

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE



RESOLUTION No. 23-49

of the

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe, its members, its lands, its enterprises and its agencies by the authority of the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Squaxin Island Tribe as approved and adopted by the General Body and the Secretary of the Interior on July 8, 1965; and

WHEREAS, under the constitution, Bylaws and inherent sovereignty of the Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of the tribal members, and with protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources and rights of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe possessing reserved powers, including the powers of self-government; **and**

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council has been entrusted with the creation of ordinances and resolutions in order to fulfill their duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe entered a Compact of Self-Governance with the Department of Health and Human Services dated June 30, 1994, which Compact enables the Tribe "to plan and redesign health programs, activities, functions, and services of the Indian Health Service to reallocate funds for such programs, activities, functions, or services according to its tribal priorities; to provide such programs, activities, functions, and services, as determined by its tribal priorities; to enhance the effectiveness and long term financial stability of its tribal government; through the reduction of federal management and control"; and

WHEREAS, under its current Funding Agreement, the Squaxin Island Indian Tribe provides medical, dental, substance abuse counseling, regional treatment center, community health representative, social work/mental health, third party billing, purchased and referred care, and pharmacy services to Squaxin Island Tribal members and other eligible beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe does not receive adequate funding from the Indian Health Service to fully support the costs of operating these programs, functions, services and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe supplements such services with revenue from other sources such as private grants, insurance and Tribal funds; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe has repeatedly requested the Department of Health and Human Services expand the Tribe's Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area ("PRCDA") outside of

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Jaimie Cruz, Vice Chair

Mason County to include adjacent Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties in which the Tribe has numerous member residents, as well as businesses, trust lands, ceded lands, and usual and accustomed areas; and

WHEREAS, the Department has failed to act on the Tribe's requests; and

WHEREAS, the efficient provision of health care services to its members is a core value and function and the Squaxin Island Tribe; and

WHEREAS, 25 U.S.C. §1641 states a self-governance tribe may make use of the direct reimbursement of Medicaid, Medicare, and other third-party payments to achieve any of the objectives of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, including raising the health status of Indians and making services more responsive to the needs and desires of Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe's Compact states Medicare, Medicaid, and other reimbursement funds shall not offset any funding provided under the Funding Agreement, and such funds may be expended according to a plan adopted by the Tribe;

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe may exercise its right to reallocate and redesign programs in accordance with 25 U.S.C §5386 (e) and its Compact; **and**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council directs its Health Services Department to reallocate funding such that all funding for Purchased and Referred Care is provided from non-Compact funds, including but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, and other reimbursement funds, that the Compact funding previously provided to purchased and referred care funds will be reprogrammed and redirected to provide direct services; and Purchased and Referred Care will be available to members resident in Mason, Thurston, and Grays Harbor Counties;

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tribe and the Health Services Department will ensure that adequate funding remains available so that no person eligible for services under the Compact or Funding Agreement is denied eligibility or service by reason of this change.

CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council, held on this 10th of August, 2023, at which time a quorum was present and was passed a vote of 6 for, 0 against and with 0 abstentions.

Kristopher K Peters

Kristopher Peters, Chair

Attested by: Patrick Braese, Secretary

Jaimie Cruz

Jaimie Cruz (Aug 11, 2023 12:50 PDT)

Reprogram PRC funding_ns

Final Audit Report 2023-08-11

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By: Melissa Puhn (mpuhn@squaxin.us)

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