

Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC)
Olympia, Washington
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2007

Welcoming and Introductions – Rosi Francis, Vice Chair
Invocation – Rosi Francis, Vice Chair
Roll Call – postponed

Invocation

Jonette Reyes, Hoh Tribal member, performed a song in honor of her uncle, a chief, who passed away.

A blanket was presented to Garnet Charles in thanks.

Colleen Cawston, IPSS Director, explained the new agenda, related to the cessation of breakout sessions. She also discussed the information in the packets.

Department of Early Learning (DEL)

Blake Chard, Deputy Secretary, explained that Jone Bosworth, Director of the new Department of Early Learning, was unable to attend.

Doug Porter, Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA)

Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary, explained HRSA is working to integrate 7.01 in the various divisions, and suggested holding meetings between the Tribes and the divisions of HRSA to address Tribal concerns and include Tribal Members in planning.

Provider One

Tribes have shown the best attendance at Provider One meetings. Washington is working to include providers in the new system in order to avoid problems experienced elsewhere. The program will go live September 8, after a period of testing. There will be no policy changes and billing change instructions will be held for 6 months. There will be refresher training once the system is in use.

Budget

The Governor's budget proposal held good news for social services; however, it includes health disparities. The budget supports outreach initiatives to increase to 32,000 the number of children enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Questions

Avreayl Jacobson, Mental Health Division (MHD), relayed a request for information about the number of Native American Children in group care and/or therapeutic care. Nancy Dufraime, Children's Administration, Indian Child Welfare (CA, ICW), will investigate and report to the Committee. She will also check on children in state homes and placements with CPA (?).

Leon asked for more information about Children's Long Term Inpatient Program (CLIP). There are four facilities in the state offering CLIP beds. They are Tamarack at Spokane, Pearl Street in Tacoma, Seattle Children's Society and the Child Study and Treatment Center at Western

State Hospital, which offers involuntary placement for children with intense medical needs. Region 3 tracked information in the past related to group care.

Avreayl Jacobsen asked about the lack of referrals for Native American Children in group care and therapeutic care for necessary mental health services (such as CLIP placement). Ronda Metcalf, from Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, stated information about accessing needed services is not available at the Tribal level.

Jonell Reyes, from Hoh Tribe, explained that as a small Tribe, the Hoh Tribe has challenges with staffing, tribal laws, distance and jurisdiction with referring to DSHS for services. Colleen plans to meet with Jonell to discuss a holistic management approach for the Tribe.

Judy Heinemann, from Samish Indian Nation, asked how youth with mental health issues who live in foster care access mental health services. If the youth is in state care or receiving services, access is available. Avreayl explained MHD is working on an agreement with Suquamish to allow the Tribe to refer directly to CLIP beds.

Nancy Dufraime, Children's Administration (CA), and Avreayl will identify available resources and develop a resource book or tool with forms. MHD will work with the Statewide RSN to meet with the Tribes to discuss areas of mutual interest. Goals include a policy and procedure to access services, serving Native American Children in their family home, and recognizing expertise within the Tribe.

Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA)

Sandra Mena-Tyree announced DASA would host a 7.01 meeting January 30, 2007. DASA has designated funding for CD services.

DASA has hired staff to fill the vacant positions in Region 3. Jennifer Paddock has been hired in Program Services and Sara Marionic is the new Prevention Manager.

Sandra discussed the new assessment tool, Global Assessment of Individual Needs – Short Screener (GAIN-SS), which screens for mental health issues and chemical dependency in youth and adults. Treatment providers document the scores in DASA's information system known as TARGET. "Train the Trainer" sessions are underway. Use of the tool is required under SB5763, 2005, and contractors are required to use it.

Leon Eagle Tail, from Spokane Tribe of Indians, asked if the process would be made more user-friendly. Sandra will meet with Leon to discuss specific questions related to TARGET, which only allows access once. For now, people can call the Regional Administrator for assistance.

Children's Administration

Cheryl Stephani, Assistant Secretary, reviewed the talking points and announced a summit in May, featuring training for LICWAC. DSHS will fund two Tribal Members to attend. Tribes/Regions may send additional LICWAC Members at their own expense.

Helen Fenrich, from The Tulalip Tribes/QuilCeda Village, asked how to address the LICWACs without representation. Nancy Dufraime said one of the purposes of the training was to educate

the LICWACs about the Tribes, as well as to review LICWAC composition and how to strengthen it.

DSHS Management Team has developed a Communication tool to address intergovernmental consultation protocols, which DSHS staff will use to improve consultation.

Ronda Metcalf discussed CPS staff forcing Tribal enrollment on children without consulting parents. Cheryl Stephani will address this as incidents are shared with her. Cheryl suggested family team meetings might be a solution, and said she would share with Management Team the limitations of expectations about enrollment. She requested detailed information be sent to both the Regional Administrator and to Cheryl.

Budget

Governor Gregoire's budget proposes increased funding for Indian Child Welfare (ICW). When the final budget is ready, Cheryl will consult with Tribes about fund distribution.

Children's Administration Tribal/State Agreement

Willie Jones, Helen Fenrich and Lawrence Hall agreed to work together to review the 1986 CA Tribal/State Agreement, discuss its effectiveness and potential revisions, and to develop a grievance process. The agreement should apply to all Tribes, and DSHS staff who work with the Tribes need to know and adhere to the agreement. Some local agreements exist, which address nuances with particular Tribes. A Delegate requested that the workgroup create a template agreement that specifies parameters, yet leaves flexibility to address Tribal-specific needs.

Katherine Igall Vasquez, from Cowlitz Indian Tribe, asked if more Tribes would be included. Cheryl responded it would be ideal if all Tribes were involved, since the Agreement affects all Tribes, and then she deferred to Nancy.

