



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Tel: 360-236-4030 • 711 Washington Relay Service

January 4, 2024

RE: *Collaboration - Foundational Public Health Services Subject Matter Expert and Technical Workgroups*

Dear Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#) and the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), government-to-government [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\) Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#) we are writing to provide information and seek participation of Tribal Leadership or staff for the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Subject Matter Expert Workgroups and Technical Workgroups.

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature established the Governmental Public Health System in Washington State to include Sovereign Tribes and Indian Health Programs. This enabled state funding to be allocated to Federally Recognized Tribes as part of the governmental public health system per [43.70.515 RCW](#). Please see *Attachment A* for the [Tribal FPHS definitions](#).

FPHS Subject Matter Expert Workgroups

The six FPHS Subject Matter Expert Workgroups are ongoing workgroups that develop and recommend funding proposals to the FPHS Steering Committee (SC), support investments made by the SC in their respective topic areas and share practice approaches for conducting FPHS work. Examples of this work include development of new service delivery models for FPHS; development of proposals to the SC that would be part of a SC budget request (Decision Package) to the governor and Legislature for appropriation of additional FPHS funds; make proposals to the SC for allocation of appropriated funds; measure the impact of FPHS investments in their topic area; and utilize data to inform future recommendations. More details for the SME Workgroup responsibilities can be found in the [FPHS Charter](#) and *Attachment B*.

SME workgroups strive to be inclusive and maintain system-wide representation and engagement. It is important that we have tribal perspectives on these workgroups. Anyone interested in joining a SME Workgroup may reach out to FPHS support staff to connect with the SME workgroup. Please refer to the authorization process at your Tribe prior to reaching out to FPHS support staff. All are welcome.

Technical Workgroups

The FPHS Steering Committee has formed three Technical Workgroups (TWG) to make recommendations to the SC within the next 18 months in the areas of FPHS definitions review, health equity, and evaluation

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and reporting. Each workgroup has their respective scope of work, outlined in *Attachment C*. While acting as part of the FPHS system, and while informed by their own organization and experience, members are expected to learn about and collaborate with system partners to develop recommendations in support of the entire system. Each part of the governmental public health system may have two participants on each technical workgroup. Tribal voice on these workgroups is needed to assure we are addressing the needs of the whole system. You may reach out to FPHS support staff to connect with the technical workgroup. Please refer to the authorization process at your Tribe prior to reaching out to FPHS support staff.

Participation and Questions

We invite your participation in the Subject Matter Expert and Technical workgroups. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Ketchel, Foundational Public Health Services Director, at jeff.ketchel@doh.wa.gov or 564-669-0875, or Candice Wilson, Tribal Public Health & Relations, at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626. For those interested in participating, please reach out to Jessica McKee of the American Indian Health Commission at jessica.mckee.aihc@outlook.com.

Sincerely,



Kristin Peterson, JD

Chief of Policy

CC: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, Department of Health
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, Tribal Public Health & Relations
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Jeff Ketchel, Director of Foundational Public Health Services, Department of Health
Michelle Davis, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health
Stephen Kutz, Chair, American Indian Health Commission for Washington State
Erika Lautenbach, Director, Whatcom County Health and Community Services
Jaime Bodden, Managing Director, Washington Association of Local Public Health Officials
Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, American Indian Health Commission for Washington State
Carolyn Cartwright, Systems Transformation Manager, Department of Health

Attachments:

A: [Crosswalk of Tribal FPHS Definitions](#)

B: [Each SME Workgroup Descriptions](#)

C: [Technical Workgroups Descriptions](#)

D: [Tribal Participation on FPHS SME and TWG Presentation by AIHC](#)