



HO-CHUNK NATION CODE (HCC)
TITLE 1 – ESTABLISHMENT ACTS
SECTION 15 – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

ENACTED BY LEGISLATURE: October 21st, 2009
(Effective Date: December 1, 2009)

CITE AS: 1 HCC § 15

This Act creates the Department of Social Services as a result of the Secretarial Election held on May 5, 2009 which mandated the separation of the Department of Health and Social Services into two Departments.

1. Authority.

a. Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution (“Constitution”) grants the Legislature the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes.

b. Article V, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to establish Executive Departments, and to delegate legislative powers to the Executive Branch to be administered by such Departments in accordance with the law; any Department established by the Legislature shall be administered by the Executive; the Legislature reserves the power to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power.

c. Article V, Section 2(c) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to constitute a Board of Directors for each Department, except the President shall name the Executive Director, subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

d. Article V, Section 2(d) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to authorize expenditures by law and appropriate funds to the various Departments in an annual budget.

e. Article V, Section 2(s) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to promote public health, education, charity, and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of the members of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

f. Article VI, Section 1(b) of the Constitution requires a Department of Social Services.

g. Article VI, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the President the power to administer all Departments, boards, and committees created by the Legislature.

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2. **Purpose.** The Legislature establishes and organizes the Department of Social Services as required by the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

3. **Mission.** The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Social Services shall work with families in a way that i) is characteristic of the Ho-Chunk Nation's inherent cultural traditions, customs, and values and ii) address the well-being and protection of Ho-Chunk children, families, communities, and the Nation.

4. **Functions.** The Department of Social Services shall:

a. Provide a high level of social well-being essential to the improvement of the quality of life within the Nation.

b. Make resources available for Tribal members to make decisions and choices affecting their present and future economic and social stability.

c. Promote family unity and well-being through protection of Ho-Chunk children, families, communities and the Nation.

d. Create innovative programs that are proactive in nature.

e. Provide for effective communication and dissemination of Tribal information to the Tribal population.

f. Collaborate with tribal, state and federal agencies.

5. **Internal Organization.**

a. The Department of Social Services shall consist of an Executive Director and such divisions, branches, and offices necessary for the execution of its mission, performance of its mandated functions, and to achieve its annual goals and objectives.

b. The Department shall employ staff professionals, support personnel, and/or contract with professional service firms as the Executive Director shall determine consistent with the Nation's Finance Manual, other laws of the Nation, and the Legislative approved budgetary authority.

c. The Department shall maintain a current Organizational Chart. The Organizational Chart shall accompany its annual budget submission and any budget modifications during the fiscal year in accordance with the Nation's Appropriations and Budget Process Act.

6. Executive Director and Board of Directors.

a. Executive Director.

(1) The Executive Director shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Legislature.

(2) The Executive Director shall be a full-time employee and paid compensation commensurate with his or her skills, education, experience, and responsibilities and within the standards of compensation established by the Legislature.

(3) The Executive Director shall be responsible for operating within the annually appropriated budget for the Department.

(4) The Executive Director shall serve as an ex officio member of the Department's Board of Directors.

b. Board of Directors. The President shall establish a Board of Directors for the Department of Social Services subject to confirmation by the Legislature pursuant to Section 1, subparagraph c.

(1) Role. The Board of Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Executive Director.

(a) The Board shall not be a policy making body.

(b) The Board shall be involved in the Department's social services planning.

(c) The Board shall be consulted during the development of the Department's annual goals and objectives required pursuant to the Appropriations and Budget Process Act.

(d) Whether a Director can be an immediate family member of a Legislator, the President, or the appointed staff of the President shall be controlled by the Open Meetings Act (2 HCC § 2).

(e) Director vacancies shall be posted pursuant to the requirements of the Legislative Organization Act (2 HCC § 13).

(2) Qualifications. Board of Directors shall have the requisite skills, knowledge, and education to provide professional and expert advice and recommendations to the Executive Director.

(3) Membership. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of five (5) members.

(a) A Director shall not be an employee of the Department of Social Services.

(b) A Director shall not be a member of more than two (2) department Boards of Directors.

(c) A Director shall not be appointed nor serve as a member of a subordinate advisory board within the Department of Social Services.

(4) Terms. Directors may serve up to two (2) consecutive terms. The terms shall be alternated so that two (2) Directors are appointed or re-appointed after the first year and every two (2) years thereafter and three (3) Directors are appointed/re-appointed in the alternate years.

(5) Compensation. Directors shall be compensated for attendance at Board Meetings at a rate established by the Legislature. A Director must be present for a majority of the Meeting to receive compensation.

(6) Board Meetings.

(a) The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year and for special meetings as required and subject to the Board's By-Laws.

(b) Board Meetings shall be subject to the Nation's Open Meetings Act.

(c) Quorum. Quorum for the Board of Directors shall be three (3) of the five (5) Directors. Quorum must be attained and maintained to conduct business and for Directors to be eligible for compensation.

(d) Minutes. The Board shall publish Meeting Minutes for each Board Meeting. Minutes shall be submitted to the Office of the President and the Legislature. A copy of the Meeting Minutes must be attached to compensation pay vouchers.

(7) Every twelve (12) months the Board shall elect a Chairperson.

(8) The Directors shall be subject to the Nation's law regarding nepotism and conflicts of interest.

(9) Within sixty (60) days of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Directors shall submit the By-Laws of the Board to the Legislature for approval.

7. Annual Report to the Nation. The Department of Social Services shall submit through the President to the Legislature a final written annual report within thirty (30) days of the end of each fiscal year. It will report on the activities of the Department, achievement of the goals and objectives for the previous fiscal year, and the impact, if any, of fiscal constraints on its current goals and objectives.

Legislative History:

- 03.14.95 Department of Social Services Establishment and Organization Act of 1995 (HCL 002-95) adopted by Legislature.
- 11.14.95 Department of Health Establishment and Organization Act of 1995 (HCL 006-95) adopted by Legislature.
- 02.16.99 Department of Veterans Affairs Establishment and Organization Act of 1999 adopted by Legislative Resolution 02/16/99B.
- 04.18.01 Department of Health and Social Services Establishment and Organization Act of 2001 enacted as 1 HCC § 5 by Legislative Resolution 04/18/01C.
- 06.26.01 Act amended effective July 1, 2001 by Legislative Resolution 06/26/01B to delete reference to the Department of Veterans Affairs Establishment and Organization Act enacted by Legislative Resolution 02/16/99B.
- 03.16.04 Amended and Restated by Legislative Resolution 03/16/04D reducing quorum for the Board of Directors from four (4) to three (3) and requiring Director vacancies to be posted in the Hocak Worak prior to filling.
- 10.21.08 Legislature places out proposed Amendments for forty-five day public comment solely surrounding issues of immediate family of Legislators, President, and Appointed Presidential Staff serving on the Board of Directors.
- 02.03.09 Resolution 02/03/09F Amends and Restates Act to allow immediate family members of Legislators, President, and Appointed Presidential Staff to serve on the Board of Directors.
- 06.20.09 Amendment III adopted by Secretarial Election on May 6, 2009 which separates the Department of Health and Social Services into the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services becomes effective thus implementing General Council Resolution.
- 08.06.09 Amendments to implement the separation of Health and Social Services into two different departments were introduced to the Administration Committee. Committee referred the Department of Social Services Establishment and Organization Act of 2009 to the full Legislature.
- 08.18.09 Legislature approves placing the Code out for forty-five day public comment period.
- 10.21.09 Legislature adopts the Social Services Establishment and Organization Act via Resolution 10/21/09B.
- 02.07.17 Legislature adopts Resolution 02.07.17W placing all Establishment and Organization Acts out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment.