



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

Resolution: March-9-2024-Resolution #01-2024 (Las Vegas, NV)

Resolution of COLT support regarding mental and behavioral health challenges and opportunities (Resources, Traditional / Cultural Healing, Complementary Western Modalities)

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Nation; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting Tribes that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners; and

WHEREAS, indigenous communities have been subjected to trauma at every scale and dimension imaginable – individual, collective, historical, intergenerational, and more – with physical, mental, spiritual and systemic violence intending to destroy them as tribal nations and individuals through centuries of federal policies (e.g., colonialism, assimilation, boarding schools, etc.) intending to take away their beliefs, culture, and relationships with the natural world; and

WHEREAS, adequate mental and behavioral health services are not available in tribal communities and when such services are available, they often do not recognize cultural knowledge and practices; as a result, current mental health services remain ineffective in reaching Indigenous people to resolve their individual and collective trauma; and

WHEREAS, the unique trauma history indigenous people have experienced requires a unique approach to psychoeducation that is adequate to this context; for instance, indigenous peoples have, despite their cultural practices being criminalized, maintained their cultural knowledge and practices as an integral part of their survival, resilience, and ways of being in the world; and



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WHEREAS, indigenous cultural knowledge and practices should be made available for trauma healing and mental health services should be indigenous lead, with peer learning and support spaces, and be provided with tailored training for practitioners and communities; and

WHEREAS, health care and mental health resources lie in the existing systems, and safe and respectful integration must include changes in recognition of traditional actors and practices, licensing and resource distribution, and the indigenization of existing therapy models; further, there are opportunities to integrate Western and indigenous ways of understanding (i.e., the neuroscience of stress and trauma) to develop psychoeducational content that is culturally relevant and to support experiential group work with Indigenous mental health and psychosocial support practitioners together with traditional knowledge keepers and practitioners; and

WHEREAS, Arrow Creek Wellness Foundation (ACWF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides trauma-informed education, workshops, and culturally resonant offerings to Indigenous communities needing access to healing modalities as a direct result of the devastating effects of colonization and the intergenerational and developmental trauma that continues to persist; and ACWF aims to address the significant disparities in the health and well-being of Indigenous people by helping develop sustainable mental and behavioral health support in Indigenous communities in a way that respects Indigenous knowledge and culture; and

WHEREAS, staff members at both ACWF and its partner, Think Peace (another nonprofit), have training and experience in delivering neuroscience-based psychoeducation in a range of contexts, especially with communities impacted by trauma; and ACWF and Think Peace seek to develop and integrate an indigenous-centered approach to psychoeducation and mental health support that seek funding to support projects with knowledge keepers and their communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Coalition of Large Tribes endorses the efforts of Del Laverdure and Arrow Creek Wellness, together with Think Peace Hub, in spearheading creation of community projects that connect indigenous mental health and psychosocial support practitioners with cultural knowledge keepers and traditional healers to develop together programs that respond to tribal peoples' healing needs; and



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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Coalition of Large Tribes encourages efforts that are indigenous led and owned, that ensure that indigenous cultural knowledge and practices are being preserved and shared in ways that honor ancestral wisdom, and that seek collaborative ways to advance the healing and wellbeing of indigenous peoples by inviting indigenous enterprises, governmental entities, and private foundations to contribute to these efforts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of COLT until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

Attest:

Marvin Weatherwax, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

Crystalyne Curley, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held in Las Vegas, Nevada within the home state of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation on March 9, 2024 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this March 9, 2024.