



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2005:026

### **SUPPORT FOR MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT ACROSS STATE BORDERS**

- 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,** the USET member Tribes are located in twelve states from northern Maine, south to Florida and west to Texas; and
- WHEREAS,** it is the priority of the USET member Tribes to provide the best and most culturally appropriate health care possible to their tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** many times the best and most culturally appropriate health care is available in states other than where a particular Tribe is located; and
- WHEREAS,** state Medicaid programs will cover the cost of health care services provided to eligible American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people at no cost to the state because of the 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP); and
- WHEREAS,** the 100% FMAP allows states to be reimbursed by the federal government, specifically the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for the cost of services provided to eligible AI/AN people; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribes are required to utilize Contract Health Service (CHS) funds to pay for health care services for those AI/AN people who are ineligible for Medicaid within their states; and
- WHEREAS,** the CHS funding that is utilized to pay for health care provided off reservation is not available based upon actual need and for many years has been severely under-funded; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribes have to be extremely prudent with their CHS funding and should be allowed to bill Medicaid for services provided to eligible AI/AN people in states other than where they are located to help preserve valuable CHS dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** facilities, such as the Unity Regional Youth Treatment Center (RYTC), which was established in accordance with the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, to provide alcohol/substance abuse treatment services to all eligible AI/AN youth located in the Nashville Area of the Indian Health Service, need to have the ability to bill Medicaid in states other than North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** the ability to bill Medicaid across state borders is needed to assist Tribes and the RYTC to continue to strengthen their respective health care delivery systems by maximizing collections; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests the support of CMS to assist Tribes and RYTC's to obtain the ability to bill across state borders; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors also requests that any reimbursement received for a Medicaid eligible service provided to a Medicaid eligible AI/AN person be entitled to the

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

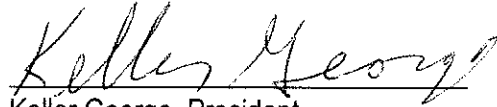
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100% FMAP for the AI/AN persons state of residence; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors further requests that CMS work with the USET Executive Director to schedule a mutually agreeable date and time to discuss this important issue.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, Thursday, February 10, 2005.



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



Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.