



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2012:038

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE USET MEMBER TRIBES, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE REGARDING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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,** a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by authorizing Directors of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service (IHS) on October 1, 2010 to improve collaboration efforts in delivering care to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) veterans; and
- WHEREAS,** the VA and IHS have recently initiated Tribal Consultation on a joint Draft Agreement (DA) that would establish a mechanism for IHS/Tribal/Urban health facilities to bill the VA for health services provided to eligible AI/AN veterans; however, the DA was prepared without direct input from Indian Tribes and as written has the potential to negatively affect Tribes across Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** in upholding the IHS Tribal Consultation Policy where meaningful consultation occurs throughout the process with Indian Tribes when there is a direct impact to an Indian Tribe(s); USET member Tribes strongly believe the VA and IHS failed to consult with Tribes which resulted in an agreement that did not satisfy the needs of Indian Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors directs the USET Executive Director to work with the Veterans Affairs Committee and Health Committee to identify areas of concern regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service Draft Agreement; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests additional Tribal Consultation between USET member Tribes, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Services Leadership to resolve issues of concern identified by member Tribes regarding the Draft Agreement.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 2012.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.