

**Karuk Tribe – Health Board Meeting  
December 7, 2023 – Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting called to order at 10am by Vice-Chairman Brink.**

**Present:**

Kenneth “Binx” Brink, Vice-Chairman  
Scott Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer  
Arron “Troy” Hockaday, Member at Large  
Eli Hensher-Aubrey, Member at Large  
Kristen King, Member at Large  
Arch Super, Member at Large  
Elizabeth “Liz” Bentley, Member at Large (late 10:06am)

**Absent:**

Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman  
Jennifer Goodwin, Member at Large

**Binx read the Mission Statement of the Health Program. Arch Super provided a prayer for the audience.**

**Agenda:**

Kristen King moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve the agenda with changes, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Liz).

**Consent Calendar:**

Arch asked about the consent calendar item related to CILS contract. The backdate is unknown. Erin noted that if it needs to be back dated then that is a possibility.

Arch Super moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve the consent calendar removing contract 24-C-021, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2023:**

Arch Super moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve the meeting minutes of November 2, 2023, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 2 pupitihara (Eli, Scott).

**Guests:**

**Michelle Spence, TERO:**

Michelle is present to seek approval of resolution 23-R-206 for EEOC funding.

Troy Hockaday moved and Kristen King seconded to approve resolution 23-R-206 with change of “of California” being removed, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**David Arwood II:**

David is present to seek approval to use the Tribes land. He returned in March and he would like to start stick games and access to the dance pit. He would like to be a part of a coalition to bring the brush dance back to the pit at the ranch. He wants to build a community effort to care for the land. He is requesting access the area and try to build that coalition. Troy noted that for the last two years he has been seeking someone to get that pit back up again and he also wants to make sure it’s ready to go. He appreciates David’s work because his plate is full so he doesn’t have time but he can assist David when possible. David has heard a lot of support from the area and it will take a coalition of people to get it together. Arch

asked if the ceremonial people should be approached. Troy noted that he has been discussing this with Cheryl Beck and David Arwood Sr. and they are ok with it. Binx asked if Two Sticks has gotten ahold of Ron. Two Sticks will assess the area and begin discussions with the appropriate persons. Arch asked if the ceremonial leaders need to be asked what their opinion is.

Troy Hockaday moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey to provide David Arwood “Two Sticks” access to the land and present back what is needed, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Bob noted that a few years ago when Bud was alive he wanted to have the dances returned. He also noted that the pit has damage and needs repairs. Scott noted that the location doesn't have to be at that site. Bobby noted that the lower flat has the only capability. Scott noted that when Bud was still alive they started a sweat area, and there is an area that could be used and is an ideal location for it. Binx also noted to review another site possibly.

He also would like to do a tournament at the ranch for sticks. He noted that they are looking for coaches, team moms, etc.

### **Old Business:**

Troy asked to speak to Ray but he was unavailable. Troy wanted an update on the fentanyl press release. Susanna reported that there are posters hung at the clinics to provide the ‘wow’ factor. Troy also wanted to follow up with the HHS staff, and he has asked for this for six months. Kristen asked who made the posters. I-Iesha had Frank print those posters. Kristen noted that it is not wow factor because there is no education on the posters. She noted that they are not at eye level and the quality is not good. Binx wanted to do a contest with the kids as well. Liz also added that they are up but large. Troy asked that Amy go through and talk to patients and seek some ideas on education and advertisement and what they would like to see. There is additional information that can be provided and input it appreciated. Amy noted that a lot of people don't know what's available so if there were proper signs or brochures of services then they will know what they can seek for recovery.

Binx provided a reminder that the tribal vehicles have to be locked behind the gate, and not left out. This causes damage to tribal vehicles.

### **Language:**

Binx asked if there is a word that people would like to know. Erin asked for the heavy rain. Arch said “Taii Puckree” which means a lot of rain.

A puth rahaash “looks like it's going to rain”

Yav puumpa ahoota hum “your travel was it good?”

“what are you doing tonight” Fatta coon withithi.

### **Director Reports:**

#### **1) Ray Elliot, Human Services:**

Ray is not present, report provided.

Arch Super moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve Ray's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Merris is present to review her report. The Health Board introduced her to the group. She has her Masters Degree in Social Services and has been doing this work for 30 years. She is located in Orleans and will serve all areas. She is working with the State to get up to speed on Title IVE. She commended the Tribes Leadership for doing Title IVE and being possibly the third or fourth Tribe to do so. She is making relationships with both Counties. Merris noted that the youngest to the oldest are affected by fentanyl. There is are federal differences with regard to Tribal Members and Descendants and to maintain compliance. She will work on State and Federal dollars to provide services. She has met with the fiscal department on her budgets. There are some trainings coming up and she will be seeking approval of those. She would like to set up and establish locations for families to meet and zoom into court, wrap around services, etc.

Binx welcomed Merris for her position at the Tribe.

Arch Super moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Meriss' report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**3) Cecelli Gonzalez, PHN:**

Cecelli is present in Yreka to review her report. She was unable to be speak because the room was not set up.

Liz Bentley moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Cecille's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Dr. Lew is present in Yreka to review her report but she was unable to connect.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Dr. Lew's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Tonia is present in Orleans. She is happy to greet Merris and welcome her to the position. She enjoyed the Holiday party.

Troy Hockaday moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Tonia's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Not present, on travel. Troy asked that Rondi and Ryan provide updated posters.

Arch Super moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve Rondi's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**7) Jodi Henderson, HRSA:**

Not present, on travel. There were questions regarding the policies attached to Jodi's report. It was suspected that the policies were just updates but it was unknown.

Liz Bentley moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to table Jodi's report and bring back next week, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Susanna is present to review her report. She will do the move the second week of January. Troy asked about the parking lots. Bobby noted that they will be addressing the parking lot.

