



**NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
AREA
INDIAN
HEALTH
BOARD**

Burns-Paiute Tribe
Chehalis Tribe
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Colville Tribe
Coos, Suislaw &
Lower Umpqua Tribe
Coquille Tribe
Cow Creek Tribe
Grand Ronde Tribe
Hoh Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalispel Tribe
Klamath Tribe
Kootenai Tribe
Lower Elwha Tribe
Lummi Tribe
Makah Tribe
Muckleshoot Tribe
Nez Perce Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Nooksack Tribe
NW Band of Shoshoni Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinalt Tribe
Samish Indian Nation
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
Siletz Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Spokane Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribe
Umatilla Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Warm Springs Tribe
Yakama Nation

527 SW Hall
Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201
☎ (503) 228-4185
FAX (503) 228-8182
www.npaihb.org

RESOLUTION #08-02-05

**Support Development of a Comprehensive Community Mental
Health Services for Children & Families Project under
the SAMHSA Child Mental Health Initiative**

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is a Tribal organization under P.L. 93-638 that represents forty-three federally recognized Tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and is dedicated to assisting to promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people in the Northwest; 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, there are 4.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) living in the United States with 33 percent of this population under the age of 18 years, compared to 26 years of age for the overall U.S. total population (Source: 2000 U.S. Census); and

WHEREAS, there are alarming statistics associated with this young AI/AN population in almost every area of risk that provide a compelling case for action, such as:

- AI/AN children have one of the **highest rates of victimization** at 16.5 per 1,000 children compared to 10.8 per 1,000 children for Caucasians (Source: U.S. Administration for Children & Families);
- Experience **high rates of suicide** with AI/AN males between the ages of 15-24 accounting for 64% of all AI/AN suicides, and;
- Alcohol-related deaths among AI/AN youth between the ages of 15-24 are 17 times higher than the national average for the same age group;
- In 2001, 74% of **youth in custody** in the Federal Bureau of Prisons system were AI/AN youth, a 50% increase since 1994; and

WHEREAS, more than half of those who committed suicide in American Indian communities have never been seen by a mental health provider, yet 90% of all teens who die by suicide suffer from a diagnosable mental illness at the time of death that may have been prevented had a program been in place to deal with emotional disturbances and mental health needs of AI/AN youth; and

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for FY 2008 Cooperative Agreements for Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families (CMHI) designed integrating home and community-based services and support for children with serious emotional disturbances and their families by encouraging the development and expansion of effective and enduring systems of care; and

WHEREAS, the development of a mental health services program for AI/AN children designed around the objectives of the aforementioned SAMHSA funding opportunity will greatly assist AI/AN communities residing in urban and reservation settings to address the mental health needs of AI/AN children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, in collaboration with the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, supports the development of a project to address serious emotional disturbances and mental health needs of AI/AN youth under the SAMHSA Community Mental Health Services for Children grant program.