



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

Tribal State Partnership
Meeting Minutes (Mt. Pleasant, MI)
July 29 & 30th, 2009



ISMAEL AHMED
DIRECTOR

Present: Ismael Ahmed (Director, DHS), Edward Woods III (Director, Communications, DHS), Luttrell Levingston (Director, Legal Division, DHS), Terry A. Salacina (Director, Field Operations, DHS), Melissa McGeshick (Lac Vieux Desert), Paul Buehler (Casey Family Programs), Christine McPherson (Casey Family Programs), Maribeth Preston (SCAO), Adrienne Brant James (CoC), Julie Beckett (Van Buren County IOS Supervisor), Greg Morsaw (Van Buren County IOW), Selene V. Wadhawan (Isabella County IOS Supervisor), Grace Boda (Kent County IOW), Tracey Deferyter (SagChips), Larry Boitnott (Mason/Oceana DHS County Director), Matthew Lesky (LTTB), Mark Stevens (Isabella/Midland County DHS Director), Barb Sharp (IOW, Luce County DHS), Kathy Langhalls (Chippewa County DHS Director), Denise Binger (DHS), Jami Moran (Sault Tribe), Denneen Smith, (Little Traverse Bay Band), Kathleen McKee (Pokagon), Carol Siemon (CWTI), Chris Durocher (CWTI), William Memberto (Little River Band), Jim Keedy (MILS), Margaret Olesnavage (DHS), Larry Boitnott (Mason County DHS Director), Tina Sills (CWTI), Bill Denemy (Emmet County DHS Director), Shirley Goudreau (Sault Tribe), Judith Heath (KBIC), Juanita Bye (Sault Tribe), Jodie Gravner (Saginaw Chippewa Tribe), Leslie Pigeon (MBPI), Sylvia Murray (Saginaw Chippewa Tribe), Kelly Walters (DHS), Zoe Lyons (DHS), John Evans (DHS), Suzanne Stiles-Burke (DHS), & Stacey M. Tadgerson (Director, Native American Affairs, DHS).

I Opening Prayer (Bill Denemy) & Smudging (Sylvia Murray & Melissa McGeshick)

II Welcome & Introductions

Bill & Shirley welcomed participants, called the meeting to order; and invited participants to introduce themselves via title and agency in a round-robin format.

III. Presentations

A. Concurrent Permanency Planning (Kelly Walters)

Kelly Walters provided an overview of the new DHS Concurrent Permanency Planning (CPP) policy that DHS is required to implement per the Children's Rights Settlement (beginning roll-out in Clinton & Gratiot counties in September); & potential implications for Tribes. Kelly provided two surveys for Tribal input and left a purple folder with Stacey for individuals to submit their comments & suggestions in (See PowerPoint Notes, Forms, & Surveys).

Action Items

- 1. Contact Kelly Walters of Zoe Lyons if you would like to be a Tribal Implementation Site or have further CPP questions, comments, or concerns.**
- 2. Stacey will send all survey results to Kelly Walters for review & compilation.**

B. Casey Family Programs (Paul Buehler & Christine McPherson)

Paul & Christine provided a packet of materials pertaining to the work they do & examples of current child welfare projects in Indian Country. Christine also provided an update on the MI ICPC Voluntary Adoptions' strategy session with the ICPC Secretariat indicating that NICWA, CWLA, NARF, Casey Family Programs, and other national organizations advocated on behalf of Michigan's policy to require notification for voluntary adoptions. From these sessions currently, the ICPC Secretariat has declined the AAAA request to create new policy around this issue.

Action Items

1. **Tribes may contact Paul Buehler or Christine McPherson to establish requests for assistance with Tribal State Partnership (TSP) projects or individual Tribal projects that reflect Casey's 2020 initiative to reduce foster care rates by 50%.**
2. **Stacey will be in touch with Paul & Christine for further DHS/Casey technical assistance pertaining to reducing disproportionate contact of American Indians in the child welfare system of the state of Michigan.**

C. Tribal Sovereignty (Tribal Representative)

This presentation was cancelled; to be rescheduled.

VI. Updates

A. Tribes

Time constraints - No reports.

B. Urban Indian Centers

Adrienne Brant James provided Circle of Courage information for job postings in South Dakota.

C. Indian Outreach Workers

Time constraints - No reports.

D. DHS

Jocelyn Vanda was away on bereavement. Condolences were sent to Jocelyn & her family.

Nancy Rygwelski, Departmental Analyst, provided a brief summary of the CFSR initiatives on behalf of Carol Kraklan (See attached CFSR notes).

Suzanne Stiles-Burke, new DHS Child Welfare Bureau Director, provided her email (burkes2@michigan.gov) and indicated that she will review the information shared by the Tribes today regarding (CPP, Licensing/Borrowing beds/ICWA).

E. State Court Administrators Office

Maribeth Dickerson provided a condensed summary of the SCAO ICWA Committee Benchbook Guide's completion and the announcement of a new Court Improvement Program (CIP) subcommittee on Tribal Court Relations. They are looking for Tribal Court staff to participate. Maribeth also requested assistance in obtaining an elder for a blessing of the Minority Over-representation Conference being held at Kellogg Center in E. Lansing, MI. Please contact Maribeth Dickerson or Angel Sorrells if you would like to participate or have a recommendation to participate.

F. Michigan Indian Legal Services

Time constraints – No reports.

G. Native American Affairs

Stacey Tadgerson

Time constraints – No report. NAA Supplementary: 1) NAA Update, 2) Native American Affairs Business Plan, 3) Copies of the 5 –YR CFSP, 4) April TSP Meeting Minutes, and 5) Tribal Brainstorm documents were provided with meeting materials. Tribes received CD-ROMS of the Legislative DHS Handbook, Safe Sleep, & DHS Public Service Announcements.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Participants should review the meeting materials and contact Stacey if they have questions, comments, or concerns.**
- 2. Please contact Stacey regarding your data requests and preferences of sharing non-indentifying case specific information with all TSP participants vs. Tribal specific only being provided to respective Tribes.**

V. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Training

Chris Durocher/Bill Memberto

- Chris Durocher provided copies of DHS Foster Care Transitional Medicaid *L-Letter 09-092* (6/25/09) & brochures regarding Tribal reference. Please contact Erika Ferrell 517.373.3630 with your questions, comments, or concerns.
- JJOLT Training Roster Lists were disseminated (See JJOLT for training menus).

B. Information Management

Denneen Smith/Stacey Tadgerson

- Stacey distributed ICPC & Cash Assistance Reports; and provided a powerpoint of additional Tribal specific data received. Emails were sent of most recent reports. Please contact Denneen & Stacey will be meeting to start the discussion around data priorities.

C. Policy/Funding

No report.

D. IOW Utilization

No report.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Send Carol Siemon or Chris Durocher your ICWA & Cultural Competency training suggestions.**
2. **Please contact Stacey regarding your preference of sharing data that is Tribal specific.**
3. **Individuals interested in participating in the Information Management subcommittee may contact Denneen or Stacey. You may also feel free to just send comments & suggestions at any time.**
4. **Sub-Committees will meet prior to next TSP Meeting to begin formation of timelines for initiatives.**

VI. Follow Up Reports

Time constraints - No follow up reports.

VII. Address from DHS Director Ismael Ahmed

Mr. Ahmed addressed the Tribal State Partnership (TSP) indicating his continued commitment to vulnerable children/families and Tribal issues; as evidenced by his participation at 2 of the 4 meetings that have convened since last year (See Attached Talking Points).

VIII. Pressing Concerns Discussion Shirley Goudreau

1. *Tribal State Partnership* – Defining who partners are & obtaining their commitment in participation. Mr. Ahmed indicated that the Tribes of course have direct access to Mr. Ahmed via his email (ahmedi@michigan.gov) and the organization structure remains the conduit of getting information to him with Jocelyn Vanda & Stacey Tadgerson as direct reports.
2. *Tribes would like the TSP to focus on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) & the Implementation of ICWA.*
 - a. Important that there is a contact to the Tribes at the on-set of a case.
 1. Creation of an overlapping map of all Tribal Service Areas was suggested. Currently, we have separate maps of all services areas.
 - b. Would like Mandatory ICWA Training for ALL staff & Supervisors not just new workers.
 1. Stacey will contact James Newsom regarding UAW initiative to help fund cultural competency training to add ICWA component. This will be mandatory within 2 years.
 2. Terry Salacina & Mr. Ahmed will meet regarding Mandatory Training for counties that have Tribal presence.

