988 READINESS AND CRISIS SERVICES

A phrase often used by people with lived experience in recovery is “nothing about us without us,” which underscores the significance of collaboration, empowerment, and inclusion of populations of focus when designing and implementing services.¹

As Louisiana continues to actively engage local Tribal Nations in planning for 9-8-8 rollout and implementation, it is key to build a collaborative, mutually respectful partnership.

State agencies vary in their level of readiness to relate to Tribal Nations and foster government-to-government relationships. Some guidance for state officials (such as behavioral health directors, 988 implementation team leads, policy and legislative officials, and others) is to expand on cultural humility. Possible ways to achieve this include meaningful training on implicit bias, understanding the political determinants of health for Tribal Nations, increasing self-awareness through education, and conducting routine organizational assessments as part of quality improvement of policies and practices impacting local Tribal Nations.

¹ p6 Partnering with Tribal Governments to Meet the Mental Health Needs of American Indian/Alaska Native Consumers
Many states with strong government-to-government alliances identified Tribal Liaisons as essential players in building these connections. Some states have appointed state/Tribal liaisons, even multiple liaisons throughout various state divisions. Liaisons can often be found in the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Behavioral Health, and American Indian Commissions (if they exist in your state).

As states nurture a mutually respectful relationship with local Tribal Nations where Tribal sovereignty is honored, groups on both sides can begin to break down barriers and work together to address the myriad health disparities that Tribal Nations face. When establishing government-to-government relationships with Tribal Nations, it is also important to collaborate with the non-profit Urban Indian organizations in your state, as they serve American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals living outside of Tribal Nations.

**Considering the disparities present in healthcare services, funding, resources, and outcomes for Tribal Nations, the launch of 9-8-8 presents a unique opportunity to foster alliances between Tribal Nations, state governments, and stakeholders to ensure continuous, mutually beneficial quality improvement of behavioral health services in Louisiana** that promote cultural practices as sources of strength, healing, and resilience.

**UNDERSTANDING INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA**

As a direct result of the legacy of European colonization, AI/AN communities faced profound trauma, uniquely characterized as multi-generational and historical, without the cultural safety nets of traditional healers and community support. When engaging Tribal Nations, this process of building collaboration includes particularly complex considerations due to the enduring history of violence and genocide perpetrated by the United States against Indigenous groups: repeated broken treaties and discriminatory legislation at the federal and state level, imposed

---

2 p8 [Partnering with Tribal Governments to Meet the Mental Health Needs of American Indian/Alaska Native Consumers](https://www.nasmhpd.org/sites/default/files/988_Convening_Playbook_States_Territories_and_Tribal_Nations.pdf)


limitations of resources, forced displacement and assimilation, along with current policies and practices that disenfranchise Tribal Nations have all fostered an often-intense fear and distrust of the government (both federal and state) since the inception of the United States. Other barriers to providing services to Tribal Nations include “availability of transportation and childcare, treatment infrastructure, level of social support, perceived provider effectiveness, cultural responsiveness of services, treatment settings, geographic locations, and Tribal affiliations.”5 Because Indigenous communities carry incredibly deep-rooted historical and current trauma, States with working Tribal relationships have repeatedly emphasized the need to build mutual respect and trust before establishing a formal partnership.6

This work must be done through a trauma-informed approach of amplifying the voice and agency of Tribal Nations, rebuilding trust, and acknowledging one’s role in a system that disenfranchises Tribal Nations.

“SAMHSA’s recommended principles on trauma informed care align with the recommendations for partnering with Tribal Nations. These include safety, collaboration, mutuality, transparency, trustworthiness, empowerment, and consideration of culture and historical issues (2015).”7

5 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK539588/
6 p9 Partnering with Tribal Governments to Meet the Mental Health Needs of American Indian/Alaska Native Consumers
7 p8 Partnering with Tribal Governments to Meet the Mental Health Needs of American Indian/Alaska Native Consumers
Louisiana Tribal Nation Information

TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
Recognition Status: Federal
Phone: (337) 923-4973
Email: info@chitimacha.gov
Website: http://www.chitimacha.gov

Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Karen Matthews, Director of Health & Human Services
Medical Contact Info: (337) 923-9955

TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Recognition Status: Federal
Phone: (337) 584-1401
Email: rrich@coushatta.org
Website: https://www.coushattatribe.com/

Medical Contact: Paula Manuel, Department of Health Director
Medical Contact Info: (337) 584-1439
COVID-19 Response: Melany West, (337) 584-1439
988 Contact: Rayne Langley, (337) 584-1433
Behavioral Health Contact: Rayne Langley, (337) 584-1433

Developed by the Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) FY2022.
TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

Recognition Status: Federal

Phone: (318) 992-2717

Email: Chief@jenachoctaw.org

Website: http://www.jenachoctaw.org

Medical Contact: Kelly Thompson, Health Director

Medical Contact Info: 318-992-2763; kthompson@jenachoctaw.org

COVID-19 Response: Main Health Department line: 318-992-2763

Behavioral Health Contact:
Lacy R. McGuffee; 318-992-0136

988 Contact: Lacy R. McGuffee; 318-992-0136

TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe

Recognition Status: Federal

Phone: (318) 253-9767

Email: msampson@paragoncasinoresort.com

Website: https://www.tunicabiloxi.org/

Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Cameron Chase, Director of Health

Medical Contact Info: (318) 240-6437

Developed by the Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) FY2022.
TRIBE INFO
Tribal Nation Name: Addai Caddo Tribe
Recognition Status: State
Phone: (318) 472-1007
Email: adaiindiannation@aol.com
Website: https://www.facebook.com/AdaiCaddoNDNZ/
Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: (318) 472-1007

TRIBE INFO
Tribal Nation Name: Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogee
Recognition Status: State
Email: chiefrandyverdun@biloxi-chitimacha.com
Website: http://www.biloxi-chitimacha.com/the_confederation.htm
Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Randy Verdun, Confederation Chairman

TRIBE INFO
Tribal Nation Name: Choctaw-Apache Community of Ebarb
Recognition Status: State
Phone: (318) 645-2588
Email: achoctaw@yahoo.com
Website: https://choctawahapachetribeebarb.org/
Medical Contact: Main line: (318) 645-2588
Medical Contact Info: (318) 645-2588
COVID-19 Response: (318) 645-2588
TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: Clifton Choctaw

Recognition Status: State

Phone: (318) 612-0124

Email: ccri1146@gmail.com

Website: https://www.facebook.com/Clifton-Choctaw-Tribe-of-Louisiana-448935322550723/

Medical Contact: (318) 612-0124

Medical Contact Info: (318) 612-0124

COVID-19 Response: (318) 612-0124

Behavioral Health Contact: (318) 612-0124

988: (318) 612-0124

TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: Four Winds Tribe Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy

Recognition Status: State

Phone: (225) 288-4080

Website: https://www.fourwindscherokee.com/

Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Chief Barbara Sherman
TRIBE INFO
Tribal Nation Name: Grand Caillou/Dulac Band
Recognition Status: State
Phone: (985) 791-2222
Email: SHIRELL@GCDBCC.ORG
Website: https://www.gcdbcc.org/
Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar

TRIBE INFO
Tribal Nation Name: Isle de Jean Charles Band
Recognition Status: State
Website: http://www.isledejeancharles.com/tribal-leadership
Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Chief Albert Naquin
Medical Contact Info: http://www.isledejeancharles.com/

TRIBE INFO
Tribal Nation Name: Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana
Recognition Status: State
Phone: (541) 619-4024
Email: fredsimon1@aol.com
Website: http://natchitochestribe.org/index.html
Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Fred Simon
TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: Pointe-Au-Chien Indian Tribe
Recognition Status: State
Website: https://www.pactribe.com/
Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Charles Verdin Sr., Chairperson

TRIBE INFO

Tribal Nation Name: United Houma Nation
Recognition Status: State
Phone: (985) 275-0820
Email: info@unitedhoumanation.org
Website: https://unitedhoumanation.org/
Medical, Behavioral Health, COVID-19, and 988 Contact: Principal Chief, Lora Ann Chaisson

STATE TRIBAL LIAISON

Louisiana Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs
150 N. Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(225) 219-8715
Mark Ford, Director
RESOURCES
Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) 2022 Resource Guide

SAMHSA RESOURCES
https://www.samhsa.gov/behavioral-health-equity/ai-an
https://www.samhsa.gov/tribal-ttac
https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/tip_61_ai_an_full_document_020419_0.pdf
https://zerosuicide.edc.org/toolkit/toolkit-adaptations/indian-country

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE MENTAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER NETWORK RESOURCES
https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/national-american-indian-and-alaska-native-mhttc/home

NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
https://www.nihb.org/index.php

YOUTHMOVE NATIONAL
https://youthmovenational.org/?s=Native+American+youth

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH
https://ncuih.org/

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

WORKFORCE GROWTH INITIATIVES:
https://www.ihs.gov/dhps/dhpsgrants/americanindianpsychologyprogram/