



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Whiteriver Service Unit to Conduct Proposed Study of Using Cardiac Ultrasound for Surveillance for Structural Heart Disease Among the Tribe's Members)

- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe, in conjunction with the Whiteriver Service Unit, has worked to raise the level of health of all residents of the Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** The Council supports the continued progress and positive outcomes from clinical activities, disease surveillance, and research projects by the Indian Health Service that have attributed to medical science and the development of preventions and interventions which seek to decrease or alleviate certain health problems; and
- WHEREAS,** Native Americans, including members of the Tribe, are disparately impacted by conditions (diabetes, hypertension) that lead high rates of cardiovascular disease, including structural heart disease (“SHD”); and
- WHEREAS,** Native Americans, including WMAT members, are disparately impacted by Group A Streptococcal infections, and there remains a concern that post-infectious sequelae in this population has led to undetected SHD; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal members, have experienced some of the highest rates of infections of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, and growing evidence suggests COVID-19 causes inflammation of the heart (“myocarditis”). It remains unclear what the long-term consequences are for survivors, including SHD; and
- WHEREAS,** Access to echocardiography, or cardiac ultrasound, is limited in rural settings like the Whiteriver Service Unit; and
- WHEREAS,** Increased access to cardiac ultrasounds would improve surveillance and detection of the above conditions and improve referral to care, including cardiology, and decrease morbidity and mortality related to those conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** The Whiteriver Service Unit of the Indian Health Service, this day, proposes to the Council that it be authorized to conduct a study on emerging technology for cardiac ultrasound for surveillance for structural heart disease among Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, The Council finds authorizing the proposed study will increase access to ultrasound technology and contribute to improved health outcomes for members of the Tribe.

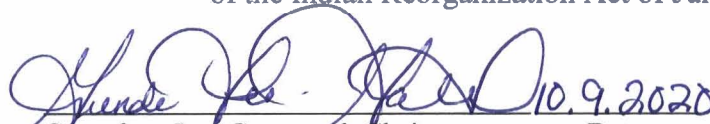
BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the Whiteriver Service Unit to conduct the proposed study of emerging technology for cardiac ultrasound for surveillance for structural heart disease among Tribal members, as described herein.

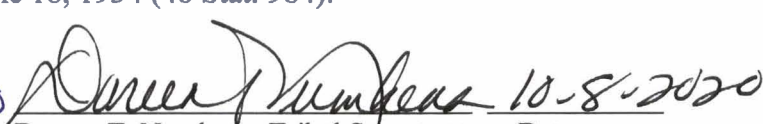
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **OCTOBER 7, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ZERO** against, and **ZERO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 10.9.2020
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date

 10-8-2020
Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date