

**National Tribal Environmental Health Think Tank
Year 3, Meeting 2
September 22-24, 2014 / Washington, DC**

Meeting Notes and Highlights

Purpose and Overview

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) convened a meeting of the National Tribal Environmental Health Think Tank (NTEH Think Tank) at the American Public Health Association (APHA) offices in Washington, DC on September 22-24, 2014.

On Monday, September 22, NCEH/ATSDR staff and Think Tank members piloted a one-day version of the Working Effectively with Tribal Governments (WETG) training for public health partners in the DC area. During the training, participants learned about U.S. tribal history and law and the effective methods and best practices for working with tribes and supporting tribal engagements.

On Tuesday, September 23, the Think Tank met with select public health partners to build relationships, discuss priority issues, and identify possible opportunities for future collaboration. Think Tank members heard presentations from and met with members of public health partner organizations, including the American Lung Association (ALA), the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), and the Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

On Wednesday, September 24, Think Tank members met to debrief the preceding two days and discuss the future of the Think Tank. The September 24 session was facilitated by Beth Weaver, RESOLVE, and Annabelle Allison, Associate Director for Tribal Affairs for NCEH/ATSDR. Meg Perry, RESOLVE, prepared this meeting summary. A list of action items coming out of the September 24 meeting can be found in [Appendix A](#). A list of meeting participants for the September 24 meeting can be found in [Appendix B](#).

NCEH/ATSDR Office of Tribal Affairs Update – Annabelle Allison, Associate Director for Tribal Affairs for NCEH/ATSDR

TAC Update – Annabelle noted that she gave a presentation about the NTEH Think Tank at the most recent [CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#) meeting in August 2014. The TAC had previously expressed interest in the Think Tank becoming a subcommittee of the TAC, but this issue was not raised again following Annabelle's presentation. She added that the Think Tank does not engage in formal government-to-government consultation or submit formal recommendations to CDC and it is inherently different from the TAC. The Think Tank is a collaborative engagement process.

WETG Training – The second offering of the WETG course was held on September 11-12, 2014 at CDC/ATSDR. Faculty members included Jennifer Irving, Kristin Hill and Aila Hoss. The course was a success and included more than 25 participants.

Think Tank Process Paper – Aila Hoss, Legal Analyst for CDC’s Public Health Law Program, reported that the process paper describing the Think Tank and its work is nearing completion. She asked for members’ feedback on the idea of publishing the paper (possibly as part of the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Report). Several members expressed support for publishing the paper, noting it would be a useful outreach tool if made publicly available. Aila confirmed the paper would be circulated to the Think Tank members for final review before its submission for publication.

Increasing American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Student Interest in Environmental Public Health – Annabelle asked for suggestions from Think Tank members about how to increase American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) student interest in environmental public health through NCEH/ATSDR’s three summer internship programs. Members suggested recruiting through existing programs such as the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH), the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, the Association of Environmental Health Programs, the American Indian Science and Engineering Program, and the U.S. Department of Education’s TRIO Program. Members also suggested recruitment would be enhanced by increased visibility of AI/AN professionals in the field, perhaps shown in a deck of cards profiling AI/AN environmental health professionals. They also suggested supporting AI/AN students in the internship application process by providing mentorship, sample essays, more detailed instructions regarding essays and letters of recommendation, and/or modifying application questions to include a wider array of experiences and to offer an opportunity for students to describe adverse circumstances they may have overcome. Members also pointed out the importance of training reviewers to avoid bias against AI/AN student applicants, including AI/AN cultural understanding and the significance of recommendation letters from tribal leaders. Annabelle and Chinyere Ekechi, Public Health Analyst for the NCEH/ATSDR’s Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, indicated they will consider ways to incorporate this feedback into the development of supporting materials for applicants to the NCEH/ATSDR environmental health internship programs going forward.

Think Tank Member Updates

Next, Think Tank members provided updates on a number of activities that have taken place since the May meeting.

