WELCOME & OVERVIEW
Joe Garcia of the Ohkay Owingeh Tribe opened the listening session with a prayer. Then Anne Herron, Director of SAMHSA’s Office of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs, welcomed participants.

Ms. Herron acknowledged the work that had been done related to the Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda (TBHA) but noted that a lot has happened in the past three years and communities are struggling. However, she noted that the TBHA has a strength-based approach that can be further leveraged.

In terms of updates, she noted two paths: updating the actual document and identifying ways to elevate it so that more people are aware of it’s wisdom.

Ms. Herron noted the importance of also acknowledging the lives lost, particularly in Indian County which has been disproportionally impacted by health crises including COVID, suicide and substance use disorders.

Don Lyons, who moderated the session, noted that there is a lot of diversity across the Tribal Nations as well as with urban-living Native Americans. As a result, being able to develop a common document is a meaningful achievement.

A list of participants is provided in Appendix A.

SESSION 1: TBHA AS A GUIDING BLUEPRINT FOR COLLABORATION
Seprieono Locario, with SAMHSA’s Tribal Technical Assistance Center (TTA Center), gave an overview of the resources and services of the Center. Specifically, this includes support with curriculum development, Tribal action plans, community readiness assessments, and cultural competency support. Mr. Locario encouraged participants to review the resources on the TTA Center website as well as directly contacting the TTA Center if there are any specific technical assistance needs. He added that the TTA Center works collaboratively with other technical assistance centers so they have the capability to address very tailored requests which may go beyond their original expertise.

Sara Pearson then provided an overview of the original TBHA. She noted that the TBHA is over 90-pages long which can be a barrier for users to read and learn from. As a result, the TTA Center has translated the document into a Prezi presentation which provides a visual self-directed approach for users to review the contents.
In terms of key points, Ms. Pearson noted the following:

- **Three Themes** – The three themes woven throughout the TBHA are “we honor,” “we will,” and we know.”
- **Not a Strategic Plan** – Rather, the TBHA is a guiding blueprint to assist in strengthening policies and programs; aligning disparate resources; and supporting facilitation coordination.
- **Storytelling** – The TBHA tells the story of resiliency and survival.
- **Authors/Ownership** – The authors are the tribal community with others (e.g. Federal partners) contributing in a supportive role.
- **Indigenous Healing Practices** – Tribes have a long history of engaging in health promotion and healing through practices such as community ceremonies, plants, and prayer. This needs to be integrated more with Western practices and accepted as an adaptive treatment.
- **Workforce and Infrastructure** – There is not only a workforce shortage but also providers may lack cultural competency. In addition, infrastructure issues range from lack of funding and internet access to an inability to have resources to apply for and/or manage grant administrative requirements.

Following are questions/comments from tribal participants:

- **SAMHSA Funding Related to the TBHA** – SAMHSA has three Tribal-specific grant programs: the Tribal Opioid Response; Circles of Care; and Native Connections. The cultural declaration from the TBHA is embedded in the grant and these grants allow for reimbursement of cultural-specific activities.
- **Expanding Awareness of the TBHA** – SAMHSA hopes to leverage the TTA Center to do more outreach and also to establish learning communities. This outreach will support updates to the TBHA, but will also serve as outlets for expanding awareness of the resource.
• **Government to Government Relationships** – There is a need to build trust and honor historical treaty obligations. In addition, it is important that US Agencies coordinate their funding streams and activities to minimize the administrative burden on tribes.

• **Tribal Liaisons** – These positions exist in most Federal agencies and they are a great resource that should be leveraged better.

• **Relationships** – Relationships are important in Tribal communities and, as a result, the isolation associated with the pandemic hit Indian country particularly hard. It is also why Tribal Liaisons are so important. They have credibility. Many Tribal citizens value “word of mouth” in adopting new ideas and judging programs.

• **Urban Natives** – The needs of these communities should be incorporated more extensively into the TBHA conversations.

• **Awareness is Different than Adoption** – There does seem to be some awareness about the TBHA but additional work is needed towards translating awareness into adoption (and understanding if there are any barriers in this translation).

• **State Relationships** – Tribal Nations should be seen as peers rather than subordinate to States. It would be good to have some best practices related to State-Tribe cooperative grants.

• **Training of Federal Staff** – Federal staff would benefit from cultural humility and awareness trainings.

• **Components of Good Technical Assistance (TA)** – TA is more than data, it should be inspirational and tailored to meet the needs of the requester. Sometimes having that “outside lens” helps to boost a project and identify challenges. The community, not the TA provider, should guide the conversations. TA should also be proactive rather than reactive. It was recommended that when requesting TA, there should be planning calls and clear expectations set before a site visit to the community. It is also important to understand the local environment as there is a lot of diversity across Tribes.

**SESSION 2: LISTENING SESSION**

Mr. Lyons then asked a series of questions for open discussion:

What lessons have you learned through COVID-19 that could be applied to an updated TBHA?

- Mental health is an integral part of emergency management.
- Life expectancy for AI/AN populations dropped precipitously from 71.8 years pre-pandemic to only 65.2 years by the end of 2021 (21 months into the COVID-19 pandemic).
- One participant noted that she used the TBHA document extensively when writing grants and working with Tribal communities. In particular, the TBHA helped to sync the grant document with existing Tribal community strategic plans.
- The document could also be produced in smaller booklets for each theme. This will improve awareness (easier to read).
- The COVID-19 experience should be included in the TBHA.
• The TBHA should include guidance around telehealth. It is much more prevalent now and has mixed acceptance among various communities.
• The updated TBHA should include a social marketing plan that spans across generations (e.g., virtual and "old school" approaches).
• Community health workers (CHWs) were on the frontline during COVID-19 to help communities with isolation. Many in tribal communities live in multigenerational households. It would be good to interview CHWs to garner lessons learned from them.
• Have the TBHA more interactive with keyword search capabilities.
• Leverage the wisdom of the Tribal Behavioral Health Work Group which were the on-the-ground providers for IHS regions.
• Substance use disorder is constantly changing (e.g., the growing threat of xylazine).
• Acknowledge the importance of “collective engagement” and community for the healing and empowerment of human family. We aren’t meant to live in isolation.
• Incorporate the successes/challenges of the 988 rollout in Tribes.
• During the pandemic, community members who were in recovery sustained challenges to their normal spaces of recovery and support.
• Poverty and other social determinants of health worsened under the pandemic and have direct impact on behavioral health.

Have you identified other topics or areas of the TBHA that need updated?

• High quality culturally-informed technical assistance on the grant writing process.
• The need for US Federal agencies to be more culturally responsive.
• The need for better access to telehealth (e.g., technology and internet infrastructure).
• Is there something other than the community readiness model for needs assessment? AASTEC developed their own needs assessment that was more culturally-relevant.
• Emphasize that indigenous communities are the experts on what they need and what works for them.
• COVID-19 didn’t just “crush” physical health but also spiritual health (e.g., isolation).
• Expand section on Indigenous healing practices.
• Tribal communities have historical trauma and fear of pandemics.
• The impact of isolation in our community as we are a very connected/relationship-based society.
• The need to align GPRA reporting across agencies is quite burdensome.
• A greater focus on infancy and early childhood needs (e.g., prevention/early intervention) as many live in multigenerational households. This could encompass the issue of caregivers with substance use disorders and also the issue of child welfare agencies (and historical impact in Indian Country of children removed from their families).
• Review how SAMHSA’s National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP) could incorporate more culturally-centered interventions.
• The TBHA should have more emphasis on the importance of tribal self-governance and self-determination.
• Update the data from the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey data which is referenced in the TBHA.
• Reference the intersectionality of homelessness and housing instability with behavioral health issues.
• Incorporate a discussion on generational resilience.
• Funding issues ranging from the need to braid funds across Federal agencies and the issue of sustainability. Tribes should have self governance and Federal agencies need to lower administrative burdens and provide more integration/flexibility. This doesn’t happen in practice. And as a result, vulnerable populations may have a disruption in service.
• Expand on Tribal culture values prevention and also holistic approaches (e.g., addressing the individual’s needs spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally).
• Include resources for the LGBTQI+ communities.
• Expand upon trauma-informed care practices.
• Discuss how tribes can leverage the 988 local call centers.
• Incorporate discussions on culturally-based parenting practices.
• In terms of resource funding, it would be better to have Federal Agencies partner with IHS through funding agreements to reduce the burden on Tribes.
• The TBHA needs to discuss workforce models and allow tribes to adopt their own models with their workforce that is reimbursable. The supervision requirement is a barrier and takes staff away from direct services.
• Funding should align with the actual work.
• Update social determinants of health discussion. Need was exacerbated by the pandemic.
• Reference the “vicious” intergenerational cycle and systemic racist issues.
• Provide resources for tribal schools since youth as young as preschool age are impacted.
• Rather than SAMHSA directing practices, it is better for SAMHSA to work with tribal communities to learn, understand and support reimbursement for tribal-based practices that are proven to work.
• There is a disconnect between services provided/needed and what is funded.
• Discussions around the TBHA need to be based on deeper discussions with community members. There are promising practices and delivery methods that have been learned in Western Washington, for example, following discussions with community members who were able to maintain their recovery through the pandemic.
• The TBHA should empower and support communities across the nation through opportunities of community storytelling.
• Subject matter experts from within Indian Country should be incorporated into the discussion and also compensated for their input in updating the agenda.
• Provide a high-level version that is youth-focused, Many youth are re-learning their culture and language.
How can information and resources within the TBHA best be shared and utilized?

- There needs to be a strong intentional dissemination of the agenda to get the resource to Tribal programs.
- SAMHSA has regional offices. When the TBHA is updated, SAMHSA might host regional meetings for Tribal and urban programs as modes of engagement and outreach.
- Leverage the Indian County Echo, both as a resource as well as a dissemination mechanism.
- Use social marketing techniques.

CLOSING

Mr. Lyons gave a recap of salient points. It was noted that the TBHA will be discussed during the August National Tribal Opioid Summit as well as other national gatherings.

Kim Beniquez then thanked participants and noted that SAMHSA will be reaching out to participants inviting them to be part of the learning communities related to the TBHA. SAMHSA will also provide the interactive Prezi presentation on the TBHA to participants.
APPENDIX A - PARTICIPANTS

Contractors
Nickole Fox, M.A., CPC-R
Tribal Tech LLC

Don Lyons, M.S.W.
Tribal Tech LLC

Sara Pearson, M.Ed.
Tribal Tech LLC

Seprieono Locario, M.S.
Tribal Tech LLC

SAMHSA
Kimberly Beniquez, M.S.
Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy

Irene Darko, M.P.H.
Public Health Advisor

CAPT Karen Hearod, M.S.W., LCSW
Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy

Anne Herron
Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs

Sharon Hester
Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy
Intern

Jenna Meyer, M.P.H., RN, BSN-C, CPH
Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy

Jared Stokes, Ed.D., M.A. M.P.H., CHES
Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy

Angela Wright, J.D.
Senior Project Associate
Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center

Department of Justice
Julius Dupree
Policy Advisor

Jennifer Marsh
Grants Management Specialist

Food and Drug Administration
Veronica Uzoebu, Ed.D.
Science Policy Advisor

Health and Human Services
Anna Leonard, M.P.H.
Budget Analyst
Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources

Mona Lewandoski, J.D.
Program Analyst

Melinda Golub
Senior Counsel
Office of the Inspector General

Health Resources and Services Administration
LCDR Venus Uttchin
Public Health Analyst

Indian Health Service
JB Kinlacheeney, M.P.H.
Public Health Advisor

Teddi Penland
Management Analyst
Alcohol and Substance Prevention Branch
National Institute on Drug Abuse

Barbara Oudekerk, Ph.D.
Social and Behavioral Sciences Administrator

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Sarah Sdringola
Intern

Veterans Administration

Amy Deloyski, M.D.
VHA- VISN 23 Suicide Prevention Program Manager

Jamison Hild
Homeless Program Manager
Veterans Administration

Marianne Schumacher, Ph.D.
Chief Mental Health Officer
VHA - VISN 23

Tribal, State and Community Representatives

Michael Ashley
Patient Services Coordinator
F.A.I.T.H. Behavioral

Lyz Best, M.A., M.P.H.
Technical Assistance Manager
National Council of Urban Indian Health

Cheryl Bighorn-Savior, R.N.
Fort Peck Tribal Health

Jennifer Boardman
Regional Transit Coordinator
Oregon Department of Transportation

Sherea Burnett, J.D.
Continuum of Care Engagement Specialist
North Carolina

Estefanita Calabaza
Native Connections Coordinator
Kewa Family Wellness Center

Jose Castillo
Veterans Advocate
Arizona Complete Health

Nicole Coleman, MA
988 Project Manager
Idaho Division of Behavioral Health

Sondra Cosgrove, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Vote Nevada

Gail Crane
Carmelita Cruz, J.D.
Equity Officer
Office of Addiction Services and Support
New York State

Kay Culbertson, M.P.A.
Health Services Director
Squaxin Island Tribe

Mercia Cummings, LCPC
Clinical Director
Native American LifeLines

Robin Davis, Ph.D.
Vice President, Research Science
ICF

Josh DeBartolo, M.A.
Tribal and Multicultural Liaison
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Michelle Eggers, M.S.N.  
Data & Program Analyst  
St. Joseph’s Indian School

Angela Greene, M.S.  
Senior Study Director  
Westat

Carla Hawkins  
Compliance Manager  
The Chickasaw Nation

Marie Erb  
Grants and Communications  
Margaret Clark Foundation

Ashley Hesse  
Vice President of Policy  
Indigenous Pact PBC, Inc.

