

# **Spring 2025 General Council**

## **Opioid Response Manager Report**

**Mission Statement-** To reduce opioid addiction and the devastating impacts to the families and communities on the Nez Perce Reservation.

**Vision** – To support, expand and create resources for prevention, treatment and recovery services to reduce or prevent opioid-related deaths and overdoses. To represent a unified and culturally responsive approach to combating the opioid crisis, aiming to restore balance and well-being to our communities.

**Staff-** Brooklyn Baptiste  
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**Budget-** \$ 118,695.07  
Source- Opioid Settlement Funds  
Office Location-Tribal Court & Methodist Hall

### **Collaborating Programs/Opioid Task Force**

Office of Executive Direction, Office of Enterprise Executive Officer, Office of Law & Order Executive Office, Office of Nimiipuu Health Executive Director, Nimiipuu Health Medical Director, Tribal Emergency Management Director, Tribal Police Chief, Tribal Chief Judge, Communications Director, Social Service Manager, Office of the Nez Perce Tribal Housing Executive Director and Behavior Health

### **Non-Tribal collaboration**

Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, Chas Health, Idaho Public Health District, Idaho Dept. of Corrections, Washington Dept. of Corrections and surrounding county law and jail systems.

The opioid epidemic is an ongoing public health crisis that has affected millions of people in the United States over the past two decades. Officially declared a Public Health Emergency by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2017, the epidemic has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

While the roots of the epidemic are complex, many agree that its origin can be traced to the late 1990s when the increased availability of prescription opioid pain killers led to a spike in opioid use disorder, a pattern of opioid use leading to “impairment or distress.” In some cases, the disorder can lead to overdose and death.

The opioid crisis has deeply affected the social fabric of the Nez Perce community, leading to increased mortality, social disruption, economic hardship, and a loss of cultural continuity. Addressing these multifaceted impacts requires a holistic approach that leverages the strengths and resources of the entire community.

The Nez Perce Tribe continues a unified and culturally responsive approach to combating the opioid crisis on the Nez Perce Reservation, aiming to restore balance and well-being to the community

- Reducing opioid-related deaths and overdoses by 30% over three years.
- Raising awareness and educating the community about the opioid crisis.
- Decreasing opioid prescriptions by 20%.
- Providing targeted support services to youth and families.  
Establishing comprehensive rehabilitation services that incorporate cultural practices

Fentanyl overdoses and or Fentanyl related deaths NPT Police Dept.

- FY 24 (October 2023 thru September 2024) Deaths from Fentanyl use 1
- FY 24 (October 2023 thru September 2024) Narcans administered 5 (Narcan) 1 (Naloxone)
- FY 24 (October 2023 thru September 2024) lives saved from Narcan 3 (Narcan) 1 (Naloxone)
- FY 25 (October 2024 thru December 2024) Deaths from Fentanyl use 2
- FY 25 (October 2024 thru December 2024) Narcans administered 3
- FY 25 (October 2024 thru December 2024) lives saved from Narcan 1

## **Law Enforcement**

Enhancing law enforcement efforts to curb illegal opioid importation.  
Training law enforcement in culturally sensitive practices.

Collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies for joint enforcement actions.

Clinical Efforts-Reviewing and improving opioid prescribing guidelines.  
Promoting alternative pain management methods, including traditional healing practices.

Educating healthcare providers on safe prescribing and cultural integration.

## **Access to Detox Services**

Expanding detox services with culturally responsive care. -Integrating traditional cleansing ceremonies into detox programs.-Increasing the number of detox facilities on the reservation.

## **Public Education**

Launching public education campaigns to raise awareness about opioid addiction and recovery. -Emphasizing the role of cultural reconnection in recovery. -Educating the community on Narcan® use and harm reduction practices.

**Root Causes of Self-Medication:** Addressing socio-economic and psychological factors driving opioid addiction. -Integrating traditional teachings and practices into prevention and recovery efforts.

**Cultural Value Integration-** Strengthening community support systems through peer support groups, family counseling, and traditional healing ceremonies. -Promoting community acceptance and reintegration of individuals in recovery. -Collaborating with cultural leaders and elders to ensure the response strategy aligns with Nez Perce values.

The Opioid Response Program work directly with our Court System in order to reinforce cultural integration in Prevention, Incarceration and Recovery efforts.

Restorative Justice through our future Peace Makers program will definitely benefit individuals and the community, using culturally sensitive methods.

An initial “Men’s Group” gathering has been started with the first gathering taking place in Lapwai and the next in the Kamiah area to be scheduled soon.

It is the intent of the group gathering to foster youth and adult males to actively participate in culturally specific learning opportunities, mentorship circles, community service efforts and to identify community needs.

The Blue-Sky Foundation has allowed us to expand our youth prevention efforts including hunting, fishing and gathering components for our youth, across Nez Perce Tribal homelands. These youth initiatives offer educational opportunities as well as on the grounds of exercising our treaty hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

Our first buffalo harvest attempt was very successful in West Yellowstone. We will continue to expand our efforts by continually searching for funding opportunities through our grant system and private philanthropy.

The Opioid Response Program will continue to work alongside every department under the Nez Perce Tribe and expand efforts outside the tribe's structure to continually combat the devastating impact to our communities and the future of our nation.

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