



**Member Tribes of  
the Northwest  
Portland Area  
Indian Health  
Board:**

Burns Paiute Tribe  
Chehalis Tribe  
Coeur d'Alene Tribe  
Colville Tribe  
Coos, Siuslaw & Lower  
Umpqua Tribe  
Coquille Tribe  
Cow Creek Tribe  
Cowlitz Tribe  
Grand Ronde Tribe  
Hoh Tribe  
Jamestown S'Klallam  
Tribe  
Kalispel Tribe  
Klamath Tribe  
Kootenai Tribe  
Lower Elwha  
Klallam Tribe  
Lummi Tribe  
Makah Tribe  
Muckleshoot Tribe  
Nez Perce Tribe  
Nisqually Tribe  
Nooksack Tribe  
NW Band of  
Shoshone Tribe  
Port Gamble S'Klallam  
Tribe  
Puyallup Tribe  
Quileute Tribe  
Quinault Tribe  
Samish Indian Nation  
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe  
Shoalwater Bay Tribe  
Shoshone-Bannock  
Tribe  
Siletz Tribe  
Skokomish Tribe  
Snoqualmie Tribe  
Spokane Tribe  
Squaxin Island Tribe  
Stillaguamish Tribe  
Suquamish Tribe  
Swinomish Tribe  
Tulalip Tribe  
Umatilla Tribe  
Upper Skagit Tribe  
Warm Springs Tribe  
Yakama Nation

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June 2023: Northwest  
effort in organizing a  
Summit at Tulalip, Washington – August 22-24, 2023

Tribal organization leading  
National Tribal Opioid

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is organizing a National Tribal Opioid Summit (NTOS), with national and regional partners, at the Tulalip Tribes from August 22-24, 2023, to address the fentanyl crisis in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

Opioids were already a concern in Tribal communities before the pandemic which resulted in NPAIHB's 2019, *Tribal Opioid Response: National Strategic Agenda*. But the pandemic exacerbated the opioid crisis with the spread of synthetic opioids (also known as fentanyl) across the country, and increased overdoses due to the potent nature of fentanyl. Fentanyl is a major threat to our Tribal communities. Tribes have shared that they have had more deaths related to fentanyl than Covid.

“Seeing our community members attend more funerals than birthday parties really hurts. It pains me to see our once thriving relatives caught in a cycle of addiction, hurt, and harm. They don’t deserve this, and not doing something about it is not our way. It’s not our culture,” said Councilman Nickolaus D. Lewis, NPAIHB Chairman.

In response, Councilman Lewis asked the Department of Health and Human Services Region 10 to support a regional fentanyl summit. What became strikingly clear to Councilman Lewis after conversations with Tribal Leaders across Indian Country was that this is a national issue impacting many Tribal communities and that we need a collective response. Councilman Lewis continued with, “Tribes can create the systemic changes to ensure that our people get their needs met – treatment, recovery, safe housing, and other services - and stop these losses. Anything less than this is unacceptable.”

This Summit will be a large working meeting with plenaries and breakout sessions structured to gather input from Tribal leaders, community members, front line providers and responders. The first day of the Summit will include discussions on fentanyl issues within communities, and the second day will highlight Tribal solutions. The third day promises to produce Tribally-led policy recommendations to federal

and state officials. About the ambitious agenda, Chair Lewis added, “I know we can do this, we are always stronger together.”

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB), the National Congress of American Indians, Native American Indian Housing Council, the Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC), and many others Regional, State and Tribal partners will join us for the Summit.

Two Tribal Leader statements highlight the importance of the Summit --

"As the national organization serving all 574 federally recognized tribes in the space of health, the National Indian Health Board is pleased to partner with our member organization in hosting a conference to bring national attention to the fentanyl crisis in Indian Country. American Indians and Alaska Natives are dying from fentanyl overdoses at a rate 30% higher than any other group in the United States, and this must not continue. This collaboration will elevate awareness, explore culturally informed healing and recovery successes, and develop a policy path forward. We must heal as Tribal Nations. We must heal as communities and individuals - together." – **Chief William Smith (Valdez Native Tribe) NIHB Chairperson & Alaska Area Representative.**

“The 2023 National Tribal Opioid Summit will provide a valuable opportunity for tribal leaders to gather to address the impacts that opioids are having in our communities. It will take all of us working together and calling on our culture to create the prevention and intervention plans needed to protect and uplift our tribal members and communities. Together we can – and must – elevate the dialogue to combat the opioid crisis in Indian Country.” – **Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community.**

Together we can stop this traumatic event and find solutions to address this crisis nationally, regionally, and within our communities. To support the Summit, please get in touch with Danica Brown, NPAlHB Behavioral Health Director, at [SUMMIT@NPAlHB.org](mailto:SUMMIT@NPAlHB.org). Registration is open at <https://www.npaihb.org/national-tribal-opioid-summit/>

*About the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAlHB):* NPAlHB is a non-profit tribal organization (Public Law 93-638) serving the 43 federally recognized tribes of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Established in 1972, the NPAlHB strives to eliminate health disparities and improve the quality of life of American Indians and Alaska Natives by supporting Northwest Tribes in their delivery of culturally appropriate, high-quality healthcare. NPAlHB houses the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, and operates several health promotion and disease prevention projects, and is active in national and state Indian health policy.