Rosemary Ahtuanguak, Tribal Liaison for the Alaska Wilderness League

- The Alaska Wilderness League is offering training in schools on tribal law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and health impact assessments.
- The Alaska Wilderness League is engaging with villages, the state and federal governments, and corporations to communicate linkages between community health and drilling activities on the North Slope.
- The Alaska Wilderness League is advising the Smithsonian on how to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into research.
- The Alaska Wilderness League is advising Purdue University on environmental justice issues.

Jerry Waukau, Health Director for the Menominee Tribal Clinic

- The Menominee Tribe is working with schools to address social conditions in schools (placing a particular focus on obesity) and is also working with universities (Madison, Stevens Point) to bring health research into communities, if there is agreement that the research is beneficial to both entities.

- There are several challenges to overcome, including addressing historical trauma, achieving “collective impact,” and predictability and availability of financial support for projects.
- Work at Menominee will be featured in forthcoming APHA publication.
- One goal of the Tribe is to align local environmental health priorities with Federal standards and guidelines.

Jerilyn Church, Executive Director of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board

- Jerilyn shares updates on the Think Tank’s activities with the tribal chairmen and hopes the Health Board may take the opportunity to prioritize environmental health issues in its upcoming strategic planning process.
- The Health Board recently received two CDC grants: Partnership to Community Health and Comprehensive Approaches to Wellness & Health. They are also establishing a cooperative agreement with CMS to educate communities about healthcare reform.

Kristin Hill, Director of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center

- The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center just received funding to study implementation of public health tracking in tribal communities.
- The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center is seeking funding from environmental groups to support epidemiology centers to work on tribal environmental health.
- The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center is seeking to increase engagement of epidemiology centers with tribal environmental health work.

Isaiah Brokenleg, Epidemiologist for the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center

- The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center published results of study on tobacco use and attitudes of casino patrons in the September 2014 Issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.
- The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center anticipates presenting study results at the November APHA conference.
- The second Wisconsin-wide study of native youth tobacco use and attitudes is underway.

Susan Hanson, Environmental Consultant for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe

- The Tribe is moving forward with a study of the health impacts of past industrial contamination and is working to improve studies of human health risk assessments around phosphate mines.
- One current challenge to the Tribe is addressing the Environmental Protection Agency’s risk assessment standards to account for increased risk associated with treaty rights uses of natural resources (i.e., legally protected use for subsistence, social customs, or religious practices).

Ralph McCullers, Tribal Environmental Director for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

- The Tribe recently opened a new assisted living facility and anticipated opening a new health clinic in February.
- The Tribe has applied for a CDC grant to support a five-year community health assessment and an effort to increase cooperation on environmental health issues among the tribal government’s various departments.

Carol Rollins, Director of Environmental Health for the Ho-Chunk Nation

- The Tribe received a grant to support the development of a waste energy plant.
- The Tribe is continuing a community health assessment in cooperation with county governments.
- The Tribe continues to study, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin—Eu Claire and the University of Iowa, the impact of sand mines on indoor air quality. The Tribe is also continuing to work toward accreditation of the tribal public health program.

Jennifer Irving, Oglala Sioux Tribe

- There is an ongoing tribal presidential initiative addressing the Keystone XL pipeline's infringement on tribal homelands.
- The Tribe is introducing a new initiative to convert portions of tribal badlands into national park land, with a possibility of reintroducing buffalo, though leasing ranchers oppose this initiative.
- The Thunder Valley Community Project Board members will hold a retreat in the near future. Representatives from the Youth Build program, which helps young people build homes and life skills, may also conduct a site visit of the Thunder Valley Project.
- The Tribe is pursuing partnerships to address the issue of suicide in light of a recent spike in suicides.
- The Tribe surpassed solid waste standards under its new Solid Waste Director.

Debrief of Pilot Course Delivery to Partners – Chinyere Ekechi, Public Health Analyst, NCEH/ATSDR Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation

Participant feedback from the September 22 pilot course was overwhelmingly positive. All participants indicated that their expectations for the course were met or surpassed. Participants cited as strengths the examples, context, clear explanations, and personal perspectives provided by the presenters and panel; the variety of nations represented; and the honesty, frankness, and overall spirit in which the course was offered. Participants cited as primary weaknesses of the course the volume of information, short amount of time, and lack of structure targeting the panel discussion to the audience. Please see [Appendix C](#) for the compiled feedback on this pilot course.

