

**Karuk Tribe – Health Board Meeting  
January 11, 2024 – Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting called to order at 10am by Chairman Attebery.**

**Present:**

Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman  
Scott Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer  
Arch Super, Member at Large  
Jennifer Goodwin, Member at Large  
Kristen King, Member at Large (10:07am)  
Elizabeth “Liz” Bentley, Member at Large

**Absent:**

Kenneth “Binx” Brink, Vice-Chairman  
Eli Hensher-Aubrey, Member at Large  
Arron “Troy” Hockaday, Member at Large

**Arch Super provided a prayer and Jennifer Goodwin read the Mission Statement of the Health Program.**

**Agenda:**

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve the agenda with changes, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**Consent Calendar:**

None at this time

**Minutes of December 7, 2023:**

Arch Super moved and Li Bentley seconded to approve the minutes of December 7, 2023, 3 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Kristen).

Fox: Akrahh

**Guests:**

**1) Jack Lantz, Director of Public Works:**

Jack is present to seek approval of Ashlee King, new Lands Specialist, to be housed in an office in the Tribes side of the Yreka Housing building. Erin noted that an office was spoken for the economic developer as well. Arch noted that the Administrative staff is planning for this. Erin noted that it has been taken into consideration for the other office space. Barbara agrees as long as it is a shared office for the Director of Land Management and herself.

Consensus: to move Ashlee and others into the office and make a Lands Office.

**2) Joe Snapp, SUD Manager:**

Joe Snapp provided a handout to work with the Horse Program. He would like the Tribe to change over to a Tribal FQHC which is a billing status with Partnership. Joe briefed the Council on tribal FQHC billing. He noted that the nurses can make house calls and be eligible to bill for that. They are also applying for MediCal billing for AOD services.

Joe would like to use funding for the Opioid Settlement funding for the Tribe to partner and build its own equine center. This would create an income resource and make billable services. Joe noted that he has heard that the billing department is overloaded and cannot handle this, so he would like to suggest outsourcing the billing. Arch asked who did Joe communicate with on the program or billing, etc. Joe spoke to the CFO but there is some backlash there. The LCSW for equine therapy would have to have access to the RPMS system but he doesn't see that as a problem. Erin noted that it would be great to see the plan on paper to see what the numbers are and what the plan would be.

Ray is present to address the excellent idea. He would like to support this but it needs to be thought out and planned for. There are a lot of steps to this project and funding needs, but there needs to be planning.

Jodi commented that they need to work with HRSA as well because to be in order to apply for a FQHC with HRSA, there are different categories. Rondi advised that this is not cut and dry and there are a lot of things that need planned for before implementation.

Liz asked if the facility is not owned then what would be the next steps. He still recommends taking on Tribal FQHC first but if in partnership there would be additional or increased funding generated from billing.

Jennifer asked if it is built near the casino then it can be leased out. Joe has spoken to Rolling Hills for some assistance and guidance as well. Rolling Hills takes in \$40k a month on their equestrian center. Ray noted that the entity is a look alike FQHC and has all been modeled similar to another Tribe. Eileen commented that the Tribe is a hybrid 638 FQHC. The Tribe doesn't have control if there is a true FQHC, to maintain Tribal Sovereignty. The ability is already prepared to bill for FQHC but there are checks and balances that have to be held for providers, etc. The facility can be built and identify if there are qualifications required. The services can be billed out as contracted services. Eileen noted that he is making this harder than has to be, the Tribe is not a look alike but this is a weird hybrid. Plenty of services have been provided. Equine and SUD program will be billed at a contract rate, not under the IHS MOA rate. Buster noted that this sounds like a great opportunity, but this will not be solved at this time. He asked if there is a timeline to resolve this. Erin noted that there has already been a budget set and potential revenue and those discussions need to be held at staff level. This is a great idea but this needs to have staff review. Buster doesn't want this put on the back burner and wants it to progress. He advised that the Council will discuss this further with Rondi, Ray and Joe to work out the details on what works out best for the Tribe. He advised that Joe also communicate with staff on this project.

### **3) Emilio Tripp, DNR:**

Emilio is present to seek approval of a letter of support for cultural fire management council. They are writing a grant at this time. CFMC (Cultural Fire Management Council) started with the Yurok Tribe and works on tribal land. The Council asked why this was late and why items are being presented last minute. Emilio advised that this was submitted late while he was off but came in to work on this. Buster asked about the deadline which is 1/2022. Emilio noted that the document has some errors. The actual start date is 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2027.

Scott asked for a briefing on the program. Emilio noted that the State has to repopulate the bear population estimates. The State is looking to the Tribe and other Tribes in California, to obtain this data. The Karuk Tribe is the first tribe to study a cub through to breeding, by providing studies of this it will help the State. They will bait them, tag them, and let them loose. Once a

pregnant female is verified then a game cam will be installed in their area to track them for a year to obtain cub progress and survival. The staff learn to deploy tagging and are learning a new skill.

Liz Bentley moved and Kristen King seconded to approve resolution 24-R-005, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve the letter of support CFMC, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Arch asked that if there are items that are late to note that on the document. Just explain it and it won't be that difficult but understanding why there isn't time being provided for a review is important.

### **Old Business:**

Liz asked if a press release for fentanyl was submitted. Ray will explain that further in closed session today.

### **Director Reports:**

#### **1) Ray Elliot, Director of Children and Family Services:**

Ray is present to review his report and provide an executive summary. He noted that the LCSW position is being posted. There is a possible candidate and he will discuss a CDAC further in closed session. Dorcas resigned her position and they will miss her. There are four persons in the transitional house which is great. With behavioral health is showing at 63% tribal. Catering to tribal members is their priority. They are hoping to hear if CalOES was funded. This month has been very busy with services and there are about five staff persons hoping to seek treatment.

Kristen asked if the CalOES is offered in Yreka. Ray noted that the services are provided in all areas. This is emergency funds that provide assistance and this wraps around to support the youth. Jennifer asked how to refer clients to services. Any type of client or others that can receive services that they go to Yreka or Happy Camp to complete assessment and be enrolled in the program. Ray noted that Tracy is working out of HC one day a week and Joy who provides services twice a week. He noted that they needed providers.

The award is a little over \$100k and mainly for staffing.

Scott Quinn moved and Arch Super seconded to approve Ray's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

#### **2) Merris Obie, Child Welfare Operations Administrator:**

Written report, not present. Arch asked about a lot of guarantees of funding in her report. Rondi will follow up with Merris about this notation.

Arch Super moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Merris' report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

#### **3) Cecilli Gonzalez, PHN:**

Cecilli is present to review her report. She has samples for the Tribe today which are salves made by DNR.

Some feedback that she received from clients was that they still feel that they have a clinic but they don't feel a connection with it. She would like to discuss incorporating more traditional

healing ointments or healing options. She would like to evaluate this option. CHR feedback was received and so she has seen an increase in services offered in the communities. Arch likes her suggestions on traditional medicine but is she working with staff to develop a plan. She explained that she doesn't have anything planned at this time but she is willing to identify that and have some communication to make a plan. She explained that spiritual health is good for mental health and physical health.

She is trying to work with the CHR's to at minimum call the community they serve. Some clients are interested in services and some are not, but they are being proactive in offering services.

She is hoping to have more interaction for diabetic luncheons and provide more education. She is hoping to have a Karuk cookbook presentation. Arch noted that there was only one participant at the diabetic luncheon so perhaps she should reach out to Happy Camp representatives to provide communication.

Scott asked for a model that can be followed for traditional medicine. Cecelli noted that she will be collaborating with other clinics who have implemented this is a concept.

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve Cecelli's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**4) Dr. Lew, Dental Director:**

Dr. Lew is present in Yreka to review her report. She noted that this week the Happy Camp dental clinic moved. An advertisement of the new dentist for Happy Camp is not being flown but will be coming soon. The Yreka clinic and lead RDA were accepted students for CDHC (Community Dental Health Coordinator). This was competitive application process and 10 persons were selected of 50 applicants. She is very proud of her team.

Last month 534 patient visits were served. Scott asked how patient visit count is from last year. Dr. Lew reported that it is significant increase from year to year. In 2018 is the most patients served. After 2020 there were implementation of disinfection procedures, etc. which slowed down the patient flow, but they are doing well.

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Dr. Lew's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**5) Tonia Begrin, Orleans Clinic Manager:**

Tonia is present in Orleans to review her report. She thanked the Council for the holiday party which a lot of people were happy to attend.

There have been cameras installed in the clinics and noted the locations in which they were installed.

She updated her staffing and budgets for the Health Board.

Arch Super moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Tonia's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**6) Rondi Johnson, HHS CEO:**

Rondi is present to review her report. She continues to do her meetings with staff and supervisors. She provided a shout out the behavioral health department for their opioid outreach.

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve Rondi's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**7) Jodi Henderson, HRSA:**

Jodi is present to review her report. She would like to review the policy updates. She provided an update on the deficiencies report received from HRSA. She noted that the fiscal policy has been used in the past so she defined the requirements for fiscal compliance with HRSA. She noted that the fiscal policies held more information in the past and met the requirements but they don't now.

