



AGENDA

Sunday, September 7, 2025

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Conference Registration Opens

Monday, September 8, 2025

No cost sessions

8:00 AM – 5:30 PM Registration Opens Akimel Foyer

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM Exhibit Hall Move-In Komatke Ballroom

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Pre-Conference Sessions

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM *National Tribal Behavioral Health Listening Session* Akimel 1/2

The National Tribal Behavioral Health Listening Session will provide an opportunity for Tribal leaders to meet with federal officials from the IHS Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to discuss Tribal-specific mental health and substance use service and to explore means for increasing access to the provision of quality behavioral healthcare in Indian Country. Additionally, this session will provide a forum for Tribal leaders to discuss Tribal Behavioral Health priorities. As a part of this Listening Session, the SAMHSA, the IHS DBH, and the VA invite participants to share input, recommendations, or ask questions.

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM *The Power of Partnership: Disaster Preparedness Plans & Indigenous Food Security* Bird/Roadrunner

Empowering Tribal communities to lead their own emergency preparedness and food sovereignty efforts begins with strong, respectful partnerships. This hands-on workshop, led by *Partnerships With Native Americans (PWNA)*, invites frontline professionals to explore how collaborative strategies are transforming disaster response and food systems across Indian Country.

Through real-world success stories and interactive dialogue, participants will examine how Tribal, public-private, and national-local partnerships are building resilience and advancing Indigenous-led solutions. The session will also introduce the use of artificial intelligence as a tool to support environmental assessments and readiness planning in Tribal contexts.

Aligned with the CDC’s Response Readiness Framework and grounded in best practices for Tribal relationship building, this workshop will help participants identify actionable opportunities to co-create sustainable, culturally informed preparedness plans. Whether you’re deepening existing partnerships or forging new ones, you’ll leave with tools and inspiration to support Tribal sovereignty and community resilience.

Kayleen Wilson,,Long Term Solutions Director-Southwest Division (PWNA)

Joshua Arce, J.D., President/CEO (PWNA)

8:30 – 12:00 PM *Data Modernization & Surveillance Institute – Morning Session* Deer/Scorpion

Join NIHB and our partners to learn about the various, comprehensive, and complimentary efforts being undertaken to strengthen data systems for Tribal public health across Indian Country. Speakers will share examples of initiatives

aimed at improving data sovereignty, increasing Tribal data access, and supporting improved data-sharing partnerships.

During the morning session, national organizations, including the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH), and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), will showcase their efforts to strengthen Tribal capacity to engage in electronic case reporting (eCR) and syndromic surveillance. Attendees will engage with legal professionals from CAOC Consulting, LLC in interactive activities and discussions to strengthen their own understanding of the legal aspects of Tribal data modernization. Attendees will also receive information and updates on the development of the Tribal Data Modernization Implementation Center (TDMIC) and hear success stories from Tribal health organizations engaged in various data-focused efforts.

During the afternoon session, attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and Chickasaw Health Consulting on the development of the TDMIC through a round-table-style engagement session. Attendees will then engage in an interactive session on a newly developed data sharing agreement model developed by the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and Kaplan Kirsch.

8:30am – 12:00pm **Medicare and Medicaid Institute**

Kave 2

CMS Tribal Program and Policy Overview

Presenter: Dr. Susan Karol, Acting Director, Division of Tribal Affairs, CMS

This session will provide an overview of most recent updates on CMS Tribal program and policy. This will include pertinent information on ways to increase Medicaid, CHIP, Marketplace and Medicare enrollment of American Indian/Alaska Natives and reimbursement for Indian Health Care Providers. The workshop will highlight specific provisions for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Best Practices by State Medicaid Tribal Liaisons

Presenters: Barbara Prehmus, Native American Contact Technical Director, Division of Program Operations, CMS
Stacey Steiner, Native American Contact, Division of Program Operations, CMS

This session will provide an overview of best practices used by state Medicaid Tribal Liaisons as they focus on building relationships with Tribal provider staff. This session will include an overview of best practices focused on CMS' Tribal Protections in Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Oversight Toolkit and a panel discussion highlighting some specific state Tribal liaison positive outcomes resulting from effective communication with Tribal provider staff.

CMS Traditional Healing Practices Overview

Presenter: Dr. Susan Karol, Acting Director, Division of Tribal Affairs, CMS

This presentation will give an overview and background of traditional healing practices, the 4 approved 1115 (a) demonstrations from the states of Arizona, Oregon, California, and New Mexico along with the evaluation and measurement processes and development of an 1115(a) Traditional Health Care Practices application for future waiver development at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM **Indian Health Service (IHS) Listening Session**

Akimel 1/2

This session will allow Tribal leaders to meet with the IHS officials to discuss health policy and program management issues related to the provision of health services to Indian Country. IHS will provide updates on recent consultation and confer activities. As part of this Listening Session, IHS invites the audience to share input, recommendations, or ask questions.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lunch - Available for purchase onsite**

1r & Grand Staircase

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Pre-Conference Sessions**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM **Data Modernization & Surveillance Institute – Afternoon**
Session: Tribal Data Modernization Implementation Center
Engagement Session

Deer/Scorpion

Join NIHB and our partners to learn about the various, comprehensive, and complimentary efforts being undertaken to strengthen data systems for Tribal public health across Indian Country. Speakers will share examples of initiatives aimed at improving data sovereignty, increasing Tribal data access, and supporting improved data-sharing partnerships.

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1:00 PM – 4:00 PM **Strategic Storytelling: Media, Messaging, and Design for Tribal Health Advocacy**

Kave 3

In Indian Country, our stories are sacred—and when told strategically, they are powerful tools for advancing health, sovereignty, and justice. This pre-conference session will equip Tribal leaders, health advocates, and communications professionals with practical strategies for making their messages resonate. Over the course of three engaging hours, participants will explore how to align storytelling with organizational goals, strengthen relationships with the media, and use design and branding in ways that honor culture and uplift community voices. This session features an interactive workshop, expert-led panels, and space to share, learn, and connect.

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Tribal MMRC Planning and Hear Her Community Sharing Institute (Invitation Only)**

Kave 2

This shared space brings together two Tribal-led efforts to improve maternal health. Tribal MMRC leaders will focus on planning next steps for Tribal Maternal Mortality Review work. Hear Her awardees will share their community-driven campaigns that uplift Native voices and promote culturally grounded maternal health messaging. This session is invitation-only. Please contact cbellon@nihb.org with any questions.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Listening Session**

Akimel 1/2

The CMS Listening Session will offer an opportunity for CMS leadership to share updates and information about CMS initiatives such as tribal implications of the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBBA) enacted on July 4th, 2025, implementation of the 1115 demonstration proposals for traditional healthcare practices, HHS/CMS Reorganization plans, CMS' American Indian Alaska Native Quality Improvement Organization Project and other efforts for IHS and Tribal hospitals and facilities. Participants will be able to raise issues and ask questions related to CMS Tribal concerns.

4:00 – 6:00 PM **American Cancer Society Movie Screening: Real Lives: Cancer Stories of Indigenous People documentary**

Bird/Roadrunner

The American Cancer Society is proud to support Indigenous communities in addressing cancer disparities and advancing health equity. Indigenous peoples—including American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander populations—continue to face significantly higher cancer mortality rates compared to White populations,

especially for kidney, liver, stomach, and cervical cancers (ACS 2025 Cancer Facts & Figures). Through partnerships focused on education, early detection, and culturally respectful care, we work to ensure Indigenous voices are central in shaping cancer prevention and treatment efforts.

Our new documentary series, *Real Lives: Cancer Stories of Indigenous People*, amplifies the powerful journeys of Indigenous individuals, caregivers, and communities. The series explores the social, economic, and geographic barriers they face—and highlights their leadership, resilience, and advocacy in the fight against cancer. Watch to learn more, share to raise awareness, and stand with us in honoring Indigenous voices and building a healthier, stronger future for all.

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Indigenous Data Sovereignty Policy and Implementation Guidance Related to the NIH American Indian Alaska Native Institutional Review Board Protocol (IRB)** Akimel 1/2

NIH will conduct a Tribal listening session to receive input from Tribal leaders about the implementation process of an NIH internal policy regarding intramural research projects involving Tribes and AIAN communities. NIH supports both intramural research and extramural research. Intramural research is conducted by NIH employed researchers situated at the various NIH facilities throughout the United States. Extramural research is conducted by independent researchers at independent institutions or organizations, who have submitted a meritoriously reviewed NIH grant application and received NIH funding. NIH recently implemented an internal policy in which intramural research projects involving AIAN populations will receive pre-proposal review and guidance from the NIH Tribal Health Research Office (THRO), prior to review by an NIH AIAN focused IRB. During this Tribal listening session, NIH would like guidance from Tribal leaders, research review and/or IRB committee members, as well as Tribal health researchers regarding implementation approaches and recommendations for NIH intramural investigators to properly fulfill the AI/AN IRB policy and to ensure alignment with Tribal research codes and laws as applicable.

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM **Exhibit Hall Grand Opening, Welcome, and SDPI Poster Session** Komatke Foyer

6:00 – Join us for appetizers and performance

6:30 – Welcome from NIHB and Local Host

Join us as we kick off the 2025 National Tribal Health Conference with a powerful opening celebration. The event begins with a cultural performance from a local dance group, followed by a warm welcome from the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB).

Then, explore the SDPI Poster Session, showcasing the outstanding work of Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) grantees from across Indian Country. This annual poster session highlights the innovative, community-driven strategies being used to improve health outcomes and strengthen Tribal wellness.

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Administration for Children and Families Tribal Consultation** Akimel 1/2

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) and the Children’s Bureau (CB) within the Administration for Children and Families recognize the central role Tribal Nations play in the care and protection of children and families. To advance our collaborative efforts, we extend an invitation to participate in formal tribal consultation on the Supporting America’s Children and Families Act (Public Law 118-258), which reauthorizes Title IV-B of the Social Security Act (Act). The consultation is about the changes to Title IV-B of the Act and how they may impact Tribes and will primarily focus on four topics in the new law: implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act, Title IV-B funding for child welfare agencies, the Court Improvement Program and remote hearings, and the Prevention Services Clearinghouse. The ACYF and CB value your perspectives and experiences, which are crucial as we work together to implement the

Act. The consultation is intended to create a meaningful opportunity for dialogue that enhances the effectiveness of child welfare services for Tribal Nations and the people they serve.

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 *Registration required*

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM | Registration Opens | | Akimel Foyer |
| 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Exhibit Hall Open | <i>*Open to the public</i> | Komatke Ballroom |
| 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Elders Lounge Open | | Gila Monster |

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Opening Plenary Session: “Honoring Our Roots”** **Akimel 3/4**

This plenary sets the tone by grounding the conference in the history, resilience, and cultural strength of Tribal Nations. It celebrates the traditions and leaders who have guided Tribal health advocacy, reminding us that the wisdom of our ancestors continues to shape our path today. Sessions include fireside conversations with Tribal elders reflecting on the early days of advocacy, intergenerational storytelling that brings youth and elders together, and cultural presentations showcasing traditional healing practices and their relevance in modern health.

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **Lunch - Available for purchase onsite** **oyer & Grand Staircase**

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 1 – 75 min)

Walking Together Toward Precision: Creating Pathways for Indigenous Students in Precision Medicine **Bird/Roadrunner**

This session will bring together leading voices from health research, medicine, and public health across Indian Country to explore innovative strategies for empowering the next generation of Native professionals in precision medicine and health research. Through collaborative dialogue and shared experiences, this talking circle will discuss systemic challenges, highlight successful programs, and identify actionable steps to strengthen educational and career pathways for Native youth.

Shelly Dreadfulwater (Cherokee Nation), Director of Chapter Engagement, American Indians in Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Advancing Tribal Data Sovereignty: A Blueprint for State-TEC Data Sharing in Michigan **Deer/Scorpion**

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) has partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to improve Tribal data access. In February of 2025, they signed a Master Data Use Agreement, creating a flexible framework for sharing datasets through individual use cases. Vital records and immunization data use cases are complete, with more in progress. This model, presented at the March 19 Tribal/MDHHS Summit, serves as a blueprint for future Tribal agreements. This marks a key step toward Tribal data sovereignty, and GLITEC remains committed to supporting Tribes in accessing and managing their public health data.

Will Funmaker (Ho-Chunk Nation), Director, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Lorna Elliott-Egan, Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Tribal Government Services and Policy

**Indigenous Peer Support Specialist Train-the-Trainer
Manual-Embracing Culturally Responsive Recovery**

Akimel 1

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the Indigenous Peer Support Specialist Train-the-Trainer Manual (IPSSTTM), highlighting its role in addressing the mental and behavioral health crises intensified by COVID-19 within Indigenous communities. Participants will engage with the cyclical Indigenous Cycles of Healing and Recovery Model and explore its contrasts to traditional Western recovery models. Emphasis will be placed on building local capacity through peer support training, integrating Indigenous cultural practices, and ensuring the sustainability of mental health initiatives.

Norman Coeeyate (Zuni Pueblo), Associate Director, Lecturer II - UNM SOM DFCM, UNM HSC Center for Native American Health

Dr. Marcello Maviglia (Navajo), Clinical Professor - UNM SOM DFCM, Scientific Advisor, HSC Center for Native American Health

Donald Hume, Peer Support Supervisor, Presbyterian Healthcare Services

**CHR Integration - Building Teams Together: A 5-step guide
to integrate Community Health Representatives into care
coordination**

Akimel 2

This interactive workshop will cover the essentials of CHR integration into care coordination, sharing a step-by-step process and specialized toolkit that CHRs and their health system champions can use to assess and improve high-value team-based care. Learn the evidence supporting CHR integration into care coordination, what it looks like in real settings, and why it is valuable. Participants will practice with reflection questions and activities to identify gaps and opportunities around CHR integration. Leave with new ideas, useful templates, tips and resources for improving care coordination in your health system!

Louisa O'Meara, Research Coordinator Sr., Northern Arizona University - Center for Community Health and Engaged Research

Amanda Whitesinger (Navajo), CHR Program Manager, Gila River Healthcare

Brook Bender (Hualapai), Senior Services Director, Hualapai Tribe Senior Services

Strategic Public Financing for Native Children and Youth

Kave 1

This breakout session will highlight barriers that Native communities face in accessing and utilizing federal funding and provide strategic public financing strategies to address these barriers and increase funding to Native communities.

Joshua Franks (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), Director, Native Children and Youth Funding, Children's Funding Project

**Strengthening Policy in Tribal Communities by Advancing
Youth Advocacy and Leadership Development**

Kave 2

During this session, we will explore techniques our team has developed to support Native youth advocacy, leadership and policy development. Participants will learn how we prepare youth for leadership roles through hands-on civic engagement, participation in the legislative process, and building policy and advocacy skills. We will share examples of interactive activities co-developed with youth that center cultural identity and community connection. This session includes hands-on opportunities to experience tools like storytelling and mini policy workshops that strengthen youth voice.

Ravena Soto (Enterprise Rancheria Maidu Tribe), Project Director, ETR, Tribal Community Coordinating Center
Rachel Reif (Te-Moak Band of Western Shoshone Indians), Project Coordinator, ETR, Tribal Community Coordinating Center
Annalisa Cortez (Tule River Band of Yokuts Indians), Project Assistant, ETR, Tribal Community Coordinating Center

Nourishing Traditions: Case Studies from California on Using Food as Good Medicine

Kave 3

This session highlights the co-developed nutrition education resources created through the CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) Tribal Expansion Project and Tribal Ambassadors Committee. The materials include a My California Native Plate, California Traditional Tea Guide, Plant ID Guide, ten (10) recipe cards, and a Traditional Roots Cookbook. All materials were co-developed to honor California Indigenous foodways while supporting public health goals. Panelists will discuss their development process, successes, and how other Tribal communities can request or replicate these culturally relevant tools. Additionally, join us for our “Food is Good Medicine,” a workshop rooted in culture, connection, and community. We’ll share the story behind our program, the history of the Potawat Community Food Garden, and how we’ve grown it into a space that nourishes more than just the body. You’ll learn about the values that guide our work and the best practices we use to promote health and wellness for our Native families along the coast. This is more than a community garden, it’s about healing, tradition, and growing together toward a healthier future.

Jude Marshall, United Indian Health Services, Inc.
Edward Mata, United Indian Health Services, Inc.
Jesse Tedrick, Public Health Institute Center for Wellness and Nutrition
Kristian Orihuela, Public Health Institute Center for Wellness and Nutrition
Karen Waukazoo, Friendship House Association of American Indians

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 2 – 45 min)

Community Health Representative (CHR) approaches and innovations for community health and wellbeing.

Bird/Roadrunner

Key findings from the national What Works Toolkit Series will be shared, including guiding principles of 1) “what works” in CHR approaches and 2) CHR-led innovation serving Native American and Alaska Native (NA/AN) community members. The presentation will share case examples to highlight diverse approaches across urban and rural communities, and review principles to guide partners (including funders, public health and healthcare organizations, CBOs, and others) to partner with CHRs, draw on “what works,” and identify innovative approaches for promoting health among NA/AN community members. Through facilitated discussion, participants will engage in dialogue around the principles of “what works” and explore how to integrate these principles into their work.

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Neena Schultz, Applied Research for Health Equity Senior Manager, National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW)
Mae Gilene Begay (Navajo Nation), Northern Arizona University
Ramona Dillard, Director, Pueblo of Laguna
Iris Reano, Board Member, National Association of Community Health Workers

Using Medicaid and Marketplace Enrollment Data to Tell Stories

Deer/Scorpion

Come learn about recent data on IHS users enrolled in Medicaid, enrollment in the ACA Marketplace, and the potential impacts of the removal of ACA enhanced subsidies. We will introduce some data and discuss what story the data tells.

Kristen Bitsuie (Navajo), Tribal Health Care Outreach and Education Policy Manager, National Indian Health Board

Jeannie Le, Tribal Health Data Project Analyst, National Indian Health Board

Rochelle Ruffer, PhD, Tribal Health Data Project Director, National Indian Health Board

Action Steps for Tribal Programs in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Akimel 1

This session will provide an overview of artificial intelligence (AI) and present recommendations to assist urban and rural Tribal communities in navigating the impact and potential use of artificial intelligence in public health services and healthcare delivery. Drawing on data from a 2024 survey conducted by the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) with Tribal leaders, Elders and Native professionals, the session will share findings that include beliefs, attitudes, and experiences with AI. Grounded in the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, UIHI has developed recommendations that can be used to create AI data sovereignty policies tailored to individual communities.

Emily Vega (Chumash/Tohono O'odham), Program Manager, Urban Indian Health Institute
Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), Executive Vice President, Seattle Indian Health Board

Sihasin: The Fort Defiance integrated suicide prevention system for prevention, intervention and pos

Akimel 2

Participants in this workshop will become familiar with the Fort Defiance suicide prevention system. Presenters will share 15 years of suicide prevention successes, challenges, limitations, and processes. Sample documents, training menus, evidenced based curriculums will be available as resources. We will show current and past media campaigns. Participants will have time to engage in meaningful discussion around their own community's suicide prevention systems and identify what they can explore adding.

Andy Deal, (Navajo (Dine)), Health Promotion Disease Prevention Coordinator, FDIHB, Inc. - Tsehootsooi Medical Center

Alvin Dahozy, (Navajo (Dine)), Community Health Worker, FDIHB, Inc. - Tsehootsooi Medical Center

Janet Deschinny, (Navajo (Dine)), Prevention Specialist, FDIHB, Inc. - Tsehootsooi Medical Center

Okla Achukmaka "Healthy Nation" - Use of Disease Surveillance within a Tribal Nation

Kave 1

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Department of Public Health launched the Nation's first disease surveillance program in 2023. Utilizing a multi-sector approach to disease prevention, CNO Public Health utilizes disease surveillance to improve risk awareness and disease prevention in a variety of sectors across the Choctaw Nation. CNO Epidemiologist, Mason Emert, explains how the Nation launched disease surveillance services, utilizes surveillance data to guide health programming, and works across divisions outside of traditional public health to protect the public health interests of the Choctaw Nation Reservation. Discussions surround the launch of disease surveillance, obtaining quality

data, program development, and it's use to drive response efforts in a large tribal healthcare system.

Mason Emert, Epidemiologist, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

State-Level Policy & Advocacy

Kave 2

This workshop will discuss the benefits and strategies of Tribal-State engagement. Although States do not directly provide for the trust and treaty obligations to Tribes, they administer a variety of federal programs which do fulfill the trust and treaty obligations and which require Tribal consultation. Each State is different and engages differently with Tribes. However, there are some common strategies Tribal Nations can use to engage with States to improve outcomes for Tribal citizens and better meet the trust and treaty obligations. This workshop will provide some case studies and potential future policy issue identification for Tribal leaders and Tribal policy staff.

Winn Davis, Congressional Relations Director/Interim Federal Relations Director,
National Indian Health Board

Sarah Sullivan, Health Policy Director, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Ted Madsen, Policy Analyst, Southcentral Foundation

Providing Healthcare Equity Through a Mobile Integrated Health Program: A Transformative, Culturally

Kave 3

This session will explore the operational framework, key partnerships, and implementation tools that make the program both scalable and sustainable. We aim to have participants leave the session with actionable first steps toward developing their own successful MIH program. With a strong focus on cultural responsiveness, workforce development, and leveraging reimbursement pathways beyond grant funding, the MIH model exemplifies how Tribal nations can lead healthcare transformation through Indigenous-informed care delivery. Join us to discover how this innovative approach is reshaping health outcomes and strengthening community resilience.

Kyle Luginbyhl, MIH Program Manager, Gila River Healthcare

Alfreda Wise (Gila River Healthcare), Community Health Representative, Gila River Healthcare

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 3 – 75 min)

Transforming our Health System to Help our People: A Journey to Accessing 340B

Deer/Scorpion

4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

Join us for a dynamic and solution-focused session where we'll walk you through how the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and Osage Nation successfully increased revenue while improving patient outcomes for their people. You'll gain a deep understanding of how to go from application to full implementation, along with practical tools and advice for navigating the challenges that can arise along the way. Through compelling case studies and firsthand insights, you'll learn how Tribal communities are leveraging the 340B program not just to survive—but to thrive.

This session will also spotlight the powerful impact of converting an employee health clinic into a fully functioning Tribal Health clinic/pharmacy operating under an ISDEAA agreement with sustainable, revenue-generating assets.

Sooner Davenport (Apache Tribe of Oklahoma), Manager, Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System

Dr. Marty Lofgren, Medical Director, Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System

Chris Larkin, Health Executive Director, Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System

Mark Rogers, CEO, Osage Nation Health Services

Invisible No More: Addressing Racial Misclassification of

Akimel 1

AIAN People in Public Health Reporting

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) populations are often misclassified in public health data, leading to underreported or misleading health statistics that impact decision-making, policies and access to equitable resources. This interactive workshop will help public health practitioners and community health advocates to identify and address race misclassification in public health reports and databases. Participants will gain practical skills to meet AIAN public health reporting challenges by learning to use the CDC Wonder Query system to access more inclusive AIAN health data. Examples of AIAN-centered data dashboards on the topics of diabetes, maternal health, and opioid overdose will also be demonstrated.

Andrea Cantarero, Epidemiologist II, CDC Foundation

Antoinette Medina (Gabrielino Tongva Nation), Program Manager, California Rural Indian Health Board

Ashley Mozetti, Project Coordinator, California Rural Indian Health Board

Sneha Jaiswal, Epidemiologist, California Rural Indian Health Board

Shaping How Systems Hear Us: Native-Led Messaging and Public Health Advocacy Across Indian Country

Akimel 2

This interactive workshop will guide Tribal and Urban Indian partners in designing inclusive public health advocacy campaigns that uplift Native voices and advance policy rooted in community priorities. Participants will explore how to pair data with story, build cross-sector coalitions, and root messaging in strength, healing, and cultural knowledge. The session will also introduce strategies for communicating effectively across systems — bridging community priorities with broader policy values — while remaining grounded in Tribal and Urban Indian leadership. Attendees will leave with practical tools to shape their message, pitch their campaign, and advocate with confidence and integrity.

Nanette Star (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), Director of Policy and Planning, California Consortium for Urban Indian Health

Allegra Simmons (Confederated Tribes of Grande Rhond), Public Health Coordinator, California Consortium for Urban Indian Health

The Wassaja Center's Alternative Credentials Program in Health Professions

Kave 1

The Wassaja Center's Alternative Credentials Program (ACP) will significantly increase the number of Native American (NA) individuals employed in healthcare related fields on Tribal lands. This innovative and Tribally led approach is the first of its kind to foster professionals that are highly trained in their field while simultaneously remaining culturally competent regarding the unique issues and needs facing Tribal communities. This program has been developed by the Wassaja Center in collaboration with its Tribal Advisory Board, a unique partnership that ensures Tribal voices are centering the work we do, and that all aspects of

our Center are Indigenous led. The Wassaja Center's ACP will be Tribally led using reciprocal communication with Tribal leaders.

Christina Andrews (Tohono O'odham Nation), Executive Director, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona Wassaja Carlos Montezuma Center for Native American Health

Indigenous Public Health Approach to Disabilities

Kave 2

The Indigenous Public Health Approach to Disabilities session will focus on improving outcomes for Native peoples with disabilities through an "Indigenized" approach modeling how culturally relevant, community-based interventions in educational infrastructure, workforce systems and health policy create resilient Tribal communities. The University of South Dakota Oyáte Circle and the University of Arizona Circle of Indigenous Empowerment (CIE) at the Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities as University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) are liaisons between academia and 31 Tribal Nations. This interactive session will cover historical and contemporary efforts to address the high rates of disabilities due to inequitable access to healthcare and services.

Agnes Attakai (Navajo), Program Manager, Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities - UAZ College of Medicine

Jim E. Warne (Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation), Community Engagement Director, University of South Dakota, Center for Disabilities Oyáte Circle

Strengthening Tribal Public Health Organizations: A Toolkit to Establish AI/AN Youth Advisory Groups

Kave 3

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth need leadership opportunities that shape community health for the next seven generations. In 2020, a community-based participatory research project convened a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to provide AI/AN youth opportunities that positively contribute to public health and policy initiatives directly impacting their communities. Attendees will explore a new youth-developed toolkit designed to help Tribal public health organizations create and sustain youth advisory groups. This interactive session features youth-led breakout activities, poll questions, and firsthand insights from YAC members and organizers. Free, physical copies of the toolkit will be provided to refer to during the session and to take home for practical implementation.

Joseph Rodriguez (Luiseño, Haliwa-Saponi), Research Assistant, Southern California American Indian Health Center

Chase Kornacki (Navajo), Project Coordinator, Southern California American Indian Health Center

Justin Rodriguez (Luiseño, Haliwa-Saponi), Youth Advisory Council Member, Southern California American Indian Health Center

Melanie Estrella, Southern California American Indian Health Center

Ethan Wolfe, Youth Advisory Council Member, Southern California American Indian Health Center

Cedar Schaeffer, Youth Advisory Council Member, Southern California American Indian Health Center

Christine Frazier, Youth Advisory Council Member, Southern California American Indian Health Center

Join Arizona Tribal Leaders for a very special “Cultural Night” during the NIHB National Tribal Health Conference

- Enjoy an exciting cultural evening with traditional singers and dancers from Tribe across Arizona
- Light refreshments and appetizers will be served

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Registration required

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM | Fitness Event - Yoga Class | | Quail |
| | A beautiful way to start your day. This class is suitable for all fitness levels and incorporates subtle yoga postures with breathing exercises to increase flexibility and emotional well-being. | | |
| 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM | Registration Opens | | Akimel Foyer |
| 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Exhibit Hall Open | <i>*Open to the public</i> | Komatke Ballroom |
| 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Elders Lounge Open | | Gila Monster |

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|---------------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Middle Plenary Session: “Building Strong Systems for Sovereignty and Sustainability” | | Akimel 3/4 |
|---------------------------|---|--|-------------------|

The midweek plenary highlights the pressing work of strengthening Tribal health systems to ensure self-determination and long-term sustainability. Leaders and partners will explore opportunities to address systemic challenges, build capacity, and create innovative solutions that reinforce sovereignty and advance health equity across Indian Country. Sessions feature policy roundtables on Medicaid reform and IHS funding, case studies on building Tribal public health infrastructure and workforce development, and explorations of how climate change, food systems, and environmental health impact long-term sustainability.

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|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Lunch - Available for purchase onsite | | or Grand Staircase |
|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 4 – 75 min)

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM | Opportunities available under the Affordable Care Act/Indian Health Care Improvement Act (ACA/IHCIA) | Bird/Roadrunner |
| | <p>This session is targeted for those who would like to learn more about the programs and opportunities available to Tribes under the ACA/IHCIA. Panelists will cover the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act that affect the Indian health system and their current status, opportunities to increase health care revenues, with a focus on Medicare, Medicaid and Marketplace enrollment to assist Tribes/Tribal organization in implementation of the ACA/IHCIA.</p> <p>Cyndi Ferguson, Policy Analyst, SENSE Incorporated Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker Winn Davis, Congressional Relations Director, National Indian Health Board</p> | |
| | Contributing to the World Health Organization’s Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous People: Brought to you by the Indigenous Determinants of Health Alliance (IDHA) | Deer/Scorpion |

This 75-minute interactive workshop invites Tribal leaders and advocates from across Indian Country to directly shape the global conversation on Indigenous health. In May 2023, the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted Resolution 76.16, “The Health of Indigenous Peoples.” As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) is now developing its first-ever Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples. This session provides a unique opportunity for American Indian and Alaska Native leaders to ensure their voices, priorities, and experiences are reflected in this historic document.

