

National Indian Health Board



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Tribe Receives Public Health Accreditation

Washington, D. C. – The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) would like to congratulate Cherokee Nation Health Services in Tahlequah, Oklahoma for becoming the first Tribe to receive public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). They are one of 16 health departments notified on August 22, 2016 and one of 151 total accredited health departments, reaching more than half of the United States population.

“When we embrace, Tribal Public Health Accreditation and build our Tribal public health capacity we’re preventing disease, we’re promoting health, we’re honoring the ancestors, we’re honoring our own culture and traditions” – Stacy A. Bohlen, (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa), Executive Director, National Indian Health Board.

Public health accreditation is the measurement of a health department’s public health performance and systems against a set of national standards based on the 10 essential services of public health. The voluntary national accreditation program became available in 2011 and the goal is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments. Health departments become accredited by meeting nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence based standards. The process seeks to advance quality and performance within public health departments.

According to the PHAB, to receive national public health accreditation, a Tribal health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures.

Since 2008, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) has partnered with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and other national partners in an effort to advance public health practice in Indian Country.

Founded in 1972, NIHB is a 501(c) 3 not for profit, charitable organization providing health care advocacy services, facilitating Tribal budget consultation and providing timely information, and other services to all Tribal governments. NIHB also conducts research, provides policy analysis, program assessment and development, national and regional meeting planning, training, technical assistance, program and project management. 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 health care issues.

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