The new policy "Employee Service Animal" was sent ahead of time and the remainder are reviews and procedural changes.

Arch Super moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve the HHS policies (included in the packet) along with the new one presented today, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Scott).

Scott asked what the review standard is for policy changes. She introduced Robert Thompson, Quality Management Compliance Coordinator. He is working with Patti White and receiving training. She noted that policies have changed for the last few years and they are doing all ongoing policies that need reviewed. They pull the policies and see if anything has changed. They review, draft change, and they go to ACQI. They will do a subgroup to get the policies through in a more efficient manner if needed. Once ACQI approves a final policy, it is submitted to the Health Board for their review and approval.

Council Members are always invited to ACQI Meetings anytime they are interested.

Scott Quinn moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve Jodi's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**8) Susanna Greeno, Happy Camp Clinic Manager:**

Susanna is present to review her report. She provided a shout out for maintenance, KTHA maintenance, and Jack Lantz for the Happy Camp move. She noted that Jack came in like "Jack Jack" and moved them very chaotically. She noted that this clinic coming to flourishing is amazing. Partnership will be onsite soon to ensure the clinic meets compliance. She provided a shout out to Sammi, Alexis, and others for supporting her during staff vacancies.

Arch Super moved and Li Bentley seconded to approve Susanna's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**9) Ryan Hammer, Operations Manager:**

Ryan is not present.

Arch Super moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Ryan's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Susanna does have a note from an earlier report. The HHS program is already allowed at the to offer traditional health practitioners.

**10) Tonya Albers, RPMS:**

Tonya is present to seek permission to require all users for the Tribe to renew their ISSA training which would be mandatory.

Consensus: to require the ISSA training mandatory for all staff and provide notice.

Arch Super moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve Tonya's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Jennifer).

**11) Cindy Hayes, Yreka Clinic Manager:**

Cindy is present in Yreka to review her report. She hopes that the thermostat issues have been worked out. There is an internal applicant for the referral clerk.

Scott Quinn moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve Cindy's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**12) Dr. Vasquez, Medical Director:**

Dr. Vasquez is not present. Arch commented that his notation on changing schedules may be an issue. Rondi will look into this.

Arch Super moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Dr. Vasquez's report, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Jennifer absent for vote).

Buster noted that 19 double bookings in Yreka is an issue and that should be evaluated.

**Closed Session:**

Informational: Council caucus with Tribal Member #LA.

Anna Myers: PRC Case #365; Arch Super moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve upholding PRC denial and approve \$3,000 for PRC Case #365, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Arch Super moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve ½ the assistance with permission from the patient and verification of Tribal affiliation for PRC Case #367, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Liz Bentley moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to deny the appeal for PRC Case #366 and refer to Yurok Tribe, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Fentanyl emergency plan was provided to the Council.

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve waiving the 'current' licensure for SUDP for AB and allow for an interview, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Incident reports were provided to the Council which included threats to staff, aggressive patient, window left opened, and alcohol reported issues.

Informational: Chairman Attebery wants to review the policy for service animals.

CRIHB Associate Member fees are due. Arch Super moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve CRIHB fees for \$12,000, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Liz).

Denied: Palm Springs 2024 Tribal Leadership Conference July 14-19, 2024.

Arch Super moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Rondi Johnson travel June 17-20, 2024, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Rondi Johnson moved and Arch Super seconded to approve the pay increase for staff effective 11/5, 2 haa, 0 puuhara, 3 pupitihara (Jennifer, Liz, Arch).

Informational: audit preparations is identifying several grants that were not spent and more that needs followed up on. The Directors need to monitor their grants.

Informational: Camera installs were not discussed with the Health Board. Health CEO was unaware they were installed or the purpose, they have been deactivated.

Council Discussions: wanted to discuss options on healthcare and other comments in the media.

Kristen King moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve waiving the lodging fee for cooking consultant to the Education Program, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve out of state travel for Buster to TIBC March 18-22, 2024, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Kristen King moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve out of state travel for Buster to NCAI February 12-14, 2024, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: The Language Department is still having struggles with identifying priorities. This was discussed and outlined, and perhaps the Committee should focus on those priorities.

Council Caucus: Minutes submitted to Human Resources Department.

Arch moved and Jennifer seconded to adjourn at 5:10 PM, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara

**Next Meeting Date:** February 8, 2024 at 10am in Happy Camp.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman**

**Recording Secretary, Barbara Snider**