



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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September 18, 2024

Re: Informative – Youth Focus Group Testing of Content for Healthy Youth Survey 2025

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals

We are writing to inform that the [Washington State Healthy Youth Survey \(HYS\)](#) Planning Committee will be conducting focus groups this fall to test new questions, changing terminology, and survey updates with youth. In response to Tribal partner guidance, a specific session for Native youth will be held to ensure their voices are heard.

In alignment with [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), HYS Planning Committee is sharing information about this opportunity. The HYS is a collaborative research study conducted by the Department of Health, Health Care Authority, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Liquor and Cannabis Board. It focuses on health risk and protective factors and offers rich information about community and family wellbeing.

In this Native youth focus group, there will be roughly 10 spots available. It will be a 90-minute virtual session. Each student will receive a \$25 digital gift card in thanks for their participation. Youth will not share their personal responses to any survey questions. They will also not be asked to share any Tribal affiliation or identity information at all and can leave at any time without penalty.

We are seeking Native youth from Tribal organizations, youth councils, and other youth groups to participate. Any student with interest must be at least 13 years old at the time of the focus group and the study staff must first speak with their parent or caregiver to receive consent before they can speak with the student. *Please share this announcement with youth-serving organizations in your community.*

We welcome your comments and recommendations. Please contact: HYS Principal Investigator, Dr. Megan Suter, at Healthy.Youth@doh.wa.gov or 564-201-0859 or Candice Wilson, Executive Director of the Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at Candice.Wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett".

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH
Chief Science Officer
Office of Health and Science

CC: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Public Health and Relations, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH