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PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2016

TRIBAL STAR

Contact: Tom Lidot

619-594-8291 tlidot@mail.sdsu.edu

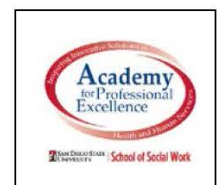
Tribal STAR statement on In re A.P. Case out of Los Angeles

On March 21, 2016, the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (LA DCFS) transitioned a six-year-old (referred to as “Lexi” in the media) member of the Choctaw Nation from the home of the foster parents to the home of her extended family in Utah. In the process, the child’s right to privacy and confidentiality were violated and she was subjected to a chaotic and traumatizing transition under the spotlight of the media.

Tribal STAR is disturbed by the media’s ongoing biased representation of the facts and the misinformation about the tribe’s involvement and ICWA, which is being perpetuated through sensationalistic and non-objective journalism. Tribal STAR believes that LA DCFS and the Court acted in accordance with their legal obligations under ICWA. We applaud their efforts to ensure the best outcomes for Native children under their care by striving to place Indian children with their extended families whenever possible. We have great respect and appreciation for foster families who care for our children, and for those families who have made a number of Indian children a permanent part of their family while ensuring a connection to the child’s extended family, tribe and culture. We will continue to support and work with those families and promote ICWA as best practice.



This press release is dedicated to all the ICWA workers who tirelessly give of themselves to protect Indian children and families, and preserve culture and tradition.



Lexi Press Release

“I guess these old people, our great ancestor people, they said that one day you will forget all your religion and your culture and all that. . . If we forget all about our culture and religion, we have nowhere to go, we don’t know how to pray, we don’t know how to use our corn pollen, corn meal, anything that we pray with, we forget all about that.

Before that happens, we’d better do something.”

~ Jimmy Toddy, Navajo

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am contacting you to ask for input from you. I am working with Lucille Echohawk, whom some of you may know and have worked with. We are doing a project for the **Capacity Building Center for Tribes (CBC4T's)**. The project is to develop and publish, in a format or formats you choose, and distribute what we develop to Tribal leaders who are involved in ICWA matters for their tribe.

What we are developing is a "Pocket Guide" for use by Tribal Leaders when they receive notice that one of their member children is involved in an ICWA case—it will detail what they should do in response.

As a beginning to doing this project I have done research to see if there are other materials already developed that address this particular issue. I found none. If any of you have knowledge that this type of material is out there somewhere I would greatly appreciate it if you would let me know. I do not believe in re-creating the wheel—if something is out there that we can build on I am all for it.

I have access to a small but mighty "brain trust" out here where I work, and I passed the idea of this project to them while we were captive in an automobile as we drove to do a presentation.

First, they thought a project such as this could prove to be useful and could help ICWA cases go more smoothly and with less contention. None of them knew of any other material such as this that was out there and being used.

In our conversation they asked that the "Guide" contain the following:

1. The rights of the Tribe in an ICWA case.
2. That the Tribe always intervene in a case even if only for purposes of monitoring the case.
3. Describe the timelines by which the Tribe needs to respond to notice.
4. That if the Tribe intends that the child ultimately be placed with a family the Tribe has designated, that the contact between the family and the child begin as quickly as possible.
5. That there should be more than one format for distribution, i.e, Posters that can be put up in Tribal Leader's office, laminated sheet that they can keep on their desk, small laminated card that fits in wallet, mobile phone app, etc.

I would very much appreciate your adding to this list what the Tribal Leader needs to know when one of their Tribal children is involved in an ICWA case and also any additional formats for distribution.

Please send your responses to me at: rmarrantia@gmail.com

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request,

Margaret Orrantia

Tribal Leader Pocket Guide

RESEARCH DATA AND STATISTICS

Children's Bureau Express covers news, issues, and trends of interest to professionals and policymakers in the interrelated fields of child abuse and neglect, child welfare, and adoption.

Children's Bureau

1250 Maryland Avenue,

SW, Eighth Floor

Washington, DC 20024

Email: cb_express@childwelfare.gov

A Critical Analysis of Foster Youth Advisory Boards in the United States

Author: Forenza, Brad; Happonen, Robin G.

Published: 2016

Information: Youth Advisory Boards have proliferated throughout the United States since the enactment of Chafee programming. They can be useful, pro-social mediums to include foster youth in case planning and policy dialog, while simultaneously promoting a sense of leadership, mentorship, and ecological permanence. Implications for policy, practice, and research are explored.

Basic Facts About Low-Income Children: Children under 6 Years, 2014

Author: Jiang, Yang; Ekono, Mercedes; Skinner, Curtis

Published: February 2016

Information: Children under 18 years represent 23 percent of the population, but they comprise 32 percent of all people in poverty. Many more children live in families with incomes just above the poverty threshold.¹ Among all children, 44 percent live in low-income families and approximately one in every five (21 percent) live in poor families. Young children under age 6 years appear to be particularly vulnerable, with 47 percent living in low-income and 24 percent living in poor families.

Foster Care: HHS Needs to Improve the Consistency and Timeliness of Assistance to Tribes

United States Government Accountability Office

Published: February 25, 2015

Information: This report examines obstacles facing Native American tribes interested in directly operating a title IV-E program and the assistance the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided.

Key Actions Needed to Ensure Safety and Health at Indian School Facilities

United States Government Accountability Office

Published: March 10, 2016

Information: The Department of the Interior's Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs lacks sound information on safety and health conditions of all Bureau of Indian Education school facilities. Indian Affairs' policy requires its regional safety inspectors to conduct inspections of all BIE schools annually to identify facility deficiencies that may pose a threat to the safety and health of students and staff. However, GAO found that 69 out of 180 BIE school locations were not inspected in fiscal year 2015, an increase from 55 locations in fiscal year 2012.

POLICY LEGISLATION AND LAW



San Diego
History Center
E. H. Davis
Indian Woman

Child Welfare Outcomes 2010-2013: Report to Congress

Author: Children's Bureau

Published: 2016

Information: Mandated by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, this annual report analyzes the performance of state child welfare agencies on seven child welfare outcomes including the recurrence of child abuse and neglect, permanency planning, placement stability, and the safety of children in foster care.

Interior Announces Interagency Partnership With Justice and HHS to Strengthen ICWA Implementation and Compliance

Author: Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Published: April 4, 2016

Information: In keeping with President Obama's commitment to supporting Indian families and fostering resilient, thriving tribal communities through his all-of-government approach, acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts today announced that the Departments of Interior (DOI), Justice (DOJ), and Health and Human Services (HHS) have entered into a collaborative agreement to ensure more robust compliance with and implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 (Public Law 95-608). The agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), brings three federal agencies together in partnership to strengthen federal oversight of the Act. The MOU's effective date is April 1, 2016.

NICWA Child and Family Policy Update

Author: National Indian Child Welfare Association

Published: April 2016

PROMISING PRACTICES

Get the Data, Share the Data, Use the Data Recommendations from the three-state Child Welfare and Education Learning Community (CWELC) project

Author: Langworthy, S., Ph.D.; Robertson, L., B.A.

Published: 2015

Information: Practitioners, policymakers, and researchers from child welfare and education systems in Illinois, Minnesota, and North Carolina have worked together for two years to address shared and unique challenges facing child welfare and education systems in the three states. This report summarizes challenges and opportunities identified by the group and recommends actions to better promote data gathering, sharing and use to enhance educational and health outcomes for children and families.



San Diego History Center E. H. Davis
Indian Boys Hoeing

President Obama Orders More Compliance with ICWA

Author: Brandon Ecoffey, Lakota Country Times Editor

Published: April 25, 2016

Information: "In keeping with President Obama's commitment to supporting Indian families and fostering resilient, thriving tribal communities through his all-of-government approach, acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts today announced that the Departments of Interior, Justice, and Health and Human Services have entered into a collaborative agreement to ensure more robust compliance with and implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978," said the Department of Interior on April 4.

PROVIDER RESOURCES



San Diego
History Center
E. H. Davis
Three Native
Kids

2014 ICWA Designated Tribal Agents

An Evaluation of Training and Technical Assistance

Author: Children's Bureau Express

Journal: News From the Children's Bureau

Published: January-February 2016, Vol. 16, No. 10

Information: Articles, Evaluation Briefs and Tip Sheets related to Training and Technical Assistance are listed.

Child Welfare – Education System Collaborations to Increase Educational Stability

Author: Child Welfare Information Gateway

Published: March 2016

Information: The Children's Bureau funded 10 projects to build capacity among State, local, or Tribal child welfare agencies and education systems. The goal was to improve educational stability and permanency options for children ages 10 to 17 years who are in the custody of child welfare agencies. The synthesis is comprised of information that the grantees included in their final project and/or evaluation reports.

Within Our Reach: A National Strategy to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

Author: The Children's Bureau

Published: March 17, 2016

Information: This final report from the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities presents the Commission's findings and its recommendations to the White House and Congress for ending child maltreatment fatalities in the United States within the context of a new child welfare system for the 21st century.

States' Consultation and Collaboration with Tribes and Reported Compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act: Information from States' and Tribes' 2015–2019 Child and Family Services Plans

Author: The Children's Bureau

Published: December 17, 2015

Information: This report from the Children's Bureau summarizes information related to state implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and consultation and collaboration with tribes. The report also includes information reported in a sample of tribes' CFSPs pertaining to ways in which states consulted and collaborated with tribes.

2015 Prevention Resource Guide: Making Meaningful Connections

Authors: Child Welfare Information Gateway; Children's Bureau; FRIENDS National Resource Center For Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

Published: 2015

Information: This annual Resource Guide is one of the Children's Bureau's most anticipated publications, offering trusted information, strategies, and resources to help communities support and strengthen families and promote the well-being of children and youth. Its contents are informed by input from some of our National Child Abuse Prevention Partners as well as our colleagues on the Federal Interagency Work Group on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Supporting Systems Change in Child Welfare: Tips for T/TA Providers

Author: The Children's Bureau

Published: November 24, 2015

Information: This tip sheet makes recommendations for Training and Technical Assistance

providers on how best to support systems change in organizations based on study findings and implications.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

PI-15-02

Information: This Program Instruction (PI) provides instruction on the availability of Federal fiscal year 2015 funds under the Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect program created by Title II of CAPTA as amended by Public Law (P.L.) 111-320.



San Diego History Center E. H. Davis
Shrine of Martyred Children

National Storytelling Network Seeks Applications for Brimstone Award

Deadline: May 28, 2016

Description: Grants will be awarded in support of storytelling projects that are service-oriented, based in a community or organization, and are replicable in other places and situations....

State and Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Implementation Partnership Grants HHS-2016- ACF-ACYF-CT-1123

Deadline: June 13, 2016

Information: The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to support the creation of effective practice model partnerships between state courts and/or Court Improvement Program, state public child welfare agency and a tribe, group of tribes, or tribal consortia, including both the tribal child welfare agency and tribal court for effective implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 (Pub.L. 95-608)....

Grants to Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Migrant Programs for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs

Deadline: June 27, 2016

Information: The primary purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and coordinate initiatives, programs and activities in tribal and migrant communities to prevent child abuse and to strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect, consistent with the goals outlined by Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

National Quality Improvement Center for Preventive Services and Interventions in Indian Country HHS-2016-ACF-ACYF-CA-1175

Deadline: June 29, 2016

Information: The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to award a 5-year cooperative agreement to establish a Quality Improvement Center (QIC) on the prevention and intervention of child abuse and neglect in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. The QIC will gather, generate, and disseminate knowledge regarding effective practice models for strengths-based, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and preventive services and interventions for all forms of child maltreatment.

Affordable Care Act Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program for Teen Pregnancy Prevention HHS-2016-ACF-ACYF-AT-1130

Deadline: July 8, 2016

Information: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) announces the availability of funding in the form of discretionary, competitive grants to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations to support the development and implementation of comprehensive, teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Foster/Adoptive Parent Preparation, Training and Development Project HHS-2016-ACF-ACYF- CO-1122

Deadline: July 11, 2016

Description: The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to award one cooperative agreement to an organization to develop a state-of-the-art foster/adoptive parent training program to include intensive preparation and development components that reflect the capacities required of successful foster/adoptive parents....

Grants to Address Trafficking within the Child Welfare Population HHS-2016-ACF-ACYF-CA- 1179

Deadline: July 11, 2016

Information: The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to solicit proposals for projects that will address human trafficking within the child welfare population. This is a 60-month project with five 12-month budget periods.

Standing Announcement for Tribal Title IV-E Plan Development Grants HHS-2016-ACF-ACYF- CS-1176

Deadline: July 28, 2016

Information: The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to solicit proposals for one-time grants to tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal consortia that are seeking to develop and, within 24 months of grant receipt, submit to the Department of Health and Human Services a plan to implement a title IV-E foster care, adoption assistance, and, at tribal option,

guardianship assistance program...

American Psychological Foundation Seeks Applications for Lizette Peterson-Homer Injury Prevention Award

Deadline: October 1, 2016

Description: A single grant will be awarded for research related to the prevention of injuries in children and adolescents through accidents, violence, abuse, or suicide....

Rasmuson Foundation Accepting Applications for Nonprofit Leader Sabbatical Program

Deadline: October 1, 2016

Description: Awards are available to executives from Alaska tribes and nonprofits for sabbaticals of two to six months....

Karma for Cara Foundation

Deadline: Open

Applications for Youth Microgrants

Information: Grants will be awarded to kids 18 and under for service projects in their communities....

Public Welfare Foundation Accepting LOIs for Social Justice Programs

Deadline: Ongoing Information: Grants will be awarded in support of efforts to advance justice and opportunity for people in need through criminal justice, juvenile justice, and workers' rights programs....

Start a Snowball

Applications for Youth Philanthropy Projects

Deadline: Rolling

Information: Grants will be awarded in support of philanthropic projects led by youth between the ages of 5 and 18....

Aiden's Red Envelope Foundation Supports Families of Children With Special Needs

Deadline: Rolling

Information: Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to Southern California families that have children with disabilities for special equipment, therapy, summer camps, or treatments...

Craft Emergency Relief Fund Accepting Applications From Craftspeople in Need

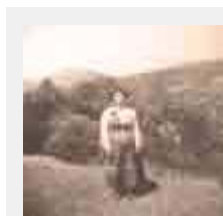
Deadline: Open

Information: Grants and loans of up to \$8,000 will be awarded to professional craftspeople experiencing career-threatening illness, accident, fire, theft, or natural disaster....

More grants: Grants.gov

Health and Human Services Grant Forecast

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



San Diego
History Center
E. H. Davis
Indian Woman

The Calendar contains local events and conferences both local and national that will be of interest to those who work in or with the Tribal community.

May 21 to 22, 2016

La Jolla, CA

6th Annual UCSD NASA Powwow

University of California at San Diego

Warren Field: 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA

Contact: Burgundy Fletcher (858) 281-3898

Email: bjfletch@ucsd.edu

May 28-30, 2016

Oroville, CA

Oroville Pow Wow

Gold Country Casino

4020 Olive Highway

Oroville, Ca.

Free Admission and Parking

Phone: (530) 532-1611

orovillepowwow@gmail.com

June 2, 2016

Southern Indian Health Council

Alpine, CA – Alpine Clinic, 1st Level

One Mile Walk for Wellness

9:00AM-3:00PM

Contact: (619) 445-1188

June 2, 2016

Southern Indian Health Council

Alpine, CA – Alipine Clinic, 2nd Level

Spring Gathering

3:00Pm-7:00PM

Contact: (619) 445-1188

June 7, 2016

Annual STATE ICWA Conference, Panel of Adoptees

Pala Resort and Casino

11154 Hwy 76

Pala, CA 92059

June 17, 2016

5th Annual Judges' Dinner

June 15-17, 2016

Albuquerque, NM

ICWA: Basic Concepts

June 15-17, 2016

Albuquerque, NM

Grant Writing – Proposal Writing

June 23 – 25, 2016

Santa Cruz, CA

11th Annual Youth Court Summit

1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, Ca 95064

July 9 to 10, 2016

Napa, CA

Suscol Intertribal Council

PO Box 5386

Napa, CA

September 16, 2016

Tribal STAR's Annual Celebration

October 3-6, 2016

Anaheim, CA

National Tribal Transportation Conference (NTTC) 2016

October 20-22, 2016

San Diego, CA

California Indian Conference 2016

November 2-4, 2016

New Orleans, LA

ICWA: Impact of BIA Guidelines and Regulations

TRIBAL STAR TRAINING

Approximately 800 Tribal and non-Tribal professionals, leaders, public Human Service agency staff, regional training academy staff and university students have received training throughout the project. The training package provides up-to-date, research-based information in a variety of areas, including: the youth development philosophy, methods for collaboration, effective ways to work with rural populations, effective ways to work with Tribal rural foster youth and their communities, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act.

For more information regarding trainings in your area please contact technical assistance.

To register for one of the trainings below please contact:

Tom Lidot, Program Manager

Academy for Professional Excellence SDSU School of Social Work

Phone: (619) 594-3158 Fax: (619) 594-1118

Email: tlidot@mail.sdsu.edu

ICWA

The revised ICWA training “ICWA: In The Best Interest of the Child: Where The Spirit Leads” is intended to provide today’s social workers with a foundation of knowledge of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

All ICWA Trainings –

Registration 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Training 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Continental Breakfast and working lunch included

May 25, 2016

Riverside Training Academy

3600 Lime Street, Bldg. 4, Suite 414

Riverside, CA 92501

Judge Joanne Willis Newton training

May 26, 2016 (Replaces September 2, 2015 cancelled training)

Riverside Training Academy

3600 Lime Street, Bldg. 4, Suite 414

Riverside, CA 92501

June 2, 2016

Academy for Professional Excellence
6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 205
San Diego, CA 92120

June 22, 2016

Riverside Training Academy
3600 Lime Street, Bldg. 4, Suite 414
Riverside, CA 92501

ICWA Curriculum for California Ready for Stakeholder Review

Tribal STAR is pleased to announce that the statewide Core 3.0 ICWA curriculum has been completed and is currently being vetted by tribal and state stakeholders. This is a dynamic curriculum that builds on the “Let the Spirit Lead...” ICWA training that is currently being used by Tribal STAR. The new “ICWA: Working with Native American Families and Tribes” is a curriculum suite featuring a 100 level 60 minute eLearning, a 6-hour (full-day) classroom learning, and a 60 minute field activity. The new curriculum includes learning objectives that were reviewed and enhanced by the Statewide ICWA Workgroup. Additionally, a segment on tribal sovereignty, a 500 Nations video on California Indians and a scripted trainer’s guide is also included.

Pilot:

July 2016

Los Angeles

Training:

January 2017

SUMMIT

The Summit provides an overview of Native American culture, history, and distrust of government systems and services. The training include first-hand accounts of Tribal youth experiences receiving CWS services. Participants engage in collaborative brainstorming to support goals and objectives. The training allows organizations to focus on specific challenges and identify solutions.

Next trainings: **TBA**

The Other Side of ICWA

The Other Side of ICWA is intended to address “the spirit of the law” and those concerns missing in traditional training that are essential for successful implementation of ICWA.

Next Training: **TBA**

GATHERING

The Gathering provides an overview of Native American culture, history, and distrust of government systems and services. The training reviews the unique issues that affect adolescent development of Tribal youth. Participants engage in collaborative brainstorming. The Gathering provides first hand accounts of Tribal youth who have experienced receiving CWS services and basic communication techniques that support more trusting relations with Tribal youth and families. The training allows organizations to focus on specific challenges and identify solutions.

Next training: **TBA**

COLLABORATIVE

The Collaborative is an adapted half-day training designed to introduce Tribal and non-tribal child welfare workers to the challenges of serving Tribal foster youth. It covers a brief historical overview and concludes with recommendations that support increased communication and collaboration among providers that strive to achieve positive outcomes for Tribal youth.

Next training: **TBA**

T for T

Training for Trainers focus on skill building to lead cross-cultural discussions that result in positive outcomes. The training also helps participants learn how to conduct Tribal STAR training in their area. Topics covered in the training include cross-cultural communication, cultivating and maintaining trust-based relationships, and understanding how history affects today's relationships between CWS and Tribal programs.

Next training:

August 23, 24, 25, 2016

Casey Family Programs

3878 Old Town Avenue

San Diego, CA 92110

NEXT ISSUE

The logo for TribalSTAR, featuring the word "Tribal" in a dark red, serif font and "STAR" in a bold, dark red, sans-serif font, both set against a light brown background.

General information, pertinent articles and resources related to Native American Foster Youth can be sent to tstar@mail.sdsu.edu by June 1, 2016. The newsletter will be distributed during the last week of June. Please see the distribution schedule for other dates.

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Note: documents in Portable Document Format (PDF) require Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher to view, [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

Note: documents in Word format (DOC) require Microsoft Viewer, [download Word](#).

Note: documents in Excel format (XLS) require Microsoft Viewer, [download Excel](#).

Note: documents in Powerpoint format (PPT) require Microsoft Viewer, [download PowerPoint](#).

Note: documents in Quicktime Movie format [MOV] require Apple Quicktime, [download Quicktime](#).

INSPIRING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Academy *for* Professional Excellence

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