washington Thriving initiatives with tribal group efforts, seeking collaboration opportunities.
- The meeting intends to gather input on priorities for the Tribal-Centric Behavioral Health Work Plan for the upcoming years.
- Lucy has prepared slides and follow-up material for the American Indian-Alaska Native Behavioral Health Administrative Services operational plan presentations.
- Scheduled time for tribes to provide updates on their crisis work is included in the agenda.

A. Washington Thriving - Connecting State and Tribal Work

Presented By Hanna Traphagan, HCA, Vicki Lowe, AIHC

- Discussion focused on the engagement of tribes in behavioral health work, highlighting the participation of tribal leaders in the Children's Youth Behavioral Health workgroup.
- Presentation and overview of the Washington Thriving Strategic Plan designed to address behavioral health needs for prenatal through age 25 in Washington state, highlighting tribal health priorities.
- Second - Second Substitute House Bill 2429 was signed into law, establishing the strategic plan as the statewide framework for behavioral health system transformation for young people and families.
- A goal was set for increased engagement with Washington tribal leaders and tribal health systems including facilitating government-to-government engagement.
- The strategic plan includes legislative updates that increased tribal representation in related workgroups and established a Children Youth Behavioral Health Leadership Council.
- The strategic plan emphasizes a person-centered approach including equitable, culturally and linguistically responsive systems.
- The plan identifies three primary dimensions for focus: people and relationships, services and supports, and system infrastructure.
- Initial initiatives identified within the strategic plan include infrastructure development, K-12 student behavioral health, and treatment capacities for complex needs.
- There is alignment and opportunity for philanthropic support to aid in funding identified initiatives, recognizing the tight budget year.
- Discussion around the crosswalk between the strategic goals and tribal priorities, including principles of community healing and cultural responsiveness.
- Listening session scheduled for May 5th to gather feedback and integrate tribal perspectives into the strategic plan update.
- Participants are encouraged to review materials and consider their area of work's connection to the Washington Thriving approach before the upcoming listening session.

B. Updating Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Work Plan

Presented By Vicki Lowe, Kathryn Akeah, Lucilla Mendoza

TCBHAB Priorities

- Stephen Kutz raised a concern about unconnected efforts in state government related to historical trauma, particularly in the context of boarding school work undertaken by the AG's office with tribes. He suggested outreach to the tribal liaison at the AG's office to integrate these efforts into the broader strategic plan.
- Hanna Traphagan emphasized the importance of coordinating and sharing updates between state, federal, and tribal entities to improve communication and alleviate the indirect cost rate approval delays.
- An update was given on the Tribal Behavioral Health Work Plan, indicating accomplishments and areas needing continued effort since the group's formation in 2017.
- The work group developed initiatives such as the Washington Native Resources Hub and achieved significant legislative changes like the Washington Indian Behavioral Health Act and a follow-up House Bill 1877.

- There was a priority to ensure tribal court orders for involuntary treatment admissions are honored and to improve coordination with Indian healthcare providers.
- To establish tribal crisis coordination plans for accountability in crisis systems due to designated crisis responders sometimes failing to respond.
- Current priorities include continuing funding for the Native Resources Hub, enhancing coordination with emergency lines (988 and 911), and training BHASOs on tribal sovereignty and Indian health.
- Ongoing efforts include improving data access and uniformity in behavioral health crisis data collection.
- There is a need to establish governance structures for tribal evaluation and treatment facilities.
- Vicki Lowe plans to use upcoming months leading up to the biennial summit in September to finalize priorities for raising at the summit, aiming to ensure delegate approval and secure funding.
- Sarah Sullivan from Swinomish Tribe suggested having a tribal caucus or workgroup to determine current and future priorities prior to the summit.
- Daylen Gonzales emphasized the importance of coordination with hospitals and declared excitement over progress in addressing gaps in notifications for tribal members.
- Kathryn Akeah from AIHC mentioned the development of a training program for hospital social workers by the State DCR Association, which is integrating principles of working with tribes.

C. AI/AN BHASO

Presented By Lucilla Mendoza

- Discussion regarding House Bill 1813 and its influence on behavioral health access and funding for American Indian and Alaska Native populations through BHASO initiatives.
- Plan is being developed to serve statewide American Indian and Alaska Native populations, coordinate with tribal governments, and align with legislative objectives.
- Action Item - Objective to finalize the operational plan by July 1st, 2026, with discussions from September 2025 through March 2026.
- Through April and May, draft plan to be reviewed at monthly tribal meetings; formal consultation expected in June or July.
- Development and prioritization of behavioral health services, considering Medicaid and other payment models, advocacy, crisis coordination, and tribal initiatives.
- Discussion on staffing requirements and governance structures for ASOs, including regional liaisons, care coordinators, and administrative roles.
- Detailed funding allocations discussed, including \$26.5 million for tribal behavioral services and other specific funds for ongoing initiatives.
- Phase 1 involves coordinating non-Medicaid funding; Phase 3 anticipates new programs and funding resources such as the Tribal Reinvestment Account.
- Action Item - Preparation for the operational plan timeline to include consultations and roundtables in June and July.

