

**Karuk Tribe – Health Board Meeting  
November 7, 2024 – Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Attebery.**

**Present:**

Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman  
Kenneth “Binx” Brink, Vice-Chairman  
Scott Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer  
Kristen King, Member at Large  
Arron “Troy” Hockaday, Member at Large  
Arch Super, Member at Large  
Eli Hensher-Aubrey, Member at Large

**Absent:**

Jennifer Goodwin, Member at Large

**Agenda:**

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve the agenda with changes, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**Consent Calendar:**

Arch Super moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve the consent calendar, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Troy Hockaday).

There was a lot of discussion on limits and using VISA’s appropriately.

**Meeting minutes of October 10, 2024:**

Arch Super moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve the meeting minutes, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Troy Hockaday).

**Guests:**

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

Jack is present to seek approval of modification (4) which is a no cost extension.

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve modification (4), 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Secondly, Scott used to sign the water rights. This requires a State Water Resources Control Board division of water rights. There used to be a Land Director who submitted this form and submitted data, and Jack is now asking that a Council Member sign the form.

Scott does not want to sign the form.

Troy Hockaday moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve the Karuk Tribe signing as owner and Executive Officers as agents, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Jack then commented that they will be building a fence at Klamath River Inn and he has procurement. It is a little over \$18k. Erin is requesting a budget modification to cover the cost of the fence.

Troy Hockaday moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve the fence project for Klamath River Inn, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**2) Erin Hillman, Director of Operations:**

Erin is present to introduce the Council to Jacob Lantz who is the new Administrative Assistant for the Tribe. He will be viewing the meeting today to become familiar with operations and how things are done.

Troy Hockaday moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve the newsletter and send to printing, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Jacob will be sending out the newsletter reminders for the next edition of the newsletter which will have a health focus.

**Old Business:**

Binx asked if flu shots are still being given at the clinics at this time. It has been requested to do a flu clinic for Yreka RRC. Cecelli volunteered to help out with that project.

Arch asked about the budget for the truck and the grant. Eli was curious about giving the \$40k back. The Council did not approve it, so it stayed as is. Merris commented that there was a mistake on the invoice in submitting the full reimbursement and she saw this as an opportunity to get things finished the way they wanted.

Eli apologized for not following up on this earlier but her justification was explained.

Troy asked about the elder's program update from the Tribal Council. It was budgeted and draft position descriptions were provided. Rondi commented that the program is going to be transferred in January. Troy commented that this is his last Health Board Meeting so he hopes to have the Elders positions that the Council identified, to be followed up on and finalized. That was identified as a need.

**Director Reports:**

**1) Ray Elliott, Director of Human Services:**

Ray is present in Yreka to review his report. Troy thanked Ray for putting on his list fentanyl outreach. Buster also thanked Ray because he continues to hear sad stories of the abuse of drugs.

Ray is hoping to have interviews next week because TERO was out this week. Kristen thanked Ray for putting on the beading event in Orleans. He offered to do more outreach to the communities.

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

**2) Merris Obie, CWS Administrator:**

Merris is present to review her report. She also interfaces with services with Cecelli and Ray's groups, being a stakeholder in services. The BIA FASSIR report was required to be finished and it was completed on time.

Merris updated on financial reports of the Tribe as well as ongoing operations of the ICW department.

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

**3) Cecelli Gonzalez, PHN:**

Cecelli is present in Yreka to review her report. She updated that the CHR's are out and seeing clients who receive at minimum a phone call. Cecelli provided an update on elder service and on diabetic education outreach. Anytime there are reports, if the person reports it directly or refers the clients, that is important. The staff will follow up.

Arch Super moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Cecelli's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Dr. Lew is not present. Nikki is present to provide an update. She commented that she is seeking some positions to be back filled but she is waiting on Orleans.

Nikki commented that there is new equipment needs for Orleans. The infrastructure is needed or chairs are needed. She needs to provide services in the area. She commented that she needs space to have equipment in Orleans.

Troy asked where the funding was going to come from to repair this.

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

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

Tonia is present in Orleans to review her report. She noted that there was not a provider for the month. October was breast cancer awareness month and they received outreach material.

Arch asked how the process is going with the Medical Assistant posting as well as the Receptionist.

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

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

Rondi is present to review her report. She announced that November 18, 2024 will be the first day for Senior Nutrition.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Rondi's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

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

Susanna is present to review her report. She is advertising for a referral clerk. She made up treat bags for Halloween for the kids. There was domestic violence month and cancer awareness month have completed outreach.

Troy thanked Susanna for all her work and assistance provided to the community of Happy Camp.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve Susanna's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Eli absent for vote).

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

Tonya is present in Yreka to review her report. It is showing 33% Native Americans seen. Arch asked what the analysis of visits being down this year from a few years ago. He asked what the reasons are for being down from year to year. She believes that it is due to being short-staffed, provider vacations or general illness. Dr. Vasquez is no longer seeing patients or minimal patients. With moving to e-clinical works this will help in serving patients.

Arch asked if there is a process in finding other providers that just want to be on-call or step in when needed. Rondi commented that no. Binx then asked if other clinics could provide services and access coverage services. Rondi noted that it is a possibility but they would be required to be credentialed. Rondi did speak to Dr. Solus about coming on board possibly in the future. Binx asked if they could provide coverage. Eileen commented that there are no providers in the area and they could be onsite but they are required to be credentialed.

Arch Super moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Tonya's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Troy absent for vote).

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

Cindy is not present, report provided.

Scott Quinn moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve Cindy's report, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Troy absent for vote).

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

Dr. Vasquez is not present, report provided.

Binx Brink moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve Dr. Vasquez's report, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**11) Jodi Henderson, HRSA:**

Jodi is present to review her report. She noted that the certificates from FTCA and AAAHC have been received. AAAHC is now requiring a risk assessment survey of all employees and they will address findings today.

They are working on the HRSA grant. Robert, Emma Lee, Erin and Tamara are assisting on the grant for HRSA. Next week, they hope to seek approval. It is a continuation grant but is required to be applied for every three years. Robert has really stepped up and everything she asks he steps up.

Melonie will be starting in Yreka this month. There was an interview that need follow up in closed session.

The HC Administration building is coming along nicely. She is very excited for the view from the facility. Arch asked how the status for the HRSA Coordinator has gone. Robert is helping Jodi tremendously.

Troy thanked Jodi for her work and for everything she does for the community and efforts.

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

Eli Hensher-Aubrey moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve agreement 24-A-015, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve requests from Charles Houston and Jesse Goodwin Jr., to obtain logs for ceremonial revitalization activity, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

**Closed Session:**

Informational: Request for waiver in hiring policy for Yreka Senior Center.

Informational: PAN's shall contain a report from the HR and Supervisor regarding years of employment, pay increase history, and other relevant information before a decision is made.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve pay increase for employee #BC, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Troy Hockaday moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve pay increase for employee #CE, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Troy Hockaday moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve pay increase for employee #BR, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara (Binx chairing).

Troy Hockaday moved and Kristen King seconded to approve pay increase for employee #VM, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Arch Super moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve pay increase for employee #AS, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Tribal Council asked to have revenue report generated by provider, but BOM has noted that that is not possible with the current system. There is also concerns on billing revenue with locums. That is under review and the billing office may find a solution.

Informational: Discussion on dental billing revenue updated that the reason was due to auditing and audits by medical are done and it takes years to reconcile and once they do and funding is required to be returned it is. Staff was also out in that department for a period, which attributed to the decline in revenue. The anticipation is that all billing will go back to stable.

Troy Hockaday moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve agreement 25-A-009, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Review of agreements and contracts has not included the Tribes attorney. The Tribe has a final say for stopping work during fire activity. If you waive sovereign immunity, then have a stop work clause. Contractor cannot say that it is paid stoppage but language has to be included in these types of contracts and agreements moving forward.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve agreement 25-A-014 with change, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Tribal Descendant #AW was present to discuss follow up on TANF assistance. There seems to be policies put in place that don't serve families and if nothing can be done then that is ok but better supportive services or support for families would be appreciated.

Scott Quinn moved and Eli Hensher-Aubrey seconded to approve out of state travel for Chairman Attebery to Mara logo FL next week, \$5,000 in discretionary each, 5 haa, 0 puuhara, 1 pupitihara (Arch).

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve Ray to attend Maralago and allow tuxedo rental for Ray and Buster, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Binx Brink moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve two political dinners while at TBIC at \$1,000 each dinner, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Informational: Follow up from PRC Manager added that a monthly denial report is over 100 and is a vast amount of paper and the information the Council is requesting is a large volume. Suggestion is to conduct more outreach and provide an understanding of services provided; to see a consistent improvement in Karuk Members receiving access and services and/or show the Council the needs of the membership.

Informational: Requests for PAN for employee #EL and alternative working schedule will be discussed in-person.

Informational: The Election Committee will send the unofficial results to a few people to cover when the receptionist is out, to ensure that all offices receive consistent information.

Informational: Director of Transportation shall be asked to coordinate reports of broken-down vehicles on the Tribes property or near sensitive areas.

Binx Brink moved and Troy Hockaday seconded to approve closing offices 12/26-27, 4 haa, 1 puuhara (Arch), 1 pupitihara (Scott).

Informational: After screening, TERO's required participation in interviews should be updated in policy, removing it. Evaluate the option of attending screenings and then recording the interview should there be a need to record.

Eli Hensher-Aubrey moved and Scott Quinn seconded to approve denying hire waiver and follow policy, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Scott Quinn moved and Binx Brink seconded to approve the Benter Allotment letter, 6 haa, 0 puuhara, 0 pupitihara.

Consensus: to send letter regarding Slater Fire response.

Employees Drawn: Diane Felicicchia, Olivia Rose Williams

Informational: Concerns are still occurring regarding consistency in program operations. Extended training plan shall be enacted for program director.

**Next Meeting:** December 5, 2024 at 10am in Happy Camp.

**Adjourned at 6:10pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Russell Attebery, Chairman**

**Recording Secretary, Barbara Snider**