Think Tank members expressed a strong preference for keeping the training as a two-day course rather than continuing to offer it as a one-day course. Members shared concerns that the shortened course rushed the presenters, necessitated the omission of stories and examples that communicate the heart of the principles being presented, and lacked sufficient time for participants to fully engage intellectually and emotionally with the material. Suggestions from the group regarding future trainings included: tailoring the curriculum to prepare participants to actively advocate for tribal interests in their organizations; prioritizing quality of training over quantity of participants; informing presenters in advance about the participants' backgrounds so material can be tailored to each group or region; inviting local tribal members to open the meeting or serve as panelists; and providing the WETG training to partner organizations going forward, ideally making it mandatory.

Looking Forward: Shifting from a “Think Tank” to a “Do Tank” – Annabelle Allison

Annabelle opened the session by reviewing the Think Tank's activities to date and asking for members' input regarding the future of the Think Tank.

Future of the OTA Strategic Plan – Members commented on the need to advance the OTA’s strategic plan within NCEH/ATSDR, and also emphasized the importance of implementation at the regional level, where Think Tank members are most engaged. One member suggested revisiting the strategic plan and logic model to evaluate what has already been accomplished. Annabelle agreed this would be useful and pointed out the need to better publicize what the Think Tank has already accomplished.

Think Tank Membership – While a few members cited concerns about their capacity to continue participating in the Think Tank given other responsibilities, none voiced a desire to leave the group. The group may want to consider creating a second membership category (e.g., “Special Advisor”) that would allow members with limited capacity for participation to remain engaged with the group. The group discussed current vacancies in Think Tank membership and noted some potential gaps in representation, including, possibly, the need for new representation from in the West coast region.

Credibility of the Think Tank may be enhanced by making member names and biographies available online, and requested members share biographical information and a photo with Annabelle (after obtaining permission from their organizations as needed) to add to the website. NCEH/ATSDR staff offered to share a template for bios with Think Tank members soon after the meeting to assist with gathering this information.

Future Roles for the Think Tank – Annabelle expressed that if the Think Tank were to continue, perhaps it could be with the Think Tank determining key priorities and activities and the OTA moving into more of a supportive role; she envisions her role to focus primarily on increasing visibility for the Think Tank within NCEH/ATSDR, implementing the strategic plan, institutionalizing the WETG course, and supporting tribal involvement in NCEH/ATSDR activities as well as the ongoing efforts of the Think Tank. A member suggested the Think Tank might be able to serve in a limited capacity as a liaison between partner organizations and tribal communities and organizations, but emphasized the need to distinguish the role of the Think Tank among other tribal organizations. Another suggested the Think Tank engage actively on issues that are the current focus of broader public and environmental health efforts (e.g. Ebola). Others highlighted the need for unbiased information on environmental health issues in tribal communities (e.g. drilling impacts in Alaska) and suggested that providing reliable environmental health information to tribal communities could be an important function of the Think Tank in the future.

Future Engagement with Partner Organizations – A member noted the need to expand engagement with partner organization and raised the question of how the group would go about identifying and pursuing partnerships. Annabelle suggested using the list of potential partners developed at the May meeting as a starting point and emphasized the need to develop an actionable plan (including a phased approach and timeline) for pursuing new partners that takes into account the level of effort members anticipate contributing going forward. A few members suggested following up individually with the organizations that presented the previous day (September 23) and conducting additional research on these and other organizations’ missions and priorities to evaluate which organizations are the most promising partners. APHA staff agreed to share information on the presenting organizations to the Think Tank for review. Several members indicated other tribal organizations, such as the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), should also be included in the list of potential partners.

Opportunities for Partner Engagement – Chinyere Ekechi

Chinyere outlined five categories for potential partnership activities based on the earlier discussions and feedback from potential partners:

1. WETG Training
2. Identifying priority partnerships
3. Conducting outreach to raise awareness of certain tribal-specific issues
4. Supporting partnerships; and
5. Increasing visibility of tribal issues

As the group began to discuss opportunities for engagement in each of these categories, APHA encouraged the group to consider developing methods for evaluating the Think Tank's progress and success across these categories.

WETG Training – Following on the debrief of the one-day pilot course for partners, members discussed implementing a two-day version of the course with partners in conjunction with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' (ASTHO's) Winter Member Meeting in December, with the goal of offering the course to federal agencies, such as EPA, and to other partner organizations in the future. Noting that December was quickly approaching, Tracy offered to follow up with Jim Blumenstock about the possibility of incorporating the WETG training into the activities already planned for the upcoming ASTHO meeting.

Identifying Priority Partnerships –

The group reiterated the need to review the list of potential partners developed at the May meeting to determine the priority partnerships on which to initially focus. As a starting point, APHA will send Think Tank members a list of links to the websites of potential partners for review. Think Tank members will review those websites as well as the list of potential partners they generated previously and share their thoughts regarding priority partnerships.

Outreach on Tribal-Specific Issues –

The group discussed developing communication strategies and materials to help create awareness of specific tribal issues. The group discussed the possibility of creating a survey of tribal housing issues in cooperation with APHA to inform ideas for a potential partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), possibly participating in the CEHN's Food and the Environment conference in February, presenting on the Think Tank's activities at the APHA conference in November, and publicizing Think Tank activities in APHA newsletters and other publications. Kristin will reach out to NACCHO and APHL, two of the organizations that presented to the Think Tank the previous day, to gather more information about their current and potential engagement with the Think Tank.

Increasing Visibility –

The group discussed the possibility of working with partners to increase tribal representation on boards, at meetings, and among organizations' membership. Additionally, the group expressed an interest in working with APHL to understand if and how tribes currently engage with the labs. The group also discussed reaching out to potential partner organizations to understand any barriers to working on tribal issues as well as connecting with the CEHN to inquire about tribal representation at their upcoming retreat in October.

Supporting Partnerships –

The group discussed possibly supporting partners' existing outreach efforts. One member suggested a quarterly email requesting updates from Think Tank members and partners would be a good way of gathering success stories for use in outreach efforts. Additionally, Ralph, Syndi, Susan, Carol, and Rosemary agreed to start a subcommittee to discuss exposure, health impacts, and risk assessments. Annabelle offered to work with this group to schedule its first call and identify specific tasks for the subcommittee.

Discussion of Think Tank Toolkit Components – *Chinyere Ekechi*

The Think Tank discussed the status of the Communications Toolkit components and determined next steps for moving toward finalizing these components.

Fact Sheets – The group reviewed draft fact sheets on each of the five priority issue areas the Think Tank identified the previous year. Specific suggestions for improving the fact sheets included the following:

- Adding graphs and charts depict the statistics presented;
- Including relative percentages for tribal statistics to permit comparison to the wider population;
- Including more information about the legal context for these issues;
- Including more examples and stories;
- Including a water-related example on at least one of the sheets;
- Emphasizing the interrelatedness of all the issues;
- Editing the text to provide more context for readers unfamiliar with native issues and cultures (e.g., stating the percentage of protein intake that comes from threatened food sources);
- Framing the food safety and infrastructure topics more carefully (e.g., “food sovereignty” rather than “food safety”); and
- Specifying a broader definition of infrastructure than in the current version.

Several members also mentioned ideas for having the fact sheets focus more on historical information and identification of challenges and trends associated with the five issue areas as a way to introduce a larger set of more in-depth materials (e.g., PowerPoint presentations) for use in communication and outreach efforts.

Chinyere thanked the group for the feedback and noted that the fact sheets would be revised to incorporate these suggestions. She indicated the revised fact sheets will be circulated to the Think Tank for review before being finalized in January 2015.

Digital Storytelling – Members expressed considerable interest in the possibility of digitally documenting stories relevant to the Think Tank's five priority issues. Aila, Rosemary, Jennifer and Syndi agreed to look into options for doing this and report back to the group with further information.

Preparations for the APHA November Conference – *Chinyere Ekechi*

Isaiah, Ralph, Syndi, and Rosemary agreed to present on behalf of the Think Tank at the APHA conference in November. Chinyere indicated NCEH/ATSDR staff would organize a call for this group in the coming days to begin preparations for this presentation.

Plans for the Next Meeting – *Annabelle Allison*

The Think Tank discussed various options for the timing and location of its next meeting and agreed to hold its next meeting in Pensacola, Florida either the week of March 16 or March 23, 2015. In the coming weeks, NCEH/ATSDR staff will poll members on their specific availability within those two weeks and will begin making arrangements for the meeting.

The group identified the following as possible agenda items for the March 2015 meeting:

- Opportunities for recording digital stories;
- Criteria for evaluating tribal representation and engagement in partner organizations;
- Further discussion regarding the Think Tank’s governance, structure, and name; and
- Methods for evaluating progress and success for all Think Tank activities.

Appendix A: Next Steps

During the meeting, the group discussed and agreed to the following next steps. Below is a list of each action item, the anticipated timeline, and the status of the item as of the writing of this summary.

Next Steps: Administrative	Who	Timeline/Status
1. Share a template for bios with Think Tank members to include a section on “Why I am a member for the NTEH TT.”	Annabelle	November 13
2. Survey member availability for the weeks of March 16 th and March 23 rd , 2015 for the next Think Tank meeting.	APHA/ Annabelle	Week of November 17
3. Follow up with Rosemary, Isaiah, and Jennifer about logistics of attending and presenting at the annual APHA conference, which is being held in New Orleans, LA.	Chinyere	In progress. Panel Session will be on 11/18/14.
4. Submit a bio and photo to Annabelle, including description of motivations for participating on the Think Tank and obtain permission from home organizations as necessary.	Think Tank Members	Submit to APHA by November 24.
5. Share Next Steps document with Think Tank membership and APHA.	Annabelle	To be shared with meeting summary notes.
6. Connect with OSTLTS leadership - Dr. Monroe and Captain Maloney.	Annabelle	In progress.

Next Steps: Partnerships	Who	Timeline/Status
7. Ask Children’s Environmental Health Network about plans or opportunities for representation of tribal interests at the National Children’s Environmental Health Blueprint retreat in October and report back to the Think Tank.	Annabelle/ APHA	Jerry Waukau participated in the retreat.
8. Reach out to Scott Becker and Megan Latshaw at APHL to discuss developing a survey of current tribal engagement with APHL.	Kristin & Isaiah	Completed.
9. Conduct one outreach activity with any partner.	Think Tank Members	Before next meeting

Next Steps: Publications	Who	Timeline/Status
10. Finalize Next Draft of Process Paper.	Aila	Completed
11. Send Process Paper to CDC team for review.	Chinyere, Annabelle, Montrece	Friday, November 14 Friday, November 21 Friday, December 5
12. Share draft process paper with Think Tank members and include short list of potential publication venues.	Aila	December 2014
13. Put process paper into clearance.	Annabelle	January 2015
14. Submit process paper for publication.	Aila	February 2015
15. Share updated draft fact sheets for the 5 issue areas.	Chinyere	December 2014
16. Finalize fact sheets for the 5 issue areas.	Chinyere	January 2015
17. Provide feedback to CDC regarding the updated issue area factsheets	Think Tank Members	January 2015

Next Steps: Planning	Who	Timeline
18. Revisit the OTA strategic plan to determine what has been accomplished and priority next steps.	OTA	Before next Think Tank meeting
19. Prepare prospectus and draft agendas for Year 4 meetings.	OTA	Before next Think Tank meeting

Suggestions	Who	Timeline
20. Send Think Tank members a list of links to the websites of potential partners for review.	Angela & Surili	Completed.
21. Follow up with Jim Blumenstock about the possibility of incorporating the two-day WETG training into the upcoming ASTO meeting in December and report back to the NEHPC.	Surili/ Annabelle	Plan for future ASTHO meeting; time frame was too short to accomplish.

