

SECTION G. CONSULTATION WITH TRIBES

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services established our consultation protocols in collaboration with the Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC). IPAC is an advisory committee with representatives from the 29 Federally Recognized Tribes and 6 Recognized American Indian Organizations. Once developed, these protocols were signed by the Governor, Secretary and tribal chairs in June 2006. These protocols are:

Consultation Protocol, Between Department of Social and Health Services, Tribal Governments, Recognized American Indian Organizations (RAIO)

Purpose:

In accordance with the Centennial Accord and Administrative Policy 7.01, the Department maintains a commitment to consultation. Consultation is a formal Government-to-Government meeting, called to provide an opportunity for an exchange of information and opinion prior to a decision.

Consultation may be for the following matters:

- Statewide implications
- Proposed change to policy that has an impact to the Tribes or RAIO
- Fund distribution
- At the request of a tribe
- At the request of IPAC

Consultation will be called at the highest level of the Department:

- Secretary, Deputy Secretary or Assistant Secretary.
- DSHS will send a minimum of two written notifications.
 - The first one within 45-60 days prior to the consultation
 - The second one within 15-30 days prior to the consultation
- DSHS will email IPAC Delegates:
 - Participation notification
 - Follow-up notification
 - Minutes

Round tables and work groups should be used for discussions, problem resolution and preparation for consultation. When matters are resolved by utilizing the round table and work group process, notification of any outcomes to these meetings will be distributed to the affected Administration, IPSS, Tribes and RAIO in accordance to these written directions.

- Roundtable meeting between Tribal/RAIO and State Administrations:
 - These meetings are designed to be with the administrations of the groups in advance to determine the scope of the situation and establish a work plan.

- Workgroup meeting between Tribal/RAIO and State Technical Team:
 - Will provide the opportunity for technical teams from the state and tribes to address any technical challenges or barriers.
 - Work collaboratively on development of technical solutions.

For the development of the Block Grant Submission, the Division of Behavioral Health Recovery (DBHR) office sent our first letter to the tribal leadership on June 7, 2011 announcing two scheduled roundtable meetings, and a consultation meeting on August 10 between the Secretary of the Department and tribal leaders. At the roundtables, leadership from DBHR met with the tribal representatives to explain that for this grant submission, the first year of the grant would be a planning year. The natural conduit for ongoing communications will be the IPAC sub-committee. There is commitment from DBHR to participate in these meetings to further develop and finalize the plan.

Within Washington State, the tribes have been working with the Department on a Tribal Centric Mental Health plan. This endeavor will form the foundation for further development. It is recognized through visits made to the tribal clinics that many of our tribes are providing services to dual eligible populations, and have the essence of a health home for their clients. Given that these are focuses of the future, we expect in our meetings to be learning from the tribes, as well as looking for much needed financial assistance through our block grant.

An area identified in the round table meetings has been concerns about the data. We anticipate further review of this area to capture the necessary information to fulfill our grant requirements, without imposing a duplicative reporting process onto the tribes.

DBHR meets quarterly with Behavioral Health subcommittee of IPAC to discuss and resolve any issues. DBHR is committed to maintaining a strong intergovernmental relationship with the Tribes of Washington State and to the development and delivery of beneficial services to Indian families and individuals in need. DBHR recognizes the critical importance and vital need to work in partnership with Tribes and Urban Indian communities across the state to assure that Native American people have equitable access to behavioral health services and to ensure that the services are culturally sensitive and appropriate.

Tribal representation is integral to ensuring that DBHR is able to meet the needs within tribal communities. The Department of Social and Health Services, Office of Indian Policy (OIP), and the Indian Policy Advisory Council assist DBHR in reaching out to tribal members to be seated on each advisory council.

DBHR is committed to having two tribal representatives (from IPAC and the American Indian Health Commission) as members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council.