



2015 Mid-Year Convention Warm Springs, Oregon

RESOLUTION #15 – 20

“SUPPORT FOR HEALTHIER WASHINGTON TRIBAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO TRANSFORM AND REDESIGN WASHINGTON’S MEDICAID SYSTEM”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has been engaged in a plan to redesign it’s Medicaid health care delivery systems and is called a *Healthier Washington* which began in early 2014 with stakeholder engagement with hundreds of people from the public and private sectors who were asked to share their ideas on how the system might be transformed to produce better health, better care and lower cost; and

WHEREAS, the *Healthier Washington* initiative provides a significant investment in Washington's health care future and is intended to address the following: (1) build healthier communities and people through prevention and early attention to disease; (2) integrate care and social support for individuals who have both physical and behavioral health needs, and; (3) reward quality health care over quantity, with state government leading by example as Washington's largest purchaser of health care; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) also conducted a Tribal Roundtable on March 16, 2015 and a Tribal Consultation session on April 17, 2015; the purpose of the Roundtable and Tribal consultation was for the State to share information about the Healthier Washington initiatives that constitute Washington's health reform efforts and to discuss the State's plan to submit a Section 1115 demonstration waiver to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to obtain federal flexibility and authority to implement the health system transformations within the Healthier Washington initiatives and the meetings also provided Washington Tribes the opportunity to share their concerns related to the reform efforts underway; and

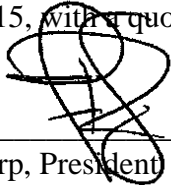
WHEREAS, following the Roundtable and Consultation meetings, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) has developed a set of tribal recommendations (see NPAIHB letter dated April 25, 2015) in collaboration with Washington State Tribal leaders, health directors, and other tribal health policy experts that provide a framework for how the HCA can best develop its Medicaid waiver to meet the needs of American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) enrolled in the Medicaid Program and the Indian health system that provides their care; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations developed by the NPAIHB and its representatives address many long-standing issues that Indian health providers and tribal members experience with Medicaid managed care systems and reinforce the need for Washington State and the HCA to implement many of the Medicaid statutory and regulatory protections Congress has passed for American Indian and Alaska Natives; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians does hereby support the recommendations developed by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and respectfully request the Washington Health Care Authority to adopt the Board's recommendations into the 1115 Waiver's special terms and conditions to demonstrate the State's commitment to ensure that American Indian and Alaska Natives have access to Medicaid and that Indian Health providers can participate in managed care networks.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa, Warm Springs, Oregon, on May 18-21, 2015, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary