

National Indian Health Board



National Indian Health Board Resolution 13 – 03

Support for Tribal Public Health Accreditation

WHEREAS, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), established in 1972, serves all federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments to provide one, unified voice affirming and empowering AI/AN Peoples to protect and improve health and reduce health disparities; and

WHEREAS, the NIHB advocates for Tribes to ensure that the federal government upholds its trust responsibility to AI/AN Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have a vested interest in public health activities and regulation and in providing valuable public health services to the populations they serve; and

WHEREAS, Tribes deliver public health services through various funding sources and partnerships resulting in a complex public health delivery system; and

WHEREAS, the NIHB, working through its standing Tribal Public Health Accreditation Advisory Board (TPHAAB), determined that voluntary public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) was feasible and identified significant enthusiasm for public health accreditation as consistent with the Native vision of healthy communities and improving health broadly; and

WHEREAS accreditation leads to overall improvement in the quality of public health services delivered and advances the quality of performance of public health departments; and



WHEREAS, public health accreditation defines and strengthens the roles and responsibilities of Tribal governments in regulating public health in their community; and

WHEREAS, accreditation raises the visibility of public health benefits in a community and clarifies how public health includes prevention and wellness to reduce health disparities; and

WHEREAS, accreditation encourages stronger partnerships with entities that provide public health for Tribal communities, including states, counties, local governments, Tribes, federal government agencies, and private and non-profit entities; and

WHEREAS, accreditation can lead to increased resources and grant opportunities in addition to providing long-term cost savings and opportunities for Tribal communities to plan for wellness; and

WHEREAS, significant Tribal interest and participation in the public health accreditation process has grown since PHAB began offering public health accreditation in 2011; and

WHEREAS, PHAB has considered recommendations made by the National Indian Health Board and the Tribes and adapted the accreditation process in consideration of the unique qualities of Tribal public health departments; and

WHEREAS, significant barriers still exist in areas related to funding, access to data, support from state, county and federal partners, best practices models, and communication/ collaboration between and among Tribal public health departments working toward accreditation; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service, in recent years, has devoted approximately 2.7% of its total operating budget to preventive, public health activities; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has supported PHAB accreditation since the inception of the program, has begun using standard funding opportunity announcement (FOA) language which states that health department applicants may (if consistent with statutory authority and intent of the FOA) propose to use funds for activities to meet national standards and/or seek accreditation through PHAB; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a duty to uphold the trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, and this duty runs to all of the HHS operating divisions; so

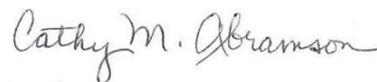
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the National Indian Health Board respectfully requests that HHS, both as a federal agency and through its operating divisions, provide a public statement of support of Tribal public health accreditation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the National Indian Health Board requests that HHS, both as a federal agency and through its operating divisions, assist with data collection and the development of documentation that demonstrates the collaborative public health activity between HHS and Tribes; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the National Indian Health Board requests that HHS, both as a federal agency and through its operating divisions, provide additional funding and technical assistance to Tribes to support Tribal public health accreditation assessments, readiness and achievement of voluntary public health accreditation.

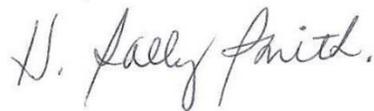
CERTIFICATION

The forgoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 4th day of December, 2013.



Chairperson, Cathy Abramson

ATTEST:



Secretary, H. Sally Smith