

National Indian Health Board



National Indian Health Board Resolution 15 - 01

Declaration for Support of a Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda

WHEREAS, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), established in 1972, serves all federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to AI/ANs, as well as upholding the federal government's trust responsibility to AI/AN Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the NIHB has a strong history of advancing the emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native people through the support of regulatory and Congressional action, advocacy for increased funding for behavioral health in Indian Country, creation of national venues to discuss behavioral health issues (such as suicide and substance use), and creation of educational and programmatic materials for Tribal public health professionals; and

WHEREAS, the high rates of behavioral health challenges among American Indian and Alaska Native people create an urgency for Tribes, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to partner in a manner that seeks to improve the health of all American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no one single, national document that elevates the importance of behavioral health for AI/AN people, identifies the collective priorities of Tribal communities related to behavioral health, and guides the development of/or incorporation of behavioral health-related actions intended to improve the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, in order to create a blueprint for effectively addressing behavioral health, Tribal leaders, Tribal members and stakeholders from diverse sectors need to be meaningfully engaged so as to garner input and feedback on behavioral health priorities, goals, and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the federal agency that has allocated staff and resources to serve as the federal lead in the development and creation of a blueprint for advancing behavioral health in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, SAMHSA and NIHB have forged a partnership to reach into Indian Country and engage Tribal leaders, Tribal members, community stakeholders, youth, partner organizations, and other federal agencies to create a Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda to serve as a single, national blueprint for shaping collaborations, prioritizing issues, elevating awareness, and establishing realistic, actionable items; and

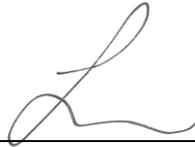
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Health Board will work to create a Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda to advance Tribal and federal action to improve the emotional, spiritual and mental health of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Indian Health Board calls upon Tribal leadership, partner organizations, and federal agencies to work collaboratively and offer support for the creation and implementation of the Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that National Indian Health Board supports efforts to develop, disseminate, and implement a Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda for all of Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 20th day of September, 2015.



Chairperson

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary