

# First Alaskans Institute

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE  
2021 ANNUAL ELDERS AND YOUTH  
RESOLUTION 21-05

**TITLE:** Promoting Indigenous Mental Health

**WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

**WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native youth face one of the highest rates of suicide and have mental health disparities that need to be addressed urgently, and a substantial amount of Alaska Native youth in foster homes need access to these services which will also help supplement the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

**WHEREAS:** Culturally relevant and respectful programs are needed to address the unmet needs of at-risk Native youth, including addressing Native youth suicide prevention and intervention, and providing culturally appropriate resources and materials that address suicide, substance abuse prevention and promote mental health among youth; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** by the participants of the 2021 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that the Alaska Tribal Health System and all of its connected entities implement and create Indigenous themed telehealth programs for promoting and supporting the mental health of youth as well as increasing the number of tribal counselors in public schools, health consortiums, and for Native foster homes.

Submitted by: The Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission (Joseph Hilaire Jr, Tiadola Silva, Drew Jackson, Patrice DeAsis, Christianna Edwards, Sabena Allen, Alayna Duncan, Elizah Dominy, Marlis Boord, Sienna Reid, Sydney Guthrie)

**CONFERENCE ACTION:** PASSED ON OCT. 20, 2021