



# WA DOH Monthly Tribal Meeting Listening Session

MARCH 20, 2025



## Overview

### Monthly Tribal Meeting

Previously, during COVID, DOH and other partners participated in the WA HCA's Monthly Tribal Meeting. However, DOH and other agencies have had to minimize our time in that space due to HCA's need to use that time for their critical engagement with Tribes. As such, DOH has been assessing our tribal engagement strategies and on March 10, 2025 we sent out a Collaborative DTLL to seek Tribal guidance in a DOH MTM or other ways we can ensure to create space to regularly engage with Tribes and Tribal partners.



@WaDeptHealth  
@WaHealthSec



March 10, 2025

**Re: Collaborative - Proposing DOH Monthly Tribal Meeting**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration on the development of a WA Department of Health (DOH) Monthly Tribal Meeting (MTM).

Previously, throughout COVID-19, DOH participated in the Health Care Authority's (HCA) standing MTM. We appreciate the time we had to join the HCA Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) and share our updates with you, and we acknowledge their commitment to this important work. However, through transition we know we will need separate time to present DOH's Tribal engagement activities. Therefore, we are seeking your guidance and timely notification to share all of the critical information needed to present to Tribal leaders, delegates, partners, and professionals.

Join us for a listening session on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, following the AIHC Bi-weekly

Date and Time	Zoom Information
Thursday March 20, 2025 10:00am to 11:30am	<a href="#">852 9281 0977</a> Passcode: 406677

For additional information, please contact Amber Arndt, Tribal Policy Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at [amber.arndt@doh.wa.gov](mailto:amber.arndt@doh.wa.gov) or 564-669-1337 or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, OTPHR, at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or 360-819-7626.

Respectfully,

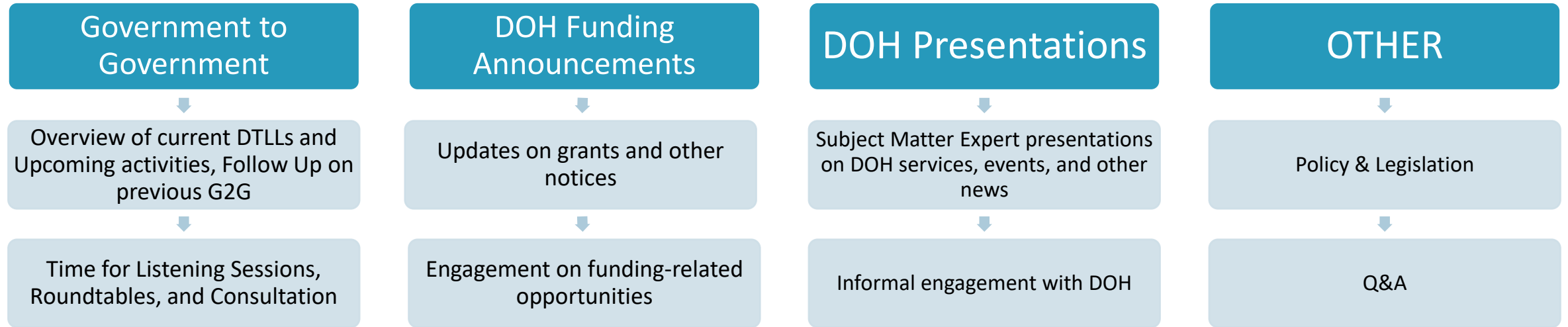
Hy'shqe

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Candice Wilson".

Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut  
Executive Director, OTPHR

cc: Jessica Todorovich, Interim Secretary of Health, WA-DOH  
Wendy Endress, Acting Chief of Staff, WA-DOH  
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH  
Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH

# Proposed Priorities for DOH MTM



What are we missing?



# DOH MTM –POLL

- How are we doing overall on engaging with you?
- How important would a dedicated MTM time be to you?
- Would you like to see the existing HCA MTM increased so we can have DOH MTM on the same day?
- Would you like to see the DOH MTM added to another meeting space?
- Would you prefer no additional time with DOH?



*DOH team at the 2024 Centennial Accord with prior Secretary of Health Dr. Shah*

# DOH MTM –POLL Results- 9 entries

How are we doing overall on engaging with you?

<b>Great</b>	<b>8/9</b>	<b>89%</b>
Not enough	1/9	11%

How important would a dedicated DOH MTM time be to you?

<b>Important</b>	<b>8/9</b>	<b>89%</b>
Not Important	1/9	11%

Would you like to see the existing HCA MTM increased so we can have DOH MTM on the same day?

Yes	3/9	33%
<b>No</b>	<b>6/9</b>	<b>67%</b>

Would you like to see The DOH MTM added to another meeting space?

Yes	2/9	22%
<b>No</b>	<b>7/9</b>	<b>78%</b>

Would you prefer **no additional time** with DOH ?

Yes	1/9	11%
<b>No</b>	<b>8/9</b>	<b>89%</b>

**Follow up question:** With the almost unanimous preference for dedicated MTM time with DOH from the attendees – How much time?

**Answer:** Almost unanimously requested one hour so that it is streamlined, some meetings are unnecessarily long.

# Comments

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- How do we get pulled into DOH meetings with other units to ensure that OTPHR is working with the DOH staff having meetings with tribes in the beginning of the conversation? How do we guide DOH through tribal engagements, what can tribes do to ensure that OTPHR is pulled in in the very beginning of communications?
  - Sharing the postings of the rulemaking postings by DTLL, sharing what the upcoming projects DOH has going on.
  - Launched an internal DOH sharepoint site for easier coordination, training, and support for DOH offices.
  - We have initiated new employee trainings, continuing education trainings, and other resources, guides, toolkits.
- Having Tribal people in leadership roles makes DOH great, would be nice to look for other creative ways to get information out- DTLLs don't always go to the correct people. Have a place where people can go in real time to see the updates. Having another meeting is an added burden. – finding a way to be efficient to share out information. The Medicaid cuts are going to be very hard on everyone and the tribes. – look for all avenues to share information a resource site to remind people to go to to get information in real time. Meetings are good but not a lot of time.
- Need Tribal Leaders in the decisionmaking for this to move forward

## Next Steps

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- We need input from Tribal Leaders/Delegates
  - Tribal engagement through coordinated workgroups TBD
- DOH will develop a proposal for a 1 hour DOH MTM based on listening session poll results; OR
- DOH will continue to coordinate presentations and formal government-to-government in existing meeting spaces as available and appropriate

# Listening Session Attendants

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## 3/20/25 Listening Session Attendants

### Tribal Leaders or Delegates

Michael Christensen - Nisqually Tribe

Desiree White – Skokomish Tribe

Andrew Shogren – Jamestown Sklallam

Liz Henry - Kalispel Healthcare Admin.

Sarah Sullivan – Swinomish Indian Tribe

Tara Olsen – (LNHC) Lummi Nation Healthcare Admin.

Kim Coombs – Shoalwater Bay Tribal

Dr. Frank James – Lummi Nation

### Tribal Organizations or Other Partners

Rebecca Descombes – NPAIHB

Jessica McKee - AIHC

Faith Turk – AIHC



OTPHR



Washington State Department of  
**HEALTH**

[OTPHR@doh.wa.gov](mailto:OTPHR@doh.wa.gov)

Candice Wilson Quatz'tenaut (Lummi)	Jill Edgin	Amber Arndt, MPH (Nisqually)	Rosalinda Fivekiller-Turk, MPA (Cherokee)	Michaela Marshall (Lummi)	Lois Scott
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## Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations

