

Executive Summary: CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting – August 7-8, 2024

The CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) held its 28th biannual meeting on August 7-8, 2024, both in-person and virtually. The meeting included TAC members from various tribal areas, and a quorum was met. Hosted by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the meeting focused on strengthening partnerships, discussing public health initiatives, and addressing key concerns raised by tribal leaders.

Day 1 Overview

The first day commenced with a welcoming session featuring remarks by Cow Creeks CEO, Michael Rondeau, and CDC officials. The agenda included presentations on public health modernization, data access initiatives, opioid prevention strategies, and grant management improvements.

Key Sessions:

- **Data Modernization Initiative:** Led by CDC officials, this session emphasized enhancing data access and technical support for Tribal communities. Tribal leaders expressed the need for direct engagement between CDC and tribal nations, highlighting ongoing concerns around data trust and sovereignty.
- **Listening Session:** Tribal leaders directly shared their public health priorities with CDC and ATSDR officials, emphasizing the need for closer collaboration.
- **Luncheon Discussion:** Addressed opioid prevention efforts in Oregon, highlighting Tribal-led strategies for treatment and recovery.
- **Grants Governance Board:** Discussed efforts to reduce the administrative burden on Tribes applying for CDC funding and the need for more equitable distribution of funds.

The meeting concluded with discussions on public health modernization, including the impact of traditional knowledge and strategies for diabetes prevention in Native communities.

Day 2 Overview

Day two included presentations on environmental health, specifically wildfire mitigation and fisheries management.

Highlights:

- **Wildfire Mitigation:** Explored the contrasts between Western and Indigenous approaches to land management. Forestry staff employed by Cow Creek emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge in restoring ecological conditions.
- **Fisheries Program:** Presented by Cow Creek representatives, the session showcased how fisheries programs support cultural ties, food sovereignty, and economic growth.

The meeting closed with discussions on further strengthening Tribal-CDC partnerships and improving health outcomes for Native communities.