



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2004:017

VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION PHARMACEUTICAL PRIME VENDOR CONTRACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian/Alaska Native people suffer from disease at disproportionate rates when compared to the U.S. general population; and
- WHEREAS,** in most cases, these diseases are controlled and/or treated using pharmaceutical therapy in addition to other therapeutic efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** pharmaceutical costs are the fastest rising costs in the health care industry; and
- WHEREAS,** for the past several consecutive years the Indian Health Service (IHS) appropriation has not been increased to keep pace with inflation or population growth; and
- WHEREAS,** the minimal increases to the IHS appropriation are often not enough to allow tribal health care delivery systems to continue to provide services at the levels that were provided in the previous year; and
- WHEREAS,** to further compound the problems of insufficient resources and rising costs of health care tribes are being required to pre-pay for their pharmaceutical supplies by the IHS Oklahoma Area Office and Ada Supply Service Center; and
- WHEREAS,** prices for pharmaceuticals from the Ada Supply Service Center continue to shift drastically upward for individual drugs without explanation; and
- WHEREAS,** conducting business with the Ada Supply Service Center has become increasingly difficult for tribal programs; and
- WHEREAS,** a workgroup has been established to include tribal representation, IHS representation and Office of General Council representation to address this matter through negotiations with the Veteran's Administration regarding their Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor contract; and
- WHEREAS,** the workgroup has been working diligently to affect an amendment to the existing Veteran's Administration (VA) Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor contract to allow tribes to work directly with the pharmaceutical prime vendor rather than through the IHS or VA, but has not been successful; and
- WHEREAS,** a direct relationship between tribal health care delivery systems and the pharmaceutical prime vendor is needed to avoid pre-payment of costs for pharmaceuticals; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully request that the IHS Director, Dr. Charles W. Grim intercede in the negotiations with the Veteran's Administration because the Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor contract is vital to tribal health care delivery systems; and, be it further

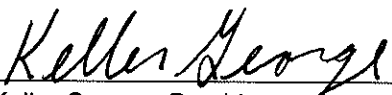
“Because there is strength in Unity”

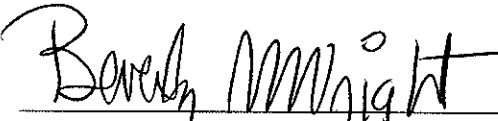
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RESOLVED that Dr. Grim advocate for the inclusion of a clause in the next Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor contract, scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2004, which allows tribal health care delivery systems to work directly with the Prime Vendor and not through the IHS or VA.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present in Mashantucket, CT, on Thursday, October 23, 2003.


Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Beverly M. Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.