



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

July 17, 2025

Re: Informative- Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Federal Accreditation Update

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 are providing information as a follow up to the [December 19, 2024 Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) and subsequent listening sessions related to the sustainability of OTP Federal Accreditation Body (AB) services from the Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH).

Over the last several years, a lack of dedicated funding to support AB services, increased federal accreditation requirements, and an increase in the number of OTPs in the state has created a significant funding gap. Without a sustainable funding source, DOH will need to relinquish AB status. Exiting this role would require DOH to provide, at minimum, nine-months notice to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) to facilitate the transition.

During listening sessions, Tribal partners and OTP providers highlighted the desire for DOH to continue providing the valued AB services while recognizing the need for funding to support this work. In response to feedback and the need to advance efforts to support the state's opioid crisis response, DOH is pursuing short-term funding support and potential options in the upcoming legislative session to seek authority to charge a fee to sustain AB services provided by DOH. Any proposed legislation would depend on legislative approval.

DOH is working closely with the Governor's Office and other state agencies on this effort. We anticipate having further information to share with Tribal partners at DOH's 2026 Legislative Package Review Webinar in August ([DTLL](#) coming soon). Your partnership and feedback have been essential to informing policy options regarding AB services. We look forward to ongoing partnership and engagement on this topic.

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

Respectfully,

Ramiro Cantu, Assistant Secretary
Health Systems Quality Assurance

cc: Dennis Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH