

# *United Tribes of Michigan*

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*Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director*

## **RESOLUTION # 031 02-26-2014**

### **United Tribes of Michigan Seeks More Equitable SAMHSA Funding**

**WHEREAS**, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and

**WHEREAS**, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan American Indians as a population, have high rates of binge and heavy drinking, and start using alcohol and marijuana at an earlier age than other Michigan citizens and are also less likely to have private health insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, UTM has determined that the health issues unique to the American Indian population, including access to adequate health care services, must be addressed and corrected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Community Health receives Block Grant Funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to address substance abuse and mental health issues experienced by Michigan citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Community Health Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Block Grant plans do not address the unique concerns and needs of the American Indians citizens in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, UTM supports the development of a comprehensive recovery oriented system that would provide healing and recovery from substance abuse and mental health problems; and

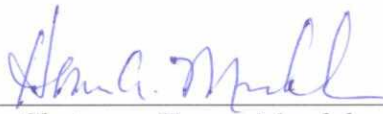
**WHEREAS**, UTM believes that the federal government's unique obligation to correct the disparities in health care and provide access to health care that will address and improve the health of American Indians will be achieved more effectively and

efficiently if SAMHSA Block Grant Funds are awarded directly to federally recognized Indian Tribes.

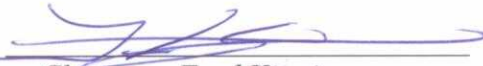
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the United Tribes of Michigan requests that the SAMHSA develop a method, via tribal consultation, for providing direct SAMHSA block grant funding to Michigan federally recognized Indian Tribes on or before 2014.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that United Tribes of Michigan requests that the Michigan Department of Community Health establish policies and procedures for tribal consultation for Michigan Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant plans and that such tribal consultation policies and procedures be included in the block grant applications prior to submission of the new plans due in 2014.

*Adopted by a vote of   6   in favor,   0   against,   0   abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on February 26, 2014, in Lansing, MI.*



Chairman Homer Mandoka  
UTM President



Chairman Fred Kiogima  
UTM Secretary