



USET

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USET Resolution No. 2017:004

OPPOSITION TO THE FORMATION OF TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** there are several organizations throughout Indian Country initiating the formation of "National Tribal Public Health Institutes" and/or similar entities; and
- WHEREAS,** these organizations have failed to adequately respond to our questions concerning the anticipated impact upon or duplication of services provided by existing programs at the Area Health Board/Tribal organization and Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) levels; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed core functions of a public health institute are duplicative of the work of TEC's including:
- Evaluation and analysis of health status;
 - Public health surveillance, problem investigation, and control of risks and threats to public health; prevention programs and health promotion;
 - Social participation in health;
 - Planning and management; regulation and enforcement; evaluation and promotion of equitable access to necessary health services;
 - Human resource development and training;
 - Quality assurance in personal and population based health services; public health research; and
 - Reduction of the impact of emergencies and disasters; and
- WHEREAS,** the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) which permanently reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, includes provisions that deem TECs Public Health Authorities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Care Improvement Act specifically outlines the activities of TECs including:
- Collecting data relating to, and monitor progress made toward meeting, each of the health status objectives of the Service, the Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations in the Service area;
 - Evaluate existing delivery systems, data systems, and other systems that impact the improvement of Indian health;

- Assist Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations in identifying highest-priority health status objectives and the services needed to achieve those objectives, based on epidemiological data;
- Make recommendations for the targeting of services needed by the populations served;
- Make recommendations to improve health care delivery systems for Indians and urban Indians;
- Provide requested technical assistance to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations in the development of local health service priorities and incidence and prevalence rates of disease and other illness in the community; and
- Provide disease surveillance and assist Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian communities to promote public health; and

WHEREAS, a feasibility study conducted by one entity claiming a need for a national Tribal public health institute did not accurately represent the views of TECs that were expressed during meetings and focus groups; and

WHEREAS, a national Tribal public health institute cannot necessarily respond to the unique regionally-based needs of Tribal Nations, where regional TECs can and have been doing so since TECs were established; and

WHEREAS, USET and other Tribal organizations have expressed a deep concern that a national Tribal public health institute would essentially compete for already scarce funding available to support the work already being done by TEC's; and


WHEREAS, this concern has not been adequately addressed by any entity proposing the formation of a national Tribal public health institute; and

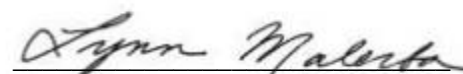
WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors does not support the formation of any "National Tribal Public Health Institutes" and/or similar entities.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 9, 2017.


Chief Kirk Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Because there is Strength in Unity