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**GPTCHB Receives \$1,800,000 Bush Funding
To Develop a Tribal Medical Center Management Model**

Rapid City, SD, August 27, 2018 – Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board (GPTCHB) was granted 1.8 million dollars by the Bush Foundation to plan and develop a tribal medical center management model under the authority of P.L. 93-638 the Indian Self Determination Act (ISDEAA). The project, which will also document the process for Tribal assumption, will be layered as an add-on to the Health Board’s current plan to assume the Indian Health Service (IHS) management structure of the Rapid City Service Unit (Sioux San). This model will be designed such that other Tribes within the Great Plains Area will have a template to help guide them through their own Self Governance journey under ISDEAA.

Jerilyn Church, GPTCHB CEO, applauded the Bush Foundation for their willingness to invest in capacity building for Tribes under their Native Nations Building philanthropy program. “I was surprised to learn that no such template existed when we made our decision to exercise our rights under ISDEAA. Many of our Tribes don’t have access to the kind of expertise you need to understand the complicated ISDEAA process and build a sustainable health delivery system. Providing a proven model with options will allow more Tribes to explore their Self Governance and Self Determination rights, bringing them closer to achieving better health care delivery and outcomes for their communities. This has been our dream for our people for years”

Inspired by the success of Self Governance in Alaska and other IHS Service Areas, GPTCHB agreed to pursue Title V authority on behalf of Cheyenne River, Oglala, and Rosebud Sioux Tribes last April and submitted its letter of intent to the Indian Health Service to develop a tribal system of care as it assumes management of the Rapid City Service Unit (Sioux San) and the construction contract for the new health facility funded by Congress.. Tribal representatives to the Unified Health Board and appointed community members who are users of the Sioux San comprise the new **Mni Luzahan Wicozani Advisory Committee** which guides GPTCHB in its planning and development of the new health system and facility.

Additionally, GPTCHB will continue activities to pursue tribal management of Great Plains Area Indian Health Service area office functions on behalf of Great Plains Tribes that have authorized GPTCHB to negotiate the assumption of these functions on their behalf. “Self-Governance exploration and planning in the Great Plains is motivated by recent direct service failures of the IHS, but is largely inspired by the success of Self Governance in Alaska, and other areas” states Ryman LeBeau, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council Representative and Chair of the Mni Luzahan Advisory Committee. The GPTCHB also will be working closely with other tribes in the Great Plains Area that have successfully assumed outpatient clinics from IHS and with the Winnebago

Cheyenne River
Sioux Tribe

Crow Creek
Sioux Tribe

Flandreau Santee
Sioux Tribe

Lower Brule
Sioux Tribe

Mandan, Hidatsa
& Arikara Nation
(Three Affiliated
Tribes)

Oglala Sioux Tribe

Omaha Tribe
of Nebraska

Ponca Tribe
of Nebraska

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Sac & Fox Tribe of the
Mississippi Indians in
Iowa/Meskaki
Nation

Santee Sioux Tribe
of Nebraska

Sisseton-Wahpeton
Oyate of the Lake
Traverse Reservation

Spirit Lake Tribe

Standing Rock
Sioux Tribe

Trenton Indian
Service Area

Turtle Mountain
Band of Chippewa
Indians

Winnebago Tribe
of Nebraska

Yankton Sioux Tribe

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Tribe of Nebraska, which took over operation of the Twelve Clans Unity Hospital (formerly Omaha Winnebago Hospital) and other programs that were operated by IHS until July 1.

GPTCHB has contracted with Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP of Alaska, to lead the negotiations. The firm is nationally recognized for its representation of Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the area of contracting and self-governance compacting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. § 450 et seq. (“ISDA”). Additionally, GPTCHB secured the expertise of Carolyn Crowder, President of Crown Consulting of Wasilla, AK, to guide GPTCHB’s effort to create an integrated tribal health system that will foster sustainable performance and outcomes.

“The Bush Foundation recognizes the historical significance of the three tribe’s pursuit of self-governance. The process of creating a more optimally Native designed health system to better serve the people is a tremendous occasion which can help to inspire and equip tribal self-determination in the region.” says Native Nation Building and Government Redesign Portfolio Director, Eileen Briggs.

Founded in 1986, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board serves as an advocate and liaison to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) entities, including the Indian Health Service, and state and local partners on behalf of its 17 member tribes and the Trenton Service Area in the Great Plains states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

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