

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Centennial Accord

Jilma Meneses

Secretary

Department of Social and Health Services

October 30, 2023

Key Highlight

Tribal SNAP Expansion Project

- June 2023 USDA Food and Nutrition Service approved the waiver to expand Tribal SNAP Eligibility to four additional tribes.
- Submitted plan to FNS with timelines of implementation.
- 105,000+ AI/AN clients receiving cash, food or Apple Health medical assistance.



Responding to Crisis

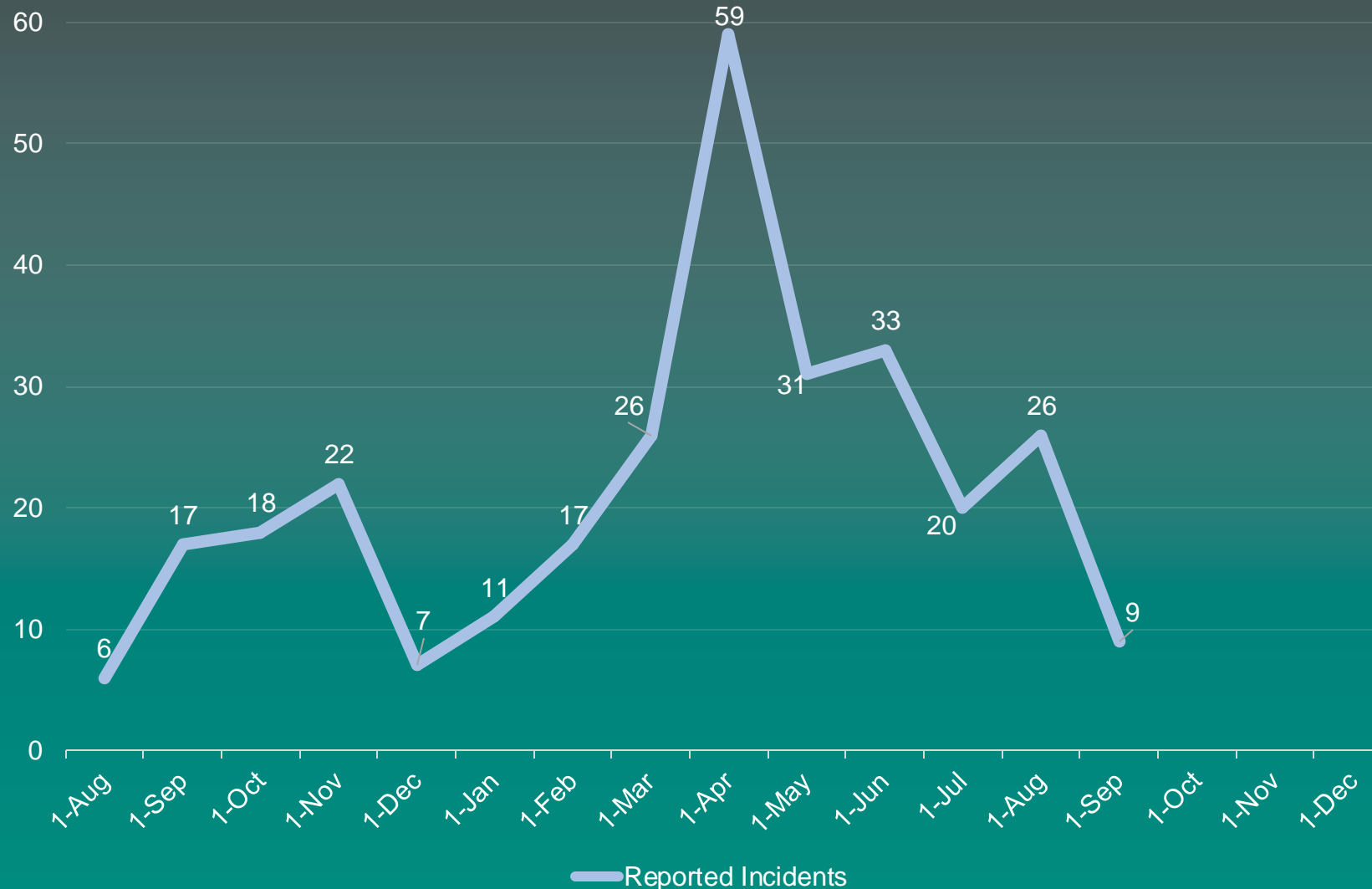
Opioid/Fentanyl

- Responding to customers in crisis at Community Services Office (CSO) by staff administering Naloxone.
- Partnering with sister agencies on developing an educational campaign to share education materials with all Washingtonians.
- New position to outreach to tribes and others.



Reported Drug Use Incidents at CSOs

From August 2022 through September 2023 (14 months)
CSO facilities had 302 reported drug use incidents inside our facilities.



Behavioral Health Administration

- BHA Tribal Affairs Administrator visits BHA facilities and acts as liaison with Native Americans.
- Tribal Affairs Administrator trains BHA Executive Leadership and Facility Leadership teams on appropriate interaction with native clients.
- BHA is working on developing contracts with tribal members to assist in supporting culturally appropriate programs in BHA facilities.
- 45 Native Americans in our in-patient care.
- Increasing bed capacity - 863 beds by 2028 to meet overall demand.
- Assisted in project to build a civil facility on Tulalip tribal lands.



Developmental Disabilities Administration

- DDA serves 495 clients with self-identified affiliation to a federally recognized tribe across the state. This is an increase of 22 in the last year.
- Continuing the development of an American Indian/Alaska Native cultural awareness policy.
- Improving accessibility to DDA programs and services for tribal members.
- Expanding DDA contract opportunities with tribes.



Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

Kinship Navigators Program

- Currently Seven Tribes have Kinship Navigators Programs.
- In 2021-2022, a total of 607 kinship caregivers and 914 tribal children received a total of 2,192 tribal navigator assistance contacts.
- Program serves grandparents and other relatives who are raising children because parents are unable.
- Navigators serve as one-stop shop, providing resources, assistance, problem solving and emotional support to kinship caregivers.
- Act as advocates and assist families with resources for housing, support groups, urgent need funds and stay connected with their tribal community.



Goals and Priorities

- Operationalizing tribal SNAP expansion.
- Narcan training for all DSHS employees and invite SNAP Expansion Program employees to participate.
- Expanding opioid campaigns to include tribes.
- Preparing a substance-use disorder counseling program for CSO and SNAP expansion offices.
- DSHS partnering with HCA and DEA to provide methadone treatment to skilled nursing care facility clients including tribal members.
- Partnering with the statewide Digital Broadband Office to expand digital access in tribal communities.

