



STATE OF WASHINGTON

November 10, 2025

Re: Informative – Update on 988 Crisis Care Continuum Project Status

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

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 Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Department of Health (DOH) [Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are providing an informational update on the 988 Crisis Care Continuum (CCC) project technical approach, revised project scope, and recent guidance from the Governor's Office.

Due to budget constraints, the 988-technology platform project has revised the scope to focus on a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) to prioritize high-value features first and provide implementation flexibility to meet changing business needs and budget environment.

The Governor's Office has advised the state to continue with the limited scope for an MVP and to also consider responsibly shelving (i.e., pausing or deferring active work) the technology project. Once approved to move forward, and a technical vendor is identified, DOH and HCA will pursue a modular implementation for the 988-technology platform, consisting of Customer Relationship Management, Provider Directory, and Open Loop Referral functionalities.

For now, we will proceed with preparing for MVP until we have received different direction from the Governor's Office and legislators. We will continue to share updates through the Tribal 988 Subcommittee as planning evolves and look forward to your continued input as we shape the future of crisis care together. Contact Lucilla Mendoza, HCA to learn more about the Tribal 988 Subcommittee: lucilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov

Please refer to the attached [official communication](#) shared with all external partners. For questions about the 988 CCC project, please contact Lonnie Peterson, 988 Crisis Systems Manager, at lonnie.peterson@doh.wa.gov or Kara Panek, Behavioral Health Strategic Advisor at kara.panek2@hca.wa.gov.

If you have any tribal affairs-related questions please contact Aren Sparck, HCA Tribal Affairs Administrator, at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, DOH Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov.

Respectfully,

Michele Roberts
Assistant Secretary
Division of Prevention and Community Health
Department of Health
Michele.Roberts@doh.wa.gov
(360) 791-6724

Teesha Kirschbaum
Division Director
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
Health Care Authority
Teesha.Kirschbaum@hca.wa.gov
(360) 622-1262

cc: Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH
Lacy Fehrenbach - Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health - Department of Health
Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA-HCA