

GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL LEADERS SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL CHARTER (*DRAFT*)

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the lives of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) in Washington State by enhancing the delivery of social services, removing barriers to services, and improving inter-agency collaboration and coordination.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Governor's Tribal Leaders Social Services Council (GTLSSC), identifies and addresses priority social service issues of mutual concern or interest to the Tribes and the State of Washington that involves one or more state agency and cannot be resolved at the agency level. The GTLSSC does this in a manner that advances strong government-to-government relations and promotes respect for the importance of social services, therefore benefiting both Indian and non-Indian communities.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL

The GTLSSC, sanctioned by Tribal Leaders and the Governor under the Centennial Accord, consists of Tribal and State Leaders and policy officials who are responsible for the implementation and management of tribal and state social services in the State of Washington. The work of the GTLSSC is expected to be conducted primarily through subcommittees who are responsible for developing proposals for consideration by the GTLSSC. The GTLSSC does not replace state agency-specific government-to-government functions.

MEMBERSHIP

The GTLSSC is composed of Tribal Leaders (or designee) and State Leaders of their respective governments on social services issues. As appropriate, other supporting state agencies will be invited, as well as other tribal advisory bodies to increase coordination of services.

A Tribal Elected Leader and State Leader will co-facilitate the meetings. The Tribal Leader Co-Chair will be selected by the Tribal Leader representatives, and the State Leader Co-Chair will be selected by the Governor. Alternate co-chairs will be selected by the respective parties should the primary co-chairs be unable to facilitate the meeting.

The **Tribal Elected Leaders and their designees**, of the GTLSSC will be appointed, via tribal resolution, by each of the 29 Federally Recognized Tribes.

State Leaders of the GTLSSC include leaders in the Governor's Cabinet: Governor's Chief of Staff; Executive Director of Governor's Office of Indian Affairs; Secretary of Department of Social & Health Services; Secretary of Department of Children, Youth and Families; Secretary of Department of Corrections; Director of Department of Commerce; Director of Veteran's Affairs; and Director of Health Care Authority.

ADVISORY AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Tribal Organizations and Advisory Bodies who will be *regularly invited* include: United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Seattle Indian Health Board, Chief Seattle Club, South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency, Small Tribes of Western Washington, American Indian Community Center,

N.A.T.I.V.E. Project, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, American Indian Health Commission, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Tribal Leaders Congress on Education, and Reinvestment Committee of the Governor's Indian Health Advisory Council. Other Tribal partners can be invited with GTLSSC approval.

State and Federal Partners who will be invited *as needed or appropriate* include: Director of Office of Financial Management; Director of Department of Financial Institutions; Director of Labor & Industries; Insurance Commissioner; Commissioner of Employment Security Department; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Chief of the Washington State Patrol; Secretary of Department of Health; and Chief Executive Officer of Health Benefit Exchange. Other State and Federal partners can be invited with GTLSSC approval.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS

The GTLSSC will meet twice yearly. The GTLSSC is responsible for identifying priority social service issues through close communication with the Tribes and State agencies. The GTLSSC will identify priority issues and give guidance to three inter-agency subcommittees established to develop proposed solutions. The GTLSSC will seek consensus on the recommended solutions. The GTLSSC Co-Chairs will report at the annual Centennial Accord meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE OPERATIONS

The subcommittees will be co-chaired by a Tribal and a State representative. The subcommittees will meet approximately quarterly and will bring together the most knowledgeable participants on the respective issues to co-create proposed solutions and strategies for consideration by the GTLSSC. The subcommittees will include the appropriate mix of tribal representatives and state agency officials. The subcommittees may establish temporary ad hoc workgroups to perform specific tasks such as researching an issue and developing recommendations. See Appendix A for a visual of the subcommittees.

FUNDING AND STAFFING SUPPORT

Cabinet Agencies and Tribes are asked, initially, to support this effort with existing resources, i.e., with existing staff, facilities, travel, and accommodations budgets, etc. Proposals for GTLSSC-specific staffing will be developed as the process moves forward.

A LIVING DOCUMENT

The Tribes and State commit to an open dialogue about the GTLSSC process as it is implemented, recognizing that the Tribes and the State may bring forth recommended adjustments to enhance the efficiency of the GTLSSC and its subcommittees and improve the delivery of social services in Indian County and elsewhere in WA.

COMPLEMENTARY INTENT

This Charter is intended to complement and bolster ongoing efforts to achieve the mutual objectives of the Tribes and the State. The GTLSSC supplements existing efforts underway and in no way replaces or diminishes State and Tribal obligations and opportunities for direct, ongoing, formal and informal Government-to-Government consultation and engagement.

PROPOSED STRUCTURE: GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL LEADERS SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

