



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

March 20, 2025

Dear Tribal Leaders:

SUBJECT: Invitation to Participate in a Meeting on Regional Tribal Mobile Crisis Response Team – South Sound Region

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

The HCA and the American Indian Health Commission invites your Tribal governmental leadership and staff to participate in a learning webinar and an in-person strategy workshop on the opportunity to develop a regional Tribal mobile rapid response crisis team in South Sound region to be held on Monday, April 7th and Wednesday, May 7th, respectively.

Meeting Details

- Webinar – Monday, April 7th, [Register Here](#)
- In Person Workshop – Wednesday, May 7th, Registration coming soon
- **Attendees:** Tribal Elected Officials and Health Leadership and staff from the South Sound Region Tribes, including the,
 - Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- **Operational Discussion:**
 - The webinar will include overviews of types of crisis response and potential models: Tribal Mobile Crisis Teams and Tribal Designated Crisis Responders.
 - The webinar will be recorded. The in-person workshop will run through different scenarios to narrow in on the type of crisis response area Tribes are interested in.

Background

E2SHB 1477 was signed into law on May 13, 2021. A key component of this legislation is to invest in an enhanced crisis response system by developing and deploying mobile rapid response crisis teams (MRRCT) that provide professional on-site, community-based interventions and follow-up support for individuals that are experiencing a behavioral health crisis. A portion of this investment money is designated for Tribes willing to build MRRCT.

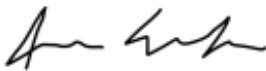
Since October, HCA has increased efforts to propose mobile crisis response teams for Tribes and we have heard back from a few that there are not enough crisis cases to create an entire team within one single Tribe. With this information and over the last few months, the HCA's Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) and AIHC discussed with Tribal health staff the opportunity to stand up a regional Tribal crisis team. We recognize that Tribal input is absolutely necessary, and we invite you to the table to participate and strategize the possibility of a South Sound Regional MRRCT Model.

Questions and Comments

We deeply value your partnership and look forward to your insights and contributions. Please feel free to share this invitation with any other interested parties within your community. For any questions regarding regional MRRCT teams please contact Eva Delamater by email at eva.delamater@hca.wa.gov and Kathryn Akeah, AIHC, by email kathrynakeah@gmail.com.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Aren Sparck at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Aren Sparck
Administrator
Office of Tribal Affairs

cc. Christine Winn, Deputy Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA
Eva Delamater, Tribal Mobile Crisis Response Coordinator, OTA, HCA
Jaron Heller, South Sound Regional Tribal Liaison, OTA, HCA
Luke Waggoner, Involuntary Treatment and Crisis System Supervisor, DBHR, HCA