



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Board of Physical Therapy

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December 15th, 2025

TO: Governor Tina Kotek and The Legislative Commission on Indian Services

FROM: Michelle Sigmund-Gaines, Executive Director

RE: Annual Report Pursuant to ORS 182.166(3)a-f & Cultural Items

The Oregon Board of Physical Therapy is committed to promoting positive government-to-government relations, communications, and cooperation to increase our collective ability to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of Oregon and tribal citizens. OBPT issues licenses and regulates the practice physical therapy in Oregon (ORS Chapter 688); however, applicable licensure and regulatory requirements for practice on tribal lands are governed by each tribal government and any federal requirements, if applicable.

2025 Reporting Sections

ORS 182.166(3)(a): Agency Policy Adopted under ORS 182.164:

A copy of the agency policy is attached to this letter.

ORS 182.166(3)(b): Individuals responsible for developing and implementing programs of the agency that impact tribes:

The Board is ultimately responsible for establishing policy and programs. The current list of serving Board Members is located at <https://www.oregon.gov/pt/Pages/Members.aspx>. Implementation is overseen by Michelle Sigmund-Gaines, Executive Director, who also serves as the Tribal Liaison.

ORS 182.166(3)(c) and (d): Process established to identify programs that affect tribes and efforts to promote communication and outreach:

At a strategic planning level, the tribes are identified as interested parties that may potentially be impacted by any policy or program changes. At an operational level, if the Board receives a complaint or other query, these are routed to the tribal liaison for review and direction. The OBPT will coordinate and collaborate with the tribes regarding any complaints that may be received. The tribal liaison and records officer also collaborate to reach out to tribes prior to final destruction of any agency records.

ORS 182.166(3)(e): 2025 Training:

The Executive Director/Tribal Liaison reviewed the recordings from the 2025 Tribal Summit, the Introduction to Tribal Consultations Modules published by the Department of the Interior, as well reviewed materials published by the Indian Health Service.



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ORS 182.166(3)(f): method of staff notice:

Staff are notified of the applicable provisions and policy through the review of the OBPT policies and procedures manual; updates or changes are discussed via staff meetings, when applicable, as well as insights and learnings from trainings.

Cultural Items Survey Activity:

The Board as a health professional licensing and regulating body does not own land, buildings, art or other similar assets, beyond records and general office equipment, and based on current knowledge, has not identified any tribal cultural items. Staff will participate in upcoming training in 2026, and will update an agency survey of assets to identify items, if any, based on that guidance.

(attached: Tribal Relations Policy)

Oregon Board of Physical Therapy

Tribal Relations Policy

Applicable: All Employees

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to promote government-to-government relations between the Oregon Medical Board and Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

This policy is adopted pursuant to [ORS 182.162-168](#), which requires state agencies to develop and implement tribal relations policies.

DEFINITIONS:

Agency: Oregon Board of Physical Therapy (OBPT).

Consultation: A formal, two-way, government-to-government dialogue between official representatives of tribes and of state agencies to discuss policy or plan proposals prior to the agency making final decisions.

Legislative Commission on Indian Services:

Provides advice to the Legislative Assembly and other Oregon officials and agencies on the needs of American Indian people in the state.

Tribe: A federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon.

Tribal Liaison: Agency contact who coordinates with the tribes, supports internal agency programs and projects, and participates in Tribal-State meetings.

POLICY:

The OBPT recognizes and honors the sovereign status of Oregon's federally recognized tribes and their respective authorities on tribal lands. It is the policy of the OBPT to promote positive consultation of government-to-government relations to increase our collective ability to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of Oregon and tribal citizens.

The Board understands that consultation requires early and frequent outreach with tribal leaders, as well as humility and respect for sovereign tribal nations. Meaningful consultation entails striving for the co-designing of plans and processes with tribes through honoring tribal expertise and directly addressing their questions and concerns. It requires leader-to-leader communication, with the authority to make decisions, beyond staff level meetings or presentations. Good consultation means both parties recognize the sovereignty of each and have forthright conversations.

Consultation is an active process and requires learning about tribes and building genuine, ongoing and meaningful relationships in order to facilitate thoughtful and collaborative discussions. Prior to implementing any policy or plan that may affect one of Oregon's federally recognized tribes, the Board will seek consultation to ask what the tribe(s) think, if the tribe(s) believe the policy or plan might affect the tribe(s) adversely or positively, and eventually, if the tribe supports the policy or plan.

Oregon Board of Physical Therapy

Tribal Relations Policy

The Board knows that building and maintaining strong government-to-government relations with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes makes our agency more effective overall, while supporting our work across the state to carry out the OBPT's mission. The OBPT is committed to learning from the tribes about their health care efforts and needs related to the practice of physical therapy and finding opportunities where our agency programs can be valuable resources for the tribes. The Board also continues to look for opportunities where agency programs and projects can be improved with input from the tribes.

The Executive Director serves as a liaison with tribal governments (known as the Tribal Liaison) and provides the contact information for the Tribal Liaison to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. The Tribal Liaison coordinates with the tribes, supports internal agency programs and projects, and participates in Tribal-State meetings.

The Board promotes strong government-to-government relationships at the leadership, managerial, and staff levels with the tribes and will demonstrate its commitment to positive relations with the tribes through such practices as follows:

- Maintain an agency liaison to tribal nations.
- Seek and invite tribal representation on the Oregon Board of Physical Therapy and working groups that are of interest to the tribes.
- Consult with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services on matters concerning tribal government.
- Make a reasonable effort to cooperate with tribes in the development and implementation of agency programs that affect the tribes.
- Support the exchange of relevant public data collected by OBPT staff or by tribal governments. If applicable, confidential information may be shared in accordance with [ORS 676.177](#).
- Ensure agency staff are aware of the sovereign authority and self-government of Native American Tribes and of the organizational structure of the tribal governments.
- Provide regular training to agency staff who communicate or work with tribal governments.
- Seek other opportunities to learn from and build relationships with the tribes.

OREGON'S FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBES:

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians
- Klamath Tribes