

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN AIDS PREVENTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jimenez Steps Down as Executive Director of NNAAPC

Pierce-Hedge will become Interim Executive Director

August 13, 2008 – Denver, CO – The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) Board of Directors announced that Warren Jimenez (Chumash, Coastal Band) has resigned his position of Executive Director. Jimenez’s last date of employment will November 7, 2008.

“I have appreciated Warren’s leadership and vision he has brought to NNAAPC,” said Geoffrey Roth, Board President. “He was the right choice to lead NNAAPC during this critical time. On behalf of the Board, I want to wish him success in his future endeavors. He will be missed.”

Since Jimenez’s arrival, he has successfully lead the branding and marketing of NNAAPC’s services, built the internal infrastructure capacity of the organization and increased awareness about the issue of HIV in Native communities.

“After much consideration, I felt that it was best for me to step down as Executive Director and return to the Portland community that I have missed so much,” said Jimenez. “In Portland, I have accepted an opportunity to work for Mayor-Elect Sam Adams as his Deputy Chief of Staff. I would like to thank NNAAPC’s Board of Directors for their support of my decision. I have been honored to serve in this capacity.”

“Although I am resigning, I remain committed to NNAAPC’s mission,” continues Jimenez. “Over the next few months, I look forward to working with the Board of Directors to find a role that will allow me to continue to be involved with NNAAPC.”

Upon Jimenez’s departure, Dana Pierce-Hedge (Mohawk) will serve as Interim Executive Director. She will begin in October. Her priority will be to work with Jimenez to ensure the work continues.

Pierce-Hedge has her degree in Native American Law and Policy from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Most recently, she served as a National Accounts Manager for Gilead Sciences, Inc. Her past experience includes Branch Chief of HIV Care Branch and prior to that served as the Section Chief for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), Office of AIDS, for the Department of Health Services, State of California. Additionally, she has experience advocating for public health issues and being a liaison between Indian country, government and private agencies.

“With Dana’s experience and expertise, she is the perfect fit to ensure a smooth transition and to continue meeting NNAAPC’s mission,” said Roth.

“I am excited about the opportunity to assist in NNAAPC’s mission. I know the challenges we all face these days around HIV/AIDS issues and look forward to being part of the solutions,” said Pierce-Hedge.

About NNAAPC

The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), located in Denver, CO, is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through culturally appropriate advocacy, research, education, and policy development in support of healthy Indigenous people. NNAAPC provides capacity building assistance to tribal and urban health organizations and communities, community-based organizations serving Native people, and agencies that administer federal HIV/AIDS policy. Over the last 20 years, NNAAPC has conducted work in community mobilization, training and technical assistance in HIV/AIDS prevention, intervention and case management, communications and media development, outreach and recruitment, developing technologies with HIV applications, and forging a policy agenda that ensures the inclusion of Native people. NNAAPC is the only national HIV/AIDS-specific Native organization in the United States.

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