- a. Local area meetings with County Director & staff with Tribes to assure cultural competence.
 - b. Tribes will send a list to Stacey of counties that they would like training to occur.
- 3. *Tribal Consultation* – Differentiation of DHS definition & each Tribe's definition respectively.
 - a. Tribes will send Stacey operational view of what is "formal" & "informal" understanding of communication for transmission from Native American Affairs (NAA) & DHS staff in the future.
 - b. Tribes will send Stacey an operational view of what they consider to be "early-on" input from the Tribes.
 - c. Mr. Ahmed will look at best-fit for including Tribes in early-on input for policy creation upon receipt of Tribal operational views of "communication" & "input."
- 4. *Children's Rights Settlement* – Tribes would like further discussion.
 - a. Mr. Ahmed provided a brief summary of the global aspects of the Children's Right Settlement including:
 - 1) Reduction of Poverty – Tribes should contact your local office for Regional Meeting inclusion;
 - 2) Child Welfare Improvement – Includes both the Child Welfare Improvement Task Force (CWITF) recommendations & Children's Rights Settlement Implementation;
 - 3) Employment & Training – Making it useful & palpable;
 - 4) Broadening access to services & programs – example: MICAP Targeting SSI population with Bridge Cards (Stacey will talk to Chuck Jones about the Commodities & FAP issue regarding getting the letter modified); and
 - 5) Low income people do not have a constituency – Tribe's activity around these issues will be pivotal. Stacey will follow up on Medicaid Waivers & the issue of utilizing these at Indian Health Service Clinics & BRIDGES.
 - 6) Prevention Model – Mr. Ahmed indicated there is a new pilot program. Tribes interested should contact Stacey.
 - b. Mr. Ahmed recommended the development of a focus group for Tribes & key DHS staff regarding Children's Rights Settlement (CRI) & Child Welfare Improvement Task Force (CWITF). Suzanne Stiles-Burke will have the lead on this.
- 5. Tribes would like all Tribal State Partnership Meetings to be held at Tribal sites.
 - a. Mr. Ahmed had no objections & encouraged this suggestion.

Tribal Specific: *(All Tribes thanked Mr. Ahmed, Luttrell Levingston, & Edward Woods III for their participation today)*

- 1. Sault Tribe: Contracts – Rate reimbursement for active efforts (Binogii Placement Agency).
 - a. DHS has advocated with the legislature to increase the rate.
 - b. Mr. Ahmed will consider Binogii Rate & respond; no promises.
 - c. Stacey will meet with Mr. Ahmed & Helen Weber regarding contracts not having "active efforts" written into it.
- 2. Sault Tribe: Adoption Subsidies – Adoption subsidies can take up to 6 months. 6 Months for some Tribes is out of compliance with their Tribal Codes. They would like one person designated in staff to work with Indian children & Tribes as a solution to remedying this delay issue.

- a. Terry Salacina indicated that they recently revamped the Adoption Subsidy Division and there should be more efficient services, however, he will look into whether the suggestion would be a possible corrective action.
3. Sault Tribe: Indian Outreach Workers (IOW) –
 - a. Feel that Indian Outreach Workers (IOW) should not be called as an expert witness to testify in ICWA cases.
 - b. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Pending outstanding MOU for Sault Tribe & DHS Service Area Counties.
 - i. Luttrell Levingston is reviewing this MOU and will have it resolved within 30 days.
 4. Sault Tribe: ICWA is not getting communicated at front line within some counties & with certain County Directors.
 - a. Would like Tribal Consultation defined with policy & procedures.
 5. LTBB: IV-E – Can we get the feds to pay for out-of-home waiver care (beyond the 90 days).
 - a. Possible changes in the system due to new ACF Secretary & Deputy; both candidates being sought have same mindsets.
 6. LTBB: Foster Home Licensing & Borrowing Tribal Homes – Tribes have their own licensing policy for their Tribal homes, however, the state's requirements are different and have prevented borrowing Tribal homes from occurring. Furthermore, DHS honors other state's licensing rules currently with ICPC, but not Michigan Tribe's licensing policy. LTBB is hopeful that the state will honor the Tribe's licensing policy under "full, faith, & credit" auspices and borrow more Tribally licensed homes.
 - a. Mr. Ahmed will respond once investigation is completed. Luttrell Levingston will be the lead on this issue & will check on this with BCAL & their Rule Review Process Committee for a possible audit/waiver for County Directors to permit borrowing of Tribally licensed homes.
 7. LTBB: IV-E Agreements – They will soon have a new Tribal Administration and would like to resume IV-E negotiations; and referenced the LTBB IV-E Agreement that is under review in Legal Division. This outstanding IV-E Agreement is from NAA predecessor's tenure and was in limbo until the TSP April, 2009 meeting when it was brought to Stacey Tadgerson's attention. Stacey forwarded the IV-E Agreement to Luttrell Levingston and it is currently under review. Matthew Lesky, LTBB Prosecutor, mentioned best-practice models that may of interest to Tribes; discussed in previous TSP meetings including but not limited to the Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center's (MCWIC) work in Minnesota with the state & Tribes to develop IV-E agreements (Please see previous TSP minutes or check MN state website for templates).
 - a. Luttrell Levingston indicated that he will have the IV-E Agreement review completed in 30 days.
 - b. Luttrell is the lead on this agreement & will meet with Stacey and Suzanne Stiles-Burke to discuss.
 - c. Please contact Matthew Lesky if you'd need further instructions on templates.
 8. LRBOI:
 - a. Does not wish to conduct business with a POS and would prefer directly Tribal licensing homes with DHS.
 - i. Mr. Ahmed will contact Deborah Buchanan in Contracts to review this issue.

- b. Is providing a Training Technical Assistance day on ICWA at the Tribe for Tribal & local county staff on ICWA; would like CWTI participation.
 - c. Referenced all the current successes his Tribe is having with DHS including CPS Joint-DHS intervention model; TDMs; Mason County Staff Training; and the new Native American Affairs (NAA) Policy Manual.
- 9. KBIC: IV-E Agreement – NAA predecessor indicated that KBIC should wait until LTBB IV-E agreement was approved and model theirs after LTBB's; they have been waiting on LTBB's IV-E agreement approval process as well.
- 10. Pokagon: Identification of American Indian cases – has concern that coding of American Indian children is not being done accurately in SWSS & BRIDGES. And, appreciated that the Van Buren County IOW was allowed to work in neighboring county to provide culturally competent services to youth.
 - a. Terry Salacina & Stacey will contact CWTI & BRIDGES Training people regarding adding this to all training curriculum. Currently, Stacey reviews this issue with all CWTI ICWA Training participants.
- 11. SagChips: Indicated that the IOS provided in their service area is part of the Tribe's 5-YR Strategic Plan of Strengthening Current Services for Prevention.
 - a. Feels that IOWs need to be on-site at the Tribe and understand that they work for the Tribe not the state. Views IOWs as the communication conduit for their local county DHS offices & information should be sent through them to the Tribal offices. In addition, feels that their Tribe is the expert on their kids & IOWs should not be telling caseworkers what to do in ICWA cases.
 - b. Would like Tribal Consultation defined.
 - c. Would like DHS to honor Tribally licensed homes & utilize these homes.
- 12. Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band: Appreciates that DHS understand that all Tribes are unique in their situations/services. For example: Their Tribe for example is the newest federally recognized in the state. She has one PT worker. And, last month the Tribal Board voted to develop/establish a Tribal Court.
 - a. Concerned about local office staff treatment and would appreciate having one go-to-person in each county that would be helpful.
 - i. Terry Salacina will review this as a possible link for Tribes at the local level.
 - b. Tribal Consultation – Needs to know what it is & who attends it. Tribe needs to know if this TSP meeting is Tribal consultation so they can send the appropriate people.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. **Per Mr. Ahmed, via Jocelyn Vanda & Stacey Tadgerson the Tribes have direct access to Mr. Ahmed. Please contact them if you have unresolved local county issues.**
- 2. **Mr. Ahmed will address obtaining key Child Welfare staff for Tribal State Partnership attendance.**
- 3. **Stacey will create a new overlapping Tribal Service Area Map for DHS staff utilization.**
- 4. **Stacey will contact James Newsom regarding UAW Cultural Competency Training and inclusion of ICWA.**

5. Tribes will send a list of counties the Tribes would like training to occur at the local level.
6. Terry S. & Mr. Ahmed will meet to discuss Mandatory ICWA Training for all staff.
7. Tribes will send Stacey their operational view of "formal" & "informal" methods of communication for NAA & DHS staff.
8. Tribes will send Stacey an operational view of what they define "early-on" and "input" to be for including Tribes.
9. Mr. Ahmed will review Tribal operation views of communication channels and methods of inclusion to determine next steps for implementation.
10. Tribes should contact their local DHS Office for Poverty Reduction Regional Meetings information.
11. Stacey will talk to Chuck Jones about modifying the MICAP correspondence being sent statewide per the Tribal Commodity Foods Program & FAP discussion.
12. Stacey will follow up on the Medicaid Waiver issue and obtaining permission for those waivers to be utilized at Indian Health Service Clinics.
13. Tribes should contact Stacey to connect with Prevention Pilot Project.
14. Suzanne Stiles-Burke will meet with Terri G., Kathyne, & Stacey to develop a CRI & CWITF Recommendation Tribal Focus Group.
15. Tribe interested in hosting next Tribal State Partnership Meetings should contact Shirley Goudreau, Bill Denemy, or Stacey Tadjerson.
16. Mr. Ahmed will consider the Binogii Rate Reimbursement request; no promises.
17. Stacey will meet with Helen Weber & Mr. Ahmed regarding incorporating "active efforts" into all POS contracts.
18. Terry Salacina will review designating a staff person for Indian children & Tribes in Adoption Subsidy Division.
19. Luttrell Levingston will have the Sault Tribe MOU review completed within 30 days.
20. Luttrell Levingston will begin investigation of BCAL Audit/Waiver request for Tribally licensed homes for Mr. Ahmed to make determination of implementation & respond once the investigation is complete.
21. Luttrell Levingston will have LTBB IV-E Agreement reviewed within 30 days and establish a meeting with Suzanne & Stacey to discuss; and then convene a meeting with LTBB.
22. Individuals may contact Matthew Lesky at LTBB if they would like further information about IV-E Agreement template.
23. Follow up with Deborah Buchanan in Contracts will occur via Stacey & Mr. Ahmed regarding local county DHS Tribal licensing rather than licensing through a POS.
24. Terry S. & Stacey will contact CWTI & BRIDGES Training regarding coding for race/identification of American Indians & American Indian ancestry issues for all staff.
25. Terry Salacina will review creating a go-to-person at a local county office for Tribes.

VIV. Miscellaneous

Resources

- Native American Affairs Website: www.michigan.gov/americanindians
- Child Welfare Settlement: www.michigan.gov/dhs
- Tribal Web Sites: <http://www.michigan.gov> (Tribal Government tab on left margin)
- Voices for Action-2008 Poverty Summit: www.michigan.gov/poverty
- Child Welfare Improvement Task Force: www.michigan.gov/cwitf
- State Courts: <http://courts.michigan.gov>
- Casey Family Programs: <http://www.casey.org>
- Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center: <http://www.mcwic.org>
- Minnesota DHS: <http://www.minnesota.gov/>
- Wisconsin Department of Children & Families Tribal Consultation:
http://dcf.wi.gov/tribal_relations/default.htm

2009 TSP Meetings Changes

January/April/July/Oct – New Quarterly Months

April 29 & 30 – St. Ignace, MI

July 29 & 30 – Mt. Pleasant, MI

October 28 & 29 – St. Ignace, MI

January 2010 – TBD

NEXT MEETING:

Mark your calendars! The next meeting will start at 1:00 P.M. on October 28, 2009 and continue on the next day October 29, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. in St. Ignace, MI (Until further notified of alternative Tribal venue).