



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH SYSTEMS QUALITY ASSURANCE
PO Box 47850, Olympia, WA 98504-7850

Date: July 20, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing today to provide information about upcoming rulemaking regarding the development of standards for the licensure or certification of 23-hour crisis relief centers to implement [2SSB 5120](#) which passed in 2023.

Section Two of [2SSB 5120](#) directs the Department of Health (department) to adopt rules to develop standards for licensure or certification of this new type of facility that will provide mental health and substance use crisis response to adults for no more than 23 hours and 59 minutes at a time. As part of this requirement, the department must establish rules that prohibit a hospital that is licensed under [Chapter 70.41 RCW](#) from discharging or transferring a patient to a 23-hour crisis relief center unless the hospital has a formal relationship with the 23-hour crisis relief center. Relevant sections of [Chapter 246-320 WAC](#), including new sections, as needed, may be amended as part of this rulemaking project.

For additional information and to provide written feedback, contact Julie Tomaro, Program Manager, at (360) 236-2937 or Julie.Tomaro@doh.wa.gov.

For tribal relations issues, please contact the department's Tribal Relations Director at DOHTribalRelations@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

John Williams, Executive Director
Health Systems Quality Assurance

cc: Umair A. Shah, Secretary, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety and Health, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health
Michele Roberts, Assistant Secretary, Prevention and Community Health, Department of Health
Sasha De Leon, Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Quality Assurance, Department of Health
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health
Ian Corbridge, Director, Office of Community Health Systems, Department of Health
Julie Tomaro, Program Manager, Department of Health