



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Division of Health to expand services through PL 93-638 contract pending IGR approval

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Health and Social Services Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council convened during a special meeting Feb. 5 and passed legislation regarding contract expansion between the Navajo Area Indian Health Services (NAIHS) and the Navajo Division of Health (NDOH).

Legislation No. 0049-10, sponsored by Alice Benally (Crownpoint/Nahodishgish), passed the Health and Social Services Committee (HSSC) with a 5-1 vote. The legislation will now go before the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee for final adoption.

If the legislation passes IGR, it would allow NDOH to continue to expand health care services through their PL 93-638 contract such as substance, alcohol abuse, health promotion and disease prevention programs among others from NAIHS.

The Fort Defiance Indian Health Board is authorized under PL 93-638 of the Indian Self Determination Act, Title 1, to contract such services from NAIHS, which the HSSC and IGR committees previously approved in a separate legislation.

Theresa Galvan, acting program manager for the Navajo Department of Behavior Health Services, said the intent of this legislation is to “ensure consistency with the Program Function Services and Activities in the master contract with NDOH and NAIHS. Some of the areas we look to expand on include substance and alcohol abuse, mental health, health promotion/disease prevention, public health nursing to name but a few through the PL 93-638 contract.”

John Hubbard, Navajo Area Indian Health Services Director, mentioned the importance of Legislation No. 0049-10, and said, “This legislation, pending IGR approval, will kick in one year from now. We will be getting \$12 million and with this legislation the Navajo Nation will need to retrocede to receive it. By February of next year, NDOH should be in control of those expanded programs.”

Council Delegate Elmer L. Milford (Fort Defiance) voiced his concern to the HSSC and said the process needs to be completed properly.

“We want the timeline to make proper negotiations. Committee members, I would like to request that we go forward with your motion to get this process started,” added Milford.

Benally expressed the need for this excellent opportunity for NDOH and said, “NDOH will be able to exercise its authority. The NDOH has the ability to meet federal standards and even surpass

federal levels on health care in some cases. This chance will provide an opportunity for young professionals to run our own Navajo health care system with these programs.”

In other legislation, Legislation No. 0031-10 passed with a 4-0 vote. It will allow for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants to strengthen tribal government capacity building.

Legislation No. 0061-10 also passed the HSSC with a 5-0 vote. The passage accepts and approves the Title IV-E Plan Development Grant of \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and the Children’s Bureau.

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