



**Washington State  
Governor's Health Disparities Council  
September 9, 2015**

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**AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH COMMISSION FOR  
WASHINGTON STATE**

**Willie Frank, Vice Chairman, Nisqually Tribe  
Jan Ward Olmstead, Lead Public Health Consultant, AIHC**

## American Indian Health Commission

**AIHC Mission: Improve the Overall Health of Indian People of WA State**  
**Strategy: Advocacy, Policy and Programs to Advance Best Practices**

Tribally-driven, Non-profit (501c3) Organization

- American Indian Health Commission was established in 1994
- A known as a trusted Indian organization and is considered a best practice model in State-Tribal relations by Tribal and State leaders
- Provides a central point for 29 Federally-recognized Tribes and two Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHPs) to advocate with the state and other governmental and non-profit organizations to identify, prioritize, voice, and act on Indian health issues
- **Supports activities that prevent and reduce adverse health conditions and health disparities**
- Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, and a dedicated and knowledgeable executive committee lead the organization

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### Health Care Reform and Access

#### Priorities

##### Affordable Care Act Implementation

- Indian Provider Addendum
- Provider Access and Indian Health Care Provider Protections
- Coverage for Dual Eligible AI/AN

##### Health Benefit Exchange Implementation and Access

- Tribal Assistants Training and Technical Assistance

##### State Health Care Innovation Plan/Global Waiver

##### Medicaid Tribal Centric Behavior Health System Recommendations

Coordination of health care systems changes and impacts to ensure AI/ANs receive quality health care and services

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### Prevention and Public Health

#### Priorities

Implementation of the Maternal Infant Health Strategic Plan

- Reducing Infant Mortality
- Reduce Low Birth Weight
- Reduce Teen Pregnancy
- Increase Breastfeeding
- Improve Oral Health

Improve WIC services through a tribally-driven process to determine barriers and concerns

Support development of culturally-grounded Tribal/Urban Indian Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Services

Implementation/application of Pulling together for Wellness to address chronic disease and reduce health disparities

- Decrease use of commercial tobacco products; focus on youth and pregnant women
- Increase healthy eating/active living

Improve Immunizations Rates

- Health Care Worker Immunizations
- Human Papillomavirus Immunizations

Strengthen Tribal communities' preparedness to respond to public health emergencies

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### Additional Issues

Dental Health Therapist Aide  
Suicide Prevention  
Community Health Workers/Representatives  
Foundations for Public Health Services  
Accountable Communities of Care

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### Supportive Activities

- Collaborate to improve data gathering methodologies and systems
- Promote knowledge and understanding of Intergenerational Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Identify linkages in policy, program and practices to promote coordination between systems
- Support Uniform Washington State Tribal Consultation Policies
- Promote understanding of government-to-government relations

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## Communication and Engagement Strategies

AIHC Delegate Engagement

Tribal/Urban Outreach and Engagement

- Involve Youth and Elders

Expand use of Technology : Webinars, Conference Call and other options

Site Visits/Regional Meetings/Summits

Biennial Tribal and State Leaders Health Summit

Facilitate Tribal-State Consultation

Enhance Understanding of Government-to-Government Relations

Enhance Partnerships

- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Northwest Indian College
- Washington Public Health Association



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Leadership

Engagement

## HEALTHY TRIBAL AND URBAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES

Tribally and Urban Indian Driven

Healthy Communities

Maternal Infant Health

Home Visiting

Women, Infant, Children (WIC)

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

Immunizations

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response (PHEPR)

Culturally Appropriate and Community Specific

### Maternal Infant Health Strategic Plan

In Partnership with WA State Departments of Health and Early Learning, and the Health Care Authority

DATA

DATA

Health Risk Factors  
Health Disparities  
Adverse Childhood Experiences  
Historical and Intergenerational Trauma