

Relationship of State Agencies with Indian Tribes

Activities of the Oregon Medical Board

December 2025



The Oregon Medical Board is committed to promoting positive government-to-government relations, communications, and cooperation with Oregon’s tribes. Our mission is to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of Oregon citizens through the regulation for the practice of medicine in a manner that promotes access to quality care. This mission extends to citizens of tribal nations.

| ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements | |
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| ORS 182.166(3)(a) Policy adopted under ORS 182.164. | The OMB adopted Policy 847-103-001 “Tribal Relations” on February 13, 2023. |
| ORS 182.166(3)(b) Names of individuals who are responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect tribes. | <p>Nicole Krishnaswami, JD, Executive Director (she/her) OMB: 971-673-2700 Cell: 503-310-6532 Nicole.Krishnaswami@omb.oregon.gov</p> <p>Elizabeth Ross, Legislative & Policy Analyst (she/her) Desk: 971-673-2667 elizabeth.ross@omb.oregon.gov</p> <p>Gretchen Kingham, Executive Assistant, Tribal Liaison (she/her) Desk: 971-673-2704 gretchen.kingham@omb.oregon.gov</p> |
| ORS 182.166(3)(c) Process established to identify programs that affect tribes. | Policy 847-103-001 “Tribal Relations” commits the Board to learning from the tribes about their health care efforts and needs related to the practice of medicine, podiatry, and acupuncture and finding opportunities where our programs can be valuable resources for the tribes or where our programs and projects can be improved with input from the tribes. |
| ORS 182.166(3)(d) Efforts to promote communication between state agency and tribes and government-to-government relations between state and tribes. | Executive Director Krishnaswami contacts each of Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes, via written letter, when a public member board position becomes vacant to notify them of the opportunity to serve on the OMB and contacts them annually to reaffirm our commitment to supporting the health and wellness of tribal communities by reminding them of the services the OMB provides and sharing her contact information. |
| ORS 182.166(3)(e) Description of training required by subsection (1) of this section. | <p>Ms. Kingham, Tribal Liaison, and Michele Sherwood, Investigations Supervisor, attended the 2025 Tribal-State Government to Government Summit. Executive Director Krishnaswami and Ms. Ross, Legislative & Policy Analyst, were unable to attend the summit, but watched the video recording.</p> <p>Additionally, 11 OMB staff members participated the Department of Justice’s training session “Tribal Relations: What should I know and what should I do?” held on November 3, 2025.</p> <p>OMB staff do not have regular communication with tribes on the legal status of tribes, the legal rights of members of tribes, or issues of concern to tribes.</p> |
| ORS 182.166(3)(f) Method established for notifying employees of the provisions of ORS 182.162-168 and agency policy adopted under ORS 182.164.66(3)(f). | Oregon Medical Board employees are required to review all agency policies and procedures upon creation, revision, and annually. Policy 847-103-001 “Tribal Relations” was adopted pursuant to ORS 182.162-168 . The statute is linked in the policy. |

Executive Order 24-06

Survey of cultural items in agency's possession and efforts to return them.

In February 2025, the Oregon Medical Board researched the origin of two historical photographs of tribal peoples that had been displayed in our Portland office for decades. The photographs were found to be of Nez Perce community members. Executive Director Krishnaswami mailed the photographs to the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program with an accompanying letter that acknowledged the photographs, estimated to be over a century old, should have been repatriated long ago, apologized for the delay, and recognized that this action represents more than just physical objects but honors generations of tribal communities. Although these photographs did not belong to one of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, the Board was pleased to successfully identify the Nez Perce Tribe as the appropriate recipients and restore these cultural items to their community. With this repatriation, the OMB no longer holds any cultural items that may be associated with Oregon tribes.

The OMB is pleased to submit this annual report on our actions to further the directives in ORS 182.162 to 182.168 and Executive Order 24-06.

Sincerely,



Executive Director