

Stockbridge-Munsee Community

BAND OF MOHICAN INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICES

RESOLUTION

November 5, 2019

No. 013-20

WHEREAS, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community is a federally recognized Indian tribe governed by the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council pursuant to authority vested in the Council by a Constitution approved in November 1937, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council has the authority under its Constitution and its inherent rights as a sovereign nation to act on behalf of the Community in area of economic affairs and other issues of self-governance; and

WHEREAS, American Indian(s) and Alaskan Native(s) (“AI/AN”) have limited access to health care services and are disproportionately affected by oral health disease, with these disparities directly attributed to the lack of dental professionals in Indian communities, which has caused a serious issue and backlog of dental treatment among AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, according to federal statistics, a staggering sixty-four (64) of the seventy-two (72) counties in Wisconsin face dentist shortages; and

WHEREAS, over one (1) million Wisconsin citizens who depend on Medicaid for dental benefits face additional barriers, as only thirty-seven percent (37%) of current Wisconsin dentists accept Medicaid patients; and

WHEREAS, this lack of access has resulted in Wisconsin ranking forty-fifth (45th) of all states in the number of Medicaid children who saw a dentist in 2017; and

WHEREAS, dental therapists are currently authorized to practice in a number of countries, states and tribal territories; and

WHEREAS, dental therapists provide dental therapy services under the general supervision of a licensed dentist with whom the dental therapist has a collaborative management agreement that addresses various aspects of the dental therapist’s practice; and

WHEREAS, supervision by a dentist requires the dentist’s prior knowledge and consent, but does not require the presence of the dentist at the time of a task or procedure being performed or prior examination or diagnosis of a patient by a dentist prior to the provision of dental therapy services by a dental therapist; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin is currently considering a variety of measures that would allow for dental therapists to practice within the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Wisconsin has proposed within his 2019-2021 budget to increase access to dental services in the State in part by creating a mid-level dental provider to address dental provider shortages in Wisconsin, and provide \$1,500,000 over the biennium to educational institutions to fund the development of dental therapist training programs; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2019 Assembly Bill 81 was introduced within the Wisconsin Legislature for the purpose of authorizing the practice of dental therapists within the State; and

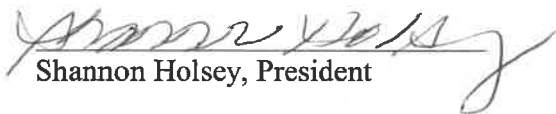
WHEREAS, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community's Health and Wellness Center has historically struggled in the provision of high-quality oral health care due to several factors, including facing significant challenges in recruiting dental health professionals to work at the Health and Wellness Center; and

WHEREAS, the authorization of dental therapists in the State of Wisconsin will help the Nation's Department of Health in meeting its mission;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Tribal Council hereby endorses its support for Wisconsin dental initiatives that establish new licensure and scope of practice for dental therapists in Wisconsin.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council, hereby certify that the Council is composed of 7 members, of whom 5, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly called, noticed, and held on the 5th day of November, 2019, that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 4 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.


Shannon Holsey, President


Jerilyn Johnson, Secretary