**Chairman, Andy Joseph, Jr. (Colville)**

**Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board**

**Quarterly Travel Report**

**January, 2018 to March, 2018**

On January 16 to 18, I attended the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Meeting in Portland, Oregon. It’s always great to meet with our Northwest Tribes and hear about all the important work that is going on in our area.

On January 22-25, I attended the ATNI Winter Convention in Portland, Oregon and chaired the Health Committee meeting. The Committee passed two resolutions on Hepatitis C. One requested parity in funding for the Indian Health Service for Hepatitis C treatment and the second was directed to State Medicaid Programs. These resolutions will be moved forward to NCAI Mid-Year meeting.

On January 29-31, I attended the National Indian Health Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. Congressional members were invited to our meeting.

On February 11, I travelled to Washington D.C. for several important meetings during the week. I attended the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session, the Direct Services Tribal Advisory Committee meeting, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Advisory Committee meeting, and National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup meeting. Throughout the week, I also made several Hill visits with NPAIHB staff and delegates. Sixteen visits were scheduled with Congressional representatives from Washington, Idaho and Oregon. I also met with Senate Committee on Indian Affairs staff, both majority and minority. Since the President’s budget for FY 2019 had just come out, I was able to advocate for Community Health Representatives and Health Educators which the President eliminated in his budget. I also asked for full funding for the IHS and an increase to the SDPI program. I talked about how important this program is to our people.

On February 28 to April 2, I attended the Annual HHS Tribal Budget Consultation meeting in Washington, D.C. As a co-chair of the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup, I testified to IHS leadership on the FY 2020 IHS budget. I also made several requests to leadership of HHS and other HHS agencies – SAMHSA, CDC, HRSA, etc. – for more funding for our people.

On March 5, I travelled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to attend the Contract Support Costs (CSC) workgroup meeting, which was March 6 and 7; and then attended the Purchased and Referred Care (PRC) meeting, which was March 8 and 9. I represented the Portland Area on both workgroups. As Tribal CSC Co-Chair, I had written two letters to IHS requesting information supporting their decision to rescind a section of the CSC policy (97/3 option) without Tribal Consultation. Tribes came up with proposed language that will be discussed in a smaller workgroup with IHS representatives. At the PRC meeting, ORAP/PRC provided an update on the FY 2018 and FY 2019 budgets, CHEF, PRC Chapter Revision and Unmet need. I also participated in the meeting with the Government Accountability Office which is looking at PRC.

On March 21 to 22, I attended the CHAP Tribal Advisory Group Meeting in Phoenix, as a Portland Area representative. Our area has been in a leader as to DHATs and now we are working on taking the lead as to CHAP.