

California Area Indian Health Service
2026 Annual Tribal Listening Session

Agenda

Location: Pala Casino Spa & Golf Resort

Monday, March 2, 2026			
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 - Preconference			
8:00 am Registration	Exhibits Open in Events Center	Location: Events Center Moderator: Mark Espinosa	
9:00-12:00 pm		Health Board Training Tony Scucci, LMSW	
12:00-1:30 pm		LUNCH BREAK	
		Location: Events Center Moderator: Robert Gemmell	
1:30-3:15 pm		Future of Healthcare Technology: Operationalizing Artificial Intelligence at Your Health Program Robert Gemmell, MSIM, Chief Information Officer, California Area Indian Health Service (CAIHS) Rachel Joseph, Tribal Member, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe Kurt Brenkus, Co-Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Pact Kevin LaChapelle, EdD, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, San Diego American Indian Health Center	
3:15-4:00 pm		Cybersecurity: The Anatomy of a Ransomware Attack Reese Weber, MBA, CISSP, Chief Information Security and Privacy Officer, CAIHS Loren Ellery, Executive Director, Pit River Health Service	
4:30 pm		ZUMBA (MODIFIED) led by Steve Twitchell, Certified Zumba Instructor in Events Center	
Wednesday, March 4, 2026			
8:00 am Registration		Exhibits Open in Events Center	Location: Events Center Moderators: Silver Galleto & Mark Espinosa
8:30-9:00 am			Posting of Colors American Indian Veterans Association Traditional Blessing Chris Devers, Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Welcome Chairman Robert Smith, Pala Band of Mission Indians Singing Inter Tribal Bird Singers from Pala
9:00-9:30 am	Introduction of Duly-Elected Tribal Officials		
9:30-12:00 pm	California Tribal Leaders Listening Session with the IHS Chief of Staff Clayton Fulton		
12:00-1:30 pm	LUNCH BREAK		
	Location: Events Center Moderators: Chris Devers & Wesley Simmons		
1:30-2:30 pm	Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Angelina Renteria, Chief Operating Officer, Indian Health Council, Inc. Miranda Davis, DDS, California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.		
2:30-3:15 pm	California Area IHS Update Beverly Miller, MHA, MBA, Director, CAIHS Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center & Sacred Oaks Healing Center Updates Anthony Mazza, Health Systems Administrator, Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center		
3:15-3:45 pm	Programmatic Agreement with State Historic Preservation Officer CAPT Jonathan Rash, PE, Associate Director, Office of Environmental Health & Engineering, CAIHS Donna Meyer, CEM, HPS, Environmental Protection Specialist, CAIHS		

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3:45-4:00 pm		BREAK	
4:00-4:15 pm		Overview of Voting Items	Wesley Simmons, Indian Self-Determination Program Manager, CAIHS
4:15-5:00 pm		Regional Caucus Breakouts led by CATAC representatives for 1) Election of CATAC regional representatives and 2) Election of YRTC TAC regional representatives	
5:30 pm		ZUMBA (MODIFIED) led by Steve Twitchell, Certified Zumba Instructor in Events Center	

Thursday, March 5, 2026

8:00 am Registration	Exhibits Open in Events Center	Location: Events Center Moderators: Carol Larsen & Christine Brennan	
7:30 am		ZUMBA (MODIFIED) led by Steve Twitchell, Certified Zumba Instructor in Events Center	
9:00-9:15 am		Previous Day Summary & Election Results	Wesley Simmons, Indian Self-Determination Program Manager, CAIHS
9:15-10:15 am		Deep Impact: Addressing Substance Use and Overdose in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities	Kufreabasi Idiong, MSW, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center (DSYWC) LT Vinita Quinones, LCSW, MA, Milieu Coordinator, DSYWC
10:15-10:45 am		Office of Environmental Health & Engineering Overview	CAPT Jonathan Rash, PE, Associate Director, Office of Environmental Health & Engineering, CAIHS
10:45-11:30 pm		Budget Formulation Ballot and Government Performance & Results Act (GPRA) Results	Nik Berzins, MAC, Associate Director, Office of Management Support, CAIHS Christine Brennan, MPH, Associate Director, Office of Public Health, CAIHS
11:30-1:00 pm		LUNCH BREAK	
		Location: Events Center Moderators: Elena Tarango & Nik Berzins	
1:00-2:00pm		Legislative Updates	Virginia Hedrick, MPH, Chief Executive Officer, California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.
2:00-3:30 pm		National Workgroup Reports: Tribal Leader's Diabetes Committee (TLDC) Rosemary Nelson (p), Dominica Valencia (a), and Glenna Moore (IHS) Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board (FAAB) Michael Garcia (p), Angie Wilson (a), and Ali Ali (IHS) Budget Formulation Workgroup (BFWG) Michael Garcia (p), Chris Devers (a), and Nik Berzins (IHS) Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Workgroup Chris Devers (p), Orvin Hanson (a), Mark LeBeau (t), and Julie Schulte (IHS) CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) Mark LeBeau (p), Inder Wadhwa (a), and Julie Schulte (IHS) National Behavioral Health Workgroup (BHWG) Carol Larsen (p), Dominica Valencia (a), and Karen Severns (IHS)	
3:30 pm		Retiring of the Colors	American Indian Veterans Association