



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, March 13, 2026

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location: Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Room 370; [Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

Remote Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Councilmember Jay Mills, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Derrick Belgarde, Eddie Sherman, and Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Tia Yazzie, Suzanne Sailto, and Esther Lucero

Meeting Guests

Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss; Mei-Li Thomas, Department of Education and Early Learning; Craig Dee, Snowy Johnson, Natalie Curtis, and Emily Vega, Fred Hutch Cancer Center; Francesca Murnan, Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Blessing:

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

- Approval of the Agenda (March): Not approved, no quorum
- Approval of the Minutes (February): Not approved, no quorum

Member Introductions:

- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) members completed introductions

Fred Hutch Cancer Center:

Staff from Fred Hutch provided an update to the IAC about the Indigenous Cancer Health Initiative and the Tribal Cancer Health Summit that the IAC had previously provided feedback on.

- Over a hundred attendees and fourteen Washington Tribes were represented at the Summit.
- The Summit provided feedback for the team at Fred Hutch on what areas they would like to prioritize. Key findings were to address cancer disparities through nation-to-nation partnerships with hands-on and culturally relevant care that is rooted in community practices. Integration of



trauma and culturally informed practices into clinical care and programming, and a need to rethink coordination of care.

- Fred Hutch shared information about Care Coordination Agreements and how they will use them to establish partnerships between Tribes and specialty care providers.
- Future Tribal Cancer Summits will be held biannually, and Fred Hutch would like to return to the IAC in the future to update the members on their progress.
- IAC members thanked Fred Hutch for their work on cancer treatment for Tribes and urban Native communities.

Department of Education and Early Learning:

During the January IAC meeting, Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) presented on the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy (FEPP) Levy. The IAC approved for assistance to be provided to DEEL on organizing 1-4 listening sessions with Tribal and urban Native families in Seattle.

DEEL staff returned to provide updates on the feedback received from the community at the listening sessions and wanted to confirm with the IAC that the feedback was accurate. Some feedback that was presented included:

- That the Seattle Preschool model and community-based program offerings were working and more support is wanted. Community would like to see culturally responsive curriculums, out-of-school programs, and other opportunities be expanded.
- Barriers to participation that were identified were transportation and community safety, especially concerns about policing and federal immigration enforcement activity. Hygiene needs and food security were also a concern for families.
- Community providers provided feedback on needing support navigating City grant requirements, the process of becoming a Seattle Preschool provider, data collection and safety. Recommended DEEL to hire Native consultants on data collection.
- DEEL staff explained that next steps would be to move all the information into a larger document for executive decision-making before moving to the legislative process in April.

IAC members expressed gratitude to DEEL for doing the listening sessions. IAC members highlighted that mental health continues to be a high priority for Native families. They also mentioned concerns over access to Seattle Public School facilities for after school programs.

DEEL staff expressed that mental health will be a conversation across communities, and they will be embedding mental health support into the proposals. DEEL staff also expressed that connecting directly with Native students at one of the listening sessions provided essential feedback.

DEEL staff highlighted that Native youth and families will be specifically named in the proposal.



Old Business:

- Staff provided an update on the 2026 Annual Work Plan's submission to the Mayor's Office (MO) and Seattle City Council (SCC). Proposed dates for meetings with MO and SCC in April and received feedback on availability from IAC members.
- IAC members expressed that they would like to discuss the use of spokespeople in MO and SCC and meetings.
- Staff shared the 2026 Annual Food Action Plan Report and mapping tool with the IAC. Also updated members on the Good Food Connections + Food Action Plan Summit on 3/9/2026.
 - Staff shared that connections with Tribal fisheries were highlighted at the summit, and that community-driven food retail models with stronger partnerships between farms, food producers, and purchasers were seen as a priority.
- The Office of Intergovernmental Relations provided updates on FIFA World Cup preparations. Seattle Police Department is in communication with three tribal law agencies and many non-tribal law enforcement agencies regarding mutual aid agreements to increase patrol officers during peak event dates. Local, State and Federal partners are coordinating a variety of operations related to human trafficking and participating in regular emergency management planning and coordination spaces led by the Washington State Military Department's Emergency Management Division.

Member Announcements

- Councilmember Dan Strauss and IAC members discussed opportunities to strengthen relationships and leverage the Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee to advance IAC priorities. IAC members provided feedback on having selected spokespeople lead external presentations, including Seattle City Council representation.
- IAC members requested time to review the work plan and coordinate on what areas they would like to target. Staff will add this topic to the agenda for the next meeting.
- Staff shared with the IAC upcoming community events hosted by Native organizations and a sponsorship opportunity for Native Action Network's Kickin' Indi-City FIFA World Cup community event.

Hybrid Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Closing & Next Steps