



Resolution No.: 12-01-03
**“Support for Optional Medicaid Benefits to be
Provided Through the I/T/U”**

**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 (hereinafter “NPAIHB” or the “Board”) was established in 1972 to assist Tribal governments to improve the health status and quality of life of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is a “tribal organization” as defined by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638 seq. et al) that represents forty-three federally recognized tribes in the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the definitions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act at 25 USCS § 450b, a tribal organization is recognized as a governing body of any Indian tribe and includes any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body or which is democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities; 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, Idaho, Oregon and Washington tribes have all requested that State Medicaid programs pursue a 1115 Medicaid Waiver amendment to mitigate benefit reductions in State Medicaid programs that only serve to perpetuate health disparities and have a harmful effect on services to American Indian people; and

WHEREAS, tribes have requested that the states explore options to exempt American Indian and Alaska Natives from benefit reductions and/or explore opportunities to be able to provide optional services that have already been reduced in the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, the States have the option to expand Medicaid benefits that would be delivered through Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal (T), or urban Indian health programs (U) collectively referred to as “I/T/U”; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) and NPAIHB have sent letters to State Medicaid Directors recommending that Oregon and Washington move forward with an 1115 Medicaid Waiver amendment to restore benefit reductions and to allow optional services to be provided through the I/T/U; and

WHEREAS, Washington State’s Medicaid Program, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Board have met by conference call to discuss the feasibility of Washington State to pursue such a waiver and for which CMS provided technical issues that would need to be addressed in Washington’s request; and

WHEREAS, NPAIHB developed a discussion draft on the policy issues raised by CMS that include: facility based exemption for services, facility capacity, benefit design, FMAP issues, alternatives for State match and surge/capacity issues; and

WHEREAS, the discussion draft has been vetted with Northwest Tribes in the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and there is consensus amongst all Tribes to move the proposals presented in the discussion draft forward to CMS as a waiver request in each of the respective states.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NPAIHB formally approves the recommendations presented in the discussion draft to allow optional services to be provided by the I/T/U in State Medicaid programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Northwest Tribes support the collaboration of Oregon and Washington State Medicaid programs to move a joint waiver proposal forward to CMS as soon as possible.

CERTIFICATION

NO. 12-01-03

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 26 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on October 20, 2011.


Chairman

10.20.11
Date


Secretary