

**Karuk Tribe – Health Board Meeting
December 5, 2024 – Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 10am by Chairman Attebery.

Present:

Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman
Kenneth “Binx” Brink, Vice-Chairman
Scott Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer
Kristen King, Member at Large
Jennifer Goodwin, Member at Large
Laura Mayton, Member at Large
Arch Super, Member at Large
Robert Super, Member at Large
Eli Hensher-Aubrey, Member at Large

Absent:

None

Buster read the Health Mission Statement. Arch provided a prayer for the audience.

Agenda:

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve the agenda with changes, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Consent Calendar:

Arch asked if there is an effort to seek any other contractors. Rondi noted that it was put out to bid and this is who responded. The process was followed.

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve the consent calendar, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2024:

Arch Super moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve the meeting minutes, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 3 pupitihara (Laura, Jennifer, Robert).

Guests:

1) Alli Caravo:

Alli is present to conduct a presentation to the Tribal Council and noted that she is an equine specialist. She has put together an idea of what would work for Happy Camp and Orleans. What she does is deep and she doesn't need to see clients once a week. She does intake for about 3 hours and would come down four times a year and have sessions following the intake. She wants to serve approximately 50 people for this in four phases. She would like to bring on 30 clients right off the bat and then bring on 10 more, then eventually add an additional 10. In between sessions she will work with clients on zoom or phone conferences.

Joe Snapp has been pushing for this type of activity. Robert recommends having this option discussed with Joe and determine if this is a possibility.

Arch asked if there are horses here and it was noted that she will bring some to store at her mother's house. Arch asked if this is similar to behavioral health or social services. Rondi noted that behavioral health would work on this with Alli.

Alli has discussed this option with the school as well and the community schools' outreach will send a letter of support and has grant funding as well. Kristen asked if she tried Klamath Trinity as well, but Alli has not.

Robert asked for a summer camp as well. She does retreats as well and can discuss that further as well.

2) Alex Watts-Tobin, THPO:

Alex is present to follow up on agreement 25-A-024. He followed up with Caltrans on the billing rate and clarified that in the future they can seek reimbursement at \$120 per hour.

Binx Brink moved and Kristen King seconded to approve agreement 25-A-024, 7 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Jennifer).

3) Robert Perez, Construction Manager:

Bob is present to seek approval of the Council to use the Tribes boom truck to set up the communities Christmas Lights.

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve Bob to drive the Tribes boom truck and set up the community lights, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

4) Emma Lee Perez, Contract Compliance:

Emma Lee is present to seek approval of agreement 25-A-030 requesting insurance coverage to receive a loan from the Clarks Museum.

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Kristen King seconded to approve agreement 25-A-030, 7 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Laura noted that Diane needs the information to add it to the Tribes insurance.

Old Business:

Arch asked for an update on a flu clinic at RRC. Cecelli noted that she will have to coordinate with Siskiyou County Public Health and coordinate this activity. Robert asked about the drive through clinic at the Fairgrounds and there was no request to conduct this. Scott asked Cecelli to contact Mike Rose and to connect him with the County. There were concerns on not knowing this information and not sharing this information sooner. This was requested and seemed to have fallen through the cracks.

Equipment needed to be repaired in Orleans, so Arch asked about that. Troy asked where funding was going to come from for those repairs. There needs to be repairs for equipment and it will come from the dental program. Dr. Lew commented that the compressor was going to be repaired and Nikki was following up on it.

Arch asked how the medical assistants and receptionist's positions is going. Screenings and postings are going. Jodi commented that since Lisa has been onboard things are moving forward. It was stagnant before but it is moving along more at this time, but there is a little bit of 'fall down' in the process.

Director Reports:

1) Ray Elliott, Behavioral Health Director:

Ray is present to review his report. He has hired a new office manager, which is Amy Lantz who is now the Human Services Office Manager.

Ray commented that if he can build up the youth and child side of things then there will be some outreach on those services to engage the youth.

Arch commented that there are parents having issues with bullying and he's wondering if there is any outreach into the schools. Ray has engaged with the superintendent of Superintendents, and this will allow for some connectivity to the school systems.

Binx asked for traditional healing and traditional therapy. It was noted that it needs to be billable and he would need leadership assistance in developing that type of program.

Binx Brink moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Ray's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

2) Merris Obie, Child Welfare Administrator:

Merris is present to review her report. She commented that the Medical reimbursement for traditional program services is being done in other areas. There are systems in place that do this and do it well.

Merris reported good news, she has submitted a letter of interest for TNAP funds. They asked for the enrolled membership for the State of California. She will now prepare a letter of reward for addressing needs such as nutrition, medicines, and decolonizing the western diet. It was determined that Merris included Descendants, not just Tribal Members.

Robert asked if there is any way to find an herbalist to assist in dietary needs of diabetics. Merris noted that there is a cook book that is needed and they will come up with new an innovative way to address health concerns.

Binx Brink moved and Robert Super seconded to approve Merris' report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

3) Cecelli Gonzalez, PHN:

Cecelli is present to review her report. The first annual diabetic conference was held in Happy Camp.

The Happy Camp CHR position is vacant and she is hoping to fill that position. Upcoming, there will be assistance with the annual Karuk elder luncheon. There will be a diabetic luncheon in Orleans coming up. Yootva to the Vice-Chairman for cooking salmon.

Arch Super moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Cecelli's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

4) Dr. Lew, Dental Director:

Dr. Lew is present to review her report. She updated on the services being provided to the patients for different areas. There are some vacancies posted at this time. In Happy Camp they need employees.

