



**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
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

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Resolution No.: 12-03-04

“Support for *EpiCenter* proposal for NIMHD: Social, Behavioral, Health Services, and Policy Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01)”

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 NPAIHB 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 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, Section 214 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (P.L. 110-148) amends current law to continue authority for operation and funding of Tribal Epidemiology Centers and gives *EpiCenters* the status as public health authorities for purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, thus granting access to health data needed to perform their mission; and

WHEREAS, the correct identification of AI/ANs in surveillance and health claims data systems is essential for understanding the burden and distribution of disease, mortality, and health care utilization for public health planning; and

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

WHEREAS, the *EpiCenter* has, with Board approval, performed 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, the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) has invited research proposals that innovatively contribute to the measurement and elimination of health disparities; and

WHEREAS, a successful proposal for this NIH funding initiative would provide the capability to continue and expand linkage projects that improve the quality and accessibility of health data for Northwest Tribes and contribute to the elimination of health disparities experienced by AI/AN; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NPAIHB endorses and supports an effort by the staff of the *EpiCenter*, under guidance of the Executive Director, to submit a grant application to the NIH requesting funding for the NIMHD research initiative entitled "Social, Behavioral, Health Services, and Policy Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities".


CERTIFICATION

NO. 12-03-04

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 30 for 0 against 0 abstain on April 19, 2011.


Chairman

Date


Secretary