



RESOLUTION # 18-01-04

Urging the American Medical Association to Adopt a Policy Statement on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Toxic Stress

NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

Burns-Paiute Tribe
Chehalis Tribe
Coeur d' Alene Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Colville
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Coquille Tribe
Cow Creek Tribe
Cowlitz Tribe
Hoh Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalispel Tribe
Klamath Tribe
Kootenai Tribe
Lower Elwha Klallam 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
Skokomish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Spokane Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Yakama Nation

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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 non-governmental "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, historical trauma was perpetrated on American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people for centuries, leading to a destruction of communities, loss of language and culture, changes in traditional diet and increasing behavioral impacts; and

WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences, physical and emotional abuse, chronic neglect, caregiver substance abuse and behavioral health challenges, exposure to violence, and/or economic hardship without positive adult relationships, may lead to disproportionate toxic stress over a life span and occurs across generations in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, toxic stress response can occur when a child experiences strong, frequent, and/or prolonged adversity—such as physical or emotional abuse, chronic neglect, caregiver substance abuse or mental illness, exposure to violence, and/or the accumulated burdens of family economic hardship—without adequate adult support; and

WHEREAS, many AI/AN people, and many people in communities across the nation, have had adverse childhood experiences and have experienced disproportionate levels of toxic stress; and

WHEREAS, the potential consequences of toxic stress in early childhood for the pathogenesis of adult disease are considerable; and

WHEREAS, at the behavioral level, there is extensive evidence of a strong link between early adversity and a wide range of health-threatening behaviors; and

WHEREAS, at the biological level, there is growing documentation of the extent to which both the cumulative burden of stress over time and the timing of specific environmental

insults during sensitive developmental periods can create structural and functional disruptions that lead to a wide range of physical and mental illnesses later in adult life; and

WHEREAS, other associations have adopted policy statements to address adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress of patients; and

WHEREAS, a policy statement by the American Medical Association to adopt a more proactive leadership role in educating patients, teachers, policy makers, civic leaders, and the general public about AI/AN adverse childhood experiences and the long-term consequences of toxic stress among AI/AN people and the potential benefits of preventing or reducing sources of significant adversity in early childhood would improve the health of AI/AN people and the health of our tribal communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board urges the American Medical Association to adopt a policy statement addressing American Indian and Alaska Native adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress in Indian country.

CERTIFICATION

NO. 18-01-04

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 24 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on October 12, 2017.

Andrew C. Joseph Jr.

Chairman

October 12, 2017

Date

Doreen J. Abrahamson

Secretary