

TO: Governor Kotek and The Commission on Indian Services

FROM: Terrence Saunders, Interim Executive Director of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

DATE: December 27, 2023

SUBJECT: OACO Report per ORS 182.162 to 182.168

Key OACO Contacts

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Mission:

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OACs), leaders of underrepresented communities in Oregon, share their expertise and knowledge to inform equity in state policy. OACs research issues, educate the public, and provide advice to state policy and decision makers, including the Governor, legislators, and state agency leadership. OACs are continually looking for ways to improve the lives and livelihoods of all Oregonians and encourage diverse leadership in state government.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) was established to support the statutory work of all four OACs:

- Oregon Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA)
- Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA)
- Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA)
- Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)

OACO's process to identify programs that will affect Tribes:

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions are committed to ensuring equity in Oregon's underrepresented communities in Oregon including the Tribes. OACO recognizes and respects the sovereign status of Oregon's federally recognized Tribes and their respective authorities on tribal lands. OACO will promote positive government to government relations through consultation with the Tribes where the development, implementation, and administration of agency programs may affect tribal members, lands, activities or interests. Our Executive Director serves as they key agency contact with tribal governments and will coordinate with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services when the Tribes may be impacted. The Tribal liaison will work with the Tribes to support internal agency programs and projects,



participate in Tribal-State cluster meetings, Tribal-State government to government summit meetings and the Legislative Commission on Indian Affairs meetings.

Communication between OACO and Tribes:

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office will foster positive communication with the Tribes when the Tribes may be impacted. Our Tribal Liaison (Executive Director) will offer to meet regularly with each tribe to discuss issues of mutual interest and explore opportunities for greater state/tribal partnership and collaboration. OACO staff will make a reasonable effort to coordinate with Tribes in the development, implementation, and administration of agency programs that affect the Tribes through Dear Tribal Leader Letters and coordination with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. OACO will seek and invite tribal representation on OACO advisory committees and work groups that are areas of interest to the Tribes.

Past year communication:

In the past year, OACO has engaged with Tribes in our agency's work with HB 4052 through establishing a Tribal Relations Policy and drafting several Dear Tribal Leader Letters to continuously offer opportunities for consultation and engagement with Tribes. In March 2023, OACO staff sent a letter to each of the nine Federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. The letter shared information about HB 4052 and extended an invitation for consultation and engagement in providing recommendations for our interim report which has been submitted to the Legislative assembly. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and The Confederated Tribes of Siletz responded to the request for consultation. OACO staff traveled to Siletz for consultation in June 2023. In the Fall, OACO staff worked with the Indigenous Health Equity Action Council to provide recommendations to the HB 4052 interim report. In the future, staff will ensure that the Tribes are aware of the work recommendations progress in 2024 and 2025 calendar years as we work towards drafting a final report and building out recommendations that have been provided by our communities.

Annual Training:

Annual training will be provided by the Department of Administrative Services and OACO staff who have regular communication with the Tribes will be required to attend. This training will include but not limited to, the legal status of the Tribes, the legal rights of members of the Tribes, and issues of concern to the Tribes. OACO will disseminate our Tribal relations policy to all new employees in new employee orientation and will be maintained on our agency intranet for reference.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office looks forward to continued partnership with Tribes and providing opportunities for collaboration and communication.

Best,





**Advocating for Equity and
Diversity throughout Oregon**
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