



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
 PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890  
 Tel: 360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay

December 19, 2024

**Re: Collaborative- Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Federal Accreditation**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration on exploration of options related to the sustainability of OTP federal accreditation services from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

In addition to state licensure and/or licensure through tribal attestation, all OTPs, must obtain federal accreditation from a [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration \(SAMHSA\)- Approved Accreditation Body \(AB\)](#). DOH offers federal AB services at no cost to OTPs. This work is currently funded through General Fund-State (GFS). This has been an important component of the state’s effort to address the opioid crisis. However, using GFS funding has reduced resources needed to support the broader required behavioral health agency regulatory work. Currently, most licensed and all tribally owned and/or operated OTPs are accredited by the DOH. Growth in the number of OTPs, new lines of service, and increased oversight requirements mandated by SAMHSA have substantially increased the costs necessary to support the AB program. Therefore, the DOH is seeking input to explore a path forward regarding this service. Please see the [OTP Accreditation webpage](#) and [Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

We request you to join us for the following listening sessions:

| Meeting Type         | Date and Time  | Zoom Info   |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Listening Session #1 | January 15, 2025 11:00am – 12:00pm<br><i>During Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board</i>  | <a href="#">835 0337 0132</a><br>Passcode: 202437 |
| Listening Session #2 | January 28, 2025 11:00am – 12:30pm<br><i>Following the WA Tribal Opioid &amp; Fentanyl Taskforce</i> | <a href="#">812 1103 7396</a><br>Passcode: 712898 |

For additional information, please contact Michelle Weatherly, Facilities Program Manager, [michelle.weatherly@doh.wa.gov](mailto:michelle.weatherly@doh.wa.gov) and 360-236-2992, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or 360-819-7626.

Best,

*/s/ Jonnita Thompson for*

Sasha De Leon, Assistant Secretary  
 Health Systems Quality Assurance

- cc: Sasha De Leon, HSQA Assistant Secretary  
 Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, WA-DOH  
 Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH  
 Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH  
 Elizabeth Perez, Chief, Office of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH  
 Umair A. Shah, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH  
 Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH  
 Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH