

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE  
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

- WHEREAS**, members of the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe are duly elected representatives of the people of their respective districts; and, among the many issues of concern to the Council are the health and well-being of its Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, as stated in Tribal Council Resolution No. 08-2000-247, has elected to partner with the Johns Hopkins University to establish Native American Research Centers of Health (NARCH) to combat Tribally-determined priority health issues through sound research methods; and
- WHEREAS**, working together as partners, various representatives of the Tribe, including public servants, tribal officials, government workers, individual Tribal members, and the Johns Hopkins University have agreed that, under the overarching "Family Strengthening" theme of the grant proposal, Mental Health is one of four priority research components; and that, specifically, depression among pregnant teens and teen mothers is of increasing concern; and
- WHEREAS**, during the 1990's, the rate of teenage pregnancy had declined throughout the U.S., but among White Mountain Apache teens no similar decline in teen pregnancy rates has occurred; instead, between 1/4 to 1/3 of all infants born on Apache Indian Reservation are born to teen mothers; and
- WHEREAS**, many pregnant teens and teen mothers experience problems and difficulties that are unique to them as teens such as needing to drop out of high school to care for their infants, needing financial support for the infants and themselves, being suddenly and unexpectedly placed in the unfamiliar setting of having to give careful attention to an infant human being, dealing with the stigma placed on them by society's negative perceptions of teen pregnancy and teen motherhood, having a sense of loneliness and abandonment, dealing with difficulties being experienced by the child's father who is most likely also a teen, and others; and, these difficulties often lead to depression or depressive symptoms; and
- WHEREAS**, depressed mothers are more likely to exhibit negative patterns of mother-child interaction and are at higher risk than older mothers to engage in child abuse and infanticide; and children of depressed mothers and/or mothers who fail to bond are more likely to experience more mental, emotional and behavioral disorders; and
- WHEREAS**, a primary aim of this proposal is to evaluate the effectiveness of a three-phase 10-week early intervention for reducing depressive symptoms and associated disability

among pregnant females 19 years of age and younger using a 2 (treatment condition) by 3 (assessment period) randomized controlled design; and

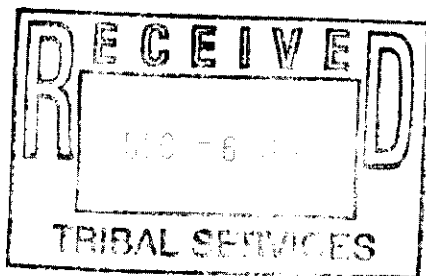
**WHEREAS,** Phase 1 will involve a 2-week initial assessment of depressive symptoms and disorders, with necessary referrals made to community providers for treatment; and those not needing referral will be randomized in Phase 2 to a 10-week comparison of a standard home-visiting program for pregnant teens (the SOS Program) or a home-visiting program plus the Depression Prevention Program (DPP); Phase 3 will involve a 6 month follow-up assessment of intervention gains; and

**WHEREAS,** other aims of the study will be to 1. Determine the severity of the problem of depression among pregnant adolescents, and this will help guide the development of appropriate services for them; 2. Document the number and nature of existing mental health services for treating depression in both the traditional Apache and Western-oriented settings and to follow-up on teens referred to these to gauge outcomes of their referral of depressive disorders and psychological interventions for the prevention of depression in vulnerable individuals; and

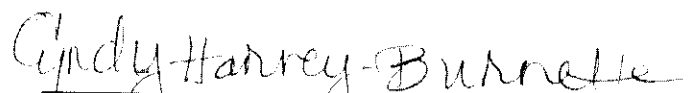
**WHEREAS,** preventing depression among pregnant teens could have significant long-term benefits for their infants and future offspring.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it agrees and supports the concept that the Mental Health investigative theme is an appropriate and necessary component of the overarching "Family Strengthening" theme of the grant proposal and that preventing depression in a proposed program outlined above could have significant long-term benefits for teen mothers, their infants, future offspring, and for their young families.

The foregoing resolution was on November 27, 2000 duly adopted by a vote of SIX for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (j), (k), (s), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



  
Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
Secretary of the Tribal Council