



STATE OF WASHINGTON

August 13, 2024

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners and Professionals -

SUBJECT: Informative - 988 and Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols

In accordance with (A) [Chapter 43.376 Revised Code of Washington](#) and the Washington State [Centennial Accord of 1989](#), the Department of Health and Health Care Authority are pleased to notify you that beginning on 7/1/2024, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Crisis Centers will be implementing Government to Government [Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols](#). Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols will be completed individually between the Department of Health, Health Care Authority, and Tribes. The protocols will help American Indian and Alaska Native help-seekers connect with their tribe's behavioral health care services and get other appropriate services and resources. These protocols will also require 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers to appropriately coordinate with Tribal health providers for their Tribal community members as outlined in the protocols. We have a [one-pager](#) that provides more details.

For questions or comments related to the Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols, please contact Beth Schuurmans at Beth.Schuurmans@doh.wa.gov or Lucilla Mendoza at Lucilla.Mendoza@hca.wa.gov.

If you have questions about tribal affairs or would like to request a formal consultation, please contact DOH Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations Executive Director Candice Wilson Quatz'tenaut at Candice.Wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626 or HCA Tribal Affairs Administrator Aren Sparck at Aren.Sparck@hca.wa.gov.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES
Assistant Secretary
Division of Prevention and Community Health
Department of Health

Teesha Kirschbaum
Division Director
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
Health Care Authority

Cc: Allen Christensen - Office of Healthy and Safe Communities Director - Department of Health
Candice Wilson Quatz'tenaut (Lummi) - Executive Director OTPHR - Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach - Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health - Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday - Chief of Strategic Partnerships - Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez - Chief of Public Affairs and Equity - Department of Health
Kristin Peterson - Chief of Policy, Planning and Evaluation - Department of Health
Lonnie Peterson - 988 Crisis Systems Manager - Department of Health
Beth Schuurmans - 988 Engagement, Equity and Partner Relations Supervisor - Department of Health
Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH - Secretary of Health - Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich - Chief of Staff - Department of Health
Aren Sparck - Office of Tribal Affairs - Health Care Authority
Lucilla Mendoza - Office of Tribal Affairs - Health Care Authority
Kara Panek - Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery - Health Care Authority
Luke Waggoner - Division of Behavioral Health and - Health Care Authority