

# National Indian Health Board



## What is the National Indian Health Board?

### Executive Committee

#### CHAIRWOMEN

**Cathy Abramson**

Bemidji Area

#### VICE CHAIRMAN

**Buford Rolin**

Nashville Area

#### SECRETARY

**Cynthia Manuel**

Tucson Area

#### TREASURER

**Thomas John**

Oklahoma Area

#### MEMBER AT LARGE

**Andrew Joseph, Jr.**

Portland Area

**John Yellowbird Steele**

Aberdeen Area

**H. Sally Smith**

Alaska Area

**Lester Secatero**

Albuquerque Area

**L. Jace Killsback**

Billings Area

**Rex Lee Jim**

Navajo Area

**Martin Havier**

Phoenix Area

**Our Vision:** The National Indian Health Board advocates on behalf of all Tribal Governments, American Indians and Alaska Natives in their efforts to provide quality health care for ALL Indian People!

### What is the National Indian Health Board?

The National Health Board (NIHB) is a 501(c) 3 not for profit, charitable organization providing health care advocacy services, facilitates Tribal budget consolation and provides timely information and other services to all Tribal Governments. Whether Tribes operate their own health care delivery systems through contracting and compacting or receive health care directly from the Indian Health Services (IHS), NIHB is their advocate. NIHB also conducts research, provides policy analysis, program assessment and development, national and regional meeting planning, training, technical assistance programs and project management. These services are provided to Tribes, area Health Boards, Tribal organizations, federal agencies, and private foundations. The NIHB presents the Tribal perspective while monitoring, reporting on and responding to federal legislation and regulations. It also serves as conduit to open opportunities for the advancement of American Indian and Alaska Native health care with other national and international organizations, foundations corporations and others in its quest to build support for, and advance, Indian care issues.

### Raising Awareness

Elevating the visibility of Indian Health care issues has been a struggle shared by Tribal governments, the federal government and private agencies. For 36 years, NIHB has continuously played a central role in focusing national attention on Indian health care needs. These efforts continue to gain results.

Since 1972, the NIHB has advised the U.S. Congress, IHS, other federal agencies and private foundations about health disparities and service issues experienced in Indian Country. The future of health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives is intertwined with policy decision at the federal level and changes in mainstream health care management. The NIHB brings to Tribal governments timely information to assist tribes to effectively make sound health care policy decisions.

### Our Board of Directors

Because the NIHB represents all federally-recognized tribes, it is important that the work of the NIHB reflect the unity and diversity of Tribal values and opinions in an accurate, fair, and culturally-sensitive manner. This objective is accomplished through the work of the NIHB Board of Directors and Area Health Boards. The NIHB is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representative from each of the twelve IHS Areas. Each Area Health Board elects representative and an alternate to sit on the NIHB Board of Directors. In areas where there is no Area Health Board, Tribal governments choose a representative. The Board of Directors elects an Executive Committee comprised of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member-at-Large, who serve two-year appointments with staggered terms. The Board of Directors meets quarterly.

