

## ICWA Council Meeting

09/21/2022 3:30

Attendees: members- Lisa Bernal, Ben Krause-Decorah, Stephanie Shirley, Jody Roy DCFS- Kara Hamilton, Daniel Fitzgerald, Vanessa Peterson, Ellen Williams. Guests - RoxAnne LaVallie-Unabia, Executive Director of American Indian Health Service of Chicago.

Welcome and introductions:

Establish quorum

DCFS Updates- ICWA Team

Ellen- 1- Ryann was able to develop flyers and post cards for distribution for outreach, 2- worked with AIC and Toys for Tots- shipped out gifts for kids in care, 3- met with Director Smith where Ellen and Ryann presented on ICWA hiring the past year plans and objectives, 4- have been active participants in Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council- doubled the number of Native American employees in the past year, 5-foundations training to understand how kids come into care, 6-Attended NICWA Council, 7-completed training with Sandy Whitehawk, 8-regular ICWA reports sent to council, 9- Ryann has been out presenting at conferences about ICWA, 9- general advocacy on behalf of our native families.

Daniel- top 5 questions for investigators asking if kids are native now included in SACWIS. Integrated assessment within first 45 days a young person comes into care, if they identify as native then DEI gets report and ability to follow up with casework.

Stephanie: Sometimes State's Attorney's office doesn't hear back after sending notices out to tribes, can DCFS assist?

Ellen: Yes, we are happy to help.

Ellen: continuing with ICWA updates, Andrew Johnson reached out to DCFS letting us know he had a meeting with Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative Policy Advocacy Committee they agreed to work towards getting ICWA into state law. From that conversation, Andrew connected us to ABC 7 or NBC 5 to discuss ICWA. We would be only ICWA state that does not have federally recognized tribes in the state. Final point, the department has done a lot of recruitment for native employees and potential native foster homes.

Stephanie: any success with foster home recruitment?

Ellen: we have made some connections and are building relationships/

Review and approval of November 2021 minutes, Ben motioned to approve November, Stephane seconded. Unanimous voted, approved. October minutes table.

Ben: Are you guys Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (CAICC) members?

Daniel: member, not sure if voting member.

New Business

Ben: The ICWA Council has a meeting with the Governor next few weeks

Lisa: codifying ICWA into state law, giving support around that. The Ho-Chunk president is speaking in support of this action and remainder of ICWA Council had some discussion on talking points. Ben, do we have dates to check schedules?

Ben: first or second week of October.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> best dates to give to Governor's Office for meeting. first time Governor of IL has met with president of a tribe. Meeting is a grassroots panel to discuss ICWA. ICWA case going before Supreme Court is another reason for this meeting. ICWA law has been upheld by 48 states' supreme courts. First time in 44 years, this is being challenged at federal level. Meeting to stress this issue is sovereign to sovereign, government to government. 486 tribal nations have filed briefs to Supreme Court in support of ICWA and 31 child welfare organizations have filed briefs, Illinois has failed to do so.

Meeting schedule going forward:

Wednesdays work best for everyone. October 26<sup>th</sup> at 3pm for the next meeting, followed by November 30<sup>th</sup>, and January 11<sup>th</sup>. Agendas and meeting schedule will be updated on the Dnet.

Required member trainings: Kara will send OneNet link out to members to complete the training.

Ben: Can we have Ethics Officer attend future meetings? Per Kara, she will ensure Brandon Hudson new Ethics Officer is invited going forward.

Meeting adjourned 4:33