**NPAIHB Public Health Committee Meeting**

**April 19, 2016**

**Attendees:** Karen Hanson (Kootenai), Kelle Little (Coquille), Kerstin Powell (Port Gamble S’Klallam), Leslie Randall (Nez Perce), Andrew Shogren (Quileute), Jim Steinruck (Tulalip), Jackie Taylor (Nez Perce)

**NPAIHB Staff:** Bridget Canniff

Bridget gave a brief preview of one of the items that will be highlighted in her presentation on Wednesday morning – Save the Date for the National Tribal Forum for Excellence in Public Health, August 30-31, 2016, in Spokane, WA. This meeting will provide an opportunity for tribes from across the county to network and learn from one another on topics like community health assessment and planning, quality improvement, public health accreditation readiness, and celebrate the excellent work tribes are doing to improve the overall health of their communities.

Coquille & Port Gamble S’Klallam gave updates on their activities as NPAIHB WEAVE-NW subawardees. As examples, Coquille is working to improve cardiovascular health, and Port Gamble S’Klallam mentioned their work with the Washington Health Improvement Network (WHIN)

There was a question about whether the tribes present have been participating in the Improving Patient Care (IPC) initiative – but since this is focused on RPMS, it’s not applicable to those using NextGen or EPIC. Tribes may want to look at NextGen Patient Population Health and Next Gen Care for tracking and reporting. Tulalip will be going live with EPIC in June, at the same time as their clinic remodel.

We had a lively discussion about terminology – public health vs. community health – noting that community health may be more familiar to tribes, and better reflect the way programs are structured. “Community Health” is often better understood.

Tulalip is adding a Public Health / Community Health nursing program, revamping and restructuring home outreach, adding MPH and social workers to the team that already has nurses and CHRs. They are networking with Snohomish County Public Health.

The group talked about the importance of true collaboration with community partners. Port Gamble S’Klallam noted their close relationship with Kitsap County Public Health, and there are many other good examples. There are barriers to community collaboration in public health, however. In some areas it’s difficult for tribes to integrate with the state/regional/county public health system. There is a lack of funding, and travel challenges, which can limit participation in regional meetings – and it’s often difficult for tribes to get invited to those meetings in the first place. This brings up concerns around the erosion of tribal sovereignty, as government -to-government relationships are not always honored and supported.

In general it was acknowledged that with not enough funding for public health/community health work, relationships become very important, especially those with the county, region, and state public health agencies.

Finally, there was an update on the Foundational Public Health Services tribal workgroup in Washington state. Andrew Shogren and Marilyn Scott have been serving as representatives on that workgroup, but Marilyn may be stepping down soon, and there’s a need for another tribal leader from Washington to step up to serve.