D. Tribal Crisis Planning Updates

- Brandon provided an update on the Tribal DCR training scheduled from May 11th to 14th in Yakima. It is the second Tribal DCR training aimed at tribes considering DCR implementation or seeking more information.
- Brandon's email is available in the chat for attendees to reach out with any questions.
- Kathryn mentioned that the crisis coordination protocol work group has 3 Monday sessions remaining at 1 PM and encourages registration, with a link provided in the chat.
- The next work group focusing on behavioral health codes will start in late May, aiming to develop an updated behavioral health code template by early July.
- A consultation is scheduled for April 23rd from 12:30 to 2:30 PM following a prior calendar invitation.
- Dr. Sybil McLean from Lummi Nation updated on their crisis outreach program, including expanding their team to six members for capacity building and implementing DCR services with a 24/7 mobile rapid response team.
- Action Item - Dr. Sybil McLean self-committed to presenting at the Tribal DCR Academy next month.
- Marilyn Scott announced Brent Pritchard as the new behavioral health and substance use program manager at Upper Skagit Tribe.

V. Lunch - 12:00 PM PDT

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

Link to [Zoom Chat](#)

A. Welcome/Introductions

Presented By Kathy Pierre/DOH, Jeremy Rouse/VOA, Lucilla Mendoza/HCA

- The session for the 988 Subcommittee updates is opened, continuing the previous work from the Tribal Subcommittee part of the Crisis Response Improvement Strategy.
- The meeting highlights the continuation of the 90-day Tribal Subcommittee initiative, although meetings are now less frequent. There is an expressed intention to persist with 988-related work.

B. [VOA Updates](#)

Presented By Jeremy Rouse, VOA

- Volunteers of America Western Washington provides an update, noting that the Native and Strong Lifeline program received 1,162 calls in March, continuing a trend of increasing call volumes since November.
- Counselors maintained a high answer rate of 94.3%, answering calls within 30 seconds, and the average wait time was 12 seconds.

- There is an open counselor position available, which is full-time, remote, and covers graveyard shifts.
- A new counselor transitioned to a Native Resource Hub position, retaining the overall counselor retention rate.
- Action Item - Efforts are underway to include tribal lands on a call distribution map; this is expected by next month.
- 112 calls were received from correctional facilities in March, reflecting an initiative started in October to support incarcerated individuals.
- There were 478 chat and text interactions with an average time of 27 minutes and 45 seconds.
- Chelsea Harrell was introduced as the new Tribal Resource Specialist following staff transitions within the Native Resource Hub.
- Action Item - There are efforts to promote and increase engagement in areas reflected as having lower engagement on the heat maps.
- The organization provides support systems for staff to manage stress, including wellness coordinators and monthly talking circles.

C. 988 Crisis Care Continuum Project Shelved

Presented By Michele Roberts, DOH

- Michele Roberts discusses the role of the DOH and healthcare authority as state executive sponsors for the 988 crisis center project, emphasizing continued engagement with tribal behavioral health space.
- The DOH planned to develop technology to support the 988 crisis care continuum, aiming to streamline help seekers' navigation and improve information accessibility for providers.
- Due to a state budget crisis, funding for the 988 technology platform was not allocated, leading to a pause in the project's development.
- All planning and information gathered for the 988 technology project will be archived for future use when funding becomes available.
- Existing 988 crisis center operations remain unaffected as the pause only impacts the technology platform development.
- Michele Roberts reiterates the commitment to partnership with tribal and crisis system partners in improving the crisis care continuum without the technology system.
- Action Item - A tribal leader letter regarding the pause in the 988 technology project is being circulated by DOH and healthcare authority.
- Several positions related to the 988 technology planning were unfunded, and the agencies are working to reassign affected staff.
- DOH is working on responsibly shelving the project, ensuring comprehensive documentation for future project continuity.

D. HCA Budget Impact Update

Presented By Lucilla Mendoza

- Lucilla Mendoza shared an update on budget cuts affecting behavioral health crisis response regional coordination. The funding for a position at the healthcare authority related to tribal crisis coordination programs was cut. Despite this cut, the team will continue work with current staffing levels.
- Amira Caluya is confirmed to continue working on the crisis coordination programs at the Department of Health despite the funding cuts.
- Maddie Wrolson provided details on the upcoming Tribal Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) Academy scheduled from May 11th to 14th at Legends Casino in Toppenish. She encouraged timely registration and informed attendees that lodging and meals are covered.
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E. Tribal DCR Academy Update

Presented by Maddie Wrolson

May 11-14 at Legends Casino Hotel in Toppenish. See flyer in chat.

F. [988 Tribal Updates](#)

Presented By Amira Joy Caluya, DOH

- Amira Caluya updated on upcoming webinars from the Native and Strong campaign, with proposed topics derived from attendee feedback. The webinars aim to address issues such as supporting Native youth and confronting bullying.
- Creative assets for Native and Strong campaign are being developed, including social media ads and public service announcements (PSAs) for Pride Month in June. The campaign materials can be customized and ordered to suit different tribes' needs.
- Amira provided an update on the 90-day travel response cooperative agreements for fiscal year 2026, whose applications will be released on May 1st, 2026. The program is open to tribal communities and organizations.
- Tribal liaison support regarding the 988 program is available through Kathy Pierre and Amira Caluya for community needs and additional information.

G. Native and Strong Campaign

Presented By Jennifer Almgren, DOH

No presentation was shared today.

H. Tribal Updates

- Emily Sitting Dog reported the successful release of three 988 videos, with one more pending release. The videos have been well-received in the community, garnering upwards of 5,000 views each. Videos will be shared on YouTube and the tribal website, with current availability on Facebook.
- Emily Sitting Dog expressed willingness to share the 988 videos and discuss their production process, inviting contact for more information.

- Action Item - Kathy Pierre invited Emily Sitting Dog to present the video work and community initiatives at a future meeting, and Emily Sitting Dog agreed to present next month.
- Amira Caluya shared data from the DOH dashboard showing an increase in 988 calls from January 2023, attributing this to collective community efforts rather than a single campaign.