



# Washington Tribal Public Health Improvement Data Partners Meeting

**Please sign into the chat with your name and tribe or organization.**

# Agenda

10:00 – Welcome and Introductions

10:15 – Introduction to WA State Tribal Public Health Improvement Project

10:45 – Data Linkage Presentation

11:15 – Break (Lunch)

11:30 – Data Briefs Overview (Working Lunch)

12:00 – ECHO Overview

12:15 – AIHC Survey Discussion

12:30 – Facilitated Discussion

12:45 – Next Steps

Welcome

**Introductions**

# Introduction to Washington Tribal Public Health Improvement Project

Victoria Warren-Mears

Director, Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

# NWTEC

- Formed in 1996 with first funding 1997 – 25 years of tribally directed activities
  - Tribal leaders had approved the concept and function of a tribal research and epidemiology center prior to this time
- Guided by the Public Health Committee of the NPAIHB, and report to the NPAIHB Board
- Every action undertaken is a result of tribal resolution from our Board (*tribally driven research and public health agenda*)
- Functions as a departmental designation with oversight of over 55 employees
- NWTEC staff have trained 3 CDC EIS Officers with another who will begin in August and 2 PHAP assignees from CDC

# Genesis of the NWTEC work

- First steps early in the Board's history on workforce development
- Public Health Training and Outreach specialist 2006
- First Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference in July 2006
  - Sponsorship from Oregon and Washington State Departments of Health
  - Partners expanded to include American Indian Health Commission and the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Program
- Public Health Improvement Project for the three state region
- Partnerships with Oregon and Washington for Public Health Modernization and CDC Funding for supporting Public Health Modernization

# Regional Actions to Assist Tribes in Improving Capacity

- Participating as technical assistance on both Oregon State Health Improvement Planning and Washington State Foundational Public Health Development
- Participation in supporting Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) activities for the tribes
  - MOUs for data analysis and epidemiology, support for accreditation
- Former NPAIHB Executive Director was on the PHAB and was chairman

# TECs as Public Health Authorities

- Established through permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010)

*The Secretary “shall grant to each epidemiology center... access to use of the data, data sets, monitoring systems, delivery systems, and other protected health information in the possession of the Secretary.”*

25 U.S.C.A. § 1621m(c)

- Health and Human Services (HHS) directive gives TECs access to HHS data systems and protected health information
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must provide TECs technical assistance
- Each Indian Health Service (IHS) Area must have TEC access



# NWTEC's Role as a Public Health Authority

- Role as Public Health Authority at the request of Tribes for data and provision of technical assistance.

**Does not alter Tribes' Public Health Authority as sovereign nations, but supportive to it**

# Seven Core Functions of TECs

- Collect data
- Evaluate data and programs
- Identify health priorities with Tribes
- Make recommendations for health service needs
- Make recommendations for improving health care delivery systems
- Provide epidemiologic technical assistance to Tribes and Tribal organizations
- Provide disease surveillance to Tribes

# Washington State Foundational Public Health Partnership

- Partnership with the Washington State Department of Health, the American Indian Health Commission, and the Urban Indian Health Institute
- Our goal is to support tribes and our partners in providing services to enhance public health at the tribal level

This includes:

- Training,
- Technical assistance,
- Data analysis for the Washington Tribes, and
- Epidemiology and other services as requested

# Foundational Public Health Services Overview

Washington Tribal Public Health  
Improvement (WTPHI) Project

# Washington Tribal Public Health Improvement

NPAIHB/NWTEC  
WTPHI  
Project Staff



**Nancy Bennett, MBA**  
WTPHI Project Manager  
8 years at NPAIHB/NWTEC



**Ashley Hoover, MPH**  
Communicable Disease Epidemiologist  
10 months at NPAIHB/NWTEC



**Bridget Canniff, MALD, CPH**  
Project Director, Public Health Improvement & Training  
14 years at NPAIHB/NWTEC

# NPAIHB/NWTEC WTPHI Project Objectives

- Provide training to tribal FPHS partners on the prevention and control of communicable diseases
- Coordinate reporting of public health data needs from tribal health clinics
- Survey IHS and tribal clinics in Washington to identify resources for prevention and control of communicable disease

# NPAIHB/NWTEC WTPHI Project Objectives

- Ensure AI/AN disease surveillance, investigation, and control
  - Produce communicable disease data briefs
  - Train and deploy NPAIHB staff for disease outbreak investigations
- Participate in surveillance and epidemiology committees and task forces with FPHS partners, including DOH, local health jurisdictions, tribal governments, and tribal health organizations