22. Reach out to Dave Dyjack at NACCHO to understand the organization's capacity for and potential barriers to partnership with the Think Tank.	Kristin	Completed.
23. Organize a call with Rosemary, Ralph, Susan, Syndi, and Carol, to discuss exposure, health impacts, and risk assessments.	Annabelle	December 2014
24. Explore options for getting a Q&A on Tribal health issues in future editions of the Public Health Newswire.	APHA/Think Tank	Look for opportunity in 2015. Note: Selections for the Public Health Newswire are made 3 months in advance
25. Review list of potential partners the Think Tank generated previously and share thoughts regarding priority partnerships.	Think Tank Members	January 2015
26. Share National Environmental Health Partnership Council governance document with Think Tank members for review.	APHA	January 2015
27. Work together to identify tribal housing related issues and needs for potential partnership with NCHH.	APHA/ Annabelle/ Jerilyn	February 2015 Note: APHA reached out to NCHH and they have expressed an interest in this.
28. Share outreach and publicity opportunities through APHA (e.g. blogging, publications) with the Think Tank.	APHA/Think Tank	Ongoing

Appendix B: Participants

Think Tank Members

- Rosemary Ahtuungarauk, *Inupiaq, Tribal Liaison, Alaska Wilderness League*
- Isaiah Brokenleg, *Sicangu Lakota (Rose Bud Sioux), Epidemiologist, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center*
- Jerilyn Church, *Cheyenne River Sioux, Executive Director, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board*
- Susan Hanson, *Environmental Consultant, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe*
- Kristin Hill, *Director, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center*
- Jennifer Irving, *Oglala Sioux Tribe*
- Ralph McCullers, *Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Tribal Environmental Director, Poarch Band of Creek Indians*
- Carol Rollins, *Ho-Chunk Nation*
- Syndi Smallwood, *Environmental Policy and Management*
- Jerry Waukau, *Menominee Nation, Health Director, Menominee Nation*

NCEH/ATSDR

- Annabelle Allison, *Associate Director for Tribal Affairs, Office of Tribal Affairs, NCEH/ATSDR*
- Chinyere Ekechi, *Public Health Analyst, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, NCEH/ATSDR*
- Aila Hoss, *Legal Analyst (ORISE Fellow), Public Health Law Program, CDC*
- Miranda Willis, *ORISE intern, NCEH/ATSDR*

APHA

- Angela Dyjack, *Program Analyst, Environmental Health, American Public Health Association*
- Tracy Kolian, *Interim Director, Center for Public Health Policy, American Public Health Association*

Partnership Organizations (September 22-23)

- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- American Lung Association (ALA)
- Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)
- National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
- Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Others

- Meg Perry, *RESOLVE*
- Cindy Shogun, *Alaska Wilderness League*
- Beth Weaver, *RESOLVE*

Appendix C: September 22 Pilot Course Evaluation Responses

1. What were your expectations entering this training?

- To have a better understanding of the Indian culture, history and how it fit into the public health realm.
- I expected to learn more about Native American health.
- To learn more about working with tribes.
- To learn.
- I was expecting to learn about American Indian history and culture and best practices for working with tribes.
- To develop a good overview of the current state of American Indian communities and learn the best means of engaging and addressing the issues that affect them.
- To learn more about working with tribes.
- To learn more and understand Indian culture and how to partner.
- To learn about the American Indian Nations here in the United States and Canada.
- To gain more insight and knowledge about the Indian culture.
- To learn more about working with Tribal Governments. To gain perspective on various perspectives around public health.
- None.
- To gain insight into legal and cultural issues.

