

**RESOLUTION # 15-04-03  
NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA  
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**



**RESOLUTION #316-07-15  
CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN  
HEALTH BOARD**

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

**In Support of Distribution of HHS Block Grant Program Funds Directly to Tribal Health Programs**

- WHEREAS,** the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is a tribal organization under P.L. 93-638 that represents 43 federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho and is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people in the Northwest; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB), founded in 1969 for the purpose of bringing back health services to the Indians of California, a tribal organization as defined by P.L. 93-638, representing 30 federally recognized tribes in 21 counties with 11 member Indian Health Programs; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** NPAIHB and CRIHB are dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN), including health care, mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention needs; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the primary goal of NPAIHB and CRIHB is to improve the health and quality of life of its member tribes; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the federal government continues to have a unique legal and moral trust responsibility to AI/ANs to provide health care and a government to government relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** AI/ANs continue to suffer from significant health disparities including life expectancy 4.1 years less than the rest of the U.S. population; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** According to IHS data, AI/AN die at higher rates than other Americans from alcoholism (552% higher), diabetes (182% higher), unintentional injuries (138% higher), homicide (83% higher), and suicide (74% higher); **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the rate of current illicit drug use is 12.3 percent among AI/AN compared to 9.5 percent among whites, and the rate of substance dependence or abuse is 14.9 percent for AI/AN compared to 8.4 percent among whites; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** tribes and tribal health care programs are experts in culturally competent treatment and understand the unique health care and mental health needs and challenges of the AI/AN population; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** youth suicide is epidemic throughout Indian country; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** elder abuse, child abuse, and domestic violence are significant problems throughout Indian country often perpetrated by non-AI/ANs; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** untreated intergenerational historical trauma continues to impact AI/AN communities in negative ways; **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the California Rural Indian Health Board do hereby urge Congress and representatives of federal agencies to create tribal set asides in all federal block grant funding streams administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, including but not limited to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in order to ensure that an appropriate level of health care, mental health, chemical dependency, substance abuse, and suicide prevention funding be provided for services to AI/AN patients.

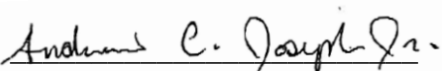
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and California Rural Indian Health Board urge the States of California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington to conduct tribal consultation on all state health care, facilities, mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention program state block grant funding distribution that is available, or should be available, to serve AI/AN patients/consumers of tribal health programs.


#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing joint resolution was adopted at a duly called regular joint meeting of the Board of Directors of Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and California Rural Indian Health Board (**NPAIHB** vote 23 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain; **CRIHB** vote 13 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain) held this 10th day of July 2015 in Lincoln, California and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded.

#### **NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**


2121 SW Broadway, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97201  
(503) 228-4185

  
Chairperson of the Board

  
Attest

#### **CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**

4400 Auburn Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
(916) 929-9761

  
Chairperson of the Board

  
Attest