

## **Article 2. Health, Education and Human Services Committee**

### **§ 400. Establishment; Membership; Purpose**

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is hereby established as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
- B. The Committee shall consist of six members.
- C. The purposes of the Committee are:
  - 1. To promulgate regulations, promote accountability to policies, and provided legislative oversight on matter involving health, social service, education, general governmental services and human services.
  - 2. To oversee the education initiatives of the Navajo Nation by promoting academic excellence and culturally relevant education.
  - 3. To oversee Navajo Nation efforts in implementing and ensuring compliance with employment and labor laws and polices of the Navajo Nation and laws relating to veterans services.
  - 4. To oversee Navajo Nation policies and priorities to optimize the delivery of social services and health services to the Navajo people consistent with the traditional practices and customs of the Navajo people.

### **§ 401. Powers**

- A. The Committee shall have authority and such power necessary and proper to carry out the purposes set forth above.
- B. The Committee shall have the following enumerated powers:
  - 1. To establish Navajo Nation policy, promulgate rules and regulations governing health, social services, education, human services including employee housing and general government services of the Navajo Nation and its tribal organizations, entities, and enterprises.
  - 2. To ensure compliance and implementation of laws and policies of the Navajo Nation relating to health, social services, education , general governmental services and human services.

3. To recommend to the Navajo Nation Council legislation for the creation of colleges, or other entities of the Navajo Nation and to recommend the amendment or rescission of such legislation.
4. To grant final approval for:
  - a. Any programs offered on the Navajo Nation by off-Navajo Nation post-secondary institutions or any "nonresident" or home study post-secondary programs for which student recruitment activities are conducted on the Navajo Nation.
  - b. Approve, sanction and authorize application, reapplication, reauthorization and amendments for Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contracts and grants under the Tribally Controlled Schools Act for the operation of education programs, approval or denial of authorizations and reauthorizations shall constitute approval or denial by the Navajo Nation the Tribal Governing Body.
5. To delegate responsibilities and authorities as appropriate to the Divisions, Chapters and appropriate entities for efficiency and streamlining of government processes provided that the Committee first approves rules and regulations governing such delegations and rescission of such delegations.
6. To review and recommend:
  - a. Legislation relating to social services, health, environmental health, education veterans and veterans services, employment and labor.
  - b. Navajo Nation agreements and contracts negotiated with federal, state, regional, and tribal governments, private and Navajo Nation health and social services authorities, including environmental health, veterans services or education services subject to applicable laws or the Navajo Nation.
  - c. A Committee budget each fiscal year.
  - d. Applications and reauthorizations by Divisions and Programs under its legislative oversight for Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contracts and grants, except for those contacts under the Tribally Controlled School Act identified in Section 4(b) above.

- e. The authorization and designation of a for-profit or non-profit health or social service organization as a tribal or compacting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.
  - 7. To represent the Navajo Nation:
    - a. At local, state and federal levels, in coordination with the President of the Navajo Nation and the Naa'biik'iyáti' Committee on proposed legislation, funding and other actions affecting health, environmental health, social services, education, veterans services, employment, training and labor.
    - b. In consultation with federal, state and local officials regarding any proposed changes in federal education legislation or educational programs, including but not limited to new schools (including chapter schools), school closures, consolidation, and education budget initiatives. The Committee shall, where appropriate, seek concurrence of the Naa'biik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council or the Navajo nation Council in framing official responses for the Navajo Nation to proposals for major changes in education programs, such as proposals regarding majority school closures or transfer of jurisdiction.
  - 8. To recommend to the Navajo Nation Council the creation of any Division or Department intended to be under the Committee's oversight by adoption of its Plan of Operation; and to rescind that Plan of Operation or an existing Plan of Operation for any Division or Department under the Committee's oversight.
- D. Oversight
- 1. to serve as the oversight committee for the Division of Health, Division of Social Services, Division of Human Resources, Department of Diné Education, Division of General Services and to review, recommend or propose the adoption, amendment or rescission of its Plan of Operation.
  - 2. To oversee all health and social service related activities of the Navajo nation and its tribal organizations, enterprises, relating to the delivery of health, environmental health and social services including research, planning and prevention.

3. To serve as the oversight Committee of the Navajo Nation Board of Education, and colleges within the Navajo Nation.
4. To assist, support and coordinate with local communities, parent organizations and schools board and school board organizations.
5. To oversee and to propose the establishment of any employment training center or institution under the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation and to review, recommend or propose the adoption, amendment or rescission of its Plan of Operation.
6. To serve as the oversight authority for employment, labor, veterans services, training and vital statistics.

**§ 402. Advisors**

- A. The Department of Justice, Director of the Health and Social Services, Director of Human Resources, the Superintendent of Department of Diné Education, Navajo Area Director of Indian Health Services, Navajo Area Regional Director of Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Auditor General shall serve as official advisors to the Committee and shall provide appropriate advice and counsel on all matters.

**§ 403. Meeting**

All regular meeting of the Committee shall be held on Wednesday of each month.