Bessie Evans, LPN  
Life Health Center

Sandra Hiebert, M.S.  
Education Coordinator  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Alan Faulkner  
Program Manager  
Dot Lake Village

Meg Holts, M.A.  
Blue Heron Nonprofit Consulting

Alisha Fletcher, M.A.  
Project Assistant  
Policy Research Associates

Katie Houle, M.S.W.  
Clinical Administrator  
North Dakota Department of Human Services

Walter Flores  
Care Coordinator  
Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities

Rueben Howard  
Health Director  
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona

Alisha Fletcher, M.A.  
Project Assistant  
Policy Research Associates

Carla Hawkins  
Compliance Manager  
The Chickasaw Nation

Alan Faulkner  
Program Manager  
Dot Lake Village

Ashley Hesse  
Vice President of Policy  
Indigenous Pact PBC, Inc.

Bessie Evans, LPN  
Life Health Center

Sandra Hiebert, M.S.  
Education Coordinator  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Alan Faulkner  
Program Manager  
Dot Lake Village

Margot Holmes, M.A.  
Blue Heron Nonprofit Consulting

Alisha Fletcher, M.A.  
Project Assistant  
Policy Research Associates

Katie Houle, M.S.W.  
Clinical Administrator  
North Dakota Department of Human Services

Walter Flores  
Care Coordinator  
Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities

Rueben Howard  
Health Director  
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona

Cary Fremin  
Director of Health and Social Services  
Dot Lake Village

Rochelle Hubbell-Spencer  
Deputy Director  
Navajo County Public Health Services District

Karen Friend, Ph.D.  
Senior Evaluator  
Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Samantha Huddleston  
Program Manager  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Maya Fountain  

Ashley Hupchick  
Director of Therapeutic Services  
Wholistic Perspectives

Joe Garcia  
Ohkay Owingeh Nation  
SAMHSA TTAC Representative

Felipita Jacks  
Tribal Liaison

Jacqueline Gray, Ph.D.  
Co-Director  
NAI/ANPTTC

Helen Gomez  
The Chickasaw Nation
Candice Jimenez, M.P.H.
Health Policy Analyst
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Angie Jones
Regional Transit Coordinator
Public Transportation Division, Oregon

Kari Jones
Health Equity Director
Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Lawanda Jones
Health Program Specialist
State of Nevada

Amanda Karla
Project Director
Helio Health

Kathryn Kaniewski, M.S.
Guardianship Administrator
Illinois Guardianship Advocacy Council

Glenn Kazan
Senior Care Coordinator
Easterseals NH

Amber Kidder
Pines Behavioral Health

Larry Kinread
Executive Director of Special Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Washington State

Abigail Kirkman, M.A.
Assistant Director
SAMHSA SOAR Grant
Policy Research Associates, Inc

Sebouh Kouyoumijian, M.P.A.
Public Health Associate
National Council of Urban Indian Health

Garrett Lankford, M.P.P.
Federal Relations Analyst
National Indian Health Board

Byron Larson, M.H.A.
Principal
Xanovea

Fergus Laughridge
Health Director
Ft McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe

Tawny Lavell
ICWA Representative
North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians

Angela Lockhart, M.A.
Statewide Coordinator
VR Counseling Support & Employment Services
State of New York

Lachyna Locklear
National Indian Health Board

A.C. Locklear, J.D.
Federal Relations Manager
National Indian Health Board

Hyacinth Logan, R.N.
Children’s Rehabilitation Network

Stacy Lookout, M.S.
Director
Osage Nation Counseling Center

Maria Lourdes
Co-Director of Programming and Projects
Alianza Indigena sin Fronteras
Jeramie Martin, DSL.c
Behavioral Health Administrator
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Richard McDuffe, MNM
Grants Administrator
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Stephanie Miller, R.N.
Nurse Coordinator
Pines Behavioral Health Services

Cristee Miner, LPN
Case Manager
Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association

Megan Mitchell

Melissa Mohammad, CNA
Fort Peck Tribal Health

Javier Moreno, M.B.A.
Director of California Government Relations
Aegis Treatment Centers

Mary Mummaw
Grants Management Specialist
Tribal Affairs Division
Office of Violence Against Women

Lena Nachand, M.A.
Tribal Liaison for Medicaid Transformation
Washington

Jennifer Nanez, M.S.W.
Senior Program Therapist
Division of Community Behavioral Health
University of New Mexico

Sarina Oden, M.B.A.
Program Director
Elmhurst Home, Inc.

Rose Olmsted
University of Regina

Carmen O’Leary
Director
Native Women’s Society of the Great Plains

Cynthia Ortiz
Coordinator
Intermountain Centers

Denise Peroune, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Population Health
Nirvana Healthcare Management Services

Hanno Petras, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist
Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Kendra Pountney
Behavioral Health Administrator Services
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Tony Quintana
Program Coordinator
Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board

Kathryn Redhorse
Executive Director
Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs
Office of the Lt. Governor

Samantha Renfrow
Mental Health Services Advisor
Chickasaw Nation Department of Family Services

Angela Roberts
Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Kentucky

Joanette Robertson, M.S.W.
Supervisor of Mental Health Services
Wisconsin Department of Health Services