

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

*A Resolution to Approve the Research Project Entitled "A Community-Driven Approach to Maternal Mental Health for Indigenous Women in the Nurse-Family Partnership Program within the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)" by Angie Trombley*

WHEREAS, the EBCI Medical Institutional Review Board (MIRB) has been assigned the responsibility of reviewing health-related research requests made to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, Angie Trombley has submitted a research proposal entitled "A Community-Driven Approach to Maternal Mental Health for Indigenous Women in the Nurse-Family Partnership Program within the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)" for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program is an evidence-based maternal and child health home visiting program serving pregnant women and their babies, which was started within the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the proposed research will be conducted in partnership with the EBCI NFP Program and seeks to better understand maternal mental and behavioral health experiences among mothers enrolled in the program, with the goal of improving culturally responsive mental health services and strengthening support systems for Indigenous families; and

WHEREAS, the research will utilize a mixed-methods evaluation approach, including voluntary interviews and/or focus groups with participating mothers, nurses, and PMHNP students and faculty; the use of standardized mental health screening tools such as depression, anxiety, substance use, and intimate partner violence assessments; program survey instruments; and analysis of Nurse-Family Partnership program data to evaluate maternal engagement and outcomes, with all activities conducted under approved informed consent and confidentiality protections; and

WHEREAS, this research is required as part of the grant awarded to EBCI to support participation in the Center for Indigenous Research Collaboration and Learning for Home Visiting (CIRCLE-HV) initiative, and fulfills the evaluation and research components associated with that funding; and

1 WHEREAS, the study will involve approximately 40 participants, including EBCI enrolled  
2 mothers in the EBCI NFP program, EBCI NFP nurses, and Psychiatric Mental  
3 Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) students and faculty from Western Carolina  
4 University, and has been determined to present no more than minimal risk to  
5 participants; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the research includes safeguards to ensure voluntary participation, informed  
8 consent, protection of privacy and confidentiality, crisis response protocols, and  
9 adherence to Tribal data sovereignty standards; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the MIRB has carefully reviewed the protocol and determined that it meets  
12 applicable ethical standards and federal regulations for the protection of human  
13 subjects; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Public Health and Human Services Division (PHHS) has  
16 reviewed the request and the MIRB's recommendations and has given approval;  
17 and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the researcher acknowledges that the EBCI has a non-exclusive license to all  
20 information obtained from this research. And all information obtained will be  
21 forwarded to the EBCI Secretary of PHHS for review and Angie Trombley, will  
22 not use this information in any manner not authorized or in violation of Tribal  
23 law.  
24

25 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of  
26 Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled in which a quorum is present, Angie  
27 Trombley, Assistant Professor-Director PMHNP DNP Program at Western  
28 Carolina University is hereby granted permission to carry out the above-named  
29 research project as described in her MIRB-approved proposal, carrying out all  
30 follow-up and reporting as required by the Medical Institutional Review Board.  
31

32 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are hereby  
33 rescinded, and that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by the  
34 Principal Chief.  
35

36 Submitted by: Sonya Wachacha, Secretary  
37 EBCI Public Health and Human Services Division  
38 on behalf of the EBCI Medical Institutional Review Board  
39  
40  
41  
42