



RESOLUTION # 07-04-08
NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD



RESOLUTION # 252- 07- 07
CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN
HEALTH BOARD

JOINT RESOLUTION

Recommendation for VHA and IHS to Develop a Federal/Tribal Work Group to Determine the Feasibility of Having VHA Serve CHS Patients; and for IHS to Serve as a VHA Provider of Care to AI/AN and Non-Indian Veterans and be Reimbursed

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is a tribal organization under P.L. 93-638 that represents 43 Federally-recognized Indian tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho and is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people in the Northwest; **AND**

WHEREAS, the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB), founded in 1969 for the purpose of bringing back health services to Indians of California; is a tribal organization in accordance with Public Law 93-638, is a statewide tribal health organization representing 36 Federally recognized tribes in 21 counties through its membership of 11 Indian Health Programs throughout California's Indian Country; **AND**

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB and CRIHB are dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; **AND**

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

WHEREAS, The American Indian and Alaska Native population benefit from a unique trust relationship with the United States government as established in the US Constitution and Federal Court decisions federal law and government to government treaties; **AND**

WHEREAS, in February 2003 the Departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote cooperation and sharing between the VHA and IHS to further each Department's respective mission and to encourage cooperation and resource sharing between the two agencies with the goal of delivering health care services and enhance the health of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) veterans; **AND**

WHEREAS, the goal of the MOU is to use the strengths and expertise of both organizations to deliver quality health care services and enhance the health status of AI/AN veterans; **AND**

WHEREAS, the VHA as a federal health provider is in the position provide many health services that IHS and Tribal Contract Health Service (CHS) programs must refer patients to the private sector for specialty care and likewise, the IHS and Tribal health programs as a federal health provider are in a position to provide health services to AI/AN veterans who must travel great distances to VHA facilities to receive; **AND**

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for collaboration between the VHA and IHS under VHA/IHS MOU to provide services to one another's patients and reduce the burden of travel for AI/AN and non-Indian veterans by having them receive services at IHS facilities and having the VHA reimburse the IHS or Tribal health program for those costs; **AND**

WHEREAS, American Indians/Alaska Natives respond to the call of armed services greater than any other race in the United States; **AND**

WHEREAS, the benefits of this collaboration would enhance the quality of health care by reducing the burden of travel and time to receive health services and reduce costs for each agency that will translate into more health care services that can be provided to veterans and Indian people; **AND**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that CRIHB/NPAIHB recommend the VHA and IHS to develop a Federal/Tribal work group to determine the feasibility of having the VHA serve as a provider of care under the Indian Health Service's CHS Program and for IHS and Tribal provider to serve as a provider of care to AI/AN and non-Indian veterans and be reimbursed for the cost of that care by the VHA.

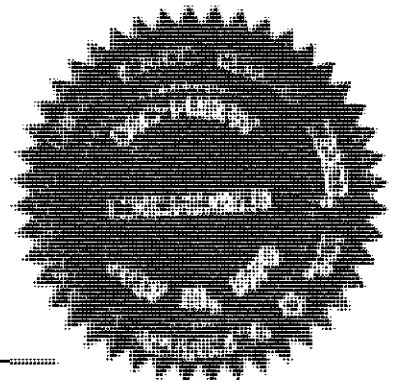
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CRIHB/NPAIHB supports the VHA and IHS to collaborate on this very important effort since each program is a federal provider of health care and the effort will maximize federal funding appropriated by Congress and if necessary the Federal/Tribal workgroup should seek legislation to carry out the objectives of this resolution; **AND**

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing joint resolution was adopted at a duly called regular joint meeting of the Board of Directors of Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and California Rural Indian Health Board (*NPAIHB* vote 27 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain; *CRIHB* vote 18 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain) held this 26th day of July 2007 in Reno, Nevada and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded.

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Attest

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Attest