

California State Department of Social Services (CDSS)
ICWA WORKGROUP
January 12, 2016 • 1:00pm to 3:30pm
(Hosted by CDSS)

Meeting Notes

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sara Rogers and Kendra Elmendorf will follow up on Tribal child welfare agencies access to CWS/CMS.2. Sara Rogers is soliciting for tribal engagement in the Continuum of Care Reform with a 6 month time frame for STRTC regulations and feedback/input on impact of tribal communities3. Kendra will send the workgroup a working draft of the RFA directive.4. Celeste Hinojos is soliciting subcommittee members for Tribal Customary Adoptions regulations.5. The tribal representatives are requesting a CDSS office of Tribal Affairs, ICWA point person, and point of contact list for various program areas within CDSS.6. Tribal representatives are interested in a PowerPoint/webinar/call for the release for the Tribal Consultation Policy.7. Jennifer Buchholz will follow up on a write up for the Humboldt Cultural training for the workgroup to view.8. Add Federal Grants for ICWA programs as a standing item to the Workgroup Agenda.9. Workgroup members requested mediation by CDSS between counties and tribes for negotiating MOU's.

Welcome/Introductions

Review Agenda and Minutes: Nancy Curry chaired this meeting. Participants and callers introduced themselves to the group. Participants reviewed the minutes.

Amendments to November Minutes: None.

Other tribal news/amendments to agenda: Added a 5-minute presentation on the new ICWA curriculum.

CDSS Statewide Assessment: Dave McDowell reported on this. The CDSS is beginning the statewide assessment review on the federal outcome measures that ACF put out last year. This is the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The information from the assessment, case review, and quantitative data will be compiled into a federal report that forms the basis of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Next January negotiation for the Program Improvement Plan for CFSD with ACF will begin. The review contains specific questions related ICWA compliance. The case review involves record review and engaging

with the participants within the case (family, tribal reps, social workers, etc). Additionally tribal representatives are encouraged to participate in the whole statewide assessment through focus groups and other activities.

CDSS Updates

Division 31 Regulations: Kelly Winston and Melinda Iremonger gave this report. The Regulations were submitted for public comment last summer and CDSS has been diligently working to incorporate suggestions and respond to comments.. Many comments suggesting incorporation of the BIA guidelines were included to the extent that they were aligned with state law and would not trigger a requirement for new public comment period which would further delay implementation. The revisions are currently routing through internal CDSS processes and will require a 15-day re-notice. Further comments may be made to the new changes during that time. If there are no additional changes necessary, the regulations go through internal approval again and then to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The OAL reviews the text to be sure that the text is legally valid and has final approval. Once OAL approves, the regulations are considered final and will be updated on the CDSS website. While this is a significant benchmark in improvement to the regulations, additional changes are anticipated when the BIA finalizes the regulations proposed last year.

SB 1460 – Criminal Background Checks: Vevila Hussey and Jennifer Buchholz gave this report, focusing on Tribal agencies access to criminal background checks. The DOJ is obtaining information for the CDSS to inform the pending ACL that will provide guidance for the implementation – also waiting for internal program input. Vevila is providing technical assistance and she is the point of contact for this.

Continuum of Care Reform: Sarah Base gave this report. This new addition to child welfare reform and the CDSS is focusing on congregate care, creating accountability, changing licensing standards, and an opportunity to change CA child welfare service provision. Short Term Residential Treatment centers and Core standards and services – what are those services and what does it look like? Including cultural measures for these deliverables are provided. Currently working on the program statement for group home and FFA's and their intent/aims – want this to be utilized as an oversight/accountability document that has a quality improvement process – will be a condition of licensure. January 20th stakeholder workgroup (initial one),

Resource Family Approval (RFA): Kendra Elmendorf gave this report. The most recent focus for the RFA is on the written directives/statute for ICWA compliance and sensitivity to Native American children and families as it relates to RFA.

Transitional Age Youth ACL update: Susan Zimny gave this report. At the November workgroup this program requested a subcommittee, unfortunately did not receive any volunteers. Due to time constraints the letter is moving forward and going through the internal CDSS County Letter Process and should be going out by the end of Jan.

Tribal Customary Adoption: Regulation update – Celeste Hinojos – Solicited for subcommittee participants.

Tribal Title IV-E Agreements: Kelly Winston announced changes in the oversight of the Tribal IV-E agreements. Work to implement the agreements will be coordinated by the FCARB Bureau. Rebecca Aguirre and Stan Cagle will be coordinating the IV-E agreements currently held by the Karuk and Yurok tribes. The CDSS is working to try to develop a standardized process for entering into IV-E Agreements that is more streamlined than what tribes have experienced thus far. The Department is also attempting to change the way that CDSS organizes workload related to activities concerning tribes. This movement is part of an effort to better ensure that knowledge of ICWA and tribal interests are better understood throughout the CFS Division and, in coordination with tribes, incorporated into new policy development and program planning.

Federal Grants for Tribal-State ICWA Programs: Erin Thuston gave this report. One Federal Grant will be released in June – There is an established subcommittee

- Let Erin know if you know of any other Federal Grants.

Tribal Consultation Policy: Jennifer Buchholz provided this report. Currently with the Chief Deputy Director for review. The policy will have a coordinated release date with Agency. It will be a department wide policy and needs to be vetted through the other departments Deputy Directors before release. .

- **ICWA WG Operational Status:** Mary R updated the group. She has begun writing a statement for the workgroup and finding the history of the WG establishment. It is not ready to be released in draft form yet and needs more information.

Proposed BIA Regulations & ICWA Lawsuits: Delia Parr reported out on this. Regulations should come out early march or end of April; already identifying changes. The DOJ was successful in dismissing Virginia litigation and addressed future legislation through this dismissal..

CWS Project update: Mary Risling gave this update. The new system has shifted and has now changed to an agile process – it breaks the RFP into smaller sections that allows for the modules to build on one another to then replace the CWS/CMS system. Allows for flexibility in building and vendors. Two RFP's are already out for the technical application interface for the intake process

County/Tribe Updates

CQI – Sylvia Deporto -looking for a representative for the advisory committee.

CWDA – could county directors attend WG meeting instead of tribal representation at the CWDA meeting?

Humboldt Cultural Training – Michelle & Stephanie & Jennifer – It was training as part of the CAPP program, focusing on the historical trauma and extrapolated to make it specific to Humboldt County. It was a tremendous experience/training and there could be elements used statewide but it was specific to the area. Not only specific for the practice model, but a cultural cathartic experiential training.

Next ICWA Workgroup Meeting Discussion

Statewide ICWA conference Pala 2016

Tentative dates for the conference are: June 6, 7, and 8th 2016. Currently tribal representatives are putting together an ICWA conference committee. Will be doing workgroup information sessions – taking requests and presenters

BIA ICWA notice changes as a requested information session presented by Michelle Deason.

Added Agenda Item

CORE 3.0: Tom Lidot gave this presentation. A pre and posttest has been added to the curriculum. The curriculum has been sent to CalSWEC for review – state processes – will roll out in June 2017 – LA may be piloting in June 2016

Next meeting – Potentially hosted in Northern since southern is hosting conference -

Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm .