



OCT 04 2018

Billings Area
Indian Health Service
2900 4th Avenue North
P.O. Box 36600
Billings, MT 59107

Our Reference: OAD

Mr. Aaron Wernham, Chief Executive Officer
Montana Health Care Foundation
777 East Main Street, Suite 206
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Dear Mr. Wernham:

The Billings Area Indian Health Service (IHS) recognizes the importance of Mountain-Pacific Quality Health's proposal for Implementing Trauma-Informed Care and Approaches for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations in Montana. The IHS has a long-standing relationship with Mountain-Pacific through collaboration on data analysis and the Partnership to Advance Tribal Health Project. We are confident that continuing this relationship to implement trauma-informed care and build resiliency will be beneficial for all our healthcare organizations.

As a recognized leader in driving improvements in health care quality, Mountain-Pacific is ready to assist with transforming healthcare systems in Montana to a trauma-informed culture that recognizes the unique needs of our AI/AN populations, while providing the same level of quality care afforded to all Americans. Trauma is a dominant health problem on Montana's reservations. The National Native Children's Trauma Center (NNCTC) research suggests Native American youth are at an increased risk of trauma, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of grief and exposure to violence. The NNCTC recent assessment of Indian health organizations in Montana produced 55 recommendations to address trauma in our communities. We are eager to put those recommendations to work.

We look forward to a meaningful and productive relationship with Mountain-Pacific to collaborate around bringing cultural healing to our communities to treat trauma and build resiliency, so we can reduce the social determinants of health. The proposed partnership aims to standardize trauma-informed policies and procedures for sustained momentum; teach clinical and non-clinical staff the impact and systems of trauma, so they can respond appropriately; and renew trust in the power of our cultural healing methods to recover from trauma.

Other Tribal organizations, Tribal communities and organizations working with Tribal communities may also seek support for this grant, so you will understand the IHS cannot endorse this grant over others.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Dupree
Area Director
Billings Area Indian Health Service