**Legislative Committee Report**

**April 18, 2017**

Attendees: Greg Abrahamson (Spokane), Nicholaus Lewis (Lummi), Karol Dixon (Port Gamble Sklallam), John Stephens (Swinomish), Gerald Hill (Klamath Tribe), Jim Wallis (Umatilla), Lance Colby (Lower Elwha Klallam), Ann Jim (Shoshone-Bannock), Andy Joseph, Jr. (Colville)

Staff: Joe Finkbonner, Laura Platero, Christina Peters

Eight resolutions were considered by the Legislative Committee and acted upon:

1. **Preserve the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, No. 17-03-01**

This resolution supports and requests permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement act as to any repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Action: This resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on February 8, 2017. Motion to pass resolution along to full board for ratification by Spokane, second by Lummi, then unanimous vote approving same.

1. **Supporting Native Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers and Their Families, No. 17-03-02**

This resolution endorses the EpiCenter’s proposal in response to the AH-SP1-17-001: Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers, and Their Families.

Action: This resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on February 8, 2017. Motion to pass resolution along to full board for ratification by Spokane, second by Lummi, then unanimous vote approving same.

1. **“Office of Minority Health Partnerships to Achieve Health Equity Competitive Grant” Improving Data and Enhancing Access-Northwest (IDEA-NW), No. 17-03-03**

This resolution endorses and supports the staff of the EpiCenter, under guidance of the Executive Director, to submit a grant application to the Office of the Secretary, Office of Minority Health requesting funding for initiative titled “MP-CPI-001 Partnerships to Achieve Health Equity.

Action: This resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on March 21, 2017. Motion to pass along resolution to full Board for ratification by Spokane, second by Lummi, then unanimous vote approving same.

1. **Supporting Nomination of Dr. Charles W. Grim for the Director of the Indian Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services, No. 17-03-04**

This resolution supports the nomination of Dr. Charles W. Grim for Director of the Indian Health Service, DHHS.

Actions: This resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on April 7, 2017. Motion to pass along resolution to full Board for ratification by Spokane, second by Swinomish, then unanimous vote approving same.

1. **Northwest Native American Research Center for Health Renewal**

This resolution supports the application of the Northwest NARCH program as it to strives to reduce health disparities for tribal peoples in the Northwest and beyond.

Actions: Motion to pass resolution to full Board for consideration by Spokane, second by Lummi, then unanimous vote approving same.

1. **Approval and Adoption of the Health Reimbursement Arrangement for Employees of NPAIHB**

The Health Reimbursement Arrangement will reimburse employees up to $500 after they have met a $1,000 deductible and the employee has accumulated in excess of $1,000 in Qualifying Medical Expenses.

Specifically, this resolution states that the Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Summary Plan Description (Attachment A) effective January 1, 2017, presented to this meeting is hereby approved and adopted and that the proper officers of the Employer are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Administrator of the Plan one or more counterparts of the Plan. In addition, this resolution states that the Administrator shall be instructed to take such actions that are deemed necessary and proper in order to implement the Plan, and to set up adequate accounting and administrative procedures to provide benefits under the Plan.

Actions: Motion to pass resolution to full Board for consideration by Spokane, second by Lummi, then unanimous vote approving same.

1. **Opposition to FY 2018 Proposed Budget Cuts to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

There was a discussion about the President’s FY 2018 Proposed Budget Cuts to the U.S. Department Health and Human Services and elimination of programs of the Office of Community Services which includes the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which is important for our low income tribal members in the Northwest.

Action: The Committee directed NPAIHB staff to prepare a resolution opposing FY 2018 budget cuts to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including opposition to the elimination of LIHEAP.

1. **Support for Reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians**

There was also discussion about the expiration of the reauthorization of SDPI in September, 2017, and the need to have a resolution supporting reauthorization.

Action: The Committee directed NPAIHB staff to prepare a resolution supporting reauthorization of SDPI.

**Other:**

There was a discussion about the shortage of nurses and physicians to fill vacant positions at IHS/Tribal clinics. One Tribe stated that they have had to use a rent a nurse services to fill positions. There was a discussion about the IHS Scholarship Program and how it should fully fund all AI/AN students interested in health professions. There was also discussion about the need for an upward bound type program for health professions to get more youth interested in health professions. There was also suggestion to watch the “We are Healers” video series.