

Oregon Medical Board

POLICY

TITLE/SUBJECT:	Tribal Relations
NUMBER:	847-103-001
REFERENCE:	ORS 182.162-168 ORS 190.110
APPLICATION:	All Oregon Medical Board (OMB) Employees
INTERPRETATION RESPONSIBILITY:	Executive Director
EFFECTIVE DATE:	February 13, 2023
REVISION DATE:	January 29, 2025

APPROVED BY: _____

On File

Nicole Krishnaswami, Executive Director

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to promote government-to-government relations between the Oregon Medical Board and Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

This policy is adopted pursuant to [ORS 182.162-168](#), which requires state agencies to develop and implement tribal relations policies.

DEFINITIONS:

Agency: The Oregon Medical Board, Board, or OMB.

Consultation: A formal, two-way, government-to-government dialogue between official representatives of tribes and of state agencies to discuss policy or plan proposals prior to the agency making final decisions.

Legislative Commission on Indian Services: Provides advice to the Legislative Assembly and other Oregon officials and agencies on the needs of American Indian people in the state.

Tribe: A federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon.

Tribal Liaison: Agency contact who coordinates with the tribes, supports internal agency programs and projects, and participates in Tribal-State meetings.

POLICY:

The OMB recognizes and honors the sovereign status of Oregon's federally recognized tribes and their respective authorities on tribal lands. It is the policy of the OMB to promote positive consultation of government-to-government relations to increase our collective ability to protect the health, safety, and

wellbeing of Oregon and tribal citizens.

The Board understands that consultation requires early and frequent outreach with tribal leaders, as well as humility and respect for sovereign tribal nations. Meaningful consultation entails striving for the co-designing of plans and processes with tribes through honoring tribal expertise and directly addressing their questions and concerns. It requires leader-to-leader communication, with the authority to make decisions, beyond staff level meetings or presentations. Good consultation means both parties recognize the sovereignty of each and have forthright conversations.

Consultation is an active process and requires learning about tribes and building genuine, ongoing and meaningful relationships in order to facilitate thoughtful and collaborative discussions. Prior to implementing any policy or plan that may affect one of Oregon's federally recognized tribes, the Board will seek consultation to ask what the tribe(s) think, if the tribe(s) believe the policy or plan might affect the tribe(s) adversely or positively, and eventually, if the tribe supports the policy or plan.

The Oregon Medical Board knows that building and maintaining strong government-to-government relations with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes makes our agency more effective overall, while supporting our work across the state to carry out the OMB's mission. The OMB is committed 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 agency programs can be valuable resources for the tribes. The OMB also continues to look for opportunities where agency programs and projects can be improved with input from the tribes.

The Executive Director designates a key agency contact, for the purpose of serving as a liaison with tribal governments (known as the Tribal Liaison) and provides the contact information for the Tribal Liaison to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. The Tribal Liaison coordinates with the tribes, supports internal agency programs and projects, and participates in Tribal-State meetings.

The OMB promotes strong government-to-government relationships at the leadership, managerial, and staff levels with the tribes and will demonstrate its commitment to positive relations with the tribes through such practices as follows:

- Maintain an agency liaison to tribal nations.
- Seek and invite tribal representation on Oregon Medical Board and working groups that are of interest to the tribes.
- Consult with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services on matters concerning tribal government.
- Make a reasonable effort to cooperate with tribes in the development and implementation of agency programs that affect the tribes.
- Support the exchange of relevant public data collected by OMB staff or by tribal governments. If applicable, confidential information may be shared in accordance with [ORS 676.177](#).
- Ensure agency managers and staff are aware of the sovereign authority and self-government of Native American Tribes and of the organizational structure of the tribal governments.
- Provide regular training to agency managers and key staff who communicate or work with tribal governments.
- Seek other opportunities to learn from and build relationships with the tribes.

OREGON'S FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBES:

- Burns Paiute Tribe

- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians
- Klamath Tribes