



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

April 17, 2014

Dear Tribal Chairperson:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) understands that your tribe has the inherent authority to set priorities and goals for the welfare of your citizens. It is, therefore, critical that your tribe's needs, assessments, and recommendations are heard so that CDSS policies support California tribal children and families. We are seeking to establish a tribal "government-to-government" consultation process that would represent a collaborative platform whereby tribes and CDSS would share information on a regular basis. We are respectfully requesting your partnership in the formulation of this Tribal Consultation Policy Committee (TCPC).

On June 25 and June 27, 2013, many California tribal representatives attended listening sessions with CDSS regarding the formation of a formal "government-to-government" consultation process at California's annual Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Conference. Since the listening sessions, CDSS has met with a number of tribal councils and intend to continue our efforts to meet with tribal governments face-to-face to obtain input on the structure and key components to include in this consultation policy.

Based on the information gathered from our generous tribal partners thus far, it is critical that tribal council members are directly involved in the drafting of this consultation policy. We invite you or a designated representative of your tribe to join our proposed TCPC to participate in this endeavor. We plan to have a conference call in May 2014 with TCPC members to initiate the committee process and we anticipate that the TCPC members will have a total of five monthly meetings before completing the policy development by a targeted date of November 2014.

The CDSS will also be sponsoring a TCPC working session at the upcoming 21st annual ICWA Conference on June 17-19, 2014, at the Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino. This will be an opportunity for TCPC members to meet face-to-face to continue the development of this consultation policy. Tribal council members who have elected not to be part of the TCPC are also welcome to attend this closed door meeting at the conference.

Tribal Chairperson  
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Should you appoint a representative to participate in the TCPC on behalf of your tribe, we would be grateful if you would indicate this feedback has been approved by your tribal council. Our timeline for having this policy finalized is also enclosed. Please contact us by May 2, 2014, to inform us that you would like to be part of this TCPC.

Our contact details are below:

Child Safety Unit–ICWA  
744 P St., MS 8-11-87  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Office: (916) 651-6160  
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Thank you kindly for your time and attention. We would be honored if you would participate in the TCPC and hope that this represents the start of a working relationship that paves the way for policies that support tribal efforts and visions for their communities.

Sincerely,



GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosure