

# TULE RIVER INDIAN HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

TULE INDIAN RESERVATION

P.O. BOX 768

PHONE 784-2316

PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 93258

BOARD MEETING

DATE: July 11, 2007

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

## Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved during the August 1, 2007 board meeting

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Teri Carothers @ 9:22 a.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

<u>Board Members:</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Teri Carothers	✓		Danièle Healy	✓	
Barbara Baga	✓		Dr. Devous	✓	
Yolanda Gibson	✓		Alan Barlow	✓	
Neil Peyron	✓		Don Hanson		✓
Veronica McDarment	✓				
Patsy Vega	✓				
Vincent Burrough	✓				
Willie Carrillo (T)		Travel			
Allison Hunter - seated @ 11:05 a.m.	✓				

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**MOTION #1:** Patsy Vega/Barbara Baga motioned to approve the agenda as written. The vote was 6-0-0; motion carried.

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

#### 1. Approval of June 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes

- Patsy Vega asked to change all "am" & "pm" to "a.m." & "p.m."
- Page 4-d. remove "TR" from Tribal Council.  
For the record: ...to please **take** that message back to the Tribal Office.  
Page 4-e. Status of penalty interest of back taxes.  
(period at end of sentence).

- Page 5-3: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Page 7, Paragraph 1, line 2: in the Nursing Department. Line 7: Devous **stated:** Line 10: Neil **stated:**
- Page 7, paragraph 6: change Williams Terry to Terry Williams.
- Page 8-7: Vida stated she would draft **an** offer letter.

**MOTION #2:** Patsy Vega/Neil Peyron motioned to approve the minutes of June 6, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes with the corrections noted above. The vote was 6-0-0; motion carried.

**2. Approval of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Special Board Meeting Minutes**

- Motion #1: Vincent Burrough/Neil Peyron motioned to approve the agenda. The vote was 4-0-0, motion carried.
- Motion #2: The vote was 4-0-0, motion carried.
- Motion #3: The vote was 4-0-0, motion carried.
- Motion #4: October **2007**. March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The vote was 4-0-0, motion carried.
- Motion #5: The vote was 4-0-0, motion carried.
- Salaries for Dr. Liss & Dr. Faustina should read \$141,300 instead of \$141,000.

**MOTION #3:** Neil Peyron/Veronica McDarment motioned to approve the minutes of the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Special Board meeting minutes with the changes noted above. The vote was 4-0-2 (Patsy Vega and Yolanda Gibson abstained.)

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. IHS Funding/AFA (Annual Funding Agreement)**

- Visit to IHS on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Neil Peyron reported that he (Neil), David Liu and Vincent Burrough met with Dr. Springer, Deputy Area Director for IHS. CRIHB has not had anyone to train our employees in RPMS (they just hired a new person on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.) IHS can provide more services than CRIHB can. However, because we took shares out of IHS to CRIHB, they cannot currently provide any services.

It is suggested we pull out only what they are not giving us good service for.

- Dr. Devous mentioned that we would be receiving much more from IHS for the \$25,000 we give CRIHB. Also, regarding RPMS we would do much better with IHS because they have real experts in RPMS, they have several tribes dealing on a regular basis with PCC and PCC Plus, and they could be available for training. We have nobody here that can bill from RPMS. We will be required soon to transfer to electronic billing. Neil suggested we provide a line-items breakdown from CRIHB.
- A bi-annual, joint CRIHB/NW Portland meeting is scheduled in Reno on July 23, 24 & 25. Neil Peyron will attend as Tribal Leader representative; Yolanda Gibson and Alison Hunter are attending the meeting as Health Advisory Board members & CRIHB delegates (as well as Joseph Garfield). Dr. Devous and Larry Anderson will also attend. This is a joint meeting with the Portland area who has good resources; Dr. Devous will be able to gather good information by the end of the month and the decision regarding CRIHB vs. IHS services is tabled until the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 1, 2007.
- Neil also mentioned that they (IHS) highly (adamantly) recommended that we look elsewhere for an Executive Director candidate. This will be discussed further in closed session
- Dr. Devous said that they (CRIHB) have a service we have not taken advantage of; they have a lot of grant opportunities to be allocated. The monies go first to tier one (which is us). We never took advantage of this. There are about 70 line items of what the money can be used for. We need someone to pursue this actively and get first right of refusal.
- CHS: Teri Carothers mentioned that a Provider should be present in the CHS Contract Care Committee meetings. We have a conflict of interest with Dr. Devous acting Executive Director. Dr. Devous will designate a replacement.
- The next CHS meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Teri asked Danièle Healy to let Francine Gibson know.
- Annual Funding Agreement: We were granted an extension until the end of August 2007. We will receive the same amount as the previous year and either CRIHB or IHS will retain monies for services.

Yolanda left the room at 9:20 a.m. - returned at 9:26 a.m.

## 2. Finance Update - Budget Updates by Department

- An incomplete budget report by Don Hanson, CFO was found in the binder.
- Neil Peyron stated: "Madam Chairperson, for the record, I cannot perform my duties as Treasurer if I do not get the required information from Finance." This will be discussed further in closed session.

