

# AMBER TORRES

## OBJECTIVE:

To serve Tribal Nations, in the most meaningful capacity that will elevate the status of native people and enhance their way of life today and for the next seven generations. Preserve and protect our ancestry, traditional and cultural teachings, and to ensure that our tribal creation stories and legacies that all of Indian country has implemented are a part of the imprint for years to come.

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

### Local Level

Elected to Walker River Tribal Council in 2010

Elected and served as Chairman since 2016, first Chairman elected to a four-year term

Served as Chair for the Congressionally Mandated Intergovernmental Executive Committee, working closely with the Fallon Naval Air Station, Tribal nations from Nevada and many stakeholders including BLM, NFWF, BIA, etc. to restoring historical damage and create ongoing dialogue pertaining to the expansion. Represented Nevada tribes by serving on the Executive Board of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Equity Cabinet created by Congressman Steven Horsford, the Western Leaders Committee and selected by Governor Sisolak to serve on the Nevada Tribal Advisory Board

### Regional Level

Served on the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona Steering Committee

### National Level

Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee/SDPI for Indian Health Service

Tribal Interior Budget Council for BIA

IHS Director's Advisory Work Group on Tribal Consultation

National Indian Health Board

IHS Director's Workgroup on Improving Purchase Referred Care

Native Farm Bill Coalition

USDA Tribal Leaders Consultation Workgroup for FDPIR

Co-Chair for the IHS Budget Formulation Committee

Former Western Region representative for National Congress of American Indians

HHS STAC

First ever, historical Secretary of Interior Tribal Advisory Committee

WEWIN 2023 award recipient

Close working relationship with the White House administration, and

invited to sit on many panels

As Chairman myself, excellent staff and tribal council were able to achieve many victories for our community over the years, a few that I am very proud of would be the creation of Walker River Ventures LLC, a cannabis cultivation and dispensary, acquiring Stanley Ranch which was a serious trespass issue over many years, telemedicine initiation at the clinic, negotiated a T-Mobile tower that would provide better telephone access and revenue to the tribe at their cost, acquired new gas pumps at the Smoke Shop for pertinent program operations, obtained the Tribal Historical Preservation Grant

for the first time, created new ordinances and codes for the Tribal court program, closed our open dump and burn site of over 25 years

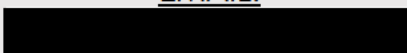


### CONTACT:

PHONE:



EMAIL:



### HOBBIES:

Exercising  
Helping others  
Taking pictures  
Public speaking

and settled the historical desecration of our lands with the Fallon Naval Air Station and the federal government. There were way too many to list but these are a few that were near and dear to my heart and will leave meaningful impacts for years to come.

## **EDUCATION**

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1997 Graduate at Yerington High School  
Cosmetology degree

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

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### **National Indian Health Board**

Interim Chief Operating Officer

May 1, 2024 to current

My job is to work with the Executive Board, member organizations and CEO. I am working to create a strategic plan with the policies and processes to implement it, with the staff. I am the supervisor of the Senior Management Team and Department Directors, including HR, Meeting and Events Planning and administrative staff. Offer financial oversight in conjunction with the Finance Director and consultants. Management over a 45 person and growing national tribal serving organization. Determine and design tasks, set goals and measure accountability and growth that coincide with the strategic plan set in plan by the Executive Board and staff. Work on grant management with federal grants, contracts and philanthropic partners. Short term and long term planning for a sustainable organization. Capacity building, and developing new programs that reach Indian country. Hiring, recruiting and retaining staff with experience and expertise for successful delivery of program functions and deliverables that will change the everyday life of tribal communities.

### **The Food Bank of Northern Nevada**

Tribal Liaison

October 2023 to current

I work with the twenty-eight tribes throughout Nevada to provide food, (fresh fruits, vegetables, poultry, beef, canned goods, dry staples) to their tribal citizens. We have started food pantries and provide Mobile harvest, as well as the Senior Nutrition Program to the surrounding areas to combat food insecurity within their tribal nations. In collaboration with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, tribes and the Food Bank we are able to provide food to the different communities in rural and urban areas, that are considered food deserts. I attend Council meetings and continue to build our meaningful relationships, to build programs that I hope they can one day run on their own to promote self determination and the foods that our people have access to. To elevate the health status of native people.

### **Walker River Paiute Tribe**

Chairman

2016 to January 17, 2023

Supervisor to program directors and administration staff, worked with several tribal councils throughout the years to bring positive changes and revenue to the tribe, collaborated with surrounding tribal nations, represented Walker River Paiute Tribe at many meetings, public forums for a number of years, worked with local, state, tribal

and federal partners, negotiated contractual agreements along with legal counsel to present to council and community, working with tribal citizens and community

### **Walker River Tribal Health Clinic**

Purchase Referred Care Specialist/Benefits Coordinator  
2005 to 2016

Worked with IHS PRC staff to obtain approval for payment of referral, scheduled patients to obtain services to outpatient specialty providers, document ER visits for review and payment, arranged rides to and from appointment for the patient, screened patient for alternative resources of medical coverage, helped them apply for alternative sources of payment if qualified, helped patient review statements from the doctor's office and help get them out of collections, managed follow up and ongoing treatment for tribal citizens eligible for care in our service delivery area with many providers offices in Nevada and surrounding areas.

### **SKILLS**

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- Works well alone or with others
- Knowledge of Tribal programs and budgets
- Proven leadership and dedication
- Excellent customer service and networking skills
- Trainable, always willing to learn additional responsibilities
- Known figure in Indian country for making positive changes to programs tribes operate
- Understanding the importance of Native inclusion, representation and perspectives
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- Great working relationship with media sources supporting Indian country

### **REFERENCES**

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