



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Initiation of Project SafeSchools Sub-study, “Healing Spirits Program”)

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 to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution”; and

WHEREAS, By Resolution No.12-2020-298, the Council approved implementation of the Project SafeSchools study, in response to the novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) worldwide pandemic and as a means to safely reopening schools to in-person learning on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, Project SafeSchools has been effective in assisting with the transition of students and school staff returning to in-person learning, and has revealed elevated mental health challenges due to ongoing stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Additional funding has been provided to understand and support the impact of COVID-19 on the mental well-being of students, parents/caregivers, and schools personnel due to the lack of in-person social interactions; and

WHEREAS, Thus, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health, this day, requests to initiate a sub-study entitled “Healing Spirits Program (HSP)” to support families within the community; and

WHEREAS, The HSP’s aims will include the following activities:

- 1) Adapting a safety planning intervention to address promotion of coping skills among caregivers and students with elevated symptoms of mental health distress;
- 2) Developing a series of culturally responsive and trauma-informed text message scripts and postcards with messages of care, support, and community support connection;
- 3) Utilizing the Project SafeSchools safety response protocol to identify and recruit caregiver and student participants who had high risk alerts on mental health assessments;
- 4) Delivering the coping plan intervention to all Healing Spirit Program pilot participants;

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- 5) Delivering the caring messages over the course of three months to those enrolled in this part of the study;
- 6) Conduct pre and post-intervention assessments to track response to the interventions; and
- 7) Provide other implementation support as needed; and

WHEREAS, HSP will recruit participants from those who are already enrolled in Project SafeSchools and who have elevated symptoms of mental distress to support and address these challenges of mental health stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that authorizing the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health to initiate the Healing Spirits Program, as a sub-study of the Project SafeSchools study will help at-risk youth and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

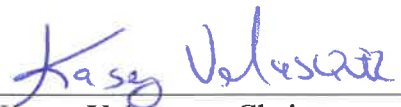
BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health to initiating the Healing Spirits Program, a sub-study of the original Project SafeSchools study to support and address the challenges of mental health stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic for families in the community.

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 Chairman, or in his 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 AUGUST 3, 2022 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for, ZERO against, and TWO 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 November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 8.5.22
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman Date
White Mountain Apache Tribe

 8/8/22
Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Secretary Date