



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

August 7, 2026

Re: Informative – Rural Health Transformation Program Advisory Committee 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 follow-up information about the Advisory Committee (AC) for Washington State's Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program. Learn more about the program [here](#).

The committee is a cross-sector body that brings together members from across Washington's rural health system to advise state leaders on RHT Program implementation and ways to align work to better support rural health improvements. This ensures that investments and priorities are informed by the diverse perspectives of people delivering and receiving care in rural Washington.

RHT-AC members were recruited through an open and competitive application process led by an inter-agency review panel. Applications for Tribal delegates were reviewed and selected in consultation with the Governor's Indian Health Advisory Council (GIHAC) and the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC). RHT-AC members (listed below) will serve an initial two-year term, with the possibility to extend.

Representing	Name (County, Organization)
Tribal Delegates (2 positions)	Councilwoman Dayna Seymour (Okanogan, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) Sarah Sullivan (Skagit, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community)
Rural Hospitals	Tyson Lacy (Lincoln, Lincoln Hospital District No. 3)
Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs)	James Wallace (Okanogan County Public Health District & Chelan Douglas Health District)
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)	Carl Olden (Yakima, Community Health of Central Washington)
Behavioral Health Providers	Julia Mackaronis (Grays Harbor, Roger Saux Health Center)
Allied Health Professionals	Devon Woodley (Ferry, Ferry County Public Hospital District)
Medical Professionals	Bindu Nayak (Douglas, Washington State Medical Association)
Labor Organizations	Centra Pickens (Pierce, SEIU 1199 NW Healthcare Multi-Employer Training Fund)
Area Agencies on Aging	Laura Cepoi (Jefferson, Olympic Area Agency on Aging)
Community – Eastern WA (2 positions)	Deb Miller (Douglas, Community Choice dba Action Health Partners) Jessica Whitehawk (Yakima, Ttawaxt Birth Justice Center)
Community – Western WA (1 position)	Adria Williams (Clallam, Forks Community Hospital)

Coordination and staff support for the RHT-AC will be provided through the Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH), in collaboration with the Health Care Authority (HCA) and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). For additional information please contact Molly Biehl (molly.biehl@doh.wa.gov), or any of the Agency Tribal Liaisons: Candice Wilson, WA-DOH (OTPHR@doh.wa.gov), Aren Sparck, HCA (aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov), Tim Collins, DSHS (timothy.collins@dshs.wa.gov).

Respectfully,

Kristin Peterson, JD
Chief of Policy
Washington State Department of Health

cc: Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH