



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2006:007

### **SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS TO INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION**

- 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 and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children have some of the most limited access to mental health services of any children in the United States with only one child-trained mental health professional for each 17,000 AI/AN child; and
- WHEREAS,** the mental health services that are available to Tribes through the Indian Health Service (IHS) are often not child focused services and do not fully consider and embrace Tribal culture; and
- WHEREAS,** other Federal agencies, such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Children's Bureau are making funding available to Tribes for developing a "System of Care Children's Mental Health System" that are more child friendly and focused, community-based and culturally specific; and
- WHEREAS,** over 30 Tribes have already benefited from this system of care-based funding for children's mental health services since 1994 and many more could if the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which authorizes IHS funding and programs, would allow IHS to encourage the "System of Care Children's Mental Health System"; and
- WHEREAS** the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) reauthorization legislation has a behavioral health section that authorizes funding for Tribal mental health programs for children and adolescents, but does not specify funding for "System of Care Children's Mental Health System" for Tribes; and
- WHEREAS** other organizations such as the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States support amendments that would authorize the IHS to provide grants to Tribes for children's mental health services that use the "System of Care Children's Mental Health System" approach; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports the following amendments to IHCIA that would authorize the IHS to provide grants to Tribes for children's mental health services that use the "System of Care Children's Mental Health System"
- Section 703(a)(1): IN GENERAL- The Secretary, acting through the Service, Indian Tribes, and Tribal Organizations consistent with section 701, shall provide a program of comprehensive behavioral health, prevention, treatment, and aftercare, including "System of Care Children's Mental Health System" and Traditional Health Care Practices, which shall include-

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

