



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

March 8, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: HB 1477 Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee 2024 Progress Report Consultation Close Out**

On December 13, 2023, Health Care Authority (HCA), and Washington Department of Health (WA-DOH) with support from the University of Washington's Behavioral Health Institute (BHI) contractor, and Health Management Associates (HMA), held Tribal consultation on House Bill 1477 Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee (CRIS) Progress Report for 2023. This consultation followed one (1) presentation during the Tribal 988 Subcommittee meeting and one (1) roundtable. HCA and WA-DOH would like to thank those that participated in the Tribal 988 Subcommittee meetings, roundtable, and the consultation to provide feedback on this report. Input from Tribal communities is important to both agencies and to the larger 988 CRIS committee.

You can find meeting minutes and materials for these meetings, consultations, and the final plans, at the websites listed below. We are pleased to share that all feedback was incorporated into the progress report. The final 2023 progress report was submitted by the CRIS committee, to the Governor's office and Legislature, by January 1, 2024, and can be accessed by the following links. Our agencies and HMA continue to accept any feedback that can be incorporated into future reports.

- <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/hb-1477-committee-progress-report-202401.pdf>
- <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/who-we-are/tribal-relations/consultations-and-meetings>

As HCA and WA-DOH work on next steps of continued work to implement HB 1477, HB 1134, CRIS and Technical and Operations Plan, we will continue to engage Tribes in the 988 required and planned activities through formal and informal government-to-government channels.

### Comments and questions

If you are interested in serving as a representative on the Tribal 988 Subcommittee and/or the Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board (TCBHAB), please contact Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, American Indian Health Commission at [vicki.lowe.aihc@outlook.com](mailto:vicki.lowe.aihc@outlook.com), and Lucilla Mendoza, Behavioral Health Administrator at [lucilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov](mailto:lucilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov). For questions about participation in the CRIS Committee and the progress report, please contact Nicola Pinson at [npinson@healthmanagement.com](mailto:npinson@healthmanagement.com).

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For Tribal affair-related questions, please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, HCA, via email at [aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov](mailto:aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov), or Candice Wilson, Tribal Relations Director, DOH, via email at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov).

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN  
Director  
Washington Health Care Authority



Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH  
Secretary of Health  
Washington State Department of Health

cc: Allen Christensen, Office of Healthy & Safe Communities Director, WA-DOH  
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