



**RESOLUTION #10-03-08**  
**Request for Consultation Between Northwest Tribes and Veterans**  
**Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20**

**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 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**, many American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have distinctive cultural values which drive them to serve their country; one such value is their proud warrior tradition; and

**WHEREAS**, it is broadly understood that AI/AN have the highest record of military service per capita than any other ethnic group in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest tribes are dedicated to assisting AI/AN veterans and their families to access to culturally appropriate health care including mental health services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Executive Order 13175 requires all federal agencies to develop a tribal consultation policy and carry out consultation activities in a meaningful manner; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to improve coordination when providing health care services to AI/AN veterans served by both the IHS and the Veteran Health Administration by improving communication, information sharing, and data exchange so that AI/AN veterans receive the highest quality of health services; 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**, in accordance with Presidential Executive Order 13175 and President Obama's commitment to regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with federally recognized Indian tribes, Tribes have respectfully requested to consult with the Veterans Administration on health care services provided to AI/AN veterans.

**WHEREAS**, the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20 should utilize broad and effective communication efforts when announcing consultation with NW tribes.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board respectfully requests that the Veterans Health Administration VISN 20 office conduct an Tribal Consultation session with Portland Area Tribes to address AI/AN veterans health care issues.

**CERTIFICATION**

NO. 10-03-08

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

*Branda Niffa*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary