



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

March 19, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: RESCHEDULED - Invitation to Participate in Roundtables and Consultation Meeting on Encounter Rate Reimbursement**

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 invites you to participate in two roundtable discussions and one consultation meeting to provide valuable input on the AIR Determination Process. These sessions are designed to ensure alignment with Tribal needs and to fulfill our consultation obligations under the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy.

**Meeting Details**

- **Roundtable #1:** January 24, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
- **Roundtable #2:** February 14, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
- **RESCHEDULED CONSULTATION MEETING TIME:**
  - April 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

The roundtables will provide an informal and interactive setting to discuss topics related to the AIR Determination Process, while the consultation meeting will allow for more in-depth discussions and formal feedback.

**Background**

The HCA recognizes the importance of establishing a standard process to determine AIR eligibility for services and providers within the tribal health care delivery system. HCA has to date not developed a standard process and has thus far made decisions on AIR applicability on a case-by-case basis. The tribes have voiced a desire to provide input in defining the AIR determination process. HCA agrees it is important to develop a standard process in cooperation with the tribes. These proposed meetings are intended to provide the tribes and HCA a cooperative partnership to develop the AIR determination process in accordance with the unique government-to-government relationship that exists.

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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.

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

Sincerely,



Aren Sparck  
Administrator  
Office of Tribal Affairs

cc: MaryAnne Lindeblad, BSN, MPH, Interim Director, HCA  
Lou McDermott, Deputy Director, EXO, HCA  
Dr. Judy Zerzan-Thul, Medical Director, CQCT, HCA  
Dr. Charissa Fotinos, Medicaid and BH Medical Director, MSA, HCA  
Megan Atkinson, Asst Director, FSHPA, HCA  
Catrina Lucero, Chief Financial Officer, FSD, HCA  
Christine Winn, Deputy Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Lena Nachand, Tribal Liaison, OTA, HCA  
Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, AIHC  
Stephen Kutz, RN, BSN, MPH, Chair, AIHC