2. Were your expectations met? Please explain why or why not.

- Absolutely. I learned a lot of surprising facts and a better understanding of working with Indian tribes and nations.
- Yes they were, I learned about Native American health with much more context than I expected.
- Yes – this was informative.
- Yes! I appreciated all of the difference perspectives and subject matter.
- Yes, the training was very informative.
- Yes, and the extensive history and legal explanations were particularly helpful.
- Exceeded. This was one of the best trainings I've been to in years. Great info, great faculty, great organization of the agenda and use of examples.
- Yes. The course exceeded expectations. Very comprehensive.
- Yes. It was a very good training session.
- Yes! Very good presenters and information. Looking forward to other opportunities to learn.
- Yes.
- More than met. I loved so much.
- Yes.

3. What would you identify as the strengths of the training?

- I enjoyed the presentations and the fact that the faculty/panelist could provide examples about their own experiences.
- The “personal” perspective. It was clear that all involved were invested in the “work.”
- The overview, history, and legal info was good.
- (1) multiple presenters; (2) different topic areas
- The training did a good job at educated me about American Indian history and working with tribes.

- (1) history overview – personal perspectives shared; (2) legal explanations
- The faculty. Order of agenda. Examples and clear explanations and still maintaining a fast pace.
- The course was delivered by some tribe members.
- The variety of nations participating.
- The spirit in which the class was shared.
- History, context, legal, cultural background provided; Presenters; covered multiple spheres of health
- The panel was very strong; the legal component gave good context; the honesty/frankness
- Organized and personal.

4. What about any weaknesses of this training?

- It was a lot of information to process – but I understand that this is usually a two day workshop.
- None.
- It'd be nice to have more time.
- It wasn't really a weakness, but I think the two day training would be even more informative.
- Sometimes the implications didn't apply to my exact work tasks.
- Maybe a table of contents for the appendices would be helpful.
- N/A.
- Not enough time.
- N/A.
- None – just wanted more.
- The panel discussion could be a bit more structured/more targeted audience.

5. Is there anything you would like to share that you were not able to express during the training?

- I look forward in working and finding opportunities to educate leaders and students on what I learned today.
- You made the session quite informal so I think I was able to share everything during the workshop.
- Would be nice to get into “derailing” and how to avoid it.
- Finding qualified students is difficult (Native American).

6. Do you have any suggestions for improving future trainings?

- Sometimes there was a lot of working on the presentation that I became distracted reading it and listening at the same time.
- Case studies or examples to help illustrate some of the points mentioned. The personal stories were great and would be good to be able to share those when discussing with others who are unfamiliar with challenges.
- Longer (full, 2 days) and web-based would be great.
- The trainers did a good job of taking questions through the session, but more set Q and A time would be helpful.
- It seemed like time was an issue. As an attendee, I really don't mind cutting lunches short or eliminating a break to help get back on schedule.
- Some of the law items could be explained in a bit more detail. Shorten lunch if running behind so don't have to skip content.

- N/A
- More ways to get connected to resources and info to research and learn about Nations.
- Maybe a “workshop” session so we can talk to each other and practice/learn.
- I think a 2-day format would be even better!
- N/A.

7. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

- This was phenomenal training which in some form should be shared if possible. Even sharing certain aspects to people are more informed.
- I sat up front and enjoyed hearing the Think Tank members and faculty members near me. However, I wonder if next time faculty and Think Tank members should better integrate their seating and fill the back seats so participants can sit closer to front.
- I might recommend finding a way to cater the course to different work tasks (if not already done). Have a session for public health partners, another for researchers, and another for reporters or PIO’s.
- Thank you! I’ve been to other trainings with a more negative tone. This info was factually presented and I wasn’t made to feel bad. There was no sense of entitlement just facts presented in a helpful way despite a negative history.
- Keep doing the work to further the health of your communities.
- This was absolutely the best day I have ever had at APHA. Thank you!
- I am going to go home and read all I can.

8. Additional Comments

- Thanks for your time educating APHA staff on these important issues.
- It would be great to learn more. If there is an email list, please add jason.coates@apha.org.
- Thank you!
- Many thanks for this training. It was a wonderful and engaging day!
- Thank you!
- Thank you! Nice job!