

Illinois Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2021
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Meeting Called to Order at 1:00PM – Lisa Bernal

Welcome & Introductions

Roll Call: Lisa Bernal, Chair of the ICWA Council Present Ben Krause-Decorah GAL, Co-Chair

Present

Jody Roy, Secretary Excused

Stephanie Shirley GAL, Member Excused

Joe Podlasek, Member Present

Daniel Fitzgerald, Office of Affirmative Action Unexcused/Absent

Kara Hamilton, Office of Affirmative Action Present

Tracey Jones, Office of Affirmative Action Present

Tracey King, Office of Affirmative Action Present

Vanessa Peterson, Office of Affirmative Action Excused

Bret Angelos, Office of Affirmative Action Excused

Establish Quorum Chairperson Lisa Bernal – Quorum Established

Review & Approve June 7, 2021 Minutes

MOTION by Joe Podlasek to approve Minutes. Second by Lisa Bernal. **MOTION CARRIED** 3-0-0

DCFS Updates – Daniel Fitzgerald, Chief of Office of Affirmative Action

- ICWA Specialist Positions - Two positions starting September 7, 2021
- Follow up on Training Funds Approved for Sandy Whitehawk - Daniel said that we are waiting for training until the two ICWA specialists start their positions. Is it a 30 or 60 day window to get this training paid for? What is the timeline to request funds for the ICWA training to be paid through DCFS? Kara will check in on that.
- What is the DCFS policy on trainings? Can we ask Tracy King to check in on that? Kara said she would look into this as well.
- Are they filled by Enrolled Native Americans for the ICWA specialists? I believe so. Tracey Jones will check to see. Yes, Tracey Jones said both Specialists are Enrolled Native American. Joe P: If they are not enrolled, what do we do? Ben K: How was enrollment verified? Tracey Jones: OES verified the enrollment by calling the tribe to verify. Lisa: Can we have a meet-and greet with the candidates? Tracey: Yes. Ben: Can we have the names? Tracey said she will obtain the names. Statewide Foster Meeting – Lisa, Jody and Joe were on the Agenda. Lisa Bernal: Dan Fitzgerald hasn't been on the meeting in months.

MOTION by Ben Krause-Decorah to have the minutes reflect that Dan Fitzgerald is absent and unexcused from this duly called ICWA Council meeting. Second by Joe Podlasek. **MOTION CARRIED** 3-0-0

- Lisa: Yes, this is a concern. However, we must be aware that managers can delegate responsibility is important. Ben: Yes, I agree. However, Dan is already the delegated authority per bylaws DCFS Director and he has not prepared staff to answer questions on his behalf. This creates an undue burden on the staff of Affirmative Action.
- Statewide Foster program: Lisa attached the agenda so that we can see what they are doing and how they are doing that. We want to increase the number of homes for our Kids so that they have places to go. Hopefully we can have corrective action taken for the concerns of parents.

MOTION by Ben Krause to have DCFS coordinate with a Foster Parent Liaison and the Foster Parent Licensing council to provide comprehensive payment plan for Foster Parents and that the ICWA Council receive training from the same program so we are aware of the policy and procedures involved with recruiting and placing Native children in Native Foster homes. Second by Lisa Bernal. **MOTION CARRIED** 3-0-0

Old Business

- Follow Up to Motion 2 Apply for FEMA grant – Who is the Contact/Department? No Answer. Will have to ask Dan.
- Birth Parent Steering Committee Meeting 8/24/21 11:15 am
- Foster Parent Support Specialist Meeting 9/29/21 9:30 am
- Presentation for ICWA – set up a meeting for a committee to plan, will talk to Jody.

New Business

- Foster Home and ICWA Brochures for July, August and October events
- DCFS Foster Home representative volunteer for AI/AN community info table
- American Indian Center Pow –wow October 8-10, 2021
- Approve next meeting dates: 10/4, 11/15 and 1/10/22 agreed by ICWA Board.

Next Meeting: October 4, 2021 at 1pm

MOTION by Ben Krause-Decorah to Adjourn. Second by Joe Podlasek. **MOTION CARRIED** 3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Krause-Decorah
Recording Secretary – 08/16/2021

Filling in for Jody Roy, Secretary