



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 17-19, 2024
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 24-13

Title: Call for Indian Health Service, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or Washington State to Determine a Credentialing Process for Traditional Practitioners

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 37,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) cultures have practiced traditional health services since time immemorial to maintain and optimize physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health; and

WHEREAS, colonization and structurally oppressive policies such as relocation, termination, boarding schools, and criminalization of Indigenous religion have jeopardized the use of traditional health services for AI/AN populations; and

WHEREAS, traditional health services integrate traditional medicines, knowledge, and practices to promote mental, spiritual, and physical wellness; and

WHEREAS, traditional health practices can complement Western healthcare frameworks through the delivery of culturally attuned health and human services to meet the holistic needs of individuals; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB), is the only Indian Health Service (IHS) designated Urban Indian Health Program and Federally Qualified Health Center in King County providing access to traditional health services for AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, over the past two years SIHB has reached a monthly average of 700 traditional health service encounters with a 500% increase in the number of referrals; and

WHEREAS, SIHB has successfully integrated traditional health service codes into their electronic health record system; and

WHEREAS, SIHB has successfully trained their traditional apprentices, traditional practitioners, and providers to enter traditional health services codes; and

WHEREAS, IHS, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or state governing body have the authority to credential traditional practitioners as a billable provider; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association has the authority to approve traditional health codes for national integration across electronic health record systems; and

WHEREAS, credentialing traditional practitioners is necessary to ensure third-party reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance for the long-term sustainability of operating traditional health services within healthcare systems;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 17-19, 2024, hereby calls on Indian Health Service, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Washington State to determine an appropriate credentialing process for traditional practitioners through licensure, certification, or accreditation to authorize traditional practitioners as a billable provider.

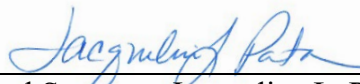
ADOPTED this 17th day of April, 2024, by the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata