

Executive Summary

CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

August 6-7, 2025

TAC Member Attendees

Alaska Area

Chief Alicia Andrew
Native Village of Karluk
Alaska Area Delegate

Albuquerque Area

Yolandra Gomez, MD, MPH
Pediatric Health Consultant
Albuquerque Area Alternate

Bemidji Area

Sidney White
Oneida Nation
Bemidji Area Proxy

Billings Area

Jeffrey Berger
Ft. Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
Billings Area Delegate

California Area

Chairwoman Angela Elliott-Santos Manzanita
Band of Kumeyaay Nation
California Area Delegate

Chairwoman Erica Pinto

Jamul Indian Village of California
California Area Alternate

Nashville Area

Chief Brian Harris
Catawba Nation
Nashville Area Delegate

Oklahoma Area

**Deputy Principal Chief Bryan Warner
(TAC Chair)**
Cherokee Nation
Oklahoma Area Delegate

Tucson Area

Councilwoman Vivian Juan-Saunders
Tohono O'odham Nation Council
Tucson Area Delegate

National At-Large Member

Sharon Stanphill, MD
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
National At-Large Member Delegate

National At-Large Member

Legislator Connie Barker (TAC Co-Chair)
Chickasaw Nation
National At-Large Member Delegate

National At-Large Member

Jessica Imotichey, MPH
Chickasaw Nation
National At-Large Member Alternate

National At-Large Member

Councilwoman Herminia Frias, MPH
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
National At-Large Member Delegate

National At-Large Member

Second Chief Del Beaver
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
National At-Large Member Delegate

National At-Large Member

Abbi Lee, PhD, MPH
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
National At-Large Member Alternate

National At-Large Member

Councilwoman Cary Fremin
Village of Dot Lake Council
National At-Large Member Delegate

Absent TAC Members

Affiliation/Tribal Area	Name	Title
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe/Albuquerque Area Delegate	Conrad Jacket	Councilman
Oneida Nation/Bemidji Area Delegate	Jennifer Webster	Councilwoman
Oneida Nation/Bemidji Area Alternate	Debra Danforth	Operations Division Director, Oneida Comprehensive Health Division
Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation/Great Plains Area Delegate	Mark Fox	Chairman
Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation/Great Plains Area Alternate	Monica Mayer	Council Member
Navajo Nation/Navajo Area Delegate	Buu Nygren	President
Navajo Nation/Navajo Nation Alternate	Kim Russell	Navajo Department of Health
Hopi Tribe/Phoenix Area Delegate	Timothy Nuvangyaoma	Chairman
Hopi Tribe/Phoenix Area Alternate	Darren Vicenti	Public Health Authority
Makah Tribe/Portland Area Delegate	Walter "Rufus" Arnold	Councilman

CDC Participants

Andrea P. Anason, MPH

Associate Director for Policy, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

Wences Arvelo, MD, MPH

Associate Chief for Science, Epidemiology and Laboratory Workforce Branch, Division of Workforce Development, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

April Blowe, MHSA

Deputy Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

Kyle Nicholls Cobb, MS

Deputy Director, Division of Data Policy and Standards, Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology, CDC

CheBreia Gibbs, BS

Public Health Advisor, Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

Victoria Phifer Gyebi, MPH

Team Lead, Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

Rachel Holloway, MPH

Acting Director, Office of Budget Policy and Appropriations, CDC

CAPT Damion Killsback, PharmD, MPH

CDC/ATSDR TAC Executive Secretary & Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

Jim Kucik, PhD, MPH

Lead, State, Tribal, Local, Territorial Implementation & Coordination Team, Technology Implementation Office, Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology, CDC

Sara Patterson, MA

CDC/ATSDR TAC Interim Designated Federal Official & Acting Director, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

Sarah Pol, MPA, CHES

Public Health Analyst, Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC

Henry Walke, MD, MPH

Director, Office of Readiness and Response, CDC

Executive Summary

The CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) held its 29th biannual meeting August 6-7, 2025. The meeting included TAC members from various tribal areas who attended both in-person and virtually, and a quorum was met. Hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the meeting focused on strengthening partnerships, providing updates on public health initiatives, and addressing concerns raised by tribal leaders, particularly around the proposed HHS reorganization.

Day 1 Overview

The first day commenced with remarks from Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Principal Chief David Hill, Speaker Randall Hicks, and CDC officials. The agenda included presentations on tribal sovereignty, emergency preparedness, and tribal data initiatives.

Key Sessions:

- **Tribal Sovereignty:** Presented by a tribal ambassador from the Muscogee Nation, this

presentation overviewed the history of the federal government's trust and treaty obligation to Tribes in the U.S.

- **CDC Budget Presentation:** CDC officials discussed the status of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget and the proposed FY 2026 budget and overviewed the federal appropriations process. Tribal officials expressed concerns about proposed cuts and advocated for tribal consultation on budget decisions.
- **Emergency Preparedness (H5N1, Measles, Epi Aid)**
 - » **Meaningful Engagement with Tribal Nations for Public Health Preparedness:** Shared the status of programs concerning emergency response and opportunities for partnership on programs focusing on emergency preparedness.
 - » **Serving & Learning with Tribal Partners: CDC's Disease Detectives & More:** Overviewed the history of the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and shared several new training programs in process.
- **CDC Tribal Data Initiatives – Data Modernization Update:** Provided a status update on the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI), the Tribal Implementation Center, and CDC Tribal Data Sharing Guidance and Governance.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks from TAC Chair Deputy Principal Chief Bryan Warner, and Interim Designated Federal Official Sara Patterson.

Day 2 Overview

Day two featured a site visit to several key locations within the Muscogee Nation, to learn about tribal history and governance, education, and health.

Highlights:

- **The Mound Building:** Seat of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Muscogee Nation.
- **College of the Muscogee Nation:** Public Tribal community college for the Muscogee Nation.
- **Euchee Butterfly Farm:** Sustainable economic development for Tribal people.
- **Muscogee Nation Department of Health:** Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare facility— inpatient and outpatient services and a medication refill fulfillment center— plus a presentation on the CDC-funded Healthy Native Babies Project, including its goals, services, and community impact.

TAC Member Attendees resolved two votes arising from the day-one TAC business updates. They finalized both items before adjournment.