Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor

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TO: Governor Tina Kotek and The Commission on Indian Services
CC: Shana McConville Radford; Director, Tribal Affairs

From: Mary-Beth Baptista, JD, Executive Director & Board Tribal Cultural Items Contact
Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine
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RE: 182.166 Training of state agency managers and employees who communicate with tribes; annual meetings of representatives of agencies and tribes; annual reports by state agencies.

The Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine is reporting on its activities in compliance with ORS 182.166(3) related to its interaction and collaboration with the Tribes and tribal communities in Oregon.

OBNM is a small agency with three full-time employees, and seven volunteer Board Members. The mission of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine (OBNM) is to regulate, through the Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules, the practices of naturopathic medicine to ensure protection of the public. The Board promotes excellence in the practice of naturopathic medicine by assuring quality education, regulating naturopathic practices, and fostering ongoing public outreach. In this manner, the Board cultivates public trust and safety by ensuring the State of Oregon is served by naturopathic professionals providing the highest standards of care.

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine held a strategic planning retreat in April 2024. The OBNM Strategic Plan adopted and published by the Board identified action items —tasks the Board and the Executive Director agreed to undertake in the near term relative to each area of the Board's primary responsibilities. The Board is committed to advancing and improving the Board's performance of its duties through the identified concrete actions.

Part of the OBNM Strategic plan includes a commitment to repairing the impact of past or present discrimination, intended or unintended, increasing diversity of licensure applicants and current licensees. In 2025, the Board began to assess the way the Board communicates to and with potential applicants for licensure and current licensees; with particular consideration on communicating with persons that hail from or practice in communities encompassing a wide geographic range and range of identities, e.g. race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion; and residence - rural areas, tribal lands, economically distressed and disadvantaged communities; through collection of demographic licensure data, surveys, and focus groups across the State of Oregon.

OBNM will promote communication between the state agency and tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes, by developing an outreach strategy to create an inclusive and equitable recruitment and application process that leads to a more diverse pool of applicants for licensure, as well as support and retain licensees that serve and practice in communities encompassing the afore stated geographic range and range of identities.

The Board intends to plan in-person and virtual engagement activities in 2026; where the Board members and Executive Director will listen and learn about experiences, perspectives, real and perceived barriers impacting potential and actual applicants for licensure, as well as affect retention rates of current licensees, from the identified communities and individuals.

All staff and Board members have a copy of the strategic plan, and the plan is published on the Board website. The Board will review, and track progress made on the strategic plan initiatives at the bi-monthly Board meetings. Board Executive Director Mary-Beth Baptista, JD and Board Chair Dr. Ryan Minarik, ND are responsible for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

Unfortunately, due to budget restrictions, neither the Executive Director nor the Board Chair were able to attend the 2025 Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit, co-hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe in October, in North Bend. As I said in the 2024 report, I hope the Board will have the funds to send a representative to the next summit. In the interim, I also attended the Bi-weekly Tribal Leaders & Governor's Office Coordination Call as my schedule allowed. I intend to submit an application to request a training at the August 2026 Board meeting on Tribal relations for the staff and members of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine

Please let me know if you have any further questions about the work or mission of Board of Naturopathic Medicine. We are eager to collaborate with the Commission, and we look forward to a productive working relationship.