



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

August 5, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Indian Behavioral Health Legislation SSB 6259 – Update to Joel’s Law

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

This letter provides an update and information on changes to the Involuntary Treatment Act that now allow a federally recognized Indian Tribe to directly petition Washington state superior court for an initial 72-hour detention of an adult or youth Tribal member under certain conditions under Joel’s Law in Chapter 71.05 RCW and 71.34 RCW. This change was made by Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6259 passed in 2020.

For more information on this process and the circumstances in which a Tribe may file a petition, please see the attached guidance document. For more information on SSB 6259, please visit: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/6259-S.SL.pdf?q=20200626180323>.

Comments and Questions

Please contact Jessie Dean, Tribal Affairs Administrator, via email at jessie.dean@hca.wa.gov if you have comments on this guidance document or tribal consultation-related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

Keri L. Waterland, Ph.D., MAOB
Director
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

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Enclosure

By email

cc: Jessie Dean, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
David Reed, Section Manager, DBHR, HCA
Zephyr Forest, Secure Withdraw Management and Stabilization Coordinator,
DBHR, HCA
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA
Allison Wedin, Involuntary Treatment Act Administrator, DBHR, HCA