



USET Resolution No. 2008:036

**SUPPORT FOR THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS IN
THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE FUNDING VIA THE INDIAN HEALTH
SERVICE JOINT VENTURE PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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,** the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) is a founding member of the USET organization and is a member in good standing; and
- WHEREAS,** the MBCI operates one of only two hospitals located within the Indian Health Service (IHS)-Nashville Area; and
- WHEREAS,** the MBCI's hospital was constructed in 1975 and is dilapidated and in critical need of replacement; and
- WHEREAS,** the MBCI's hospital was built for service provision under the following parameters:
- User population of approximately 3,000
 - Space for approximately 100 employees
 - Space for two health care providers, two pharmacy staff, two dental chairs; and
- WHEREAS,** the MBCI's hospital is currently providing services based upon the following parameters:
- User population of 8,992
 - Currently employs 240 staff
 - Space for 11 health care providers, 5 pharmacy staff, dialysis unit, and 4 dental staff; and
- WHEREAS,** the MBCI's current hospital facility contains asbestos, has a flat roof that leaks, and toxic odors/fumes due to an inadequate ventilation system; and
- WHEREAS,** the current workload for the MBCI's hospital includes:
- 41,000 patient visits per year
 - 16,852 emergency room visits per year
 - 1,857 ambulance runs per year
 - 27,000 pharmacy visits per year
 - 9,257 dental visits per year
- these numbers justify the need for double the health care provider staff and exam rooms, not taking into account future growth of the MBCI population; and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of adequate space and number of health care providers causes the following:
- Long and unnecessary patient wait times
 - Long and unpreventable staff working hours
 - Increased risk of medical error
 - Deficiency of modern diagnostic equipment; and

"Because there is strength in Unity"

- WHEREAS,** the MBCI is not likely to receive funding from the IHS Facilities Construction line item for at least the next 50 years and the current hospital facility requires replacement now; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHS Joint Venture program is the only other IHS funding opportunity that can assist the MBCI to achieve the goal of building a new hospital facility; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the efforts of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to apply for and enter into an agreement with the Indian Health Service for the Joint Venture program to construct a much needed new hospital facility; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors instructs the USET Executive Director to allow the Tribal Health Program Support staff to provide technical assistance to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in their efforts to secure funding from the Indian Health Service Joint Venture program to construct a new hospital facility.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.