

**California State Department of Social Services
ICWA WORKGROUP**

September 11, 2012 • 1:00pm to 3:30pm
CDSS, 744 P Street, Conference Room 203 (OB 9)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Meeting Notes

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. CDSS will work with CalSWEC to schedule an overview training to demonstrate to tribal workers how the CWS/CMS system is used.
2. CDSS offered to discuss Del Norte issues related to adoptions with their Outcomes and Accountability Bureau and look at county System Improvement Plans (SIPs) to ensure they reflect support and compliance with ICWA.
3. Susan Brooks offered to arrange a meeting with Del Norte County and Tribal representatives to have some discussion about how to address tribal concerns regarding adoptions.
4. Liz DeRouen suggested that CDSS invite the recently-appointed Governor's Tribal Advisor to future workgroup meetings so the tribes' concerns can be conveyed.
5. The Tribal Co-Chairs will discuss the issue of a tribal host for the November workgroup meeting. They will try to locate a tribal host and get back to CDSS. If no response, CDSS will email tribes to solicit for a tribal host for the November meeting

Welcome/Introductions

Participants were introduced, and the previous meeting's minutes and current meeting's agenda were reviewed. The Tribal Caucus revised the agenda to add discussion topics regarding a Yurok appellate case, recently-passed trailer bill, and tribal consultation. Two agenda items (Division 31 Overview and Non-compliance Issues document) were set aside and will be postponed for discussion at a future meeting. Due to the lack of time, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was unable to provide their update for this meeting.

A review of Action Items from the May workgroup meeting was done. Diana Orcino verified that all items had been completed with the exception of #9 (planning an overview training to demonstrate to tribal workers how the CWS/CMS system is used). CDSS is in the process of scheduling this training, and more information will be provided to the workgroup after an appropriate training format is determined. CDSS is working with CalSWEC to schedule this training in a way that will be available to tribal workers throughout California.

ACTION 1: CDSS will work with CalSWEC to schedule an overview training to demonstrate to tribal workers how the CWS/CMS system is used.

California American Indian Recovery Services (CAIRS)

Vanesscia Bates and Analicia Burnett provided a program overview of services available through their organization. CAIRS is part of a larger, national Access to Recovery initiative created to give people the ability to choose services that meet their unique individual needs.

The California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB) was awarded the Access to Recovery III grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The purpose of CAIRS is to reimburse approved providers for residential, outpatient, dental, and substance abuse treatment and recovery support services provided to American Indian/Alaska Native people (age 12 and over) that reside in California. The CAIRS program contract term will end September 29, 2014. CAIRS reimburses for each service at a fixed rate through a web-based voucher system. Clients can locate CAIRS providers by using their Online Provider directory, contacting CRIHB staff for referrals, or by calling CAIRS' toll free number. Handouts were also provided to participants.

Yurok Tribal Customary Adoption Appellate Case

This agenda item was added to the agenda by the Tribal Caucus the day of this meeting. There was discussion concerning Del Norte County and issues that seem to be continually arising with regard to favoring traditional adoption as a permanency option over guardianship in cases where the tribe does not recommend tribal customary adoption (TCA). Although Del Norte County is aware that traditional adoption is not a placement option that tribes prefer, this practice seems to be happening over and over. Historical trauma training may not be the only answer, and it was suggested that perhaps a directive is in order. County protocols should be in place to support and comply with ICWA. Tribes are expecting and wanting the state to step in and enforce ICWA with counties.

CDSS offered to discuss the matter further with their Outcomes and Accountability Bureau and look at county System Improvement Plans (SIPs) to ensure they reflect support and compliance with ICWA. Also, Susan Brooks offered to arrange a meeting with Del Norte County and Tribal representatives to have some discussion about how to address the issue. Liz DeRouen suggested inviting the recently-appointed Governor's Tribal Advisor to future workgroup meetings so the tribes' concerns can be conveyed.

ACTION 2: CDSS offered to discuss Del Norte issues related to adoptions with their Outcomes and Accountability Bureau and look at county System Improvement Plans (SIPs) to ensure they reflect support and compliance with ICWA.

ACTION 3: Susan Brooks offered to arrange a meeting with Del Norte County and Tribal representatives to have some discussion about how to address tribal concerns regarding adoptions.

ACTION 4: Liz DeRouen suggested that CDSS invite the recently-appointed Governor's Tribal Advisor to future workgroup meetings so the tribes' concerns can be conveyed.

Trailer Bill

This agenda item was added to the agenda by the Tribal Caucus. The Tribal Caucus expressed concern that the trailer bill was passed by the Legislature without tribes knowing about it. They also mentioned that lack of consultation is an issue. Nancy Currie mentioned that the workgroup has discussed the lack of consultation at the state level for years, and yet it is still happening. CDSS staff expressed that they remain committed to improving communication and consultation with tribes.

Kevin Gaines and Elizabeth Sandoval also emphasized that the trailer bill did not change funding or anything for the IV-E tribes.

Realignment, State District Office Closures, and County Adoptions

CDSS staff explained some of the changes resulting from realignment with regard to the Adoptions program. Pre-realignment, CDSS could not arbitrarily arrive at a county office and inspect records. However, post-realignment, CDSS can now inspect records with a 30-day notice provided.

Also, Susan Turner (Kings County) reported that since they assumed their own Adoptions Unit in January 2012, they have 70 open adoption cases. She indicated that staffing the unit has been an issue.

California Partnership for Permanency (CAPP)

Aprille Flint provided a report on CAPP. The CAPP program hired two new Tribal Consultants: Cynthia Alexander (Fresno) and Lonyx Landry (Humboldt). Cynthia and Lonyx were both in attendance at the meeting and gave a brief introduction on their background and experience working with tribes. Members of the workgroup asked for the Tribal Consultants to speak more at the next meeting. Aprille mentioned that CDSS would like to use what is going on in Fresno and Humboldt counties as a practice model for other counties.

19th Annual Statewide ICWA Conference

Stephanie Weldon provided a conference update. There were 287 registrants for this year's conference. Humboldt County Children and Family Services and California Indian Legal Services helped to sponsor the event.

Next ICWA Workgroup Meeting Discussion

The next ICWA Workgroup meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2012, and is to be hosted by a Central Region tribe (to be determined). The Tribal co-chairs and representatives will discuss and get back to CDSS. If no response, CDSS will need to send an email to solicit for a tribal host for the November meeting.

With regard to modifying the meeting format by flipping the morning and afternoon meetings, the Tribal Caucus did not wish to change the format in this way, so the meeting format will not change.

The Tribal Caucus requested that the following agenda items be included for the next meeting:

- Tribal Consultation
- Del Norte County

<p>ACTION 5: The Tribal Co-Chairs will discuss the issue of a tribal host for the November workgroup meeting. They will try to locate a tribal host and get back to CDSS. If no response, CDSS will email tribes to solicit for a tribal host for the November meeting.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.