

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
of the 24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL — First Year, 2019**

**AN ACTION**

**RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE,  
APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RESEARCH REVIEW  
BOARD**

**BE IT ENACTED:**

**SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is empowered "[t]o establish Navajo Nation policy, promulgate rules, and regulations governing health, social services, education, human services, and general government services of the Navajo Nation and its tribal organizations, entities, and enterprises." 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(1).
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is empowered to ensure compliance and implementation of laws and policies of the Navajo Nation relating to health, social services, education, general government services and human services. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(1).

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- A. The Navajo Nation Human Research Code establishes the policies and procedures for investigations, physicians, researchers, and other individuals performing research activities on living human subjects within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation.
- B. The Navajo Nation Human Research Code, codified at 13 N.N.C. § 3251, *et seq.*, (the "Research Code") created the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board (the "Board"). The Board is comprised of 15 appointed individuals, whose powers and purposes including reviewing and approving research and overseeing and assuring that research and publication activities are consistent with the health and educational goals and objectives of the Navajo Nation.
- C. The Research Code provides that the Health, Education and Human Services Committee ("HEHSC") shall appoint 6 members to the Board. 13 N.N.C. § 3257.

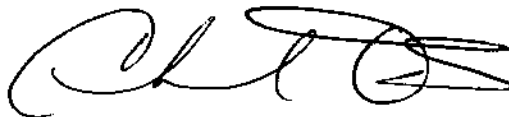
- D. The HEHSC recognizes that the Board is an administrative body established to protect the rights and welfare of Navajo research subjects, and must remain free of political influences and matters related to policy-making. Therefore, appointments made to the Board by HEHSC shall not include Navajo Nation elected officials. 13 N.N.C. § 3257.
- E. In its consideration of appointments to the Board, HEHSC may receive recommendations from Dine' Education, schools and school board organizations.
- F. The HEHSC received letters of interest along with resumes and curriculum vitae from four individuals: Dr. Kalvin G. White, Dr. Rebecca Izzo Manymules, Dr. David H. Begay, and Beverly Becenti-Pigman. Their letters of interest are attached as **Exhibit A**.

### **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

The HEHSC appoints the following individuals to serve on the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board: Dr. Kalvin G. White, Dr. Rebecca Izzo Manymules, Dr. David H. Begay, and Beverly Becenti-Pigman. The term of appointments shall be in accordance with the Navajo Nation Human Research.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the following resolution was duly considered by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, (Navajo Nation) Arizona, at which quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019.



Charlaine Tso, Vice-Chairperson  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee  
Of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka  
Second: Honorable Pernell Halona



March 07, 2019

Health Education and Human Services Committee  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Honorable Daniel Tso, Chairperson  
Honorable Charlain Tso, Vice Chairperson  
Honorable Nelson BeGaye, Member  
Honorable Paul Begay, Member  
Honorable Edison Wauneka, Member  
Honorable Pernell Halona, Member

Dear Honorable Chairperson,

This letter is to affirm my interest in continued membership on the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board (NNHRRB). Reasons for my interest in continuing on the Board include:

1. I have been a member of the Institutional Review Board since 1988 on the Navajo Area Indian Health Service Institutional Review Board as a community representative under the leadership of Dr. Douglas Peter, until the Navajo Nation P.L. 93-638 this program. At which time I was appointed by the Health and Social Services Committee of the Navajo Nation. I had advocated for this program to be place with the Navajo Nation, as I felt the Navajo Nation needed the project in order to have the Data/Statistics for our Legislators to have the data to Lobby for necessary funds. I was directed by the Health and Social Services Committee to work with the Department of Justice and Navajo Division of Health to develop the rules, regulations and Navajo Research Code and present to the Navajo Tribal Council. This 93-638 process was conducted under the former leadership of President Albert Hale. I am currently the Chairperson of the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board (NNHRRB). I have worked on the following Research Issues as follows:
  - a. I worked on the Genetic Research as directed by the Health and Social Services Committee to develop a resolution for Tribal Council action regarding placing a moratorium on Genetic Research, until such time the Navajo Nation developed rules, regulations and laws that pertain to Genetic Research. This was done with the Department of Justice and Navajo Division of Health. A resolution was developed and passed regarding Genetic Research. (see attached)
  - b. I worked on the Navajo Research Code with Division of Health and the Department of Justice and presented to the Navajo Nation Council with the assistance of Dr. Taylor McKenzie, Vice President of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Research Code was approved by the 88 Navajo Tribal Council.
  - c. I have worked to ensure Navajo Tradition and Culture are respected and incorporated into Health and Education research concepts. Advocated for prevention/intervention concepts and

ensure that research conducted on the Navajo Nation provide specific recommendations to improve the health and education of our Navajo People. Ensured that Principal Investigators Collaborate with Tribal programs and present the outcomes of research to the Navajo Nation Oversight Committee and the Director of Dine Education and the Division of Health, so Preventative research outcomes are implemented for prevention in our communities.

- d. Ensured that Navajo Communities where research is to be conducted, that there is community support and approval of the research protocol. Principal Investigators are to report back to the community, health boards, Chapters, Oversight Committees, IHS, Tribal Programs and participants.
- e. I have made sure the Protection of Human Subjects is a number one priority, confidentiality and respect, cultural sensitivity is part of the research protocols concepts and have ensured all data/statistics and equipment become the property of the Navajo Nation.
- f. Have requested Principal Investigators select and mentor a Navajo College Student as a Co-PI on research project so our Collect Students may be able to do research on the Navajo Nation. Made sure Researchers collaborate and develop partnerships in the interest of the Navajo Children and Families and work with Navajo Tribal Programs with specific recommendation on how the Navajo Nation can improve services to Navajo Children and Families. Ensure that Principal Investigators provide technical assistance to Chapters in writing grants to address and improve the education and health of Chapters to address the research protocol outcomes.
- g. Have continuously made sure the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board has stayed in compliance with the Federal Rules and Regulations of CFR 45-46 and remain in compliance with the Navajo Nation Federal Wide Assurance. In accordance to the Federal Regulations a community member must serve on the Institutional Review Board and I have been the community representative to the NNHRRB.

My priority is to ensure Navajo People are protected, respected, traditional culture and Navajo traditions are adhered too. I served on the NNHRRB as a volunteer and only receive mileage reimbursement from Navajo Department of Health. I made sure research conducted on the Navajo Nation benefits and protects the research participants and no harm will come to them as a result of research.

I have truly and sincerely enjoyed the responsibilities of research and respectfully request for your continued support of my serving as a representative of the Health Education and Human Services Committee. I love performing this responsibility and sincerely request to be Re-appointed to the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board (NNHRRB).

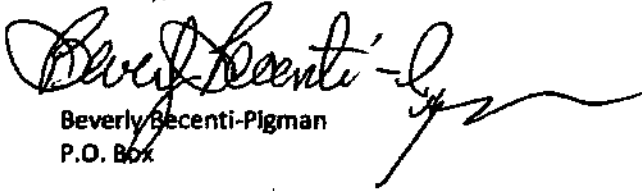
Health and Education related research issues have great impact for the Navajo Nation – and must be monitored closely. Continuity in membership is therefore important and to protect the Navajo Nation and its Families and Children.

As the Navajo Nation moves forward we have the opportunity to made great and progressive strides in developing prevention/intervention concepts to address the Health and Educational needs of the Navajo Nation.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Navajo People through my re-appointment as a member of the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board (NNHRRB).

It is always through K'e and love for the Navajo People I sincerely appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Becenti-Pigman", followed by a long, horizontal, wavy flourish.

Beverly Becenti-Pigman  
P.O. Box

JOHNS HOPKINS

Bloomberg School of Public Health

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

To: The Honorable Jonathan Hale, Chair  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee  
Navajo Nation  
Window Rock, AZ

**RE: The Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board**

Dear Honorable Jonathan Hale:

I am writing to recommend the reappointment of Ms. Beverly Becenti-Pigman as Chair of the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board (NNHRRB). Ms. Becenti-Pigman has been a devoted member of the NNHRRB since its inception. I have known Ms. Becenti-Pigman for 25 years, initially as a member of NNHRRB, and then as Chairwoman.

Ms. Becenti-Pigman was instrumental in developing the Navajo IRB process in consultation with the Judicial system on the Navajo reservation. She also presented the proposed Research Regulations to the 88-member Navajo Tribal Council several years ago. In many ways, she has played a key role in establishing Navajo Nation IRB as an independent functioning organization. She has worked tirelessly throughout her career to ensure the safety and well-being of the Navajo people. Due to her dedication and diligence, she has become a highly respected expert on ethical issues among American Indian populations. She goes above and beyond managing the large volume of research projects that are reviewed by the NNHRRB. Ms. Becenti-Pigman works tirelessly to review all study materials including protocols and consent forms. She is meticulous in making sure all materials meet FDA requirements, as well as Federal and Navajo Nation laws.

I recommend Ms. Becenti-Pigman with the utmost confidence. I am certain that she will continue to do an excellent job as the Chair of the NNHRRB.

Sincerely,



Mathuram Santosham, MD, MPH  
Johns Hopkins University  
Professor, Department on International Health and Pediatrics  
Director, Center for American Indian Health

January 17, 2019

Honorable Daniel Tso, Chair  
Navajo Nation Council  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee

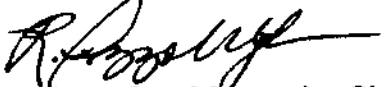
Dear Mr. Tso,

I am interested in continuing my membership with the Navajo Nation Institutional Review Board (NN-IRB). I have represented the field of Education. I was previously appointed by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

I believe I serve in the best interests of the Navajo people in protecting them from harmful research not reviewed or approved by Navajo Nation Institutional Review Board. All fields of human interests, such as health, education and environmental science need to be protected. Research in such fields need to conducted for the benefits of the Navajo people without harmful exposure or violations of confidentiality.