Participants will be guided through three critical components of the draft Plan of Action:

1. Guiding Principles – Are the values and rights that ground the plan sufficient? What additions or changes are needed to ensure they reflect Indigenous worldviews, sovereignty, and self-determination?
2. Action Areas – Do the areas identified by WHO capture the full scope of what is required to advance Indigenous health? What priorities should be elevated, added, or reframed to strengthen the plan?
3. Responsibilities of Key Actors – What should Member States, WHO, Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations (IPOs), civil society, and the private sector be doing to advance the health and rights of Indigenous Peoples in culturally safe and rights-based ways?

Through open dialogue, commentary, and collective feedback, Tribal leaders will help refine and strengthen the draft Plan of Action. The input from this workshop will be synthesized and delivered directly to WHO as part of the global dialogue process.

This session is both a listening space and a platform for leadership. By bringing forward the perspectives of AI/AN communities, we can ensure that the Global Plan of Action is not only inclusive, but also firmly rooted in Indigenous rights, cultures, and knowledge systems

Dr. Allison Kelliher, Indigenous Determinants of Health Alliance (IDHA) & Snow Creek Medicine

Ashley Hesse, Indigenous Pact

Indigenous Approach to Mental Wellness Creating Access to Care

Akimel 1

This workshop empowers Tribal leaders and health professionals to develop or enhance culturally rooted mental health and wellness programs within their organizations. Grounded in Indigenous values and frameworks, participants will explore sustainable, innovative approaches that prioritize community well-being, cultural integrity, and systemic healing. Real-world examples and adaptive strategies will equip attendees to build inclusive, responsive programs that uplift both employees and the communities they serve.

Kylee Jones, Clinical Director/ Psychotherapist, Indigenous Circle of Wellness

Monique Castro (Dine (Navajo)), CEO/ Founder/ Psychotherapist, Indigenous Circle of Wellness

Strengthening public health infrastructure for brain health with the HBI Road Map for AI/AN Peoples

Akimel 2

The HBI Road Map for AI/AN Peoples offers actions to improve outcomes as they relate to public health and brain health across the life course by embracing these strengths common among many AI/AN communities. HBI Road Map Champions have received funding to implement actions from the Road Map. Session attendees will gain an understanding of the Road Map, learn about Champions’ work, and then spend time utilizing implementation tools to discuss key questions around using the HBI Road Map for AI/AN Peoples in

communities. This will be an opportunity for learning, collaboration, and action planning to address the growing concerns of dementia by leaning into the strengths of tribal communities through their cultures, leaders, and infrastructure.

Eva Jackson, Associate Director of the Healthy Brain Initiative, Alzheimer's Association
Ashley Littlewolf (Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe), Project Manager, North Dakota State University

Lanessa Baker (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), Public Health Associate Officer, Seattle Indian Health Board

Jamie Ishcomer-Aazami (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), Ishcomer Consulting

Ron Eppes, Director of Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease Projects, International Association for Indigenous Aging

Puppets with a Purpose: Health Promotion and Evaluation Education through Community Puppetry

Kave 1

This interactive presentation introduces an innovative, arts-based approach to health promotion and program evaluation training by integrating community puppetry with public health expertise. Designed to engage both practitioners and educators, the session demonstrates how puppets can facilitate dialogue, simplify complex evaluation concepts, and foster inclusive learning environments, especially in community-based settings.

Jennell Clark (Navajo), Practice Administrator, Salt River Pima - Maricopa Indian Community
Nancy Mangieri, Chief Public Health Officer, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Alison Cantley, Program Evaluator, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Tribal Epidemiology Center

Haley Bodmer, Disease Investigator, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian

Investment & Innovation: How a rural tribal community developed a thriving behavioral health program

Kave 2

This session outlines the process, successes, and challenges involved in a rural tribal community's journey in establishing a thriving behavioral health program over the course of 5 years. This session will:

1. Describe six core strategies used to establish and sustain a tribal behavioral health department.
2. Highlight the behavioral health investments and data that indicate impact on community health and well-being.
3. Describe a treat-first, trauma-informed model of care within one tribal behavioral health department that improves access to care.
4. Identify steps for audience to replicate key elements of this model within their own tribal or rural communities.

Ciara Musser, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Pueblo of Pojoaque Behavioral Health

Jill Campoli, Behavioral Health Clinical Director, Pueblo of Pojoaque Behavioral Health

ASU Indigenous Health Initiative: Advancing Partnerships, Solutions, and Community Impact

Kave 3

Join the ASU Indigenous Health Initiative team as they reflect on a transformative five-year journey dedicated to improving Indigenous health through innovation and collaboration.

This session will highlight the power of community and foundation partnerships, showcase

developed products and solutions, and share key lessons learned along the way. Participants will gain insights into strategies for framing and pitching ideas to funders, as well as approaches for sustaining and scaling a large initiative into its next phase.

Angela Gonzales, Arizona State University

Nate Wade, Associate Vice President & Chief of Staff, Arizona State University

Jacob Moore, Arizona State University

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 5 – 75 min)

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Pathways to Health: Advancing Equity in Medicaid Alongside American Indians in MN

Bird/Roadrunner

This session will delve into the findings and recommendations of the December 2024 report ""Pathways to Racial Equity in Medicaid: Improving the Health and Opportunity of American Indians in Minnesota"". The report, developed through extensive community engagement, outlines actionable strategies for Minnesota Medicaid to address systemic inequities affecting American Indian populations.

Attendees will gain insights into the collaborative process undertaken between the state Medicaid agency, tribal staff, urban American Indian community leaders, American Indian community members, data and policy experts. They will better understand the proposed policy changes and explore the broader implications for American-Indian centered health equity initiatives nationwide.

Dr. Nathan Chomilo, Medicaid Medical Director, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Takayla Lightfield (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe), Tribal Policy Consultant, MN Department of Human Services

Dr. Antony Stately (Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin), CEO and President, Native American Community Clinic

REACHing Rural: A Mission Control Model for Tribal and IHS Hospital Coordination

Deer/Scorpion

Discover how the AZ REACH coordination hub is transforming care access for Tribal and IHS hospitals in Arizona. This interactive workshop highlights how centralized mission control models improve hospital transfers, reduce burden on bedside staff, and advance equity in underserved regions. Participants will learn how this model works, what lessons can be applied nationally, and how to bring a similar model to their own region.

Charles Larsen, Executive Director, Resource Equity & Access

Honoring Our Stories: Sacred Pathways to Healing, Resilience, and Balance

Akimel 1

This interactive workshop explores trauma-informed care for Tribal communities, integrating ACEs, PACEs, and culturally grounded suicide prevention strategies. Participants will gain practical tools to support healing from historical and intergenerational trauma, tailored to the cultural context of Native populations. The session emphasizes resilience, traditional knowledge, and community-based approaches to wellness.

Keahana Lambert (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), Prevention Specialist, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Public Health and Human Services - Cherokee Choices

Yolanda Quenee Saunooke (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), Behavior Change Specialist, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Public Health and Human Services - Cherokee Choices

Engaging Evaluation - Approaches to Increase Participation

Akimel 2

Creating and administering surveys is often the “go-to” method of data collection. Other common methods are interviews, document review, and occasionally, focus groups. While these are all valid and needed methods, there is fatigue and lack of engagement with these methods. Complementing or substituting these with more engaging methods may increase participation in evaluation activities. We will give an explanation of some traditionally used methods of data collection and then share some alternative methods of data collection by engaging the audience to participate.

Blake Moore (Muscogee), Evaluator I, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board
Jessica "J.T." Neuzil, Evaluator I, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board
Colton Shaver (Choctaw), Evaluator I, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board

Aging with HIV in Indian Country: Insights from Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQ+ Voices

Kave 2

This session shares findings from in-depth interviews with 15 Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQ+ people living with HIV across the U.S. and Canada. Participants described diverse aging trajectories and what it means to age well with HIV, emphasizing the need for culturally responsive and community-connected care. Many reframed their diagnosis as a messenger or gift, underscoring the role of culture, intergenerational connection, and community in fostering healing and holistic wellness in their HIV journeys.

Chase Bryer (Chickasaw Nation), PhD Candidate, Brown University
Trudie Jackson (Navajo Nation), Patient Navigator, Mayo Clinic

Supporting American Indian Health Through Access and Agency

Kave 3

Join Missouri Breaks Research Industries, Inc. and Care Access for a film screening and open discussion exploring their long-standing collaboration to expand access to health education and research opportunities for tribal communities across South Dakota. This session offers space to listen, reflect, and exchange ideas about how we can better support Indigenous communities, take agency over their health and engage in research that respects their values and priorities.

Glenn Shatz, Care Access
Joseph Small, Care Access
Tracy Zacher, Missouri Breaks Research Industries, Inc.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 6 – 45 min)

Reaching the Unreachable: A Low-Threshold, Mobile Model for Addiction Care in Rural Alaska

Bird/Roadrunner

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Learn how a rural Alaska Tribal clinic uses a mobile unit to deliver culturally grounded addiction care and harm reduction to people often excluded from traditional services. This session explores how the Niniichik Community Clinic’s low-threshold model integrates injectable buprenorphine treatment, primary care, and outreach in remote communities. Presenters will share operational tools, community engagement strategies, and real-world insights to help others replicate mobile, on-demand care in tribal and rural settings.

Annette Hubbard (Ninilchik Village), Project Director, Ninilchik Traditional Council

Don't be afraid to build! Utilizing Sovereignty as a way to build capacity to serve our people

Deer/Scorpion

This session will be a broad overview of things to know when deciding to submit for Joint Venture, Small Ambulatory Care, and 105 Lease Agreements. It will provide some insight, pitfalls, and lessons learned in the preparation for project management of multiple projects that require a multidisciplinary approach to expansion of service, coordination of activities, and construction projects.

Dr. Kathryn Eagle-Williams (Three Affiliated Tribes), Chief Executive Officer, Elbowoods Memorial Health Center

Ronald Rabbithead (Three Affiliated Tribes), Chief Operations Officer, Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Health Administration

Preparing Generations of Health Scholars through Indigenous centered Doctoral Education

Akimel 1

In 2020, the University of North Dakota launched the world's first Indigenous Health PhD program, centering Indigenous knowledges, cultures, and practices in public health. Housed in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the program integrates "Two-Eyed Seeing" to blend Indigenous and Western knowledge systems. Designed and led by Indigenous scholars, it prepares Indigenous and ally leaders in research, policy, and health equity. Students, many with prior leadership and research experience, engage deeply with their communities and gain hands-on experience in Indigenous-centered methodologies, evaluation frameworks, policy, and data sovereignty, contributing to Indigenous-led health solutions.

Dr. Cary Waubanasum (Oneida Nation), Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota

Dr. Melanie Nadeau (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota

Fulfilling the Promise: Enhancing Tribal Community Access to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) During a Public Health Emergency Response

Akimel 2

Global medical supply chain vulnerabilities revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic response uniquely impacted tribal access to critical personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies. Since the pandemic, the Strategic National Stockpile, managed by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), collaborated with other federal agencies to develop, expand and refine processes through which tribal nations and Urban Indian Organizations (UIO) can request federal assistance to access medical supplies such as PPE during a large-scale public health emergency. Here, SNS experts will outline the approved strategy to facilitate requests to improve tribal and UIO access to stockpiled supplies during a large-scale public health emergency.

Tamika Walker, Health & Human Services

Litigation Impacting Tribal Health Programs Update

Kave 1

The presentation will provide an overview of currently pending cases around the country that have an impact on Indian health programs.

Geoff Strommer, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker

Preparing Generations of Health Scholars through Indigenous centered Doctoral Education

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Cary Waubanasum, Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota
Melanie Nadeau, Vice Chair/Associate Professor, University of North Dakota

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Cultural Celebration Gala Dinner

Akimel 3/4

Voices of Our Tribes: *Honoring Language, Song, and Traditions as Pillars of Tribal Health*

"Voices of Our Tribes" is more than a celebration — it is a recognition that the health of our people is rooted in the strength of our cultures. Tribal languages, songs, and stories are not just expressions of identity — they are vessels of healing, resilience, and intergenerational well-being. This Gala honors the power of cultural expression as a determinant of health and reaffirms that when we uplift the voices of our tribes, we uplift the health of our Nations.

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Registration required

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Registration Opens

Akimel Foyer

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Exhibit Hall Open

**Open to the public*

Komatke Ballroom

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Elders Lounge Open

Gila Monster

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 7 – 45 min)

8:30 AM – 9:15 AM

Tulalip Health System Apothecary: The Nuts & Bolts of Establishing an Integrative Medicine Apothecary

Bird/Roadrunner

Discover how the Tulalip Health System established a groundbreaking Integrative Medicine Department and Apothecary that weaves together Western clinical practices and traditional Indigenous healing. This session offers a practical roadmap for developing culturally rooted, patient-first care programs that honor Tribal sovereignty and uplift Indigenous knowledge.

Designed for healthcare providers, administrators, Tribal leaders, and public health professionals, the workshop covers key elements including infrastructure development, clinical integration of Naturopathic Doctors and Traditional Healers, safe dispensing of Traditional Medicines, and navigating regulatory and policy frameworks.

Gary Ferguson (Qagan Tayagungin Tribe (Unangan/Aleut)), Interim Health System Administrator, Tulalip Tribes
Karen Foster-Schubert, Medical Director, Tulalip Health System

Data Warriors: Discussion of successful strategies for expanding access to public health data for Tribes

Deer/Scorpion

With support from counsel at the Sonosky Law Firm, the Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center (GPTEC), housed within the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board (GPTLHB), has significantly increased the public health data available to its member Tribes. This still-ongoing process has been fraught with obstacles to data access, contentious negotiations, and the difficulties of navigating a web of interconnected (and often conflicting) Federal, State and Tribal legal and regulatory systems. In this workshop, Dr. Meghan O'Connell and attorney Nathaniel (Tanner) Amdur-Clark will discuss GPTEC's strategies for improving data access for Tribes in the Great Plains Area, and lead a discussion on challenges and opportunities related to TEC and Tribal data access.

Dr. Meghan O'Connell (Cherokee), Chief Public Health Officer, Great Plains Tribal Leader Health Board

Tanner Amdur-Clark (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), Partner, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman, LLP

Weaving early childhood home visiting into tribal healthcare services

Akimel 1

Women, infants, and young children living in high-risk situations experience higher rates of infant mortality, low birth weights, unsafe home environments and other health disparities. Home visiting programs offer a mechanism for ensuring families have social support, knowledge of community services, and ongoing health, developmental, and safety education. However, they are predominately designed as standalone programs and do not provide programmatic and system linkages to health care providers.

Implementing an early childhood home visiting program as an extension of primary services promotes a focus on the individual's establishment of a medical home that incorporates and supports coordinated care from birth, strengthening the relationships with health care providers and families.

Marisa Wang (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), Grants Advisor, Southcentral Foundation
Kristen McKay, Clinical Supervisor, Southcentral Foundation
Jodi Sides, RUN Clinical Coordinator, Southcentral Foundation

Growing Our Own: Building a Culturally-Grounded Tribal Public Health Workforce

Akimel 2

This session will introduce three interactive public health education modules that were originally developed by Native American public health staff and consultants for Public Health AmeriCorps, then modified for Native American middle and high school students. Designed with Indigenous values and community strengths at the center, these modules aim to raise awareness of public health and inspire youth to see themselves as future public health leaders. Attendees will explore the modules, participate in a short interactive activity, and engage in discussion to help define future distribution and use of the modules and priorities for the next round of modules, including specific public health topics.

Feather LaRoche (Kul Wicasa Oyate, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe), Native American Outreach and Communications Associate, University of Minnesota - School of Public Health

Strong Hearts, Strong Nations: Advancing Native Heart Health

Kave 1

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) has been the leading cause of death for over a century—and its impact on Native Americans is especially staggering. CVD causes death more often, and at earlier ages, in Indigenous communities compared to the general U.S. population. These disparities are not just statistics—they're urgent calls to action.

In this session, we'll move beyond identifying the problem and spotlight powerful solutions. Tribal and clinical experts will share how the latest digital health tools are transforming cardiac care by closing long-standing gaps. Together, we'll explore how innovation and collaboration can help ensure that every heartbeat—regardless of heritage—has a fair chance at health and longevity.

Roselyn Tso, Former Director of the Indian Health Service
Dr. Jayne Morgan, VP of Medical Affairs, Hello Heart

From Scars to Stars: Igniting Indigenous Resilience - A Journey of Healing & Empowerment

Kave 2

Beyond survival: Casandra unveils her transformative path, fusing ancestral ceremony with tangible wellness tools. Experience interactive healing: hands-on learning, revitalizing Indigenous pains carried. Transcend trauma, reclaim sovereignty. Ignite community regeneration. This is liberation through lived wisdom, setting a new course for collective vitality. This isn't passive learning; engage in hands-on restoration, a powerful gathering, & ceremonial practice. Unpack epigenetic trauma, wield liberation tools, & discover tangible wellness. Reclaim your narrative, experience transformative kinship, & fuel collective regeneration.

Casandra Stouder, Indigenous Wellness and Community Empowerment Specialist-Cycle Breaker & Bridge Builder

CMS TTAG Legislative Priorities for American Indian and Alaska Native Medicare and Medicaid Reform

Kave 3

The CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group is a tribally led advisory group to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services authorized by Congress. Its mission is to advise CMS on how to best implement its trust and treaty responsibility to administer the Medicare and Medicaid programs in a manner that increases access to health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As part of its work, the TTAG develops and suggests policy changes CMS should make to achieve that goal. While CMS can implement many of these changes itself through policies or regulations, some changes require legislation to amend the Medicare and Medicaid laws. The TTAG has developed a set of Medicare and Medicaid legislative changes that tribal advocates are seeking to advance in Congress. These changes would significantly increase access to Medicare and Medicaid resources for Tribal Health programs and American Indians and Alaska Natives enrolled in those programs. The panel will provide an introduction and overview of each one of the TTAG legislative priorities and the many benefits they would provide to the Indian health care system.

Melissa Gower, Senior Advisory, Policy Analyst, Chickasaw Nation
Winn Davis, Congressional Relations, Director, National Indian Health Board
Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Strauss, Dean and Walker

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 8 – 75 min)

Tribal Health Resilience in Action: Culturally Grounded Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

Bird/Roadrunner

Tribal communities across the U.S. are confronting the growing impacts of climate change, infrastructure challenges, and public health emergencies—often while working to preserve cultural lifeways and protect the wellbeing of Elders. This interactive session explores how the Pan American Health Organization’s (PAHO/WHO) Resilient Hospitals Framework can be adapted to strengthen Tribal health system preparedness and resilience. Co-led by the International Association for Indigenous Aging (IA²) and PAHO, the session centers Indigenous values and Elders’ vital roles. Participants will gain practical tools, examine real Tribal examples, and identify local strengths and opportunities.

Jamie Ishcomer-Aazami (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), Consultant, International Association for Indigenous Aging
William Benson, President, International Association for Indigenous Aging
Dr. Alex Camacho, Disaster Risk Reduction Unit Chief a.i., Pan American Health Organization
John Scott, President Emeritus, Center for Public Service

Building the Bridge: Data Modernization Across Tribal Nations

Deer/Scorpion

What is “data modernization” and “electronic case reporting” and how can it help Tribal communities? In this workshop, you’ll hear from 5 different Tribal health groups on what they are doing to modernize their use of health data and allow Tribes control over their own data. We will also talk about some of the barriers and challenges to data modernization and how to best approach them.

Mare Schumacher, Mare Insights, California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.
Ulmer Maqsood, Epidemiologist Manager, Department of Research and Evaluation, California Rural Indian Health Board
Ryan Berger, Senior Product Manager, CDC Foundation (hosted at Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center)
Eric Coles, Public Health Officer, Tule River Indian Health Center, Inc
Ashley Bethel, Analytics Grants Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health
Nicholas Rolig, Healthcare Data Specialist, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
John Egbo, Epidemiologist, CDC Foundation and California Tribal Epidemiology Center at California Rural Indian Health Board

The Opioid Response Network (ORN) Partnership: Supporting Rural Indigenous Communities Against Subs

Akimel 1

This session equips participants with tools to tackle opioid and stimulant use in their communities. Through case studies based on real training and technical assistance requests from rural and Indigenous communities via the Opioid Response Network (ORN), attendees will learn practical strategies. Key takeaways include understanding how to increase naloxone availability through saturation initiatives and utilizing mapping tools to

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

identify accessible locations and overdose hotspots. By the session's end, participants will grasp how these combined methods ensure naloxone is readily available during overdose events, enabling immediate intervention.

Johanna James (Chickasaw), Director of Health Access, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

Dr. Holly Hagle, Chief Learning and Research Officer, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

Veronica Sanchez, CEO, Innovative Executive Quality Solutions, LLC.

Unity in Diversity: Weaving Strong Coalitions and Partnerships

Akimel 2

In this interactive session, we'll explore the principles and practices of building and maintaining effective coalitions and partnerships. Attendees will learn how to foster trust, align goals, and navigate challenges to create lasting, impactful collaborations. Drawing on real-world examples and Indigenous wisdom, we'll discuss the importance of shared values, mutual respect, and collective action in sustaining partnerships for long-term success. Whether you're starting a new initiative or strengthening an existing coalition, this session provides the tools and insights to build unity and drive meaningful change.

