



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

March 18, 2024

Dear Delegate to the Governor's Indian Health Advisory Council:

The first Advisory Council meeting of 2024 will occur on **April 30, 2024**. The first meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting, via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81363910615>) and in-person at the Washington Health Care Authority, 626 8th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

The April meeting will focus on:

- Reviewing and updating the charter, including Council Delegates; and
- Discussion on the flow and cadence of Council meetings and business.

Planned agenda for the April Advisory Council meeting, developed in collaboration with the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State:

9:00 a.m.	Opening Prayer and Welcome
9:20 a.m.	Administrative Business
9:30 a.m.	Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Response Taskforce and Summit
9:50 a.m.	Review of GIHAC Charter
10:10 a.m.	Tribal Reinvestment Account Update
10:30 a.m.	Washington State Funding to Tribes
11:20 am	2024 Legislative Session Transition to 2025 Legislative Session
Noon	Adjourn

Advisory Council meetings are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), Chapter 42.30 RCW. Official delegates to the Advisory Council are required to update their training on OPMA every four years. The Health Care Authority (HCA) will collect information regarding who has and has not completed the training at our April meeting. Please see below for guidance on how to complete this training:

- The Washington State Office of the Attorney General offers this training online and at no cost at <https://www.atg.wa.gov/lesson-3-open-public-meetings-act-rcw-4230>.
 - Please let Kiara Ganger Administrative Assistant at the Office of Tribal Affairs know you have **completed** this training at kiara.ganger@hca.wa.gov.

The HCA, and specifically the Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA), provides administrative and analytical support, as well as technical assistance to the Advisory Council. Please reach out to Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov, if you have any questions, comments and/or suggestions.

Additional Resources

The Indian Health Improvement Act, RCW 43.71B, charges the Advisory Council to:

- Meet at least three times every year when the legislature is not in session.
- Adopt a biennial Indian health advisory plan, developed by the reinvestment committee.
- Address issues with tribal implications that are not able to be resolved at the agency level.
- Establish the Indian health reinvestment account to provide incentives for tribes to assume the administrative burdens created by the federal requirements for the state to shift health care costs to the federal government.
- Provide oversight of contracting and performance of service coordination or contracting entities to address their impacts on services to American Indians and Alaska Natives and relationships with Indian health care provider.
- Provide oversight of the Indian health improvement reinvestment account, ensuring amounts expended are consistent with the adopted Indian health advisory plan.
- Draft recommended legislation to address Indian health improvement needs including, but not limited to, crisis coordination between Indian health care providers and the state's behavioral health system.

History and past work of the Advisory Council:

- HCA maintains an Advisory Council webpage, where you can find past meeting information:
 - <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/tribal-affairs/governors-indian-health-advisory-council>
- Chapter 43.71B RCW, which established the Advisory Council:
 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.71B>
- December 21, 2018 report to the legislature:
 - <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/report-essb-6032-governors-indian-health-council-12-21-18.pdf>

Information, priorities, concerns, and data on Indian health care:

- Indian Health Service (IHS) Portland Area Office
 - <https://www.ihs.gov/portland/>
- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)
 - <http://www.npaihb.org/>
- American Indian Health Commission for Washington State
 - <https://aihc-wa.com/>
- Urban Indian Health Institute
 - <https://www.uihi.org/>

Expectations for being on the Advisory Council:

- **Complete** the OPMA compliance training

Governor's Indian Health Advisory Council delegate

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- You are on the OTA's distribution list regarding the Advisory Council, through which you will receive calendar appointments, up-to-date agendas, and various other ad hoc materials.
 - Please send us the contact information of any support staff, you would like to receive this information on your behalf.

We look forward to your participation and supporting you as we collectively work towards improving the health and wellbeing of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington State.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Director

By email

cc: Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lena Nachand, Tribal Liaison, OTA, HCA