



DRAFT MEETING NOTES

IPAC ESA Subcommittee Meeting

Squaxin Island Tribe, Little Creek Resort
August 11, 2008

The IPAC ESA Subcommittee Meeting convened on August 11, 2008 at the Squaxin Island Tribe, Little Creek Resort.

► In Attendance

The following tribes/organizations were in attendance:

Skokomish Tribe, Nooksack Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, SPIPA, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Colville Tribe, Suquamish Tribe

Representatives from the Economic Services Administration (ESA) included staff from:

State Tribal Relations Office (STRO), Division of Child Support (DCS), Community Services Division (CSD), Operations Support (OS), Office of the Assistant Secretary (OAS).

Representatives from the DSHS Indian Policy Support Services (IPSS) were also in attendance.

► Welcome & Invocation

Sarah Colleen Sotomish, STRO Administrator for Economic Services Administration, welcomed everyone to the IPAC ESA Subcommittee Meeting. Helen Fenrich conducted the invocation.

► Agenda Review:

Sarah Colleen Sotomish reviewed the draft agenda.

► Review:

- David Rendon and Sandy Jsames announced that a letter has gone out to tribes explaining that tribal representatives may be designated the authorized representative on a tribal member's ADATSA application form and conduct ADATSA application interview by phone in the tribal member's behalf.
- Sandy Jsames stated there has been some interest in forming a state-tribal workgroup to review how state budgets various types of tribal income and shared a preliminary analysis handout regarding State Research on Tribal Income Rules for discussion only. Representatives from HRSA and ADSA will be joining this work group and they are looking for participation from tribal representatives before scheduling their first meeting. The following tribal representatives volunteered for this workgroup: Helen Fenrich, June O'Brien (and the tribal attorney for the Squaxin Island Tribe), and Steve Weaver. If other participants are interested, they should contact Sarah Colleen Sotomish or Colleen Cawston.

- June O'brien requested clarification on the description of the terms utilized in the State Research on Tribal Income handout. David Rendon stated that would be the purpose of the workgroup.
- Rebecca Henrie explained that the DSHS has been working with Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe over the last year to plan a pilot project. The tribe will process eligibility for Basic Food and certain Medicaid programs. They met most recently on August 5, 2008 to continue pilot planning.
- Rebecca stated that a meeting was held on July 28, 2008 between the Tribes, Troy Hutson and Doug Porter to resolve some issues around services to non-Native Americans who may apply at the pilot CSO. After additional discussions and clarification, it was determined the issues have been resolved and we are moving forward. Marilyn Olson confirmed she spoke with Doug Porter to resolve the issue with HRSA.
- Rebecca also announced that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved our Medicaid State Plan Amendment to allow the Tribe to do the Medicaid determinations for children, family, and pregnancy medical for the pilot project. However, we do have issues from CMS on the cost allocation plan, which we are working with HRSA and CMS to resolve. CMS has specific requests for the pilot and cost allocation and time-keeping. Now that the service issues are resolved, we will iron out the Program Agreement language and the cost allocation issues with CMS, and be able to get started on training and implementation – at least for Medicaid.

► Advisory Committees:

- Sarah Colleen provided information on the background and purpose of the ESA Advisory Committee (ESAC). She announced that ESA is currently recruiting one tribal representative to be a member of the ESAC. Rosi Francis, previous ESAC tribal representative, shared her personal experiences on the committee. Troy Hutson discussed ESA's vision and his commitment to ensure the ESAC meetings are productive. He announced the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 15, 2008 and held quarterly thereafter.
- David Rendon announced the Customer Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) is also recruiting a tribal representative. This group meets quarterly and focuses on operations of CSD Community Services Offices (CSO).
- There were no volunteers for either the ESAC or CSAC positions, therefore the recruitments will be advertised at the next IPAC meeting.

► Updates from ESA Assistant Secretary, Troy Hutson:

- Troy notified tribes that the state is not meeting the WorkFirst Federal participation rate and this will be a key focus for the department in the coming months.
- He was pleased to announce that we are currently ranked number seventh in the country for Basic Food/Foods Stamps program accuracy. Another key emphasis for the state will be to increase the number of families receiving food stamps as it is beneficial to low-income families and the overall state economy.
- He shared the Governors and DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams spending reduction directives on energy, travel, and hiring. As a result of our current economic situation, he encouraged us to think about how we can provide the best possible services.

► Matrix Review:

- Colleen Cawston provided the group with the history of the matrix. The group reviewed and updated the matrix together. Colleen Cawston will update and distribute the matrix with the meeting minutes.

► Updates from DCS:

- DCS Director David Stillman discussed access of SEMS at tribal sites. He stated that effective 10-1-08 DCS will begin the limited “pass-through” of child support payments to families receiving TANF as provided for in the Deficit Reduction Act.
- Tribal Relations Manager, Brady Rossnagle, announced and distributed a flyer for the upcoming State and Tribal Child Support Training Conference at the Quinault Beach Resort & Casino on September 22 -25, 2008. He also shared Tribal Relations Team plans to develop a strategic plan, mission, and goals. They look forward to any feedback and ideas.

► Next Steps:

Sarah Colleen Sotomish and Colleen Cawston led the discussion.

**The next Tribal – State IPAC ESA Subcommittee meeting is scheduled:
September 15th, 2008 at the Little Creek Resort.**

Follow up assignments include:

- IPSS will complete and distribute the revised matrix.
- Schedule another IPAC ESA Subcommittee meeting. WAC will not be on the agenda.