

**October 12, 2004 ICWA Agenda
Rapid City, SD**

9:00 Welcome – Review of Dr. Usera Report

9:15 Telephone report from Review Team:
Dawn Rubio, National Center for State Courts;
Brenda Bellonger, North American Indian Legal Service, Inc.

9:45 – 10:15 Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe
Ken Hardy, Program Manager, Child Protection Program

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 10:45 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Tracey Manywounds, Director, Child Protection Services

10:45 – 11:15 Native American Training Institute – Jodi Gillette, Director

11:15 – 11:30 Discussion

11:30 – 12:00 New Integrated Child Welfare System
Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen, Community Developer,
Casey Family Programs, Pine Ridge
Cordelia White Elk, Oglala Sioux Tribe

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch

1:15 – 1:30 Great Sioux Nation ICWA Consortium update

1:30 – 2:00 Remarks from Bernadine Broken Leg - 30 years with ICWA

2:00 – 4:00 Discussion of listening sessions and preparation of report to Legislature

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:00 Continue discussion and report preparation

**Governor's ICWA Commission
October 12, 2004, Rapid City, SD
Meeting Minutes**

ICWA Commission members present: Jim Bradford, Mary Curran, Bob Duxbury, Renee Eggebraaten, Steve Emery, Deb Fischer-Clemens, DJ Hanson, Doug Herrmann, Ann Holzhauser, BJ Jones, Janine Kern, Mike LaPointe, Tracey Manywounds, Tami Bern, Rose McCauley, Denise Murphy, Ramona O'Connor, Sara Olson, Mike Schad, Dave Valandra, Jack Von Wald, Bob Walters, Cordelia White Elk, Bill White Lance, Virgena Wieseler

ICWA Commission members absent: Jackie Barse, Keith Bonenberger, Ramona O'Connor, Kathleen Trandahl, and Joni Cutler

Others Present: Roger Campbell, Michael Hultgren, Sr., Beverly Iron Shield, Carol Iron Rope Herrera, Cindy Gillis, Gwen Caldwell, Naomi Johnson, Susan Campbell, Merton Tice, Raymond Courmoyer, Elizabeth Kraus, Jim Kinyon, Ken Hardy, Karen Jeffries, Margaret Eagan, Mary McCowan, Deb Phillips, Patricia Catches, Hazel Bonner, John Usera, Jim Ellenbecker

1. Welcome – Co-Chairs Kern and Jones welcomed the commission members and those in the audience. Bob Walters opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Telephone report from Review Team

Since the August 10, 2004 meeting of the ICWA Commission, the NCSC/NAILS project team has engaged in development and data collection activities. These include: State and Tribal stakeholder surveys completed and submitted to Commission Co-Chairs on September 27, 2004 and October 6, 2004; site visits to state agencies in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre, Aberdeen, and Huron; visits to the following tribes and locations: Sisseton, Flandreau, Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, Crow Creek/Lower Brule, Rosebud, and Yankton Sioux Tribes. A file review was done in Rapid City.

The State Statewide Stakeholder Surveys should be distributed by October 18, 2004. The Commission distributed at the meeting, copies of the drafts of the web-based state and tribal surveys and the web site for accessing and completing the surveys. Members of the public asked if they could complete the tribal surveys. This request was denied by the Review Team as it would have skewed the tribal survey data.

The Review Teams report will include data from the focus groups, statewide surveys, case file reviews, and CPS MIS system information. Responses from the Statewide Stakeholder surveys will be tabulated and compiled in usable formats.

3. Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe – Ken Hardy, Program Manager, Child Protection Program Ken gave a summary of the development of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe's agreement with the Department of Social Services for the provision of child protection services. The tribe has had an ongoing contract with DSS since 1978 and provides a full array of child protection services including investigations, foster care, licensing of foster homes, adoption and approval of adoption homes. The Tribe has good communication with DSS and a strong and collaborative relationship.

4. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – Tracey Manywounds, Director, Child Protection Services Tracey Manywounds is the director of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Child Protection Team which provides services in both North and South Dakota as the reservation is located in both states. The SDRST has a full contract for the provisions of CPS services with the State of North Dakota. Since 1993, the tribe has had a Title IV-E Agreement and licensing agreements with the State of South Dakota. Tracey presented statistics for the Child Protection Team in 2003, which indicated a large caseload with hundreds of children and families served by her team.

5. Native American Training Institute – Jodi Gillette Director

Jodi Gillette gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Native American Training Institute. The mission of the Native American Training Institute is to empower individuals, families, and communities to create safe and healthy environments for children and families to achieve their highest potential. The parties involved are: Spirit Lake Nation, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes, and the Trenton Indian Service Area. The advisory board is made up of: ND Division of Child & Family Services Director, ND division of Juvenile Services Director, ND Tribal Liaison for HHS, Casey Family Programs, and a foster parent. The relationships in ND are a unique collaboration between the tribes and the state. The Institute provides training through Children & Family Services Training Center at UND, Native American foster parent training on reservations, and training for non-Native social workers regarding cultural issues when dealing with Indian children. Financial assistance is provided through Title IV-E and tribal matches.

The foster parent training includes such topics as: foster parent orientation, developmental stages, attachment, loss and grief, discipline, intergenerational grief, chemical addictions, child abuse, neglect & sexual abuse, promoting permanency, kinship care/self esteem, "we are all related". The Institute has developed curricula and training opportunities including: "Extending Our Families through Unity", Cultural Competency Training, Wraparound Review Intake Team (WRIT) Training, "We Are All Related – Relationships in Perspective: A guide for Native American Youth", and "In the Spirit of ICWA: Indian Child Welfare Act".

6. New Integrated Child Welfare System (Oglala Sioux Tribe) – Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen, Cordelia White Elk, and Carlette Randall

Members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe gave a presentation about the Lakota Oyate Wakanyeya Owicakiyapi Inc. (Oglala Lakota Integrated Tribal Child and Family Services Agency). The LOWO Inc. agency provides strength-based child welfare support services in foster care placement, support and maintenance; recruitment and training of foster families, family preservation and reunification services such as Family Group Decision Making.

Alcohol abuse by parents is the primary reason children are removed from their homes for child abuse and neglect. There are few licensed tribal foster homes, yet there are four agencies on the Oglala Reservation charged with the responsibility for care and placement of children. Thus, a majority of children are placed in off-reservation homes. The goal of LOWO is to support the development of a unified framework for culturally appropriate service delivery among all agencies, and expand support services and resources each year to meet the basic needs of families. Lakota cultural beliefs, philosophy, traditions, and ceremonies will be incorporated in service delivery as an important basis for helping children and families strengthen their identity as tribal people. Casey family Programs has provided facilitation and support in building the foundation of LOWO. The South Dakota Department of Social Services Child Protection Services is an active partner in planning and developing the child welfare system of care framework. The DSS Field Programs Specialist has contributed technical assistance and guidance resulting in a positive working relationship with DSS. A title IV-E agreement and a full contract are in the final stages of negotiation with implementation expected in 2006.

7. Review of Dr. Usera's report

Judge Kern distributed Dr. Usera's report generated from the August 10, 2004 roundtable discussion with ICWA Commission members. Judge Jones and Judge Kern distributed a draft of proposed "Specific Recommendations" for inclusion in the Commission's final report.

8. Great Sioux Nation ICWA Consortium update

9. Remarks from Bernadine Broken Leg – 30 years with ICWA

Bernadine spoke about how she became involved with ICWA. About 30 years ago, her child was removed from her home. As a result of her personal struggle to regain custody of her child, she

began to advocate for passage of a federal law to protect Indian children and their families. She testified before Congress and advocated for enactment of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. Bernadine used the Commission to look for dispositional options other than the termination of parental rights which is so painful for parents and children.

10. Discussion of listening sessions and preparation of report to Legislature

Judge Jones disseminated for discussion, a hand written outline of the Commission's report to the Legislature, which included the following sections: an executive summary; historical analysis of ICWA; delivery of child protection services, a summary of South Dakota case law; the history of the ICWA Commission; discussion of methodology; research findings from NCSC/NAIIS; analysis and prioritization of their findings; and ICWA Commission recommendations to the Legislature. The following Commissioners volunteered to work on the report: Jones, Kern, Emery, Manywounds, Wieseler and Holzhauser.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm on October 12, 2004.