



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

November 7, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: Consultation on HB 1477 Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee.**

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989 and the Consultation and Collaboration procedure of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), DOH and HCA hereby seeks consultation to solicit your input on a legislative report regarding the Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee's work.

### **Purpose**

The Crisis Response Improvement Strategy (CRIS) Committee intends to submit an update to the legislative report as required by House Bill 1477 (2021), and House Bill 1134 (2023). Feedback and input from Tribal governments and urban Indian health partners is requested for the Committee Progress Report, which is due January 1, 2024.

The CRIS Committee is supported by Health Management Associates (HMA). The CRIS has two tribal representatives and has several subcommittees, including the Tribal 988 Subcommittee embedded in the work of the Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board (TCBHAB) meeting monthly, offering recommendations to the plans.

The January 1, 2024, report is a progress report prepared by the HMA on behalf of the CRIS and Steering Committee. This progress report is the third in a series of four reports to provide recommendations to improve Washington's behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services system.

DOH and HCA have reserved the following dates and times for Tribal Roundtables and Tribal Consultations on the report:

**Tribal 988 Subcommittee presentation** – Nov. 15, 2023, 9am-10am During the Tribal 988 Subcommittee meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85296045820?pwd=Mm5QbTBNYmdWblVYczNzb2toanJZUT09>

**Roundtable #1** – Nov. 29, 2023, 1:30pm-3:00pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82336202492>

**Consultation** – Dec. 13, 2023, 3:00pm-5:00pm following the Monthly Tribal Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89908784932>

## **Background**

The Washington State Legislature enacted E2SHB 1477 during the 2021 legislative session. Section 103 of the bill established the CRIS Committee to provide advice in developing an integrated behavioral health response and suicide prevention system.

The intent of this legislation is to improve the crisis response system, which will reduce reliance on emergency room services and law enforcement to respond to behavioral health crises and stabilize individuals in the community whenever possible.

The Legislature passed legislation to establish 988 contact hubs and expand the crisis response system to save lives by improving quality and access to behavioral health crisis services, as well as ensuring treatment is equitable, culturally, and linguistically appropriate. This bill also complies with the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020.

## **Anticipated Impact on American Indians/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Indian Health Programs, Urban Indian Organizations**

We anticipate that the implementation activities within the E2SHB 1477 will improve access to existing and new behavioral health and crisis services to AI/AN individuals, Indian health programs, and urban Indian organizations. We would appreciate any input or concern that tribal representatives wish to share.

## **Copy Available**

Current drafts of the Progress Report, including the CRIS committee recommendations are available at: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/cris-committee-draft-recommendations-20231101.pdf>

## **Comments and questions**

If you are interested in serving as a representative on the Tribal 988 Subcommittee and/or the 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 draft report, please contact Nicola Pinson at [npinson@healthmanagement.com](mailto:npinson@healthmanagement.com).

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 Policy Director, DOH, via email at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) if you have any tribal affairs-related questions.

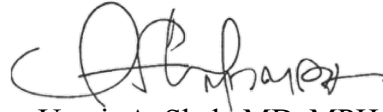
DTLL: Consultation on HB 1477 Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee.  
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Please forward this information to any interested party.

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: Betsy Jones, Health Management Associates  
Nicola Pinson, Health Management Associates  
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health  
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, Safety & Health, Department of Health  
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health  
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Kathy Pierre, Equity and Social Justice Strategist for Tribal Relations, Department of Health  
Lonnie Peterson, 988 Program Unit Supervisor, Department of Health  
Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health