Johanna James (Chickasaw), Director of Health Access, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

Dr. Holly Hagle, Chief Learning and Research Officer, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

Leveraging Federal-Tribal Partnerships to Maximize Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Opportunities

Kave 1

This session will review and discuss how federal-tribal partnerships can maximize PRC opportunities for:

- Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund (CHEF) reimbursement
- Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) Redesignation
- Reporting PRC program unmet financial need

Don't Lose Sight, Making Sure that Every Community Member Has Clear Vision: How the Ute Mountain Ute

Kave 2

This session will discuss the challenges of creating access to eye care for tribal members living in very remote areas of the four corners region. We will describe how by utilizing a strategic program structure, and streamlining transportation to overcome logistical barriers, has resulted in opening eye health options for some of the most remote locations in Indian country.

Jennifer Leo, Native American Vision Program Officer, Seva Foundation

Rita King (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Program Coordinator, Sleeping Ute Diabetes Prevention

Beverly Santicola, President, Santicola and Company

Arizona's Journey to Reimbursement of Traditional Healing Services Through Medicaid

Kave 3

In October 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Section 1115 demonstration amendments allowing Medicaid and CHIP coverage of traditional health care practices in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Oregon. This panel will discuss the decade-long journey tribal health advocates in Arizona underwent to achieve the approved waiver. Through a panel, you will hear from the Traditional Healing Workgroup Chair committee members their advocacy and crafting of the waiver language and concept and how they are working toward Medicaid reimbursement implementation in their facilities. The go-live date of the waiver is October 1, 2025.

Kim Russell, Policy Advisor, Sage Memorial Hospital

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 9 – 45 min)

Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative – The Oklahoma Experience

Bird/Roadrunner

This session will provide an overview of the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative (MFTP-TI), a Medicaid grant funded program designed to keep AIANs in their community by providing home-based care, as well as helping transition AIANs out of institutional care/nursing facilities by creating more independent living with enhanced quality of life.

Jessica Imotichey (Chickasaw Nation), Health Policy, Chickasaw Nation Dept of Health
Donna Ackerman, Administrator, Chickasaw Nation Department of Health/Minticha Apila Home Health

Johnney Johnson, Director Pathways to Community Living, Oklahoma Health Care Authority

Supporting Alaska's Environmentally Threatened Communities

Deer/Scorpion

Alaska Native communities face unique and escalating challenges as climate change disrupts community infrastructure, traditional ways of life, food systems, and health. This presentation provides an overview of the Climate Initiatives Program at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, detailing the impacts of climate change on Tribal communities, and shares the work the program is doing to increase community resilience to climate change by incorporating Indigenous knowledge into adaptation efforts.

Sarah Yoder, Center for Climate and Health Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Jackie Qataliña Schaeffer (Native Village of Kotzebue), Director of Climate Initiatives, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Abby Nelson, Public Health Program Specialist, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Collectively Supporting Native Youth to Improve Health Care Delivery in Indian Country

Akimel 1

This session is about workforce development and giving Native American youth the skills necessary to succeed in school so that, if they wish, they can become nurses, pharmacists, dentists, doctors, or any health care provider. Conference attendees will learn about the network of Native Pathway programs within five regions of the United States. Attendees are invited to provide feedback on how best to serve students from their region. Presenters from each region will share programs they are developing to connect Native Pathway programs to one another and to support Native student success from grades K-graduate or health professions school.

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Dr. Mary Owen (Tlingit), Founder, Indigenous Health, Education, and Resource Task Force
Dr. Norma Poll-Hunter, Senior Director, DEI, Indigenous Health, Education, and Resource Task Force
Reno Charette (Crow Nation), Health Initiatives Director, AIHEC

Addressing Mental Health Care for Indigenous Military Veterans and their Families

Akimel 2

Home Base is a national non-profit dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of war through world-class clinical care, wellness, education, and research. This presentation will share stories about the development and lessons learned in creating the mobilized Native Intensive Clinical Program. Marcus Denetdale of Home Base and members from the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation executive leadership will discuss the first mobilized Native ICP program that was held in February 2025 and discuss plans for future iterations of the program. The Mobilized ICP provides Native American Veterans, Service Members and their Families with individual therapy, group therapy, mindful movement, physical-wellness training and nutrition over a 7-day intensive program.

Marcus Denetdale (Navajo), Regional Associate Director, Southwest and Tribal Relations, Home Base
Lapriel Dia (San Carlos Apache & Navajo), Chief Nursing Officer, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation
Dr. James Michael Darragh, Chief Medical Officer, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation

Cultural Health Action Research at the Tribe: CHARTing the healing path forward at MPTN

Kave 1

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation shares their experience in building relationship and partnership with academic research universities that is based on trust, transparency, and Tribal data sovereignty. Project CHART- Cultural Health Action Research at the Tribe, was co-designed and led by MPTN's community members in partnership with researchers at various Universities. We share some best practices and the findings from the initial phase of this community based participatory research project.

Setu Vora (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation), Chief Medical Officer, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Michele Scott (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation), Tribal Councilor and Chairwoman HHS, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Evolution of the Alaska Tribal Health System

Kave 2

Panelists will provide a brief overview of the history of Tribal health in Alaska prior to self-governance, the interwoven structure of Tribal health organizations in the state, and finally a look at the tertiary hospital for the whole Tribal health system, the Alaska Native Medical Center. Attendees will come away with a better understanding of how a unified Tribal voice can lead to profound, positive changes that create long-lasting impacts on the health of families for generations to come.

Alberta Unok, President/CEO, Alaska Native Health Board
Dr. Jacoline Bergstrom, Executive Director of Health Services, Tanana Chiefs Conference
Monique Martin, Vice President of Intergovernmental Affairs, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

The Importance of Storytelling and Collaboration in Building Vaccine Confidence

Kave 3

This presentation will feature the story of an indigenous mother from who will share her daughter’s battle with influenza and their difficulties navigating the local healthcare system. Their story like so many others highlights the importance of immunizations against vaccine preventable diseases. By utilizing storytelling and other culturally significant approaches, Families Fighting Flu, and the Extension Foundation’s EXCITE (Extension Collaborative for Immunization Teaching and Engagement) program, have worked to illustrate the importance of giving voice to stories; highlighting the emotional impact and the call to action that follows. Storytelling by trusted messengers are extremely powerful and can truly help to build vaccine confidence.

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Lunch - Available for purchase onsite

Thunder Foyer & Grand Staircase

2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Closing General Assembly: “Future Directions and National Strategies”

Akimel 3/4

This forward-looking session concludes the conference with a focus on collective vision and action. It highlights emerging strategies, federal policy priorities, and bold Tribal innovations that can shape the future of health. The plenary underscores the shared responsibility of Tribes, federal agencies, and partners to design and deliver national strategies that honor trust and treaty obligations. Sessions showcase panels of Tribal leaders outlining health priorities for the next decade, dialogues with federal partners on implementing trust and treaty responsibilities, and presentations on Tribal-led innovations that can be scaled nationally.

Friday, September 12, 2025

No cost sessions

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

ICW EVENT: 2025 AI/AN Healthcare Workforce Development Summit

Kave 3

Each year, IHEART convenes its members of Indigenous health educators, practitioners, and advocates from across the nation for a full-day summit event to discuss current trends in healthcare workforce development and health education to address the disparity of AI/AN representation in the health sciences. Our previous summit events have featured panel discussions with Native experts who are working to create and expand health sciences pathways programs across the nation, as well as student panels to explore how to best serve the needs of Native students entering health sciences educational pathways from K-12 to residency and beyond.