

## COMMITTEE REPORT

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### Health Committee

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians  
2025 Winter Convention  
Portland, OR

### DISCUSSION

**Monday, January 27, 2025**

#### Opening

Committee Chair, Aaron Hines (Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation), called the meeting to order at 3:30PM.

Kevin Paul (Swinomish Indian Tribal Community) provided an invocation.

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) Chair Hines welcomed members and guests to the health committee. Following, the committee reviewed and approved the agenda and then transitioned to introductions. Chair Hines explained the process of how resolutions are introduced, passed at committee level, presented to the delegation, and may elevate to the National Congress of American Indians.

#### NPAIHB Legislative and Policy Update

NPAIHB General Counsel, Hilary Edwards (Swinomish Indian Tribal Community), provided a legislative and policy update for the committee. Ms. Edwards started the presentation with addressing the NPAIHB 2025 Administrative and Legislative Priorities. This time focused on the Presidential Transition Priorities letter that will be sent to NPAIHB Member Tribal Chairs for their signature and comment. This draft will be sent out no later than February 3, 2025.

Ms. Edwards highlighted the Executive Orders that had been signed as of Monday, January 27, 2025. Additionally, the dates to the upcoming FY 2026 Appropriations Tribal Witness Days were shared, as well as a CMS SPA update that is requiring States to submit a Medicaid SPA attesting to coverage of IHS/Tribal clinic services outside the 4 walls by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Finally, Ms. Edwards went over the Dear Tribal Leader Letters to highlight upcoming comment deadlines, consultations, and national & regional meetings impacting Tribal healthcare. There was an inquiry into whether the 2025 NPAIHB policy priorities aligned with regional, and national tribal organizations, such as the National Indian Health Board.

#### FY 2027 Budget Formulation

Steven Kutz (Suquamish) provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Formulation. Mr. Kutz summarized the service and demographic area including an example of how other Areas prioritize their budget formulation (specifically how the Northwest Tribes prioritize investing into Purchased/Referred Care). Mr Kutz highlighted the hot issues for the Northwest Tribes which includes: IHS Appropriations, Medicaid and Medicaid Reimbursements, Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder, Community Health Aide Program Expansion, Regional Specialty Referral Center, Staffing, Recruitment and Retention, and Public Health Infrastructure. Committee members had a robust conversation about Mental Health and Substance Use funding and funding sources such as ACF and SAMHSA.

Health Committee Report

The health committee had an opportunity to learn more about, ask questions, and guide those who were interested in future resolutions, specifically focusing on maternal and infant mortality rates

Meeting was adjourned at 5:18PM

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

Opening

Committee Chair, Aaron Hines (Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation), called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.

Chair Hines proceeding with providing an invocation.

Tribal Community Health Provider Project

NPAIHB Staff, Carrie Sampson-Samuels and Stephanie Craig, provided an update on the Tribal Community Health Provider Project (TCHPP). The presentation included highlights on the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) for Northwest Tribes. Additionally, the was an emphasize on the progress that has been made since 2021 with the following programs: Community Health Representative (CHR); Community Health Aide (CHA); and Community Health Practitioner (CHP. A total of 139 students have been trained with an 83% pass rate. 97 students have completed both the core and upskill training since August 2023. In conclusion, NPAIHB staff shared the educational calendar for the 2025-2026 academic school year.

As a guest of TCHPP, Jerry Crowshoe, Washington State University (WSU) Native American Health Sciences staff, reported on the Center for Native American Health providing both facilities and opportunities for traditional medicine to be incorporated into curriculum. Mr. Crowshoe highlighted WSU's Old Ways Program: opportunity learning diversity, wisdom, and yesterday's stories. The Old Ways Program is a learning opportunity designed for health students to build their capacity centered around indigenous and traditional knowledge and increase their understanding of the history of American Indian/Alaska Native people. Mr. Crowshoe gave some examples of the courses available at WSU along with his contact information.

The committee decided to table the discussion on opioids, so a debrief on the most recent executive orders could be provided. The Committee wanted to review the Executive Orders that are negatively impacting Indian Health Service programs and funding. During the presentation, a new development was shared that the White House rescinded the OMB memorandum on the federal grant freeze. The committee then discussed the importance of the need to develop a strategy for this administration's harmful agenda. In conclusion the committee members shared comments for the need to strengthen our Tribal Governments.

**ADOPTED AND RECOMMENDED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Resolution # & **SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING COMMISSIONS ON BOYS AND MEN:**

Motion to move to ATNI General Assembly (Suquamish), seconded (Snoqualmie), and passed unanimously.

Minutes/Report submitted by: Aaron Hines  
Committee Chair