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AREA  
INDIAN  
HEALTH  
BOARD**

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**RESOLUTION #04-04-02**

**Support for Toddler Overweight and Tooth Decay Study (TOTS)**

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), a tribal organization under P.L. 93-638 that represents forty-three Federally-recognized Indian tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho on health related issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary goal of the NPAIHB is to improve the health and quality of life of its member tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of this goal in 1997, NPAIHB established the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (The EpiCenter) in an effort to improve the quality of American Indian and Alaska Native epidemiology data; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center has gained national recognition for developing and implementing many useful and innovative projects to improve the health and quality of life of Northwest tribes and has served as a national model for other IHS Areas to emulate in establishing their EpiCenter programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of the EpiCenter's Toddler Overweight and Tooth Decay Study (TOTS) is currently supported through funding provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through an initiative entitled Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH); and

**WHEREAS**, the NIH and The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has invited applications for cooperative agreements to conduct five-year studies in American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) populations to test the effectiveness of behavioral interventions to promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles and/or improve behaviors related to cardiovascular (CV) risk, such as weight reduction, regular physical activity, and smoking cessation; and

**WHEREAS**, a central feature of this application is to develop and test culturally appropriate interventions that could be incorporated into clinical programs of the community health care systems or delivered through public-health approaches in Native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, TOTS preliminary anthropometrics data suggests that overweight begins as early as in toddler hood among northwest tribal children and dental data suggests a high morbidity and low access to dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of this funding initiative are consistent with the goals and objectives of both the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the EpiCenter and TOTS; and

**WHEREAS**, a successful proposal for this NHLBI funding will provide an opportunity to implement TOTS in additional tribal communities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NPAIHB endorses and support an effort by staff of TOTS and the *EpiCenter*, under the guidance of the Executive Director and with the assistance of other NPAIHB staff, to apply for a grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institutes to continue funding for the Toddler Overweight and Tooth Decay Prevention Study.