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**RESOLUTION #10-03-05**  
**Support for NPAIHB *EpiCenter* Data Linkages with  
Communicable Disease Registries of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington**

**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 Northwest Tribal Registry (NTR) has performed, Board approved, record linkage studies to identify and correct racial misclassification in various public health registries to better assess burden of disease for Northwest AI/ANs; and

**WHEREAS**, previous research by the NPAIHB *EpiCenter* has shown that public health data for Northwest AI/AN are under-reported due primarily to misclassification of race in public health registries and vital health records; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indians and Alaska Natives in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington may be disproportionately affected by H1N1 influenza and other communicable diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, the correct identification of AI/AN in state health registries is essential for understanding the distribution of health events and planning prevention and intervention efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the NPAIHB *EpiCenter* has consistently demonstrated adequate measures to insure the physical security of data and has policies in place to control access to and release of data; and

**WHEREAS**, any publications presenting the results of these linkages will only be done in collaboration with and by approval of NPAIHB and the NPAIHB *EpiCenter*.

**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 complete record linkages with communicable disease registries, including reportable influenza data, maintained by Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to correct racial misclassification of AI/AN such that they can more accurately report on morbidity and mortality trends among AI/AN in the Northwest.

**CERTIFICATION**

NO. 10.03.05

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 31 for, \_\_\_\_\_ against, \_\_\_\_\_ abstain on April 22, 2010.

*Andrew C. Joseph Jr.*

Chairman

4-22-10

Date

*Brandi Hill*  
Secretary