



NOV 23 2009

Mr. Andrew Joseph
Chairman
Portland Area Facilities Advisory Committee
Colville Business Council
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for meeting with Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Indian Health Service (IHS) Director, and staff on November 4, 2009, at the IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and members of the Portland Area Facilities Advisory Committee (PAFAC).

You and members of the PAFAC Committee, on behalf of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), and the Portland Area Director, provided an overview of a proposed approach for a regional specialty referral health care facility. A power-point presentation was presented highlighting the details of the recommended Demonstration Project which is a model not only specific to the Portland Area but could also be applied nationally for regional referral centers.

In October 2009 the PAFAC completed a Pilot Study that evaluated the means for determining the need for three regional referral centers in the Portland Area. The PAFAC submitted their final "*Interim PAFAC Report*" which summarized the key findings and was presented and adopted by the NPAIHB through a Tribal resolution.

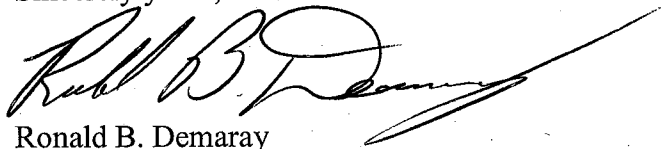
During this meeting the PAFAC Committee formally requested that Dr. Roubideaux and the IHS now "*approve and fund Demonstration Project(s), to include planning, design, construction, and staffing of a regional center to provide secondary care referral services to Portland Area Tribes.*" The Demonstration Project would further test the viability of such referral centers by gathering the data necessary to justify the need for regional centers to provide services not currently available at existing Tribal and federal (direct service) facilities.

Dr. Roubideaux commended the PAFAC for their dedication to continually pursuing strategies to improve the health care needs of the various Tribal members in the Portland Area and for developing a new and innovative approach to providing specialty care. She ensured the PAFAC that she will review the proposal and will provide her recommendations in the near future.

Your concerns are very important to Dr. Roubideaux and the IHS. The Office of Direct Service & Contracting Tribes was happy to be of assistance to you in facilitating the meeting with the Office of the Director. Please continue to work with Mr. Dean Seyler, Acting Area Director for the IHS Portland Area Office, in addressing the need for a regional specialty referral health care facility in the Portland Area. The IHS Director will provide a follow up letter to you within 60 days to outline any additional action taken or contemplated and to ensure that the Area Office has contacted you as described above.

If you have any questions or if my office may be of additional assistance, please contact Ms. Verna Miller, Office of Direct Service & Contracting Tribes, at (301) 443-1104, or by e-mail to Verna.Miller@ihs.gov.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald B. Demaray
Acting Director

Office of Direct Service & Contracting Tribes

cc: Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., IHS Director
Randy Grinnell, IHS Deputy Director
Doni Wilder, Portland Area IHS
Dean Seyler, Acting Area Director, Portland Area
Jim Roberts, NPAIHB
Julia Davis, Nez Perce Tribe
Pearl Capoeman Baller, Quinault Nation
Sharon Stanphill, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Julie Johnson, NPAIHB
Sonciray Bonnell, NPAIHB
John Stephens, Swinomish Tribal Community
Ed Fox, Squaxin Island Tribe
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