



# *American Indian Health Commission for Washington State*

## 2006 Emergency Preparedness Conference Conference Summary

***Chair***

**Marilyn Scott  
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***Vice-Chair***

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Puyallup Tribe**

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Seattle Indian Health Board**

***Director***

**Deborah A. Sosa**

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board -Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center & The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice at the University of Washington School of Public Health & Community Medicine hosted the 2006 Emergency preparedness conference on August 3-4, 2006 at the Seattle Marriott.

The opening of the conference was a presentation by the Suquamish Canoe Family. A special honor to the conference was the posting of the colors by the Tulalip Color Guard.

Joe Finkbonner, Executive Director of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board opened the conference and introduced the Keynote Speaker – Bill White.

Bill White, Deputy Secretary of the Washington State- Department of Health presented his keynote address – “The Challenges of Creating New Partnerships”. Bill spoke of the importance of the work and coordination that needs to occur at the local level and that infections and wildlife do not recognize man-made boundaries.

Laura Blaske (Washington State Department of Health) and James Apa (Public Health Seattle-King County-Washington) presented –“Risky Business: Risk Communication in Challenging Times”. The speakers kept the attendees laughing while sharing strategies and tips on a challenging topic. The presentation was very eye opening to many – who had not considered how to manage the media.

Lunch speakers were Deb Sosa, director of the AIHC (American Indian Health Commission-Washington) speaking on the work of the health commission and the commission’s key partners in health advocacy. The second lunch speaker was Travis Best, Southwest District Health in Idaho speaking on “Interagency Planning with Duck Valley Indian Reservation” . Travis shared some of the challenges in coordinating and partnering with a very rural community. He was also willing to share a Memorandum of agreement he was able to draft to assist in emergency preparedness coordination with the Duck Valley Indian reservation.

The remainder of the afternoon was filled with breakout sessions;

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS for Day 1 - morning

#### 1. Indian Health Service:

- Workforce Mobilization w/Disaster Response – Al Knapp (IHS-Oregon)

- IHS' role in Emergency Preparedness- Dean Ross (IHS Headquarters)
2. Emergency Preparedness Training Topics:
    - WASECURES - Val Vargas-Thomas (Colville-Washington)/Cindy Gleason (Washington State Department of Health)
    - Collaboration and Pan Flu Planning - Curt Russell/Wendy Woods (Lummi-Washington)
  3. Emergency Preparedness Training topics:
    - Intro to Indian Health – Joe Finkbonner (Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board)
    - Learning Management System – Lori Van De Wege (Washington State Department of Health)
  4. Emergency Preparedness Training topics:
    - Federal Legal Issues – Ellen Miyasato/Jay Furtick (HHS-Office of the General Counsel-Region 10-Washington)
    - State Legal Issues - Joyce Roper (Washington State's Attorney General's Office)/Kathy Stout (Washington State Department of Health)

#### BREAKOUT SESSIONS - Afternoon

1. Emergency Preparedness Training Topics:
  - Pharmaceutical Stockpiles and Mass Dispensing – Andy Stergachis, RPh, PhD (University of Washington-NWCPHP)/David Owens (Washington State Department of Health)
  - Oregon's Point of Dispensing - Kathy Scott (State Public Health Immunizations Program-Oregon) Brian Mahoney (Oregon State Public Health Division)
2. Emergency Preparedness Training Topics:
  - Exercise, Planning, and Execution – Dan Banks (Washington State Department of Health)
  - Supplemental Federal Assistance in Disasters - Andrew Hendrickson (FEMA-Washington), Paul McNeil (Washington Emergency Management Division)
3. Washington State Public Health Laboratory coordination with tribes – Cate Franklin (Washington State Department of Health), Karie Brouillard (Spokane Regional Health District), Sarah Stewart (Washington State Public Health)
4. Emergency Preparedness Training Topics:
  - Disaster Mental Health – Dr. Randy Beaton (University of Washington)
  - DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) – Lisa Bourque (The Volunteer Center/RSVP-Washington)

#### DAY TWO OF THE CONFERENCE

Day two of the conference was opened with remarks by - Jack Thompson, Director of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice at the University of Washington. Jack welcomed the attendees and encouraged them on the important work they were doing. Following Jack's remarks, he introduced the keynote speaker – Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer for the Washington State Department of Health.

Maxine's address was addressing the Bird Flu and addressing the skepticism and questions that many workers in Public Health find themselves being asked. Maxine has been speaking around the state on the eventual need of all the preparedness activities and some history of prior pandemics to remind people of the possible situations Public Health officials may be dealing with in this new era of technology and global travel.

#### BREAKOUT SESSIONS for day 2- morning

1. Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise – Dan Banks (Washington State Department of Health)
2. Emergency Preparedness Training Topics:
  - Radiation Awareness Public Health Outcome – Susan May (Washington State Department of Health)
  - Chemical Terrorism – Cate Franklin (Washington State Department of Health)
3. HAZMAT Operations- Curt Russell (Lummi-Washington)
4. Emergency Preparedness Training Topics:
  - Approaches to Event Detection: A local Public Health Perspective – Atar Baer (Public Health, Seattle & King County-Washington)
  - The Interface of Event Detection w/Routine Surveillance – Chas DeBolt (Washington State Department of Health)

The afternoon lunch speaker was Wayne Turnberg from the Washington State Department of Health speaking on "Tracking Infectious Disease across Borders". Wayne gave an overview of the work he does and the many partners he works with on a regular basis. He introduced staff from Fish and Wildlife. Wayne encouraged tribes to work closely with local Health departments in reporting diseases. The discussion stimulated questions on tribal resources for diagnosis and identification of infectious agents and the importance of early isolation and public health safety practices.

#### BREAKOUT SESSIONS for day 2- afternoon

The afternoon sessions were designed to allow networking with in each state. In order to facilitate communication, networking and sharing of state resources among conference attendees.

1. Idaho State/Tribal breakout – Travis Best, facilitator
2. Oregon State/Tribal breakout – Brian Mahoney, facilitator
3. Washington State/Tribal breakout – Johnny Clark, facilitator

At the close of the breakout session the conference was officially ended.