



RESOLUTION # 19-03-03

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

“OREGON DENTAL ACCESS CAMPAIGN” NORTHWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE GRANT INVITATION

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 Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is a “tribal organization” as defined by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) (P.L. 93-638 seq. et al) that advocates and provides support to the forty-three federally recognized tribes in the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington (member tribes) on specific health issues; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the definitions of the ISDEAA 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 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the NPAIHB is to improve the health and quality of life of its member tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Health Foundation has invited the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board to apply for a Policy and Systems Change grant to pass legislation to make dental therapists available to underserved and underrepresented communities, especially tribal communities in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, then NPAIHB has partnered with tribes in Oregon to pilot the expansion of the dental team to include dental health aide therapists as part of the Oregon Dental Pilot Project Program; and

2121 SW Broadway
Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 228-4185
(503) 228-8182 FAX
www.npaihb.org

WHEREAS, the goal of the Oregon Dental Pilot Project Program is to encourage the development of innovative practices in oral health care delivery systems with a focus on providing care to populations that evidence-based studies show have the highest disease rates and the least access to dental care; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN communities are struggling under the weight of devastating oral health disparities:

- Prevalence of tooth decay in AI/AN children ages 2-5 is nearly three times the U.S. average;
- More than 70% of AI/AN children ages 2-5 years have a history of tooth decay experience compared to 23% of white children;
- AI/AN adult dental patients suffer disproportionately from untreated decay, with twice the prevalence of untreated caries as the general U.S. population and more than any other racial/ethnic group; and
- AI/AN adult dental patients are also more likely to have severe periodontal disease, more missing teeth, and are more likely to report poor oral health than the general U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, to address these disparities, the NPAIHB has worked closely with tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to expand the dental team to include dental health aide therapists; and

WHEREAS, expanded dental teams with dental therapists have proven effective in tribal and other underserved communities in increasing access to care, allowing dentists and other providers to work at the top of their scope, and improving population oral health; and

WHEREAS, a 2017 study done by Dr. Donald Chi from the University of Washington Dental School of Dentistry looked at 10 years of data from Alaska comparing villages with and without dental therapists and determined that communities with dental therapists showed:

- A 60% increase in access to preventive care for children;
- A 44% decrease in the need to put children under general anesthesia for full mouth rehabilitations; and
- An over 75% decrease in extractions of the first four front teeth of children under 3; and

WHEREAS, tribes in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho have lead the movement to break down barriers to oral health equity; and

WHEREAS, permanent changes to the state law in Oregon will be necessary to ensure that tribes and other communities have access to dental therapists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Board (NPAIHB) endorses and supports efforts by NPAIHB staff, under the guidance of the Executive Director, to apply for the grant opportunity for Policy and Systems Change with the Northwest Health Foundation in response to the invitation to apply from the Northwest Health Foundation.

CERTIFICATION

NO: 19-03-03

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 33 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on April 18, 2019.

Andrew C. Joseph Jr.

Chairman

April 18, 2019

DATE

Gregory J. Abrahamson

Secretary