



STATE OF WASHINGTON

October 14, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: HB 1477 Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee Request for Feedback on Committee Final Report and Recommendations

In accordance with [chapter 43.376 RCW](#) and the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Health Care Authority (HCA), DOH/HCA hereby seeks to inform and request input on the following matter.

Purpose

The Crisis Response Improvement Strategy (CRIS) Steering Committee intends to submit a Final Report to the Washington Legislature and Governor as required by House Bill 1477 (2021), and House Bill 1134 (2023). Feedback and input from Tribal governments and Indian Health Care Providers is requested for the Committee Final Report, due January 1, 2025.

The January 1, 2025, report is the final report to be prepared by the Health Management Associates (HMA) on behalf of the CRIS and Steering Committee. This final report is the fourth in a series of four reports to provide recommendations to improve Washington's behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services system that can be found [Crisis Response Improvement Strategy \(CRIS\) committees | Washington State Health Care Authority](#).

DOH and HCA have reserved the following dates and times for Tribal Listening Sessions on the report.

Tribal Listening Session – Monday, November 4, 2024, from 1pm – 3pm via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324067858>.

Tribal 988 Subcommittee – Wednesday November 20, 2024, 9am – 10am, during the Tribal 988 Subcommittee meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83503370132?pwd=xdkDJaesRbQKwcnGzbo7Ec3aRVqrxk.1>.

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.

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 CRIS committee recommendations submitted January 1, 2024 is available at, [Crisis Response Improvement Strategy \(CRIS\) committees | Washington State Health Care Authority](#). These recommendations will be updated with Committee and Tribal input in 2024 for submission of the Final Report.

Contact

DOH, HCA and HMA would appreciate any comments or questions that Tribal representatives wish to share regarding this final report. Please contact Nicola Pinson by email at npinson@healthmanagement.com.

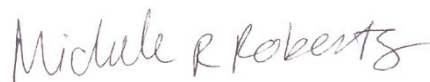
Please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, HCA, via email at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, DOH, via email at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov if you have any tribal affairs-related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



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



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

By Email

cc: Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, DOH
Kathy Pierre, Equity and Social Justice Strategist for Tribal Relations, PCH, DOH
Allen Christensen, Office of Healthy and Safe Communities Director, PCH, DOH
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lonnie Peterson, 988 Program Unit Supervisor, DOH
Betsy Jones, Health Management Associates
Nicola Pinson, Health Management Associates