Binx asked about the invite list. Rondi met with Josh and Erin on this. Bobby noted that this date is approaching very fast and they will transition the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>. Susanna would like to utilize K1 Crew Members to provide assistance. Jack noted that help is needed. Binx noted that using the KTHA equipment can be sought as well. Coordinating assistance within the Tribe is ok.

Susanna is understaffed at this time with the HIM Clerk and the Referral Clerk positions. She has been handling the stress load and has done so without returning to smoking. The Council thanked her for covering positions.

Kristen King moved and Arch Super seconded to approve Susanna's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Ryan is present to review his report. He noted that there is a locum that started in Happy Camp. There are additional services that is needed for treatment centers to share information as well as outreach material from CRIHB. The HHS Administration is still discussing Phase IV on Hillside Property. He also thanked the maintenance department for weatherizing the vehicles and buildings.

Binx noted that he recently went to a fentanyl meeting and he has identified resources and also unlimited amounts of Narcan. He would like to have these in vehicles and in homes. Also, if there is training then they can receive that, but he would like to encourage this resource to have close by. Susanna noted that those are handed out at the clinics when requested. Troy noted that that is why he wants the press release out and he will reach out to Ray again. Erin reminded the Council that this coming Newsletter is to feature all activities of the HHS program and they want to include that information that may be an avenue.

Kristen asked what EHR programs have been assessed as an option for the HHS program. Ryan noted that Eric has been working on this as IT. There are three larger programs that have been evaluated but those are more hospital based and expensive. There is an e-clinical program that may work for the HHS program. Eric is assigned to look into this and determine what is compatible to the direction that the health program is wanting to move. Ryan noted that 2025-2027 is their slated year for implementation but that is something that Indian Health Services has said for over 20 years. Kristen asked if Eric has a date for his final assessment. Ryan reported no, not yet he is still evaluating it.

Arch Super moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Ryan's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Cecelli asked about the elder's dinner. She noted that she wanted to make a backdrop and have the People's Center come out and adorn some of the regalia for photos. She asked what she should do. Scott noted that historically they don't take pictures during ceremonies. Eli noted that there are pictures of Katimiin that are available, after completion of rehab, and he can obtain them or explained where she could obtain them. Eli suggested Alme Allen or Julian Lang for good photos.

Cecelli also noted that she has been having the CHR's contacting elders who have passed, so the information should be updated in the system. The Enrollment Department only has information

that the families update for the records. Susanna noted that for HC she will be available to identify the list from within the community. It's important to follow rules in confidentiality. Those with a need to know should access information on Enrolled Members through enrollment.

She put the CHR's on the task for nutrition meal survey and they received 20.

**10) Tonya Albers, RPMS Site Manager:**

Tonya is present to review her report in Yreka.

Troy Hockaday moved and Kristen King seconded to approve Tonya's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Cindy is present in Yreka to review her report. She updated that a referral clerk was hired and as far as thermostats go that Ray-Mac will be back on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

Report provided, not present.

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

Troy took a minute to update the audience on dam removal and displayed a piece of rock that he brought back. He was out in the area for a week and he is excited for this opportunity. Troy noted that in the 70's he used to go up there when he was a kid; to see these dams be removed and restore the water flows is historic.

**Closed Session:**

Scott Quinn moved and Kristen King seconded to uphold PRC denial and deny PRC #365, 4 haa, 1 puuhara (Troy), 1 pupitihara (Liz).

Informational: Secretary/Treasurer requests a list of tracked waivers that the Council provides, timelines, reasons, etc. This will be referred to HR to develop a spreadsheet.

Scott Quinn moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to waive license requirement in current position, based on HHS CEO recommendation, for up to three months with review at the end of three months for employee #VS, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Liz/Arch absent for vote).

*Eli left the meeting at 12:06pm. Liz and Arch returned.*

Informational: Council Member Hockaday advised that staff is getting outside their scope of work. CHR's are to do their jobs as employed and items of a volunteer nature can be done outside of that scope of work. Chairman will add this item to the PHN and follow up will be at the end of February to ensure items are back on track.

Arch Super moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve a VISA for Cecilli Gonzalez for \$2,500, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Health financial report was provided to the Health Board. There was discussion on the budget not showing ‘projected revenue’ and that will now be added. Additionally, the Third Party seems to be being depleted.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve the HHS financial report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Controller requests clarification on PAN’s being processed. Policy was provided to understand that this will continue with the Chairman, Dir. Of Operations, Supervisor and HR. There is no change in policy, just a vacancy in the CFO position.

Troy Hockaday moved and Liz Bentley seconded to approve access to Laura Olivas of Laura Mayton’s Z-drive for audit preparations, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Executive Director noted the email string providing justification on why \$26,000 in OES funding was returned unspent. Council Member Hockaday again asked for grants management software or system to track grants.

Consensus: Controller LO will work December 12-13, 2023 from Yreka. Binx asked for employee to be available by phone.

Troy Hockaday moved and Kristen King seconded to approve agreement 24-A-017, 4 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Informational: Tribal Council discussed several items that they would like follow up on with RRC; Christmas decorations annually, fireworks for New Years, Phase II schedule of events, etc.

Employee Drawn: William Harrison, Jessica Camarena, Regis Jerry, Sharon Denz, Katelyn McIntyre, Tammy Parashis.

Informational: Council Member Arch Super asked for follow up on the PR position.

Informational: A follow up meeting with the ceremonial leaders was going to happen but has not been scheduled yet.

**Next Meeting: January 11, 2024 at 10am in Happy Camp.**

**Adjourned at 3:50pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Kenneth “Binx” Brink, Vice-Chairman**

**Recording Secretary, Barbara Snider**