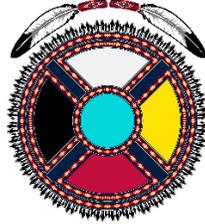




THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Wassaja Carlos  
Montezuma Center for  
Native American Health



## TRIBAL HEALTH & HUMAN CONVENING

MARCH 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Southern Tribes)  
LOCATION: University of Arizona, Health Science & Innovation Building

MARCH 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Northern Tribes)  
LOCATION: [TBD]

### AGENDA

---

**Hosted by:** Tribal Health & Human Services Convening Steering Committee:

*Christina Andrews, Linda Fayant, Jennie Becenti, Dr. Renteria, Councilwoman Minnie Frias, Dr. John Molina*

---

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**

**Registration, Breakfast, & Opening Prayer**

- Prayer: [TBA]
  - Breakfast Sponsored by: [TBD]
  - Sign-In, Materials, and Networking.
- 

**9:00 – 9:30 AM**

**Welcome, Introductions & Convening Objectives**

**Presenters:** Steering Committee & Tribal Leadership

**Objectives:**

- Strengthen Tribal–State collaboration across Health and Human Services.
  - Identify shared challenges, gaps, and opportunities across Tribal Nations.
  - Elevate Traditional Healing, workforce needs, Tribal billing capacity, and RHTP creation and implementation.
  - Build a unified Tribal approach to policy, advocacy, and future funding opportunities.
- 

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**

### **Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP): Tribal Priorities & Implementation**

**Presenter:** Dr. John Molina / (NIHB Summary Included)

**Topics:**

- RHTP Elements & Tribal Input
- Transportation, EMS, and access to specialty care
- Workforce: recruitment, retention, licensure barriers, housing
- Broadband, EHR modernization, interoperable Tribal/IHS/638 system
- Traditional Healing integration
- Need for Tribal set-aside funding and Tribal-driven project design

**Action Items:**

---

**10:30 – 11:30 AM**

### **Traditional Healing Integration & Reimbursement Pathways**

**Presenters:** AHCCCS & Tribal Representatives

**Discussion Points:**

- AHCCCS Traditional Healing Waiver (effective Oct 1, 2025)
- Eligibility: I/T/U – IHS, 638, Tribal programs
- Definition of “Traditional Practitioner” (Tribal-led, community-based, not specific or restrictive)
- Steps to create Nation-specific internal process
- Required elements for CMS compliance
- Billing specifics:
  - UB-04 coding
  - Individual billing vs. family units
  - In-person only (Telehealth not billable)

**Action Items:**

- TON DHHS to draft Traditional Practitioner Definition & Process
- Identify Traditional Healing Team representatives

- Request AHCCCS in-person training
- 

**11:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

### **Coding & Billing Capacity Building for Tribes**

**Presenter:** Wassaja Center / TOCC Partnership

**Topics:**

- Tribal coding and billing needs assessment
  - CHR credential pathways
  - Creating Medical Billing & Coding course at TOCC
  - Training: Senior Services (Meals-on-Wheels), BH transportation, Traditional Healing services
  - Identifying services Tribes are *not* billing for—“money left on the table”
  - Next steps with AHCCCS billing team
- 

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

### **Lunch & Networking**

Prayer: *[TBA]*

Lunch sponsored by: *[TBD]*

---

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

### **Protecting Indigenous Knowledge: Law, Policy & Data Sovereignty**

**Topics:**

- Protecting Traditional Healing knowledge within policy frameworks
  - Tribal oversight of research (“Tribes drive the bus”)
  - Data governance requirements for RHTP and CMS
  - Annual “Status of Indian Health in Arizona” concept
  - Opportunities for Tribal policy analysts, legislative advocacy, and direct Tribal-led review
- 

**2:00 – 3:00 PM**

### **Best Practices Showcase: Tribal Innovations in Health & Human Services**

**Topics May Include:**

- CMS & Coding and Billing
- Community Health, CHR integration, EMS strengthening
- Behavioral health crisis response teams

- Indigenous doulas & maternal health programs
- Food sovereignty & nutrition interventions
- Workforce “Grow Your Own” pathways
- Technology, EHR modernization, mobile health units

Each Tribe will share:

1. **Challenges**
2. **Best Practices**
3. **Benefits of their model**
4. **Needs & recommendations for state/federal partners**

---

**3:00 – 3:45 PM**

### **Tribal Workgroups: Developing a Unified Action Plan**

Participants break into mixed groups for facilitated discussions.

#### **Guiding Questions:**

- What immediate actions can Tribes take together?
- What support do Tribes need from the State, AHCCCS, IHS, and partners?
- What long-term vision should guide Tribal health transformation?
- Who else must be at the table (Dream Team)?

Group Report-Outs follow.

---

**3:45 – 4:00 PM**

### **Closing Reflections & Next Steps**

- Final questions and comments (3x5 card reflections encouraged).
- Next Convening Date.
- Steering Committee follow-up items.

---

### **TRIBES TO INVITE**

- Tohono O’odham Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Navajo Nation
- Hopi Tribe
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community

- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation