



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2016:028

SUPPORT FOR THE DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPY PROGRAM TO MAKE ORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES MORE ACCESSIBLE TO TRIBAL NATIONS

- WHEREAS,** USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nation's leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have a higher prevalence of dental caries and untreated tooth decay in all age groups compared to the general United States population, with many children experiencing dental caries by the age of two; and
- WHEREAS,** while there are caries prevention programs that target AI/AN children, significant disparities exist in all age groups, including:
- In the Nashville Area, 15 percent of Native children have decay experience by the age of two;
 - In the Nashville Area, 30 percent of Native children ages 1 to 5 have untreated decay. This is three times that of non-Hispanic whites;
 - Nationally, 83 percent of Native children ages 6 to 9 and 80 percent of Native children ages 13 to 15 have decay experience;
 - The cost of care for dental emergency services is almost ten times the cost of preventative dental services; and
- WHEREAS,** the Dental Health Aide Therapist Program meets the unmet oral health care needs of AI/AN people through use of dental therapists who, under indirect supervision of a dentist, provide oral prophylaxis, restorations and simple extractions. Dental Health Aide Therapists are mid-level providers who partner with dentists in similar ways that nurse practitioners partner with physicians; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Care Improvement Act requires that Dental Health Aide Therapists may operate outside of Alaska where similar midlevel dental providers are authorized by state law; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist model, following international models, requires two years and approximately 3000 comprehensive classroom and clinical hours and a three to six month preceptorship; 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

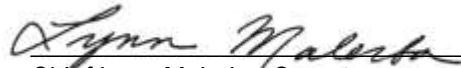
RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors supports and strongly recommends that state legislatures within the Nashville Area establish regulations that allow the use of Dental Health Aide Therapists that follow similar educational and scope of practice requirements of the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist Model.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 11, 2016.



Brian Patterson, President
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund

“Because there is strength in Unity”