

TRIBAL ELDER ADVISORY COUNCIL (TEAC) (Wabanaki Research Review Board)

Purpose:

Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness (WPHW), through the Center for Wabanaki Research, Knowledge, & Innovation (CWRKI) recognizes the cultural significance of working in consultation with Tribal Elders who share their opinions based on lived experience. It is this traditional practice that guides the formation of the Tribal Elder Advisory Council (TEAC). The TEAC will be asked to use their collective wisdom to help guide research creation, research review, and other projects for the organization to ensure that the organization's priorities are in alignment with the actual needs and desires of Wabanaki Citizens. Using Elder guidance further ensures that research projects will be conducted that benefit and honors Wabanaki People.

Board:

A "full board" will consist of one elder citizen and one alternate from the Aroostook Band of Mi'kmaq, the Houlton Band of Maliseet, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik, and the Penobscot Indian Nation. The Tribal Elder Advisory Council (TEAC) Chairperson will serve as a full member of the Wabanaki Research Review Board (WRRB) to advise on research and activities. Members of

the TEAC may be asked to participate in reviews based on expertise and experience in relevant areas.

Roles and responsibilities:

The positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be determined by the membership present at the first meeting. The Chair will preside over all meetings and in their absence, the Vice Chair will handle the proceedings of the Council. The WRRB Coordinator will prepare for the meetings in coordination with the Chairperson. The WRRB Coordinator will attend the meetings and take minutes for the Council.

Meetings:

Committee meetings will be held monthly, and TEAC members may participate in person, via Zoom, or by telephone to ensure maximum participation. Meeting quorum will be established when there is full representation, one member from at least three (3) of the five (5) Tribal communities.

Meetings that do not require formal votes will be conducted using consensus to encourage a more traditional approach to decision making. Meetings requiring formal action will require a quorum for decision making and voting purposes. Special meetings may be called to address an issue that cannot wait for a scheduled meeting.

The TEAC membership should not offer or provide research advice outside of scheduled meetings.

Membership:

Each member of the TEAC will be chosen based on the response to recruitment efforts. Members shall serve on staggered terms for a one (1) year period. Members may be re-appointed for as many one-year terms as they wish to serve. Current appointees will be asked to serve until they are replaced or resign. In the event of a departure or resignation, every effort will be made to ensure their replacement in a timely manner with WPHW Elder Advocate.

Requirements for Membership:

Enrolled Wabanaki Tribal Citizen

55 years or older

Interest in Tribal public health and/or research

Desire to help inform research projects.

Recognize the need to protect Tribal Citizens and Tribal Communities from potential harm from research.

Interest in ensuring that future work aligns with traditional values

Ability to adhere to strict rules of confidentiality

Access to internet, ability to use laptop and/or ipad.

Qualities desired but not required: Language speaker, cultural and spiritual knowledge keepers

If you are interested in being a part of the Tribal Elder Advisory Council, please reach out to Jillian Worster at Jworster@wabanakiphw.org