She did update that the medical side optioned for e-clinical and dental will stay on Dentrix. The issue with dental is that the current software is not working for images. She has been working with Indian Health Services and conducted a meeting with dental software, and it looks like this may work out smoothly. E-Clinical will be used from dental for prescriptions and maybe billing, but dental itself will stay with Dentrix.

Buster asked if the 535 number of visits is average. It was not but that is due to Holidays and short staffing.

Buster asked if clinics are going to automated AI appointments. It was not determined.

Jennifer commented that she should be proud of the dental staff in Happy Camp. The staff is handling the services even with staff shortages. Dr. Lew noted that all the staff is excellent.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Dr. Lew's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

5) Tonia Begrin, OR:

Not present, report provided.

Binx Brink moved and Robert Super seconded to approve Tonia's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

6) Rondi Johnson, HHS CEO:

Rondi is present to review her report. She noted that there was an interview with Dr. Vu and it is undetermined if he will come.

She noted that they will be attending the Holiday Party and the staff thanked the Council for the extra days of leave.

Rondi sought approval of the LOS for FMC.

Scott Quinn moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve FMC LOS, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Robert). Binx chairing.

She then presented the CRIHB LOS.

Robert Super moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve CRIHB LOS, 7 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara. Binx chairing.

Binx Brink moved and Arch Super seconded to approve Rondi's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

7) Susanna Greeno, HC Clinic Manager:

Susanna is present to review her report. She noted that the visit count is low with holidays and provider absences. The HC locum has left her assignment. There are pending approvals for the custodian (on-call position).

Arch asked about a good rate of pay for the locums to receive services. Robert would like to review the contract with the locums to pay for the providers.

Scott asked if the West Center Street is being used for recruitment. It is. Robert suggested contacting housing to see if some more homes can be set aside for providers.

Kristen asked about having radiology equipment installed and what can be operated. There will need to be someone qualified to take the pictures in order to use the equipment. There was one applicant for the RN position.

Binx Brink moved and Robert Super seconded to approve Susanna's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

8) Tonya Albers, RPMS:

Tonya is present in Yreka. There are four applicants for Health IT position, which is good news.

Numbers are going down and this has to do with employees and staffing and Arch is wondering if the Health Board can get together with HHS staff to find a solution. No one is opposed but that option needs to be discussed further.

Scott Quinn moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Tonya's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

9) Cindy Hayes, YR Clinic Manager:

Cindy is present in Yreka to review her report. She received a call from MaraLei regarding her VISA card charges and the unallowed expenses.

Laura Mayton moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve the costs \$145.68 for MA week, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Scott Quinn moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Cindy's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

10) Dr. Vasquez, Medical Director:

Not present, report provided.

Binx Brink moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve Dr. Vasquez's report, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

11) Jodi Henderson, Operations Manager:

Jodi is present to review her report. She was made aware that the Yreka Senior center is going well. Robert and herself are doing a bunch of webinars for HRSA training, etc. They will also be looking at compliance training in the near future.

Arch asked about the certificate from AAAHC and that confirms they are accredited.

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve Jodi's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara. Jennifer, Robert absent.

Closed Session:

Informational: Discussions on staff and backlog in processes to get things processed timely may be occurring. The Health Board will look into this.

Informational: Discussion on billing and revenue generated. It is unknown at this time what is occurring with dental billing and additional discussions will be held with the HHS CEO. Additional outreach for signing up for Medical is requested and perhaps hosting days to enrollment assistance.

Informational: Follow up data on provider numbers will be presented to the Health Board.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve PAN for employee #EL, 7 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Jennifer absent for vote).

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve PAN for employee #C, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: 2 incidents were reported, 4 medications were not in the system, complaints on April 10, 2024 were all related to the same issue.

Informational: Request to remove hiring restrictions or approval of PAN was made. The Health Board will discuss and report back.

Informational: Health Board requests HHS CEO to oversee helping clinics to ensure operations are ongoing. Reviewing options of Dentrix billing shall be completed, as well as Medical outreach plan.

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve increases for employees #LS, GW, and AB, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Binx Brink moved and Kristen King seconded to approve resolution 24-R-192, 8 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Request from Tribal Member #EC was found to be covered in policy and program assistance.

Informational: Preliminary assessment from Contract Compliance Director was provided to the Council. Secretary/Treasurer advised to review the lease that KT has with KTHA. Also, review memo in lieu of having a timber harvest plan. Contract ends on 1/26.

Buster left meeting at 3:50pm

Eli Hensher-Aubrey moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve CNIGA fees from discretionary NTE, \$5,000, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Binx is chairing, Kristen absent for vote).

Eli Hensher moved and Jennifer Goodwin seconded to approve a letter of support recommending Huffman Natural Resources Chair Committee for US Congress, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Kristen absent for vote).

Eli Hensher Aubrey and Scott Quinn seconded to approve modification (2) to contract 24-C-156, 6 haa, 1 puuhara (Jennifer), 0 pupitihara.

Jennifer Goodwin moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve both LOS to RISE Collaborative, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 2 pupitihara (Eli, Robert).

Kristen King moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve CRIHB dues and Darrel Hostler Fund, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara. (Jennifer absent).

Informational: Discussion on RV park sell was that the Council didn't feel that its valued as high as requesting. Not right now.

Buster returned at 4:43pm.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2025 at 10am in Happy Camp.

Adjourned at 4:49pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Russell "Buster" Attebery, Chairman

Recording Secretary, Barbara Snider