



RESOLUTION #08-03-03
Reducing Health Disparities among Minority and
Underserved Children (R21) What Influences
Breastfeeding Initiation and Continuation in AI women

**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
Cowlitz 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

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 Idaho, Oregon, and Washington on health related issues; and

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB 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 (*EpiCenter*) in an effort to improve the quality of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) epidemiology data; and

WHEREAS, the *EpiCenter* 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 Indian Health Service (IHS) areas to emulate in establishing their *EpiCenter* programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has invited proposals to conduct research to reduce health disparities among minority and underserved children; and

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB has experience conducting maternal child health research and has preliminary breastfeeding data to support the continued study of breastfeeding in the American Indian/Alaska Native populations; and

WHEREAS, existing tribe specific, state and national databases contain breastfeeding initiation and duration data and reasons for why women do not initiate or stop breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, AI/ANs may face unique barriers to breastfeeding than other populations; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have expressed an interest in addressing maternal child health issues through progressive research; and

WHEREAS, additional qualitative data collection may help describe how northwest tribal women who choose to breastfeed are able to continue; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of this secondary and primary data collection will empower Northwest Tribes to determine appropriate levels of intervention; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this initiative are consistent with the goals and objectives of both the NPAIHB and the *EpiCenter*; and

WHEREAS, a successful proposal for this NIH funding would provide an opportunity for Northwest Tribes to explore continued issues facing AI/ANs and breastfeeding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NPAIHB endorses and supports an effort by staff of the *EpiCenter*, under the guidance of the Executive Director, to submit a grant application to the NIH requesting funding for the study entitled "Reducing Health Disparities among Minority and Underserved Children."

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

CERTIFICATION

NO. 08-03-03

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 36 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on April 17, 2008.

Linda Holt
Chairman

Date

Stella M. Washburn
Secretary