



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

August 8, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: WAC Work Session**

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), the HCA seeks your input and partnership to advance initiatives impacting Tribal communities.

**Purpose**

On June 11, 2025, HCA sent a Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) Re: Encounter Rate Reimbursement Consultation Closeout for the Consultation request on HCA's encounter rate reimbursement policy. This DTLL announced the first WAC work session meeting for June 17, 2025. The June 17<sup>th</sup> work session has been completed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> work session scheduled for September 2, 2025, from 10 am to Noon.

HCA intends to provide a transparent process and WAC that informs and defines HCA internal staff and our Tribal partners on how the IHS all-inclusive rate is applied to new services and providers:

- Draft Tribal All-Inclusive Rate WAC in coordination with Tribal Partners
- Submit WAC for legislative approval

HCA looks forward to continuing the work to develop the WAC language in cooperation with the Tribes.

**Next Steps:**

HCA's goal is to have an agreed process and WAC defining AIR applicability completed within 250 days from the date of filing the CR-101. We thank all Tribal leader and staff that are working on the WAC language, as well as the American Indian Health Commission for contributing to develop the WAC language specific to the State Plan as it pertains to the IHS all-inclusive rate/encounter rate.

The second work session is scheduled for September 2nd at 10 AM to Noon on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88689196745>

Meeting ID: 842 5856 0151

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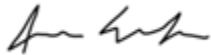
Additional work sessions, roundtables, and consultation will be scheduled as needed.

### **Comments and Questions**

We deeply value your partnership and look forward to our continued partnership on behavioral health agreements.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Aren Sparck at [aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov](mailto:aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Aren Sparck, Chevak Native Village Qissunamiut Tribal member  
Tribal Administrator

cc: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Interim Director, EXO, HCA  
Lou McDermott, Chief Operations Officer, EXO, HCA  
Dr. Charissa Fotinos, Medicaid Director, AHA, HCA  
Dr. Judy Zerzan, Medical Director, CQCT, HCA  
Megan Atkinson, Assistant Director, FSHPA, HCA  
Annette Schuffenhauer, Chief Legal Officer, DLS, HCA  
Christine Winn, Deputy Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Bill Stephens, General Counsel, AGO  
Vicki Lowe, American Indian Health Commission, ED  
Steve Kuts, American Indian Health Commission, President