USET Resolution No. 2003:028

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC. TO CONTRACT ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE-NASHVILLE AREA OFFICE

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four 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, funding for Indian Health continues to be appropriated at levels far below what is needed thereby forcing tribes to look at more cost effective alternatives for provision of services; and

WHEREAS, to further compound the problem the Indian Health Service (IHS)-Nashville Area Office (NAO) has not been responsive to the needs of the USET tribes they serve largely due to federal regulations and mandates governing federal employees; and

WHEREAS, the USET organization has successfully operated a Health Information Office program for eight years, a diabetes program for five years, and an epidemiology center for three years on behalf of the USET member tribes; and

WHEREAS, the USET organization is not as heavily regulated by federal regulations/mandates and as a result is in a better position to develop/plan/implement programs, services, functions and activities (PSFAs) that meet the priorities of USET tribal health care delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, the USET Health Information Office has continued to develop/plan/Implement new programs for the benefit of each USET member tribe and has the ability to use funds more effectively and efficiently than the federal government; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of its structure the USET Board of Directors will have more control over the direction of programs administered by USET; and

WHEREAS, as a result of USET Resolution No. 2002:090 the USET Health Information Officer prepared a Business Plan to Contract NAO OPH PSFAs, which was submitted and accepted by the USET Board and Health Committee; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors directs the USET Executive Director to: 1) submit a letter of intent to contract additional PSFAs to the NAO Director; 2) draft a sample resolution and send to member tribes for their use as a guide; and 3) begin implementing the approved business plan; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors request that the NAO staff provide all of the information and technical assistance necessary to ensure a smooth transition without interrupting services to tribes; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors understands that by accepting the USET Business Plan for Contracting Nashville Area Office of Public Health they are accepting the minimum period of commitment to the USET Medical Services Program, as well as all other provisions contained within the plan.

"Because there is strength in Unity"
USET Resolution No. 2003:028

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board Meeting and EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Uncasville, CT, Thursday, October 31, 2002.

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

Beverly M. Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.