

IHS TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education

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Sent electronically to: denise.turk@ihs.gov
Jennifer.Cooper@ihs.gov

August 20, 2018

RADM Michael D. Weahkee
Acting Director
Indian Health Service
Mail Stop: 08E37A
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Ms. Jennifer Cooper, Director
Office of Tribal Self-Governance
Indian Health Service
Mail Stop 08E05C
5600 Fishers Lane, Parklawn Building
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Support of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board's ("Board") Efforts to Assume Management of Sioux San Hospital

Dear RADM Weahkee and Ms. Cooper:

On behalf of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee ("TSGAC"), which represents more than 360 Tribal Governments, I am writing you today to voice support of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board's ("Board") efforts to assume management of Sioux San hospital. The TSGAC was briefed on this issue during our recent July 2018 quarterly meeting and had a chance to review the June 7, 2018 letter that was sent to you from the Board.

As you know, the Sioux San hospital has faced significant challenges delivering quality health care in recent years. In July 2017, IHS gave notice to Congress that it intends to permanently close the inpatient and emergency departments of the Sioux San Hospital—a change the Tribes have objected. This history of poor care and concerns about the future of the Sioux San Hospital motivated the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to come together to consider various options to improve the health care programs that serve their communities. After many months discussing and deliberating options, each of the Tribes passed a resolution stating that their preferred option is for the Board to assume the management of the Sioux San Hospital under Title V of the ISDEAA. The Tribes are confident that significant improvements will result under a self-managed system.

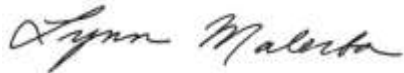
Indian Health Service states on its website that participation in Self-Governance affords Tribes the most flexibility to manage health care programs and tailor health care services to the needs of their communities. I request that IHS consider the importance of this flexibility as you work with the Board to identify options that will facilitate and not hinder the Board's efforts to enter into a Title V Compact—the approach determined by these Tribes as the best option for meeting the needs of their communities. Title V specifically calls upon the Secretary to facilitate the inclusion of PSFAs into self-governance and facilitate the achievement of Tribal health goals and objectives.

TSGAC Letter to IHS Acting Director and OTSG Director
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Thank you for supporting and advancing Self-Governance. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact me at lmalerba@moheganmail.com.

Sincerely,



Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut
Chairwoman, IHS TSGAC

cc: Jerilyn Church, MWS, Chief Executive Officer, GPTCHB
TSGAC Members and Technical Workgroup