



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**Monthly Tribal Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**  
**Tribal Consultation**

Attendees:

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
<b>Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation</b>	Joy Heemsah
<b>Coeur D'Alene Tribe</b>	Charlie Way, Marimn Health
<b>Cowlitz Indian Tribe</b>	Brenda Martin
<b>Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe</b>	Andrew Shogren Eugene Burwell
<b>Makah Tribe</b>	Glenn Ellis Jr., Treasure
<b>Nisqually Tribe</b>	Lisa Wells, Health Business Office Manager
<b>Spokane Tribe of Indians</b>	Rosetta Wynecoop
<b>Squaxin Island Tribe</b>	Kay Culbertson, Health Services Director Bekki Ayres, Manager of Administrative Operations Nora Coxwell Ofi Tovia, Director, Northwest Indian Treatment Center
<b>Swinomish Tribe</b>	Jeremy Wilbur, Senator Rachel Sage, Attorney Sarah Sullivan, Health Policy Director, didg'wálič Wellness Center John Stephens, Consultant
<b>Upper Skagit Indian Tribe</b>	Marilyn Scott, Chairwoman
<b>Seattle Indian Health Board</b>	Ryan Gilbert, Chief Operations Officer
<b>American Indian Health Commission (Commission)</b>	Vicki Lowe, Executive Director Lisa Rey Thomas, Consultant Kathryn Akeah, Consultant Jen Olson, Consultant Heather Erb, Consultant
<b>Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (Board)</b>	Christine Friedt (Peters) Liz Coronado Lisa Griggs
<b>American Indian Community Center</b>	Stephanie Sijohn, Executive Assistant/Special Projects
<b>Indigenous Pact – WCDC – Muckleshoot</b>	Danica Zawieja
<b>Department of Commerce</b>	Michele Gladstone-Wade, Tribal Liaison
<b>Department of Health (DOH)</b>	Tamara Fife, Tribal Relations Director Candice Wilson, Quatz'tenaut, Tribal Policy Director
<b>Health Care Authority (HCA)</b>	Sue Birch, Director HCA Aren Sparck, HCA Office of Tribal Affairs Administrator Lucilla Mendoza, HCA Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator Lena Nachand, HCA OTA Tribal Liaison Medicaid Transformation Mike Longnecker, HCA OTA Claims and Billing Technician

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JoAnn Ehlers, HCA OTA Administrative Assistant  
Annette Squetimkin-Anquoe – HCA OTA Tribal Grants and  
Contracts Manager  
Samantha Schrader, Data Governance

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**Welcome and Introductions:** Aren Sparck, Started today's meeting with Land Acknowledgment.

**Blessing by:** Chairwoman Marilyn Scott, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

**Aren Sparck, HCA Office of Tribal Affairs Administrator:** Welcomed everyone again with introduction of himself and officially started the meeting.

**Introduction of Elected Tribal Officials:**

**Marilyn Scott, Chairwoman Upper Skagit Indian Tribe:** Thanks to Director Birch for coming here today even when not feeling well. Can't reiterate enough the importance this makes for our state leaders to come together with the tribal leaders where we can come together and have a better understanding of issues of the state plan amendment for getting CMS to recognize the new types of providers. Firmly support the acknowledgement of this state plan amendment to recognize the importance tribes have in the CHAPS program which will benefit the access for our community members. Having the Centennial Accord and helping making access available to the citizens of the state. We are citizens of the state. Fundings do not always include tribal governments. Elevation of the health status of all of our people is so important.

**Jeremy Wilbur, Senator for Swinomish Tribal Indian Community:** Thanks HCA for holding this consultation. Midlevel care providers are an integral part of our communities. Thanked HCA for partnering with tribes to do this right. Has staff online to take notes. Swinomish appreciates the government -to- government partnership. Shared that he appreciates what that we are trying to do and talked about the support of his tribe. Also specified glad to provide a written example of their recommendation re 20-06 circular in this amendment. Shared concerns that the circular is not a statute and has serious flaws. Unnecessary to refer to the circular, recommends to eliminate the reference of it. Recommends instead, direction to the Indian Healthcare Act statute.

**Introduction of Tribal Health Leaders:**

Kay Culbertson, Health Care Director, Squaxin Island Tribes  
Brenda Martin, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Health Director.

**Tribal Consortia Leaders:**

Christina Friedt, NPAIHB  
Vicki Lowe, AIHC Executive Director -on phone.

**Sue Birch, Director – Health Care Authority:** Thanked everyone for participating in the consultation today. We cannot do this work without each other. I acknowledge the time it has taken you to be here today. Thanks to the NPAIHB for bringing CHAP to the region. Thanks to tribes.

**Discussion and presentation:**

**Lena Nachand, HCA Tribal Liaison Medicaid Transformation:** Introduced herself and explained along with slides how we got here:

This has been worked on by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board since at least 2016.

Shared current spa language. Much of this came from the circular that Senator Wilbur talked about, and we were under the impression that this was in line with how tribes wanted the providers to be certified and reimbursed. Acknowledged that we have become aware about the concern regarding the circular 20-06.

**Lena Nachand:** Shared known concerns regarding the Circular and opened the floor on how to get this language finalized. We know that there are BHA's now being trained in the state of Washington that will be going back to their tribes wanting to be providers. We want to be responsive to these provider types on the cusp of being providers in your facilities. We are open to suggestions in a different way forward.

**Aren Sparck:** Why we went this way, we are not disputing the Swinomish tribe.

**Senator Jeremy Wilbur:** Pointed out that the circular does not recognize tribal authority. We believe tribal authority needs to be recognized. We would like to make this a priority.

**Aren Sparck:** Proposes that we do a roundtable where we can come toher on a language that we can move forward with. Once we come to an agreement then we could submit the spa with the agreed upon language. We did this consultation too soon.

**Senator Jeremy Wilbur:** Thank you.

**Chairwoman Marilyn Scott:** Supports what Swinomish is saying. The circular does not recognize tribal authority. We had this come up before re chemical dependency providers and programs. It led us to the work the tribes did around attestation. The difference between 20-06 and the Indian Health Improvement Act. It is the authorizing document that recognizes the tribal authority. We are not attempting to recognize providers that do not have the training or certification needed. Many times, tribes require more than the state does.

**Kay Culbertson:** Agrees wholeheartedly, when we reconvene, we need tribal attorneys attending.

**Aren Sparck:** We need to get our legal advice more in line with what the tribes are saying. Proposing a new Roundtable with legal representation by tribes and our HCA legal team to come to an understanding together to make sure we have the right language together. Is this amenable to all the leaders that we have here?

**Heard approval by:** Chairwoman Scott, Senator Wilber, Treasurer, Ellis

### **Closing Statements:**

**Glenn Ellis Jr., Treasurer Makah Tribe:** Great step for moving forward.

**Aren Sparck:** Thanks for working with us in reconvening with a roundtable to get us to the right place.

**John Stephens:** Swinomish Senator Wilbur also shared the need to add some significant principle and practicable concerns. Discussed what holdups the tribes have dealt with in the past. Talked about significant concerns on standards and policies regarding these providers. Dental Therapy that Swinomish undertook – they got a licensing board up in a considerably shorter time than IHS. The fact that the state

and Swinomish worked together and now we are working for the next three provider types, we appreciate this working together.

**Senator Jeremy Wilbur:** Great to work together, happy with Aren's proposal.

**Aren Sparck:** Will reconvene make sure we have the right people at the meeting to make sure we have the correct language to come to an agreement.

**Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, American Indian Health Commission:** More conversation will be helpful in doing a really good job. We need to take the time to do a good job and not have any missteps.

**NWAIHB, other Tribal Health Officials: Christina Friedt:** Look forward to a roundtable to do this in the right way.

**Aren Sparck:** Were planning to submit this – now will go into quarter two, what is the desired timeline – we need 30 days' notice for the tribal leaders.

**Chairwoman Marilyn Scott:** Feels strongly that the sooner we can get , there is only the one issue – the including of that one statement. As soon as we can get this work group together to get this plan amend submitted it will be better for all of us.

**Aren Sparck:** Will give Lena and our team some time to get out a good summary of what happened here today and we will set a date going out 30 days from that.

**Lena Nachand:** Swinomish has ideas about the language they would like to see, can we have that please? We will want to know how these providers are certified and supervised. Want to make sure we have good understanding of the certification and supervision.

**Next step:** Will get the summary out, will get a date set.

**Sue Birch, Director:** Thanking the group, urges to keep up the momentum, we look forward to the roundtable gathering.

**Closing Blessing:** None offered at this time.

**Meeting Adjourned.**