



**NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
AREA
INDIAN
HEALTH
BOARD**

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Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
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Umatilla Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Warm Springs Tribe
Yakama Nation

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RESOLUTION # 05-03-02

**Support for an AI/AN Cancer linkage project with
CHS and State Medicaid Programs**

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is 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 Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is to improve the health and quality of life of its member tribes; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that many American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people meet the eligibility requirements for Medicaid, yet they are not enrolled due to barriers that include inadequate outreach, lack of transportation, inaccessible locations of eligibility offices, difficulty with paperwork and navigating bureaucracies, cultural and communications issues, and financial costs to consumers.

WHEREAS, studies suggest that AI/AN people diagnosed with cancer experience poorer cancer-related survival rates compared to non-Native people indicating that AI/AN people experience disparities in access to appropriate cancer treatment services; and

WHEREAS, cancer registries often misidentify AI/AN people with cancer and care is often provided through the use of specialty care providers purchased by the IHS Contract Health Service programs; and

WHEREAS, many AI/AN people diagnosed with cancer are eligible for Medicaid services however do not enroll in the Medicaid program, which may result in delays in receiving adequate cancer treatment services and the use of recommended types of treatment than non-Indian people; and

WHEREAS, a study linking IHS and Tribal data with other cancer registry files to correctly identify AI/AN patients diagnosed with cancer and then compared with CHS and state Medicaid data would allow for comparison to ascertain if AI/AN people are receiving adequate cancer treatment services.

WHEREAS, the NW Tribal Epidemiology Center has proposed conducting a data linkage project to compare cancer patient data with tribal CHS and state Medicaid data in order to assess the quality of care provided to AI/AN cancer patients.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board supports the NW Tribal Epidemiology Center to conduct the cancer linkage project in the State of Washington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board supports the use aggregated and delinked data to pursue other funding in order to conduct similar studies in order to improve the quality of cancer services to AI/AN people in other Northwest Tribal communities.

CERTIFICATION

NO. 05-03-02

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being present and voting; 29 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on April 21st, 2005.

Renee Caparmon-Balles
Chairman

April 21, 2005
Date

Stella M. Washines
Secretary