



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service

June 28, 2023

RE: Washington State Department of Health Launching *New*** Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations (OTPHR)**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners,

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite *collaboration* with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people.

In follow-up to the Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) for the *Washington State Department of Health Launching ****New**** Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations (OTPHR)*, dated May 31, 2023, we highlighted a virtual conversation in July, scheduled accordingly:

Virtual Conversation:

Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations (OTPHR)

Thursday, July 20th, 2023 @ 3:00pm – 5:00pm

[Zoom Meeting ID: 861 6164 3904 – Passcode: 773701](#)

We look forward to discussing this new office and the work that we envision for health and well-being as we refocus and realign our steadfast commitment to our government-to-government relationship with sovereign tribal nations, as well as tribal organizations, and tribal health care providers. We are eager to hear from you about how we can best strengthen our partnership with tribal sovereign nations and promote and support tribal public health. Thanks in advance for sharing your insights, comments, and suggestions as we build out the OTPHR.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Peterson – Chief of Policy, at kristin.peterson@doh.wa.gov or 360-507-4367, or Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi) – DOH Tribal Policy Director, at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Umair A. Shah".

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health
Washington

Enclosures

cc: Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Les Becker, Chief of Innovation (OIT), Department of Health
Nate Weed, Chief of Resiliency & Health Security (ORHS), Department of Health
Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett, Chief Science Officer (OHS), Department of Health