



STATE OF WASHINGTON

March 5, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Complex Discharge Task Force – Invitation to Participate in Workgroups

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), HCA hereby seeks your advice on the following matter.

Purpose

The Complex Discharge Task Force intends to submit a final report to the Legislature and Governor with recommendations for addressing systemic, statewide challenges with discharging patients from acute care to post-acute and community settings. The Task Force will be convening workgroups in the Spring of 2025 to develop recommendations. Representatives from Tribal governments and urban Indian health partners are requested to participate in the following workgroups. Each workgroup will convene approximately two meetings (please see workgroup objectives and meeting dates below).

Workgroup	Objectives	Meeting Dates
Managed Care Contracting and Fee-For-Service Workgroup (FFS WG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Inform contract/policy options to strengthen Managed Care Organization and Dual Special Needs Plan contracts for supporting care transitions.➤ Inform policy options for Medicaid Fee For Service program support for care transitions.	Managed Care & FFS WG Meeting #1: March 20, 8-10am Managed Care & FFS WG Meeting #2: May 1, 11am-1pm
Discharge Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provide input on policy options to address range of discharge barriers identified by the Task Force Interim Report (July 1, 2024) (see link to report below).	Discharge Barriers WG Meeting #1: April 21, 12-2pm Discharge Barriers WG Meeting #2: 5/21, 12-2pm
Post Acute Care Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provide input on gaps in payment across the care continuum, including hospital administrative rates, post-acute care provider rates, or broader supportive services needed.	Rates WG Meeting #1: March 31, 12-2pm Rates WG Meeting #2: April 23, 3-5pm
Funding Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Identify federal and state funding opportunities for sustainable funding sources to support transitions of care.	Funding Mechanisms WG Meeting #1: March 24, 10am-12pm Funding Mechanisms WG Meeting #2: April 25, 8-10am

Background

Pursuant to a budget provision approved during the 2023 Washington State legislative session ([SB 5187](#)), the Complex Discharge Task Force (Task Force) was established to oversee a pilot program and to make recommendations about how to address systemic, statewide challenges discharging patients from acute care to post-acute care and community settings. In addition to the workgroup topics above, the Task Force will deliver recommendations on the implementation of the program and evaluation of the two-year, five-site pilot.

The Task Force submitted an [interim report](#) on July 1, 2024. This report outlined a “Roadmap” of work needed on critical issues to be addressed by the workgroups. This report included priorities identified by Tribal partners.

Anticipated Impact on American Indians/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Indian Health Programs, Urban Indian Organizations

We anticipate the Task Force recommendations will address barriers to discharge facing Tribal members and AI/AN individuals with complex needs. We are requesting Tribal participation in the workgroups and would appreciate any input or concern that Tribal representatives wish to share.

Comments and questions

If you are interested in serving as a representative on one of the Complex Discharge Workgroups, please contact Nicola Pinson, Principal with Health Management Associates at npinson@healthmanagement.com.

Please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, HCA, via email at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov if you have any tribal affairs-related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc
Medicaid and Behavioral Health Medical Director

By email

cc: Vicki Lowe, American Indian Health Commission
Glory Dole, Clinical Nurse Specialist, MPD, HCA
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA
Tim Collins, Senior Director, Office of Indian Policy, DSHS
Tamara Gaston, Tribal Affairs Administrator, ALTSA, DSHS