



**THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES
TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
HEALTH, HUMAN & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
December 21, 2006**

01. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Committee Chairman Nathan Hale.

02. ROLL CALL:

Present: Committee Chairman Nathan Hale, Committee Member Barry Benson, Committee Member V. Judy Brugh. A quorum was established.

03. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Barry Benson and seconded by V. Judy Brugh. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 not voting. Motion passed unanimously.

04. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

V. Judy Brugh moved and Barry Benson seconded to approve the April 6, 2006 minutes as presented. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 not voting. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Judy Brugh moved and Barry Benson seconded to approve the May 18, 2006 minutes as presented. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 not voting. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Judy Brugh moved and Barry Benson seconded to approve the August 28, 2006 minutes as presented. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 not voting. Motion passed unanimously.

05. CIRCLE OF LIFE - LINDA GILLETTE CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

The consultant agreement was presented by Director Belinda Beston at \$21,504 not to exceed \$26,921. Funds are PL 93-638.

Motion to approve the consultant agreement with Linda Gillette was made by Committee Member Barry Benson and seconded by Committee Member Brugh. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 not voting. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Beston was directed to work with Alyce Spotted Bear on the consultant agreement details.

07. NEW HEALTH CARE FACILITY UPDATE

Ms. Brenda Hale began presentation on their activities and reports that Senator Dorgan continues to request a reduction of footage and costs on the facility. She reports that they are looking at moving the site of the proposed facility to the area where the Frucon building is now located. Chairman Hale warned them to be careful of the costs involved in talking about moving the facility from New Town to the other site. Mr. Jim Foote said that he is just responding to the requests of the new administration to look into various possibilities. He also made a brief summary of the Rural Health concept which would serve the whole community. Committee Chairman Hale requested that Mr. Foote bring his timeline and recommendations forth so the Council will know what needs to be done so that the project can proceed. Committee Chairman Hale clarified that the construction funds are congressionally authorized but not appropriated and so no money has been received by the Tribe for this project. Mr. Hale noted that he helped to lobby for \$2.8 million for architectural and engineering costs and although it passed through the Senate subcommittee, it is currently being held up in the House.

A conference call with Mr. Dan Press began at 10:28 a.m. He recommends setting aside time to meet with the congressional people on either side of NCAI because congressional people are inundated with visitors at that time. He is researching the claim that a commitment was made by the Army Corps of Engineers to replace the hospital lost in the flooding. He is looking for documentation and asked that perhaps statements from the elders would help. He feels that Senator Dorgan will go as far as possible to help but the Tribe needs to work with him now. He said it's important that IHS must recognize it as one of its facilities. In closing, Mr. Foote maintains that in spite of water provision costs to the site, the New Town site is still the best site.

06. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Acting Unit Director Michelle Leach said that they're projecting a deficit again this year. They are looking at making many cuts. They will not be able to assist with over-the-counter items any more. They are also making referrals to patient benefits. They are cutting down on lab costs and doing more in-house testing and sending less to the reference lab. She explained the appointment procedure that the clinic is using now which requires that appointments be made at least one day in advance. If a person is unable to do that and must see a care provider, they may come in as 'stand by' and based on a no-show rate of about 46%, most if not all get seen. Pharmacy has been putting in overtime to keep up. They are implementing a 'refill line' which will relieve the staff of cutting into their time by answering the phone constantly. Ms. Leach reported that she was working with Aileen Jackson on recouping revenues.

Brenda Hale relayed a problem with Pharmacy relative to patients being expected to know their meds and dosages. Ms. Leach said that they are trying to get patients to know their meds, and use their pill bottles as reference. She emphasized that a patient must see his provider prior to a refill to protect the patient and the clinic.

Committee Member Benson asked if IHS could come to community meetings. Ms. Leach said they would come when invited.

Renee Mayer asked that if the Tribe provided money to assist families with medical needs, could Medicare or Medicaid reimburse the costs. Ms. Leach said that it would be possible.

Jim Foote asked about the letter regarding the restriction on payments for 'priority one' only. Ms. Leach said that it was lifted in FY2007.

They also discussed needed improvements on the field facilities.

The dentist is not doing root canals because he is currently doing basic dentals. Eye care is one day a week. IHS is talking to Walking Shield for 2007 scheduling for their traveling eye care program. The diabetes patients do receive funds for eyewear.

Ms. Leach reported that she will be acting in the director's capacity for one more year.

08. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Director Bernadine Young Bird stated that for several years, Wayne White Eagle made these presentations to the Council. She clarified that Early Childhood Education was also under her department until it was assumed for awhile by Bonnie Red Fox who then directly supervised Head Start Director Ella James.

She informed the Committee that the Department has rescheduled the Earth lodge learning event to April 2007.

Renee Mayer asked about the immunization plan for children and noted that the percentage of children who were properly immunized was down from 90% to 72%. She also asked for education on how to handle institutional racism. Mrs. Young Bird said they are very aware of those two problems and are doing what they can to address them.

Committee Member Benson asked if Director Young Bird could come to Twin Buttes to share information.

In closing, as the Chairperson of the Fort Berthold Community College Board of Directors, she submitted a December 18, 2006 request letter to honor TAT Resolution #05-104-NH for \$200,000 obligated from JTAC funds.

09. SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Director Renee Mayer asked for clarification on a letter regarding the disposition of staff in her department as signed by the Chairman and the Treasurer. Committee Chairman Hale stated that he felt that it needed to come before full Council for ratification. He said that he would check into it and let her know how to react to it.

She reports that there is national recognition for their work within the early childhood area, and their work with 4E and reimbursements.

10. Head Start Report

Ms. Sara Young Bird and Mrs. Ella James reported on the Head Start Program. Their enrollment is short by 9 students which affects funding. A lack of operational buses in some areas requires parents to deliver children to school and pick them up. This affects their enrollment and attendance, and the Head Start Program is evaluated on both. They agreed with Committee Chairman Hale that CDL drivers were hard to get and keep because they also had to cook or be a teacher's aide. Committee Chairman Hale asked if those duties could be separated. Ms. Young Bird stated that they would have to go part time then. She continued to address their adverse findings with the Committee. She reported that they're having trouble with staff leave that they need to resolve. Their leave situation is different because staff get summers off and collect unemployment during that time. Committee Chairman Hale informed them that administrative leave for the holiday was granted for Head Start as requested during the Tribal Business Council meeting held yesterday, December 20, 2006.

Committee Member Brugh moved to establish a committee that would discuss education issues and policies and make recommendations to the Tribal Business Council on what needs to be done to improve our educational system, seconded by Committee Member Benson.

Discussion: Committee Chairman Hale specifically identified the reservation school superintendents and the school board members as necessary members of the committee. He asked Mrs. Young Bird to take the lead in the establishment of this committee.

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 not voting. Motion passed unanimously.

11. TRIBAL HEALTH COORDINATOR – AILEEN JACKSON

Ms. Jackson did not make a report.

12. Other – SMALL LOAN PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL LOAN APPROVALS

Ms. Connie Fox, Acting Small Loans Director, presented educational loan requests on behalf of Lacy Foote and Clarine Linseth, each for \$2,000.

Committee Member Brugh moved and Committee Member Benson seconded the motion to approve the educational loans to Lacy Foote and Clarine Linseth for \$2,000 each subject to the rules of the Small Loan Program. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 not voting. Motion passed unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Brugh moved to adjourn the meeting and Committee Member Benson seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 not in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 not voting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2007.

SUBMITTED BY:

ATTEST:

Barb Pegg, Recording Secretary

Nathan Hale, Chairman
Health, Human & Education
Committee