

**Karuk Tribe – Health Board Meeting  
August 10, 2023 – Meeting Minutes**

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

**Present:**

Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman  
Kenneth “Binx” Brink, Vice-Chairman  
Arron “Troy” Hockaday, Member at Large  
Renee Stauffer, Member at Large  
Kristen King, Member at Large  
Jennifer Goodwin, Member at Large  
Arch Super, Member at Large (late)

**Absent:**

Elizabeth “Liz” Bentley, Member at Large

**Chairman read the Health Mission Statement and Council Member Hockaday completed a prayer.**

**Agenda:**

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve the agenda with changes, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**Troy then asked for a caucus.**

**Consent Calendar:**

I-Iesha noted that she advised that that there is a need for ongoing training in the Health Program. Krista confirmed from the audience that there are different trainings needed in several areas. RPMS does not collect everything needed, and there is a discussion to switch electronic health record systems.

Renee Stauffer moved and Jennifer seconded to approve contract 23-C-156, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

The Council asked Jack about the electrician contract. It was explained and approved. The Council will advise Eric to communicate effectively with the Director of Public Works.

**Minutes of July 13, 2023:**

Renee Stauffer moved and Kristen King seconded to approve the meeting minutes of July 13, 2023, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Binx).

**Guests:**

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

Jack is present to seek approval of agreement 23-A-125 which will provide onsite use of a backup solar system to provide power. It will be free to the Tribe for one year with Schneider Electric.

*Arch arrived at 10:13am*

Renee Stauffer moved and Kristen King seconded to approve agreement 23-A-125, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

He then noted that he has agreement 23-A-127 for a cooling unit for the Tishaniik Farm.

Binx Brink moved and Kristen King seconded to approve agreement 23-A-127, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch Super).

His next item was a notice about possible funding availability for Grayback road. Troy advised to get ahold of Misty. Jack noted that Misty is onboard and there is also a meeting being set up with Caltrans District 1 and District 2 along with the BIA to keep the road open. Binx noted that the plan is to work with road repairs. Jack explained that this is a three-phase plan. There will be design, engineering, and repair. With this the total would be approximately \$7million. Buster asked if there will be an MOU or MOA. Jack noted that this is a pre-proposal. Jack noted that if at this time they make the first step to this, then it can be displayed that the Tribe is the entity managing. It may create more opportunities and further development of that MOU or MOA. Buster would like continued funding and have that in writing. Buster noted that the USFS was supposed to keep that road open and has not done that.

Jack requested consensus. Erin asked that the USFS provide a copy of the document once it is drafted.

Consensus: To move forward with the Good Neighbor pre-application.

Troy noted that he is leery about this. When talking with Rachel there was no funding but now there is funding. Buster noted that this authorization is to move forward and then to receive information back in writing.

Jack also provided a draft of signage option for the Tribe (material). There is a fifteen-year life span on it. Jack would like to have signs as well as good to the purchase of equipment then the Tribe can make its own signs. Buster would like to note that this would be the type of business. Troy asked if this sample would be on the backroads. Buster then noted that yes, there would be interest in looking into this to advance the sign project.

Troy then noted that there is Karuk Land and Troy read the faces of the audience and to have signs posted is something that is a good idea.

Jack then presented a sample red bag was built for his truck. Also, he would like to have all CHR's to have this and know how to use it. From time to time in emergencies employees come upon accidents or need safety items. The red bag contained items that allow for employees to protect themselves or others if the need arises, especially along the river corridor.

## **2) April Attebury, Judicial Systems:**

April is present to provide information to the Health Board. She has a pre-proposal draft that is being presented for one-time funding. There is a Tribal Court assessment and once that is done there are recommendations to resolve matters contained in that assessment. This is being provided as informational.

## **Old Business:**

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## **Director Reports**

### **1) Dr. Vasquez, Medical Director:**

Dr. Vasquez is not present, report provided. Some items that have been mentioned in his report is the shortage of providers and how this is a nationwide issue. The Council is not

concerned with the nation but what is happening with the Karuk Tribe and services for the people.

Binx commented that when HRSA was here they identified more information being in the reports. There needs to be information on diabetes prevention and informational material. There was a request to receive more relevant information and not just visit counts. Arch commented that Krista provides information on patient visits, there needs to be additional information in the reports on patient needs, services, special projects, health program operations, etc.

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Dr. Vasquez's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Ryan is present, report provided. Troy asked why there was only one person involved in the CHR training. Renee asked if the training was mandatory. Ryan noted that it is not. Roberta Kelly was asking to go as well. Ryan noted that this is a specific RPMS training related to CHR's. This is one that everyone would have been useful to attend but he monitored services to the community as well and they can alternate.

Troy Hockaday moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve out of state travel for Roberta Kelly and Letha Jerry, August 27-September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Ryan noted that the HRSA inspection was completed. The results are anticipated to be received soon. Issues identified are already being worked out.

