

**Children’s Administration Indian Policy Advisory Subcommittee
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
Citizen Review Panel
CAPTA Report and Work Plan 2012**

April 11, 2012

Purpose

The purpose of the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) is to evaluate the extent to which the State is fulfilling its child protection responsibilities in accordance with its Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State plan. Children’s Administration Indian Policy Advisory Committee (CA IPAC) is serving as a CRP; CY 2008 was the first year IPAC has done so. Established in 1977, IPAC was created to assist the collective needs of the Tribal governments and other American Indian organizations to assure quality and comprehensive service delivery from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to all American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington State. The IPAC is comprised of representatives from the 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington and from five Recognized American Indian Organizations. Each DSHS division has an IPAC subcommittee including CA. The CA Subcommittee meets monthly in either a State office or at a tribal location.

Acknowledgements

CA would like to thank the IPAC CRP co-chairs Liz Mueller, Vice Chair of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and Jim Sherrill, Social Services Director of the Cowlitz Tribe for their wisdom and leadership.

Area of Focus Selected

- Monitor 2264 for impacts on disproportionality
- Tribal access to information on non-Indian family members in Famlink
- Continue implementing monthly ICW case reviews at local level and monitoring progress
- Monitor progress on Building Bridges
- Develop and implement local agreements between tribes and state

Monitor 2264 for impacts on disproportionality:

E2SHB 2264 requires the Children’s Administration (CA) to develop and implement Performance-Based contracts with “Network Administrators” for family support and related services. E2SHB 2264 establishes a new chapter in RCW 74 for Performance-Based Contract (PBC) requirements. There is no longer a statutory connection between PBC and the Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee or the demonstration sites created by 2SHB 2106.

CA social workers are responsible for case management. E2SHB 2264 allows for CA to continue to contract for case management services with CPAs, BRS providers or “other entities” that provided case management prior to July 1, 2005. Requires CA to enter into performance-based contracts for the provision of “family support and related services” by December 1, 2013. As part of the procurement process, CA must consult with department caseworkers, WFSE, tribes, veteran parents, foster youth and alumni, child welfare services researchers and WSIPP, to assist CA in identifying the categories of family support and related services.

The CA-IPAC subcommittee is interested to see the affects of this legislation on the rates of disproportionate foster care placements of Native American children.

Continue to implement local ICW Case Reviews

Several offices throughout all of the Regions have begun implementing local ICW case reviews. CA-IPAC would like to have this practice expanded and continued. Each office will continue to review a few ICW cases each month in collaboration with tribal partners. The new ICW case review tool will be used in this process. Supervisors will utilize this as a training and quality improvement tool with their staff.

CA Assistant Secretary Denise Revels Robinson agreed to this plan.

Develop mechanism to allow for tribal access to non-Native family members in FamLink

All 29 tribes in Washington State have been invited to enter into a government to government agreement that will allow access to the CA SACWIS data system called FamLink. To date, 23 tribes have signed agreements in place. Tribes agreed to sign user agreements and allow for background checks. A FamLink module was developed to allow external partners (in this case tribal staff) to gain the access through the internet. A training curriculum was developed and delivered to participating tribes. Some tribes are still in the process of obtaining the access (completing agreements, obtaining training etc.). One tribe has opted out of the agreement at this time. DSHS regional staff has been delegated to provide assistance to tribes at the local level.

At this time, the tribes would like to explore gaining access to information in FamLink about non-Native family members to allow them to provide safe and appropriate case management to their families and children. Currently the tribes are only granted view access to tribal members as documented in FamLink. This plan has been approved by the assistant attorney general, Sheila Huber, as there is no legal reason to deny access to the information for the tribes.

Regional Administrators’ will work with Tribes in their area to complete Local Tribal/State Agreements

Regional Administrators continue to work with area tribes in the development of Local Agreements to help identify and facilitate delivery of services and enhance the government-to-government relationship as it applies to each tribe. Once these Agreements are completed and signed by both governments they will be posted on the CA intranet webpage so that all CA staff may access and utilize the agreements.

Monitor affects of training on placement of Native American Children in foster homes:

CA-IPAC would like to have CA gather information on the impacts of the Building Bridges training for the staff on the rates of disproportionate placement of Native American youth into foster care within Washington State.

Recommendations to the Agency:

1. Monitor 2264 for impacts on disproportionality
2. Tribal access to information on non-Indian family members in Famlink
3. Continue implementing monthly ICW case reviews at local level and monitoring progress
4. Monitor progress on Building Bridges
5. Develop and implement local agreements between tribes and state