



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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

October 10, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: Updated HCA-Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols Template and Request to Engage on Protocol Planning**

In accordance with (A) chapter 43.376 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes, and (B) the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), HCA hereby seeks your advice on the following matter.

**Purpose**

Since 2020, the HCA began working on government-to-government processes that include establishing the Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols plans in part of larger government to government planning with each Tribe. In 2023, the Tribal representatives and the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) requested an updated template led by Tribal representatives. HCA will be sharing the new template in partnership with the AIHC at the following meetings with the goals of gaining additional Tribal and Indian Health Care Provider (IHCP) input, and to provide an orientation of the document and protocol planning purpose and process.

We have reserved the following times to present on the new template.

**Presentation 1** - *October 11, 2023, from 4:20pm – 5pm, during the Monthly Tribal Meeting (MTM).*  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89908784932>

**Presentation 2** – *October 18, 2023, from 10:45am – 11:15pm, during the Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board (TCBHAB) meeting.*  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85296045820?pwd=Mm5QbTBNYmdWbIVYczNzb2toanJZUT09>

**Background**

The Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols remain a part of a larger effort to engage with Tribes in government-to-government planning for health-related topics. In 2020, the development of the protocols was moved from a requirement of the Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations (BH-ASO) to conduct a government-to-government process between the HCA and each Tribe and non-Tribal IHCP. The purpose of the protocols includes:

***Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocol:***

A description of the procedures or processes for:

- (a) designated crisis responders (DCRs) to access Tribal lands to provide services,

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- (b) providing services on Tribal lands in the evening, holidays, or weekends if different than during business hours,
- (c) notifying Tribal authorities when crisis services are provided on Tribal land, especially on weekends or holidays or after business hours, including who is notified and timeframes for notification,
- (d) how DCRs will coordinate with Tribal mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment providers,
- (e) when a DCR determines whether to detain or not for involuntary commitment, and
- (f) if involuntary commitment evaluations cannot be conducted on Tribal land, how and by whom individuals will be transported to non-tribal lands for involuntary commitment evaluation and/or involuntary treatment.

Additional 4 elements of the government-to-government planning includes the Tribal Care Coordination and Discharge Protocol, Government-to-Government Collaboration Plan, and Tribal Representation for Various HCA-related meetings.

The Office of Tribal Affairs Regional Tribal Liaisons will continue to lead the outreach and coordination of establishing the Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols and government-to-government planning activities. You can find the current templates at the HCA-Office of Tribal Affairs website <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/who-we-are/tribal-relations/indian-behavioral-health-act-sb-6259-implementation>.

### Comments and Questions

Please contact your Regional Tribal Liaison via email if you have questions or feedback on the protocols form and process, including if you are interested in beginning work on establishing your Tribe's Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocol. Your Regional Tribal Liaisons are:

- Eastern Washington Region: Raina Peone at [raina.peone@hca.wa.gov](mailto:raina.peone@hca.wa.gov)
- King, South Sound, and South Cascades Region: Auddie Gugel at [Auddie.gugel@hca.wa.gov](mailto:Auddie.gugel@hca.wa.gov)
- Peninsula and Pacific Coast Region: Nicole Earls at [nicole.earls@hca.wa.gov](mailto:nicole.earls@hca.wa.gov)
- North Sound Region: Tina Anderson at [tina.anderson@hca.wa.gov](mailto:tina.anderson@hca.wa.gov).

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN  
Director

By email

cc: Keri Waterland, Assistant Director, DBHR, HCA  
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Kara Panek, Section Manager, DBHR, HCA  
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Luke Waggoner, Involuntary Treatment Act Administrator, DBHR, HCA