

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**The Indian Health Service
Department of Health and Human Services
and
Harvard University Native American Program
Harvard University**

I. STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP) and the Indian Health Service (IHS), are to identify areas for possible future collaboration by which the respective parties can work together effectively to promote ongoing improvement in the health and wellness of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people and communities. This MOU does not create any legally binding obligations.

The missions of HUNAP and the IHS are both focused on improvement in the health and well being of AI/ANs and support collaborative activities to achieve this goal:

Mission of HUNAP: The mission of HUNAP is to bring together Native American students and interested individuals from the Harvard community for the purpose of advancing the well-being of indigenous peoples through self-determination, academic achievement, and community service.

Mission of the IHS: The mission of the IHS, in partnership with AI/AN people, is to raise their physical, mental, social, and spiritual health to the highest possible level.

This MOU provides a unique opportunity to fulfill these overlapping missions in the context of a joint commitment to seek Tribal consultation and honor Tribal sovereignty and self-determination in carrying out these collaborative activities.

II. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

In entering into this MOU, HUNAP and the IHS seek to collaborate and cooperate on areas of mutual concern, within the capabilities and competencies of each organization. Specifically:

- **HUNAP:** The Harvard University Native American Program is an Interfaculty Initiative of the University. As such it serves as Harvard's locus of Native student support, faculty research on Native issues, and outreach to Native communities. Through its Native Health Program (NHP@HUNAP), HUNAP supports (i) research, (ii) outreach, (iii) curriculum development, and (iv) leadership education directed at improving Native health. The organizational structure of NHP @HUNAP is set forth in Attachment A.

- **IHS:** The IHS is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 1.6 million of the nation's estimated 2.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The IHS strives for maximum Tribal involvement in meeting the needs of its service population, most of who live on or near reservations and in rural communities in 35 states, predominantly in the western United States and Alaska.

III. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

The HUNAP and the IHS have identified areas of possible collaboration:

- **Research:** The HUNAP's Native Health Program seeks to promote research of the highest quality directed toward issues of AI/AN health. It focuses on increasing the research involvement of world-class faculty on issues of AI/AN health and supporting the development of new research scholars working on these issues. The NHP@HUNAP and its Native Health Scholars serve critical roles in organizing interfaculty and interdisciplinary research endeavors, seeding new endeavors with funding, disseminating research results with both scholarly and practitioner audiences, and providing an institutional interface between researchers and Native communities. The NHP@HUNAP health research agenda and activities are developed in intensive consultation with Tribes and other relevant Native organizations. The IHS possesses and/or can access large amounts of data, experience, research talent, and clinical and research resources. The IHS values the contributions that relevant research can make to its mission. The parties to this MOU agree that their research efforts will focus on health care quality, disparities in health and health care, and prevention needs confronting Native people and communities. Research among AI/AN communities will be conducted in a manner that will build trust and credibility, collaborate with the community, include available and interested AI/AN investigators, and adhere to sound scientific principles.
- **Outreach:** Through its Outreach Partners, NHP@HUNAP seeks to provide consultation, training, and technical assistance to improve AI/AN health and wellness and increase the capacities of AI/AN programs to meet community needs. The expertise of the current NHP Outreach Partners covers areas such as emergency medicine, addiction and substance abuse, psychiatry, and telemedicine as well as program evaluation, program governance, and youth pre-professional education. By its very nature, the IHS is engaged in outreach in its management of 151 facilities providing on-the-ground delivery of health care services and in its relationships with 476 health facilities under Tribal contract management. A possible area of collaboration includes the identification and development of outreach efforts, focusing on those with maximum positive impact on the health and wellness of the affected populations, the capacity of AI/AN people and

communities to establish and manage their own health care programs, and the opportunities for productive research in accord with the IHS's and HUNAP's missions. Another possible area of collaboration is the development of curriculum programs addressing AI/AN health concerns.

- **Curriculum in Health and Health Policy:** The NHP@HUNAP supports the expansion of educational opportunities in Native health and Native health policy at both Harvard and other colleges and universities. Drawing on the resources and interests of many of Harvard's schools – including the Medical School, the School of Public Health, the Kennedy School of Government, the Dental School, the Graduate School of Education, the Law School, the undergraduate College, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the NHP@HUNAP identifies and coordinates new and additional curriculum development among interested faculty. It also provides informational resources, opportunities for faculty and student fieldwork, student and new scholar mentoring, and venues for curriculum development and dissemination. Similarly, the IHS supports improvement in the quality and quantity of pre-professional and mid-career educational opportunities in AI/AN health and health policy. The IHS seeks to expand its relationships with and contributions to Tribal colleges and universities, other colleges and universities with notable Native enrollment and Native health programs, and relevant mid-career training programs. Under this MOU, possible areas of collaboration include identifying and making available current curriculum to the IHS that may be of benefit to any possible collaboration, developing additional curriculum and curriculum material for use at Harvard, disseminating the curriculum to other appropriate institutions, and mentoring students and new scholars through HUNAP's *Nation Building* and/or similar programs at Harvard. Such collaboration may include the extraction of educational curriculum from outreach and research efforts, the sharing of expertise and teaching resources, the designation of IHS and IHS-facilitated and research clients, and the publication and dissemination of curriculum materials.
- **Leadership Education:** Harvard University has an extensive array of executive and graduate degree programs that address the leadership education of pre-career and mid-career professionals. The programs range from those in Continuing Medical Education (CME) at the School of Public Health to the many short-term and degree programs in Public Management at the Kennedy School of Government. The NHP@HUNAP's efforts include recruiting qualified candidates and developing program content relevant to established and emerging leaders in AI/AN health and health policy. As a large Federal institution, the IHS (as well as the Tribal contract programs) confronts compelling challenges in identifying, preparing, and promoting capable leaders, managers, clinicians, and other professionals. Under this MOU, a possible area of collaboration could be to expand outreach and recruitment opportunities for graduate education at Harvard University and allied organizations in clinical, management, and other professional fields relevant to AI/AN health and health policy. The parties have identified the following as priority areas: (1) educational opportunities for AI/AN professionals who aspire to be

involved in community, regional, and national AI/AN health programs, including Indian direct health care services, public health programming, health administration/management, health policy formulation and implementation, and behavioral, social, and biomedical research, (2) identifying financial support for prospective students and, (3) cultivating national efforts to strengthen AI/AN student retention in professional health training programs. With the assistance of the IHS whenever possible, HUNAP will also work to expand the NHP@HUNAP's involvement in creating distance education modalities to increase IHS and Tribal access to quality health-related educational programs including Web-based CMEs.

IV. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

The responsible parties for each partner under this MOU are:

Harvard University

Dr. Dennis K. Norman, Ed.D., ABPP
Chief of Psychology
Massachusetts General Hospital
Faculty Chair
Native Health Program @HUNAP

Indian Health Service

Craig Vanderwagen, M.D.
Acting Chief Medical Officer
Indian Health Service

V. PROJECT OFFICERS

Senior Project Officers designated for this MOU are:

Harvard University

Carmen D. Lopez, Ed.M.
Executive Director
Harvard University Native American Program

Indian Health Service

Leo J. Nolan
Senior Policy Analyst for External Affairs


VI. SEPARATE AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The IHS may award assistance for carrying out the areas of mutual interested identified in the MOU only to the extent authorized by law and available appropriations, and only in response to an appropriate proposal and budget submitted by HUNAP to the IHS in accordance with standard Harvard sponsored programs administrative procedures. The terms and conditions of any such assistance awards will be in accordance with program authorities and all applicable HHS grants regulations and policies. Any grants, cooperative agreements, which may be awarded must comply with authorizing statutes and regulations Departmental grants policies. All contracts must comply with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. The parties to this MOU agree that separate individual agreements will be executed to pursue the goals of this MOU, and

consistent with the nature of the instrument utilized, those individual agreements will contain provisions that will govern issues such as early termination, payment terms, dispute resolution, and any other terms and conditions that the parties determine shall be necessary and appropriate.


VII. TERM

The term of this MOU is three years, subject to renewal by mutual agreement of the parties.



Steven E. Hyman, M.D.
Provost
Harvard University

2/21/06
Date



Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director, Indian Health Service

2/21/06
Date



Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP)
 Exec. Director: Carmen Lopez
 Faculty Chair: Joseph Kalt

NHP @ HUNAP
The Native Health Program at HUNAP
 Faculty Chair: Dr. Dennis Norman

**Program Administrator:
 The Native Health Policy
 Fellow**
(per HUNAP/IHS MOU)

RESEARCH

- Native Health Scholars Associated Faculty
- Native Issues Research Symposium
- NHP Publication Series

OUTREACH

- The NHP Outreach Partners
- Emergency Medicine
- Addiction
- Telemedicine/CME
- Psychiatry
- Youth Education
- Tribal Consultation – gyvnt leaders, health professionals, community members

CURRICULUM

- Native Health and Native Health Policy
- Student Mentoring – academic/professional
- Provost's Freshman Seminars
- Nation Building II Field Research Course
- HMS, HSPH, KSG Topics Courses

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

- Mid-Career Executive and Degree Programs
- One-Year Mid-Career MPA (KSG)
- One-Year MSPH (HSPH)
- Sr. Mgrs in Gov't Exec Ed (KSG)
- Center for CME (HSPH)