



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

April 14, 2025

Dear Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals,

### **SUBJECT: Informative - Invitation to Join the 988 Crisis Care Continuum Steering Committee**

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) and the Department of Health (DOH) [Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we hereby seek your participation in the 988 Steering Committee.

#### **Purpose**

On behalf of HCA and DOH, we are pleased to invite you to serve as a member of the 988 Crisis Care Continuum Steering Committee.

Washington State has taken significant steps to strengthen its behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services through the implementation of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which includes the Native & Strong Lifeline. We invite you to be a member of the 988 Steering Committee, which will play a critical role in guiding the strategic and technological direction, oversight, and implementation of this initiative to ensure effective and equitable access to crisis care across the state. We have attached a copy of the 988 Steering Committee Charter for your review.

#### **Member Roles**

Committee members' expertise and insights will be essential in the following areas:

- Sharing information about the project with others in their organization and seeking input to inform discussions.
- Providing feedback and key recommendations to HCA and DOH decision makers on behalf of the Tribe you will represent.

#### **Member Commitments**

- The committee meets monthly, with ad-hoc meetings scheduled as needed for time-sensitive topics as defined by the Project Directors and Sponsors. We do not anticipate your monthly commitment to be more than 3 hours per month, including material review and meeting time.
- You may identify a delegate with authority to speak on your behalf.

### Other Means of Participation

- We are committed to offering multiple ways for you to receive information about topics discussed in the 988 Steering Committee and seeking input from you. Topics discussed in the 988 Steering Committee will also be presented to the Tribal 988 Subcommittee and/or the Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

### Comments and Questions

For interests in serving as a member of the 988 Steering Committee, please contact Amira Caluya, DOH 988 Implementation Specialist, at [amira.caluya@doh.wa.gov](mailto:amira.caluya@doh.wa.gov).

If you have any tribal affairs-related questions please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, HCA, at [aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov](mailto:aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov), or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, DOH Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or (360) 819-7626.

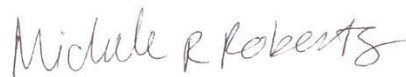
For more information regarding the Committee, please see the draft [Charter](#).

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



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cc: Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Jessica Todorovich, Interim Secretary of Health, WA-DOH  
Wendy Endress, Acting Chief of Staff, WA-DOH  
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