With my experience as a member of the Navajo Nation Institutional Review Board, I can assist in upholding the Navajo Nation Research Code and the bylaws of the Navajo Nation Institutional Review Board. I am hopeful the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council will approve my continuation of serving of the NN-IRB for another term. For any further clarifications or questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 870-2431. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Izzo-Manymules, PhD  
Member  
Navajo Nation Institutional Review Board

## **Letter of Interest**

**To: Health, Education, and Human Service  
Committee (HEHSC) of the Navajo Nation Council**

**From: Dr. David H. Begay, Sr., Member of NNHRRB**

**Subject: Letter of Interest**

**My appointment to the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board (NNHRRB) by HEHSC will be expiring in March 2019. I am interested in continuing with the NNHRRB and serving the Navajo people beyond March 2019.**

**My appointment and time spent on the board has been voluntarily without monetary compensation as a Scientific Educator. I am not working with the Navajo Nation.**

**I have enclosed my CV for your reference and information. Your consideration and appointment into the future will be appreciated. Thank you.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David H. Begay, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dr. David H. Begay, Sr.  
Associate Research Professor  
College of Pharmacy  
Community Environmental Health Program  
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM**



## DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION

THE NAVAJO NATION

P.O. Box 670 • Window Rock, Arizona 86515

PHONE: 928.871.7475 • FAX: 928.871.7474



Jonathan Nez  
President

Myron Lizer  
Vice-President

March 7, 2019

Honorable Daniel Tso, Chair  
Navajo Nation Council  
Health Education Human Services Committee

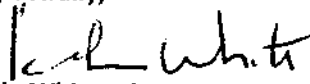
Honorable Daniel Tso,

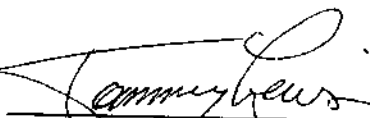
First, I appreciate your willingness to serve as an elected official to the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council. I appreciate the support from your family, relatives, and community to serve as our elected tribal leader. I commend you for your dedication to work for the Navajo people and the great Navajo Nation. Second, I appreciate your recent selection to Chair the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee. I strongly feel HEHSC has oversight of Navajo Nation departments that will improve the quality of life and education of our Navajo people. I look forward to working with you and the committee.

I'm writing to express my interest in renewing my appointment by HEHSC to the Navajo Nation Research Review Board (NNHRRB). My appointment by HEHSC from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council expires at the end of March 2019. The duration of my appointment is 2 years. According to the Navajo Nation Research Code HEHSC appoints 4 members to the NNHRRB. I'm one of four of these appointed individuals. My primary role on the NNHRRB to address research related to education and mental health. I have a doctorate in Counseling Psychology and I work for the Department of Dine Education. Education research proposal are becoming more frequent at the NNHRRB. I address these protocols in the best interest of students, teachers, administrators, and universities serving Navajo students. I support good quality research that will benefit Navajo education, wellness, and mental health. I would like to continue serving the Navajo Nation in this capacity as a member of the NNHRRB,

I've attached my resume for your review. My other colleagues that share my appointment are Dr. Rebecca Izzo-Manymules and Dr. David Begay. I'm sure they will be submitting as similar letter to renew their appointments as well. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

  
Calvin White, Ph.D.

  
Dr. Tommy Lewis, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting  
March 25, 2019

Roll Call  
Vote Tally Sheet

LEGISLATION NO. 0065-19

AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE;  
APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RESEARCH REVIEW BOARD

(Note: Eligible for Committee Action March 25, 2019)

Sponsor: Honorable Daniel E. Tso

March 25, 2019 - Main Motion

Motion by: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

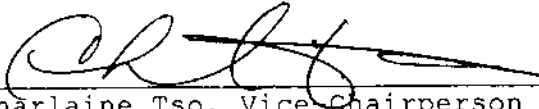
Seconded by: Honorable Pernell Halona

Vote: 3 in favor; 0 Opposed; Vice-Chairperson Not Voting

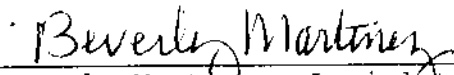
Yeas: Edison J. Wauneka; Pernell Halona; Daniel E. Tso

Nays: None

Absent (excused): Paul Begay, Jr.; Nelson S. BeGaye



Charlaine Tso, Vice Chairperson  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee



Beverly Martinez, Legislative Advisor  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee