

Great Plains ICWA Summit: BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME AND KEEPING OUR FAMILIES STRONG

Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center, Rapid City, South Dakota

Wednesday – Friday, May 15-17, 2013

(All sessions to be held in the Rushmore Room)

DAY ONE – Wednesday, May 15

8:00 Registration

8:15 Welcome – Moderator
Opening Prayer and Drum Group

8:30 Children's Voices
Introduction: Dr. Pat Hill, Wanbli Wiconi Tipi, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Video presentation of Indian children currently and formerly in foster case, including adults who aged out of the system, describing their experiences in the foster care system.

Daryl Conquering Bear Crow, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Former Foster Child

9:30 ICWA Roundtable Discussion with Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn, Tribal Leaders, and Federal and State Officials

10:45 Break

11:00 ICWA Roundtable Discussion with Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn, Tribal Leaders, and Federal and State Officials, continued

12:30 LUNCH BREAK

2:00 Subject Matter Experts
Honorable B.J. Jones, Chief Judge, *Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Court, UND School of Law*
Honorable Judge William A. Thorne, *Utah Court of Appeals*

- 3:30 **Break**
- 3:45 **ICWA Directors/ Selected Clients – Challenges & Barriers: Kinship and Indian Family Placements, Processes and Implementation**
- 5:00 **Adjournment Day One**

DAY TWO – Thursday, May 16

- 8:00 **Registration**
- 8:30 **Welcome – Moderator**
Raymond Cournoyer, *Executive Director, SD ICWA Directors' Coalition*
- 8:45 **Basics of ICWA—What it Can and Can't Do for Tribes and Children**
Honorable B.J. Jones, *Chief Judge, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Court*
Honorable Judge William A. Thorne, *Utah Court of Appeals*

ICWA has long been the subject of confusion and misunderstanding - This session will summarize the evolution of the ICWA, where and when ICWA does and doesn't apply, and the strategies Tribes can implement to eliminate or reduce nonIndian foster care placements.

- 10:30 **Break**
- 10:45 **Basics of ICWA—What it Can and Can't Do for Tribes and Children, continued**
- Questions and Answers*

12:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

- 2:00 **Bringing Our Children Home – Challenges, Barriers, Accountability, and Solutions**
Ralph Bayard, *Senior Director, Systems Improvement, Casey Family*
Verlin Deer In Water, *Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights, DOJ*
Patrice Kunesh, *Solicitor, DOI*
Steve Emery, *Chief Judge, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe*

Although Indian children are over-represented in the foster care system, they are also over-represented in abuse and neglect reporting in the first instance. Once in the state court system, advocacy challenges range from minimal due process to lack of Indian placement options. This session will discuss the difficulties in clearly identifying and accurately documenting areas where corrective action is needed, the concurrent tribal accountability and effort required to achieve corrective action, and the collaboration that can result in better outcomes for Indian children.

Questions and Answers

3:30 **Break**

3:45 **ICWA Compliance – Tribal/State Collaboration: Checks and Balances and Solutions**

George McCauley, *QUICWA, Minneapolis American Indian Center*
Paul Mineheart, *QUICWA, Minneapolis American Indian Center*
Daryl Toulou, *Washington State Office of Indian Policy*
Liz Mueller or Laura Bluehorse, *WA Tribe (TBD)*

A 2005 Government Accounting Office Report highlighted the fact the no Federal Agency is authorized to review and enforce state agency ICWA compliance. In that absence, some Tribes and states have collaborated to create alternative systems to review state ICWA compliance and make corrections where problems are detected. Learn about models for court monitoring and ICWA case review, which have been effective in Minnesota and Washington.

Questions and Answers

5:00 **Adjournment Day Two**

DAY THREE – Friday, May 17

8:00 **Registration**

8:30 **Welcome – Moderator**

Raymond Cournoyer, *Executive Director, SD ICWA Directors' Coalition*

8:45 **Opportunities for Collaboration: Tribal/State ICWA Policies, Review & Recommendations for the "Green Book" - South Dakota Guidelines for Judicial Process in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases**

Co-Moderators:

Danelle Daugherty, *Tribal Operations Specialist, BIA*

Teresa Nieto, *Social Services Manager, Crow Creek Agency, BIA*

Tribes have opportunities to effectively and proactively advance recommendations and changes to state ICWA policies. As an example, all South Dakota Tribes were recently approached to submit suggestions for amending and improving the "Green Book." Participate in the first brainstorming sessions regarding possible changes. Participants are encouraged to have their tribal attorneys review the "Green Book" in advance and submit suggestions in writing. The completed policy paper will be shared with all Tribes for review by their Tribal Councils.

The "Green Book" is available at:

http://uj.s.sd.gov/uploads/downloads/SD_Judicial_Gudelines_Child_Abuse_Neglect_Proceedings.pdf

Questions and Answers

10:30 **Break**

10:45 **Improving Recruitment, Retention, and Ongoing Support of Native American Adoptive and Foster Care Placements**

Kathy Deserly, *Associate Director, National Resource Center for Tribes*

Susan Ferrari, *Oklahoma Tribal Foster Care Consortium*

Maria Scannapieco, *Oklahoma Tribal Foster Care Consortium*

Kathy Black Bear, *Sicangu Child and Family, Rosebud Sioux Tribe*

The need for Indian kinship placements and Indian foster families far outpaces the available supply in Indian Country. This session explores possible barriers to recruitment and retention, ranging from lack of funding to support kinship placements in areas of poverty to developing home study requirements that meet Federal health,

safety, and welfare requirements within the unique child-rearing traditions of Tribes. This session also explores best practices for creative and successful foster care and kinship care recruitment and retention models as well as creative ways recruiters problem-solve and overcome perceived and actual placement barriers on a case-by-case basis.

Questions and Answers

12:30

LUNCH BREAK

2:00

Reducing Delay in Bringing Children Home – Simplifying the Transfer of Jurisdiction Process

Honorable Janell Sully, *Children's Court Judge, Rosebud Sioux Tribe*

Steve Emery, *Chief Judge, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe*

Pam Tiede, *Attorney at Law, Sioux Falls, South Dakota (tentative)*

Shirley Bad Wound, *ICWA Director, Rosebud Sioux Tribe*

Once a state court makes a determination that jurisdiction should be transferred back to tribal court, tribal systems must be ready to quickly arrange the transfer components in order to provide safety and stability for the returning child, from initial transportation, safe placements, needed services and resources, home studies, and necessary court oversight. This panel explores methodologies and processes which help make jurisdiction transfer a seamless process for children.

Questions and Answers

3:00

Break

3:15

Indian Foster/Adoptive Parents' Panel – Bringing the Children to Our Homes

Susan Geliga-Grazales, *Foster and Adoptive Parent*

Kevin & Taryn Abourezk, *Foster and Adoptive Parents*

Jewel Wright, *Foster and Adoptive Parent*

Indian foster care, kinship placements, and adoptions are key to preventing the disruption of Indian families and a child's loss of tribal

identity, particularly where termination of parental rights is unavoidable. This panel showcases Indian foster parents, adoptive parents, and kinship placement providers who will share the challenges and blessings of parenting Indian children affected by family disruption.

Questions and Answers

4:30

Adjournment Day Three