## 3. Brief overview of Department Reports

(Reviewed after the Director's report, hence gap in time).  
Teri Carothers asked that each board member read the individual reports and come back with their questions at the next Board meeting.

- Executive Director Report (moved before the Departmental reports, hence timeline discrepancy).
  - Dr. Devous went over his report - Teri asked if Alan agrees with Dr. Devous' comment that staff morale is better. Alan concurred, as stated in his own report
  - We started looking at a Strategic Plan and match that plan to a budget; revisiting each employee position to improve both efficiency and job satisfaction.
  - We discussed cross training of employees, especially RPMS billing functions. We need to reiterate the importance of team work. Alan Barlow and Dr. Devous are working together on this.
  - Electronic Health Records (EHR) Dr. Devous suggested forming a Steering Committee for Electronic Records. We will ultimately be required to have EHR. The planning process is long to transition to EHR, so we must include this topic in Strategic Planning. Dr. Devous suggests to send representatives to the October "TribalNet 8" conference to learn about more technology issues as they relate to tribes. Lyle Martin should attend, maybe others. It will be a big decision to go either with the IHS EHR or someone else's. Teri Carothers suggested building some type of network with other sites, going on site visits, including Linda Hoy, RPMS Site Manager, and anyone who enters data.
  - Once we get the FQHC number, we will be able to bill Medicare and go back 18 months (back to January of that year).

Neil left the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Clinical Report:

- Dental: Dentrrix - was approved several months ago; the ball is back in Dr, Newman's court; he needs to provide numbers & purchase order.
- Dental still have problems with dental chairs. Dr. Devous will gather information on equipment that needs to be replaced.
- CRIHB audit (coding) report for Dental is included in the binder.
- Dr. Ruda vs. VSP. TRIHC is not allowed to bill VSP. Dr. Ruda cannot refer back to his office. Alan Barlow and Dr. Devous will research the MOA issue of referring out medical services.
- LCSW: A practitioner in Visalia is looking to get out of the private sector and eager to start with us.
- Dr. Faustina & Dr. Liss are on permanent status.
- Visit report from Greg Speicher, CRIHB Pharmacy Program Coordinator is included in the binder, after the Clinical Director Report.
- 340B - Devous found out we have prime VA vending account which gives more options (offers more brand names) than the 340B.  
Yolanda Gibson reported that some of the elders' medications had been changed to generic medications, without being consulted. "Dr. Devous never changes a medication without checking with the patient first."
- Nursing: Barbara does not understand the request from nursing for more personnel; she often sees nurses walking around with not much to do. Dr. Devous explained that he is not requesting more personnel. Teri Carothers asked Dr. Devous to address this in his staff meetings. Alan Barlow said that whether or not we have enough nurses, doctors or anyone in any given position or not should be cast in terms of a judgment call according to a strategic plan.
- Dr. Devous confirmed that there have been no merit raises in Nursing or Medical across the board. All EANs have come to the personnel committee.
- Dr. Devous also confirmed that Debbie Todicheeney's recent travel was not paid by TRIHCI.

- Patsy Vega/Teri Carothers suggested that Board Members read all the departmental reports outside of this meeting and bring their questions back at the next Board meeting.

Patsy left the room at 11:40 a.m. and returned at 11:45 a.m.  
Vincent left the meeting @ 11:42 a.m. Alison was seated at 11:42 a.m..

**MOTION #4:** Yolanda Gibson/Barbara Baga motion to go into Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. The vote was 4-0-0.

Neill Peyron rejoined the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

**MOTION #5:** Barbara Baga/Patsy Vega motioned to come out of Executive Session at 1:19 p.m. The vote was 5-0-0, motion carried.

It was confirmed that Dr. Ruda would become a part time employee, one day a week, at \$500/day.

**MOTION #6:** Neil Peyron/Barbara Baga motioned to approve Jan Tringleth's EAN changing her salary from \$69,000 to \$78,500 effective 5/14/07. The vote was 5-0-0, motion carried.

**MOTION #7:** Patsy Vega/Alison Hunter motioned to move forward with personnel issues involving the CFO being removed from his position, effective July 11, 2007, due to "At Will Employment". The vote was 5-0-0, motion carried.

For information:

- Larry Anderson will act as CFO. The CFO position will be posted immediately. Alan Barlow will prepare a letter to Don Hanson ASAP.
- Dr. Devous will encourage Larry to attend the bi-annual CRIHB meeting.
- Mr. & Mrs. Fabella will be our guests at the August 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.
- Alan Barlow will meet with the Board on Monday, 7/16/07 @ 9:00 a.m. The Board will meet @ 8:30 to have a preliminary discussion, with Dr. Devous.

**VI. AJOURNMENT:**

Patsy Vega/Barbara Baga made a motion to adjourn @ 1:30 p.m.  
The vote was 5-0-0, motion carried.

**MOTION #8:** Patsy Vega/Barbara Baga motioned to adjourn the meeting  
at 1:30 p.m. The vote was 5-0-0, motion carried.



2/5/07

---

Approved: Yolanda Gibson, Board Secretary