

# 2023 NATIONAL TRIBAL OPIOID SUMMIT



## HEALING OUR NATIONS TOGETHER

Dear Tribal leaders, Colleagues, and Community,

On behalf of the of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), I want to offer my deep appreciation for your participation in the first National Tribal Opioid Summit (NTOS), hosted by the Tulalip Tribes of Washington State. Together, we were over 1,000 Tribal leaders, frontline workers, and federal and state policymakers sharing our knowledge, our experiences, and our commitment to ending the tribal opioid crisis.

Over our three days together, we heard invaluable feedback from you on how to improve prevention, care and support, law and justice, and data along with for the need for increased funding and policy changes to strategically address the opioid crisis as a public health emergency.

We also heard stories of loss. Stories of grief. And, stories of recovery and resilience. Dr. Nora Volkow, the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse said, *"Visiting here the past two days in tribal communities, I have learned the extraordinary support systems that people have here. I have learned [of] the commitment [and] the care that one has to the other... To me this one of the most powerful things. How do we bring the power of Native communities and use it to change the system?"*

The NPAIHB is committed to supporting the power and the leadership of Native communities in developing solutions. As a follow-up to the Summit, we are developing:

- A set of policy recommendations to bring to the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI)'s Annual Conference later this month and then to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)'s Annual Convention in November;
- A comprehensive update to the [Tribal Opioid Response: National Strategic Agenda](#) based on the feedback, recommendations, and best practices of Tribal leaders, health experts, service providers, and community members;
- A Summit Report.

We also will be turning the NTOS registration [website](#) into a National Tribal Opioid Summit Resource Hub to serve as a central location for post Summit follow-up.

We heard from those with lived experiences that first and foremost we must save lives and connect those who are ready for treatment with culturally-based services.

NPAIHB's [Opioid Use Disorder](#) site has information and videos available on Narcan and Medication Assisted Treatment.

The Summit showed that we are stronger together. We continue to heal. By harnessing the strength of our sovereign tribal governments, our partnerships with federal and state agencies, and the collective wisdom of communities—we can end this epidemic.

To healing our Nations together,

Nickolaus Lewis

Councilman of the Lummi Nation

Chairman of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board