There are interviews that are ongoing for providers, receptionists, etc. Three candidates have been screened earlier this week and they hope to have those interviews scheduled soon.

Troy asked about Ryan's report. In Orleans in Happy Camp the Council would like more diabetes training for elders or those that are high risk. One lunch every three months is not sufficient. Renee noted that a dietician is needed and provides additional information. She also noted that the doctor should be recommending services for diabetics and refer to the persons needed. Krista noted that there is a telemed dietician. Renee asked that the providers be directed to refer patients to relevant care that will benefit their health long-term.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve Ryan's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**3) Krista Reynolds, RPMS Site Manager:**

Krista is present to review her report. Krista noted that her last day is tomorrow. She noted that this is her last report. Troy noted that the visit count is down in all three areas. Krista noted that the providers are the same but the visit count is down.

Troy Hockaday moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve Krista's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

The Council thanked Krista for her services and wished her the best.

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

Cindy is present to review her report. She provided the transporter numbers for each transporter. She is looking at getting the pull cords installed in the rooms. They hope to get a code to do some work on the water to the facility.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve Cindy's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Dr. Lew is present to review her report. She noted that every month she discusses the community dental health position. There was an IHS meeting to have a community dental provider and Jolene will complete her final community outreach. After this, she will have finalized her training and advanced her career.

Abby the Yreka Hygienist provided information at the diabetic luncheon.

They have been waiting and waiting for the Happy Camp Dental Clinic and the equipment has been received onsite. Installation will be next week.

The Happy Camp Dental Clinic recently interviewed a dental sterilization clerk and the receptionist should be posting soon.

There were 556 patient visits for the month of July. The additional information she provided, was on Orleans and wanted to find out what the numbers are for and the visit count. Dr. Lew noted that the no shows have to be documented and put the code to identify why the visits were low. Orleans is breaking appointments 5 out of 6 times.

Troy asked if notifications about appointments is being provided. Dr. Lew noted that reminders are provided. Binx asked about 40 patients seen in July for the Happy Camp hygienist. Dr. Lew noted that Nikki was out a few times during the month.

Binx asked if implants can be provided yet. Dr. Lew noted that there are guidelines that have to be followed and also to have good oral hygiene. Instead as a current customer and patients, there can be a lot more services can be provided.

Jennifer asked about the previous notation of black screen. Dr. Lew noted that her appointments are out until October. There are walk-ins once a week but they have to follow up within a timely manner. Once a month they can do treatments after the walk-ins are being done. The treatment will be done once a month to capture the needs of the patients and do as much emergency treatment that can be one.

Dr. Lew has been at the Tribe for 7 years and they have been discussing expansion this entire time. Dr. Lew noted that the revenue will increase.

Dr. Lew has created \$4 million in revenue as projected this year.

Troy Hockaday moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve Dr. Lew's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Troy absent for roll count).

Arch asked about the diabetic luncheon. The Health Board is trying to get more information provided at the diabetic luncheon and to provide outreach. Ryan mentioned that there isn't a

lot of staff and there needs to be family taking care of family as well to get patients to outside professionals.

**6) Frankie Snider, Interim Child Welfare Services Administrator:**

Frankie is present to provide information. She first presented a contract to sign onto the CTFC (California Tribal Families Coalition). They assist in developing case plans as well as services for the Tribe.

Troy Hockaday moved and Kristen King seconded to approve contract 21-C-035 modification (4), 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

The collaboration meeting has been happening and ongoing. The Karuk Tribe was involved in the Yav Pa Anav Committee and the CTFC, which has ongoing services that were needed for a year. This will create funding for the Tribe and the programs.

There are 16 active ICWA cases and 5 in Tribal Court.

Theresa has created 50 inquiries for the month. She is working with Laura Olivas on reimbursement for the Title IVE which pays the legal bill for Berkey Williams. This is due August 29, 2023.

She noted that UC Davis will provide specific training. It is case management and it would be very useful to take advantage of these training opportunities that are more local and specialized. She will be on leave coming up. A Case-Aid Assistant will be interviewed.

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Frankie's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Susanna is present in Happy Camp but had technical difficulties and no access to the mic system.

Binx Brink moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to approve Susanna's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**8) Ray Elliot, Director of Children & Family Services:**

Ray is present to seek approval of resolution 23-R-136. They are serving about 18 youth and provide a wide array of services; rent, food, cultural activities, etc. There are families being served.

Binx Brink moved and Kristen King seconded to approve resolution 23-R-136, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch Super).

He then noted that there are good things happening in the department. The providers are at the cap of seeing patients, and have a small wait list. This is a good thing and a bad thing. Tracy, Joy, and David are providing services. The staff is doing a phenomenal job. He has joined the Siskiyou Opiate Coalition who is very serious in providing services and resources to deal with this epidemic. They are continuing to work with Partnership to work toward registering the department to bill for services rendered. The clientele for Happy Camp has increased from two to seven people enrolled. They hope to hire an additional LCSW.

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve Ray's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Report provided, in Happy Camp, no mic system.

Renee Stauffer moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Tonia's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**10) Rondi Johnson, Health CEO:**

Not present.

**11) Jodi Henderson, HRSA, Accreditation, Grants:**

Jodi noted that the OSB site visit occurred. Eileen worked with fiscal and Jodi worked with the Nurse portions of the reviewers. They learned of a few things that were inefficient, and they are working on those deficiencies already. Once the report is received they will have 30-45 days to respond.

On the scope of practice, they need to have some agreements in place. No agreement with St. Joseph's for example. didn't find in the contract that FMC does their own credentialing. It is on FMC to get them updated with no termination date. Kristen asked if there is one with Mad River but Jodi noted that no, but that is a good idea and she will look into it.

The compliance plan was great and they like how it's being handled. That was the only area that there were no suggested changes. The majority of the fixes were technical. Jodi noted that she will set up an annual report at the same time she sets up the signatures for their confidentiality statements to remind her to provide an annual report to the Health Board.

Senior Nutrition for Yreka has a position description, but it is not finished as of yet. Once they get the position description developed, they will get a budget to purchase equipment.

She would like to send the two CHR's on training which will train them on how to input into RPMS. Ryan noted that mistakes that are being made is because it is garbage going in. There is confusion on the training that is needed. Troy noted that inputting information into RPMS is a stepped process, it seems like that is not being inputted by all of them. I-Iesha noted that there is the need for more in-depth training. Kristen asked if one can go and come back to train others. Cindy noted that everyone learns differently. Cindy would like to have all CHR's go to the same training. Cindy noted that there are codes for pick up, first stop, follow up stop, and by the end of any visit there should be 8-10 codes per patient.

RPMS onsite training is needed. Buster asked if someone can check into this and get back to follow up on the training that can be done. Buster asked for a start date of today to have this reviewed as an option. Jodi will reach out and follow up on this.

Troy Hockaday moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Bad Debt Write Off Payment Plan policy, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0pupitiahra.

Binx Brink moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Jodi's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Kristen King moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to approve the CRIHB Darrell Hostler invoice, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**Closed Session:**

Informational: Employee #FS was asked about a plan for coverage. Request was made to have coverage and attendance at CTFC meetings every Wednesday and request assistance from Mr. Elliot.

Informational: HRSA, Grants, Compliance provided a report on the near misses, complaints, etc.

Binx Brink moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to approve resolution 23-R-127, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Informational: Operations Manager presented follow up for the Health Board Committee Member solicitation. It required review and edits.

Informational: The Health Board requested follow up on positing positions and recruitment with staff leaving positions. It was determined that IT has to post and solicit an RPMS Site Manager.

Informational: Operations Manager attends CTFC Meetings as time allows. He also advises that the HHS staff is starting to share different designs with Bobby and Jack for a new HHS clinic.

Informational: Dr. Vasquez is seeing a lot more patients and taking walk-ins and double booking. Buster will follow up with additional conversations regarding recruitment.

Troy Hockaday moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to approve modification (1) to contract 23-C-097 with Nell Sakota, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve restricting the NEW Program Plan to \$1,000 per person Tribal Member/Descendant, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Consensus: for Dion to move forward on the TFAP. Tina is back Monday and will help and there are ongoing matters that are needed.

Informational: Council Member Arch Super would like it to be fair and consistent regarding disciplinary actions.

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve agreement 23-A-126, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Troy Hockaday moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to approve Astiip as the road name for workforce housing development in HC, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Tribal Council discussed multiple concerns over change orders, funding allowances, grant opportunities, and accountability by contractors.

Binx Brink moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to approve modifications (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 10) to contract 22-C-056, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

*Arch left the meeting at 4:02pm*

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve modifications (4-11) to contract 22-C-057, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Kristen King moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to approve agreement 23-A-124, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0pupitihara.

Kristen King moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve agreement 23-A-122, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitiahra.

Informational: Tribal Council will consider a waiver for new hire to the personnel policies for leave and remote work schedule.

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Renee Stauffer seconded to pay \$1,000 toward Tribal Member #2931 dental care, 3 haa, 1 puuhara (Binx), 0 pupitihara.

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to deny the Falmouth Travel and allow attendance virtually with justification of position related need, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitiahra.

Consensus: to release travel memo requiring all staff to provide justification for position related training.

**Next Meeting:** September 14, 2023 at 10am in Happy Camp, CA.

**Adjourned at 4:55pm.**