



2018 TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMIT
Addressing Environmental Impact on
Traditional Food Sources



January 9, 2018

Jan Ward Olmstead, AIHC Consultant

American Indian Health Commission
for Washington State



American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

Tribally-Driven, nonprofit Tribal Organization

Created in 1994 - by Tribal Leaders

Mission: Improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) through tribal-state collaboration on health policies and programs that will help decrease disparities

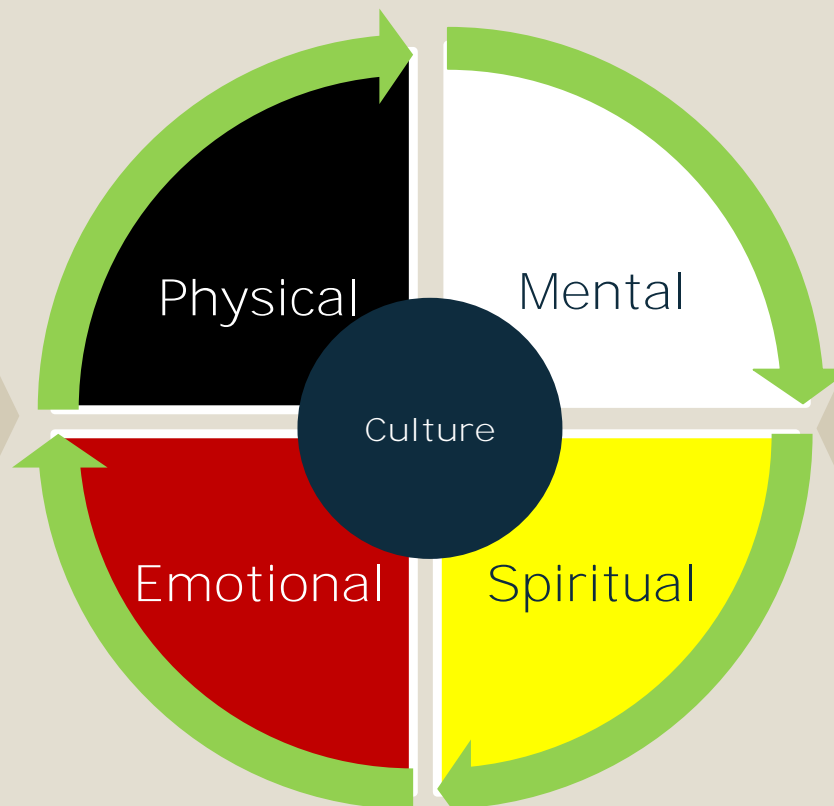
Constituents: The Commission works with and on behalf of the 29 federally-recognized tribes and 2 urban Indian health programs in Washington State.

Commission Membership: Tribal Councils appoint delegates by Council resolution to represent their tribes on the Commission.



Strengthening Tribal and Urban Indian Communities by PULLING TOGETHER FOR WELLNESS

Where we live, work, pray, and play



Environmental Public Health

- Access and protection of natural environment
- Access to opportunities for physically activities (trails, walking paths, etc.)
- Access to nutritious foods
- Access to Traditional Food and Medicine Plants
- Access to Safe and Hazard Free Housing, Schools, etc.
- Access to Toxic and Pollution Free Environments
- Access to Clean Drinking Water
- Protection of Human Impacts on Keystone Species
- Effects of Climate Change
- Preservation of Traditional Knowledge/Practices
- Economics—Conflict with Values
- Ability to maintain Cultural Continuity through relationship with natural environment
- Access to Decision making processes

Making Sustainable Change

- Mobilizing at Tribal/Community Level
- Using a Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Approach
- Ensure Cultural considerations are interwoven in all aspects of health
- Engage Elders and Youth
- Acknowledge lack of evidence-based practices in Tribal and Urban Indian settings serving AI/AN population
- Incorporate culturally appropriate strategies designed for Tribal and Urban Indian Communities

Important Additional Factors

Historical Trauma and Ongoing Discrimination
Equity and Social Determinants of Health
Adverse Childhood Experiences
Lateral Violence



American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

- Convened the 1st Tribal Traditional Food Sovereignty Summit, **Honoring Sacred Food Wisdom for Seven Generations**, hosted by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, September 27, 2017





American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

Talking Circles/Conversation Cafes Concerns about environmental impacts on Access to Traditional Foods:

- Continuity of Traditional knowledge: Traditional techniques are important for plants-- harvesting in ways that help plants. Hard to be taught if not raised in community, finding teachers can be hard. Elders may not pass info down.
- Fear of doing it wrong-- improper technique if not taught.
- There are times not to harvest low salmon runs, toxicity in the water, Etc. On to cause that?



American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

Talking Circles/Conversation Cafes Concerns about environmental impacts on Access to Traditional Foods:

- Privatization of property and development. Can't get to traditional areas because developed or private.
- Squaxum soap berries. illegal to harvest on private land and harder to find. DOT spraying areas along road: loss of access.
- Pollutants: not knowing where herbicides are sprayed-- find out when and where sprayed. How long do contaminants stay in Plants/Foods?
- Spokane - barrier is water toxicity so difficult for plants and animals. Cisterns and rain barrels may help.



American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

Talking Circles/Conversation Cafes Concerns about environmental impacts on Access to Traditional Foods:

- Teach how to use everything, i.e., whole deer, etc. Some people not respectful and ruins area, ruins for everyone.
- Where do we harvest? Urban areas hard to find plant harvest.
- Humans are bad for environment. Cattle, horse grazing has been damaging some of the plants and roots.
- Climate Change and the impact access to traditional foods, plants, fish and game.



American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

Talking Circles/Conversation Cafes Concerns about
environmental impacts on Access to Traditional Foods:

Tribal/Community Solutions:

- Build relationships & partnerships.
- Educate landholders so they protect plants.
- Youth engagement critical to carry on traditional practices.
(Otherwise, school teaches we are not a part of nature.
Nature is linear and we do not have agency to be hunters,
fisher's, gatherers.)

2nd Food Traditional Food Sovereignty Policy Summit. Hosted by Swinomish Tribe, March 6, 2018. Content focus for policy makers, advisors, and tribal communities.

Honoring and Sharing Sacred Food Wisdom for Seven Generations

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Janie Simms Hipp, J.D., LL.M. (Chickasaw) is Founding Director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law. She is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation

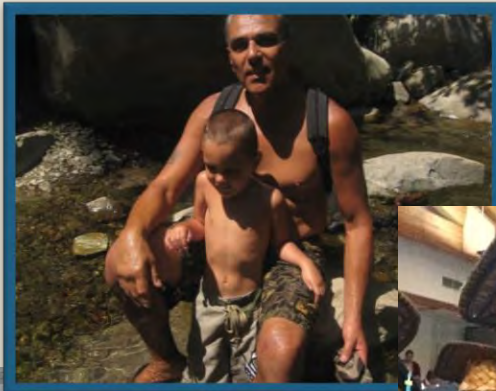
Registration will be out soon.
Contact: Aubrey.aihc@gmail.com



PULLING TOGETHER
FOR WELLNESS



Seven Generations Thinking





Contact:

Jan Ward Olmstead, MPA

Lead, Public Health Policy and Project Consultant
American Indian Health Commission for WA State

Janolmstead@gmail.com