

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Recommending Full Replacement and Tribal Inclusion in the Indian Health Service's Health Information Technology Modernization

Resolution No. 21-09

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee (Creek), representing more than 780,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) is currently conducting a project to modernize its use of electronic health records (EHR), which are currently managed through the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS); and

WHEREAS, Tribes have either already chosen to move away from RPMS to better serve their patients and their health care delivery systems, or are currently evaluating options for choosing a new Health IT system; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have invested considerable resources, in both dollars and workforce, towards these replacements and upgrades or in planning and preparation for replacement, but Tribes have not received any of the new funds appropriated by Congress to assist development of Health IT systems in Indian Country, nor have they been allowed to provide meaningful input in the use of these funds; and

WHEREAS, effective modernization of EHR for Indian health care must include federal, Tribal and urban Indian health systems, with sufficient support for all of these systems to receive user input on design and project management, governance, train staff, purchase hardware, and test and implement in the field.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes recommends selection of Option 4 - Full Replacement from the Analysis of Alternatives document for modernization of the Indian Health Service Health Information Technology as well as continued maintenance of RPMS until such replacement is completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes requests that all funds appropriated for Health IT modernization, now and in the future, be made available as Tribal shares so that Tribal health programs may exercise their inherent right to self-govern by targeting those resources to Tribal needs. The IHS's cost recovery fees should not exceed the allocable shares.



Chuck Hoskin Jr
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes requests that IHS immediately release an estimated project funding plan to Tribes that describes how the IHS will include direct service, contracting, and compacted Tribal programs in the distribution of IT funds, and the IHS should provide all information that Tribes need for planning purposes and cost estimation of Health IT modernization.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 9th day of April, 2021, by a vote of 18 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation



Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



David Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation