



RESOLUTION #11-01-05
**Support Tribal Representation to the Veterans Integrated Service
Network (VISN) 20 Advisory Council**

**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 Shoshone Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinault 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 Oregon, Washington and Idaho 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, the Indian Health Service and Veterans Administration entered into a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding committing the two agencies to work in partnership to improve services to American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) veterans; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Integrated Service Network 20 (VISN 20) has established an Advisory Council to provide recommendations to the VISN 20 Director; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board requested a tribal representative be appointed to the VISN 20 Advisory Council and this request was honored. The VISN 20 Advisory Council has met and the NW tribal representative participated, but due to lack of information on meetings and cancelled meetings, very few council meetings occurred; and

WHEREAS, there are often redundancies in treatment and other challenges when AI/AN veterans obtain health services at an IHS or VA facility, for which American Indian veterans have advocated to resolve with the IHS and VHA. These issues cause an undue burden and are a barrier when AI/AN veterans seek health services and cause unnecessary costs to both the IHS and VA.

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB sent a letter in September 2010 to the VISN 20 Executive Director requesting that the Advisory Council resume and that the NW tribal representative remain on the council, though did not receive a response.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board recommend that VISN 20 continue to conduct regular VISN 20 Advisory Council meetings and continue to have a tribal representative participate on the Advisory Council.

2121 SW Broadway Drive
Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 228-4185
(503) 228-8182 FAX
www.NPAIHB.org

CERTIFICATION

NO. 11-01-05

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 32 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on October 21, 2010.

Andrew C. Joseph Jr.
Chairman

10-21-10
Date

Paenda Heltzer
Secretary