Public Health Committee

October 22, 2019

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Andrew Shogren

Ann Jim

Karen Hansen

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Tom Weiser

Victoria Warren-Mears

**Environmental Health Assumption Update:** Victoria provided an update of the environmental public health program assumption from the Portland Area Office of Indian Health Service. In the next few days, the Board’s 638 contract should be amended to include funds for the Environmental Public Health Program. Eleven of our 43 member tribes were lacking the language in their Board joining resolution that allows the Board to compact or contract on behalf of tribes. One tribe amended their resolution and six elected to provide specific resolutions for environmental public health. The remaining four tribes did not respond to requests for changes through a new resolution or paragraph amending their joining resolution to the Board.

**Action:** In January, Victoria (or Environmental Public Health Staff) will provide an update on the Environmental Public Health Program and marketing materials to announce services provided and contacts will be provided to tribes.

**Data:** A follow up discussion was held. Some key points include; with staff turnover it is important to train on data entry including what needs to be entered, how and by whom; it is important to have policy and procedures that are written down to ensure continuity when turnover occurs. New data linkages have been undertaken and data is being cleaned for all three states in the region.

**Epicenter 101:** There was a question about the purpose of tribal epidemiology centers and specifically what services that the epidemiology center can provide.

**Action**: In January, Victoria will present a history and overview of the NWTEC as well as the services the TEC provides.

**Training:** A discussion of training provided by the TEC staff was provided. Both Washington and Oregon states have requested that the TEC provide a community of practice around public health modernization. This will begin within the next few months, once staff have been hired.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00.