



## **2015 Annual Convention Spokane, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #15 – 46**

#### **“SUPPORT FOR FLEXIBILITY IN MEDICAID WAIVERS TO INCLUDE PAYMENT FOR NON-CLINICAL TREATMENT IN ASTHMA CARE”**

#### **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**, Congress authorized the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish the Innovation Center under the authority of the Affordable Care Act section 3021 for the purpose of testing “innovative payment and service delivery models to reduce program expenditures ...while preserving or enhancing the quality of care” for those individuals who receive Medicare, Medicaid, or Children’s Health Insurance Program benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, asthma disproportionately affects American Indian and Alaska Native people, including a prevalence in a reported 10.7% of American Indian and Alaska Native children; due to under reporting and lack of data, asthma rates are likely higher than currently reported; and

**WHEREAS**, the ATNI is poised to lead and incorporate newly available health care funding through the Affordable Care Act and improve asthma care policy and practice for their community based health care systems to design and implement effective, comprehensive asthma care systems; and

**WHEREAS**, there is strong evidence demonstrating that it is possible to rapidly and significantly improve asthma outcomes by delivering high-quality in-home asthma care that addresses environmental triggers of asthma in coordination with high-quality clinical care; and

**WHEREAS**, to facilitate the alleviation of health disparities experienced in tribal communities, tribes must be involved in any changes and opportunities through the Affordable Care Act to increase their opportunities to offer holistic healthcare to be delivered in and by those communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency held a Northwest Tribal Summit on Improving Asthma Outcomes in Children: Securing Sustainable Financing for In-Home Visits on September 26 2014, with regional tribes and created a list of recommendations to address asthma in tribal communities; and

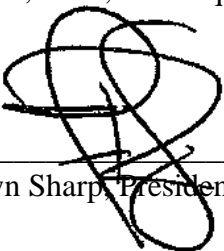
**WHEREAS**, these recommendations include advocating for Medicaid flexibility in its reimbursement policy for high-quality in-home asthma care; and to increase tribal support for demonstration projects impacting their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommendations developed by Summit participants may address the disparate impact of asthma in tribal communities and increase reimbursements through Medicaid for in-home asthma care; now

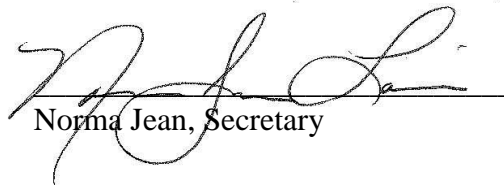
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby support the recommendation developed by the Northwest Tribal Summit on Improving Asthma Outcomes by advocating at the state level for the increase of reimbursement flexibility for non-clinical in-home asthma care under Medicaid for projects including in-home asthma care in tribal communities.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Spokane, Washington on September 14-17, 2015, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean, Secretary