The ICW workgroup meets the second Wednesday of each month; the Forms workgroup will meet the 4th Thursday. Cheryl will send a sign-up notice to IPAC Delegates and Nancy will develop a synopsis of all meetings to the Tribes can determine who to send.

Ronda Metcalf discussed the relationship with Children's Administration staff in Region 3 and the need for respectful and professional interactions. Nancy will review steps to improve the situation. Cheryl thanked the delegate for recognizing the good aspects of the relationship.

ICW Summit

There is no funding this year for an ICW Summit; however, there is commitment to see it happen. CA will consider ways to hold the Summit on a regular basis. Helen suggested Tribes hosting if they can identify resources.

Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)

Cheryl Sullivan-Colglazier announced JRA will hire a Tribal Liaison who will also work with group homes. Cheryl will work with Colleen on recruitment. She also committed to sending the Tribes and RAIIO the recruitment material and including representatives on the interview panel. JRA will also hire a Research Manager. Tribal representatives will be included on the interview panel for this position, as well.

A roundtable meeting will give Tribes the opportunity to discuss expansion of the Colville Agreement to recognize Tribal court orders. The Agreement will be distributed to IPAC Delegates for review.

Roll Call

Ten members were present, which was not enough for a quorum.

Economic Services Administration (ESA)/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Deb Marley, Assistant Secretary of ESA, introduced the four staff with her at the meeting, and Lynnae Rutledge, DVR Director, introduced new staff member Kelly Franklin.

TANF

Tribal TANF was not included in the Governor's budget, but ESA will reserve funding. Six Tribes have access to ACES, which raises issues related to firewalls and identifying contacts. Deb staff agreed to help Tribes gain read-only access to programs that would help them related to child support.

Tribal Eligibility Determination

Two Tribes will pilot Tribal Eligibility Determination. Delegates asked that the two Tribes include one each from the eastern and western sides of the state. The Tribes will fund administrative costs. The Federal government will provide 50% reimbursement for Medicaid and 75% for Basic Food. Eligible funding sources were clarified and next steps identified.

The pilot includes two tribes to provide a fair analysis, to determine how to work with two different areas and to provide better input for success. The pilot will provide a lot of needed information.

Discussion followed about very young parents and identifying services available for Tribal TANF vs. State TANF. The process needs to include evaluation for appropriate level of services, then identifying at what point to encourage the young parent toward education and self-sufficiency.

Washington State has the highest number of Tribal TANF programs in the country. In late April or early May, a workgroup will assemble to discuss Tribal TANF rules, related to identifying topics, incorporating Tribal assistance and developing what the rules should say. IPAC reached consensus to establish a workgroup and roundtable to address the Tribal TANF issue.

Helen encouraged Tribes to educate community members to open and respond to correspondence from DSHS in order to access available services. Ronda identified another barrier to services, which is caseworkers telling community members to submit their paperwork at any DSHS office, and then the documents never make it to Child Support, which results in sanctions. Potential solutions were discussed, and David Stillman asked to be notified of specific cases in order to help.

An urgency exists to develop relationships and identify supports in order to avoid default orders. Tribal members can call Brady Rosnagle if they encounter problems.

Since CA conducts the ground checks required for any adult contracted to provide services, the Committee decided to move the issue to the CA matrix.

Colleen thanked Deb for her consistent attendance.

Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA)

Bill Moss, Director of Home and Community Services (HCS), explained LifeSpan Respite, saying it will provide a federal funding opportunity for respite. Bill will send contact information to Colleen to distribute to Delegates. There are sixteen provider registers available; Susan Shepard and Meg Evans are available caregiver resources.

Ronda Metcalf raised the issue of Tribal Members' exemption from estate recovery rules; DSHS needs to educate staff about this information. Bill asked for notification of specific situations so he can address the problem.

A Delegate asked that ADSA be represented on the Mental Health Workgroup to explain SHB 3139; Bill deferred to Mental Health's Richard Kellogg, as ADSA's expertise lies in kinship care.

AAA Update

Notices of AAA meetings will be forwarded to Tribes. A delegate requested maps of the AAA's service areas, as well as staff contact information, which IPSS will forward.

Bill discussed some local issues with the Delegate from Squaxin Island and resolved to facilitate a meeting between the Tribe and the Prosecutor. Bill was thanked for his efforts.

Leon discussed the disparity in care services for elders. Bill said HCS is willing to support a workgroup for Home Health reimbursement.

Brent Apt, ADSA, stated 2007 is an "Area Plan Year"; dates of public meetings will be sent to Tribes. Bill suggested providing Tribal specific information for area planning input and 7.01 to the Executive Meeting of the AAAs. IPSS was invited to attend this meeting.

Bill suggested that as Tribal input is sought, there is a need to communicate that all Tribes are sovereign and a joint meeting should only happen if the Tribes it. If not, the AAAs will need to meet individually with Tribes. DSHS will take the lead in bringing this collaboration about.

There was consensus to move forward with the 7.01 process.

Legislative Committee

Phil provided an overview of documents in the packets. The legislative session is scheduled to end April 22.

Wrap Up

Members were asked to turn in all workgroup sign in sheets, as well as their feedback on the new meeting format.

Maureen Wilson is leaving IPSS.

Department staff were thanked for staying for the entire meeting. All were wished safe travel.

ICW Lobby Day is January 29th; the agenda is on the GOIA website.

The Committee reached consensus about holding monthly Mental Health meeting beginning in February.

The next IPAC Meeting is scheduled April 12th in Olympia at OB-2, Floor 4, Lookout Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.