

Indian Policy Advisory Committee  
OB – 2, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Lookout Conf. Rm.  
Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2005

Welcoming and Introductions – Nancy Dufraine, IPAC Secretary  
Invocation – Andy Joseph Jr.  
Roll call – Nancy Dufraine  
Chair and Vice Chair unable to attend due to weather conditions.

No quorum established in the morning. Quorum was established upon return from sub-committee meetings. IPAC delegate list and Tribal Chair list distributed to representatives for editing. IPAC Strategic Plan to be covered in April.

**Sub-committee breakouts:**

(See attached sub-committee matrixes' for more information)

<b>Children's Sub-Committee</b>
Bob Russell, Kalispel Tribe Kristi Woodard, IPSS Regional Manager

- Title IV-B Funding is it worth the effort to apply.
- Kids Come First – Sonja Heard is the contact.
- Mandatory training for Social Workers.
- Developmental Benchmarks – Head start heavily involved. How do you measure success outside of the mandatory reporting system? Contact Denise Halloran at (360) 725-4683 for further information.
- Consultation - True consultation involves tribal leader's not just staff and DSHS employees.
- Laverne Lamoureux now working with CA Legislative Affairs, no longer over CA Program and Policy.
- Lummi Tribe concerned that fees are being cut for tribal children.
- Children's mental health issues – Avreayl Jacobson.
- Tribal day care providers may not be aware that they can apply for a provider number and seek help with the state.

\*\*\*\*\* Lummi shared with IPAC that the State Agency Fee is being cut from those cases held by the Lummi ICW Program and in borrowed DSHS homes. Lummi feels that since they are a State licensed Agency, that they should receive agency fees for those cases carried by them, managed by them, and do the payment to the foster parents for funds funneled through their program, plus conducting all work for ISPs, etc. but more importantly for those cases that are **not** Title IV-E eligible for reimbursement, which would not be double dipping. (Recommended comments for inclusion in minutes by Lummi).

<b>Health and Rehab Sub-Committee</b>
---------------------------------------

Trudy Marcellay, IPSS Regional Manager
--

- Scott Waller – State Incentive Grants Funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention are available (12 possible grants for tribes) - he is asking for volunteers to sit on the advisory committee to meet one day per month for five years. First scheduled advisory meeting is 2/11.
- 2 grant opportunities from SAMSHA.
- G2G contracts have 12 months from the date of service to bill for services. 75% of grant money should be spent. Currently tribes have only spent 35% - Contact Sandra Mena at (360) 725-3749 for more information.
- Mental Health mini grants are available up to \$3,000.
- Individual with disabilities need tribal comment – Sandy Loerch is the contact.
- JRA and Colville discussion on youth incarceration. JRA now open to making negotiations with one or two more tribes.

<b>Economic Services Sub-Committee</b>
--

Lorraine Van Brunt, IPSS Regional Manager
---

- Tribal access to ACES.
- Customer services workgroup – how can tribes participate – Contact Sarah Colleen Sotomish for further information at (360) 725- 4661.
- Access to state training information – Tribal TANF case managers want to know training opportunities.

<b>Legislative Sub-Committee</b>
----------------------------------

Nancy Dufraime, Chehalis Tribe
--------------------------------

Phil Ambrose, IPSS Regional Manager
-------------------------------------

- Legislative personnel to come to Legislative Sub-Committee meeting.
- Legislative Process handout.
- Guardianship of alleged children.
- No amendments or modifications to the matrix.

**Recruitment and Retention: Norman Moorer – Agency Recruiter, Diversity Affairs Office**

DSHS Diversity Affairs now has a recruiter looking at Diversity Recruitment and Retention of Native Americans, People of Color and people with disabilities. This position will also provide mentoring to diverse employees and create an environment for employees to succeed. The intent is for the DSHS workforce to become more reflective of the clientele of DSHS. The plan is as follows:

- Commitment – top down commitment from senior management
- Continuity – a continuous effort to recruit qualified candidates
- Communication – Networking with Tribal Councils, Community organizations, Agency heads, appointing authorities, IPAC, etc.

1. Expand and enhance efforts at the mid & senior level, establishing a resume data base
2. Expand the entry level pipeline – implement a college internship program
3. Enhance the use of automation – establish a DSHS-wide recruitment homepage and expand to Internet (not just intranet)
4. Develop and enhance partnerships – working with Tribal Governments
5. Expand marketing Plan – conduct a recruitment summit or conference, participate at Tribal Job Fairs
6. Focus senior managements attention on Diversity – secure a commitment with their Diversity Plans
7. Maximize return on investment
8. Develop a mentoring program – train, monitor and coach new employees

Norman Moorer can be reached at (360) 725-5832 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rosie Francis announced that the Lower Elwha Tribe will be hosting the Canoe Journey the first week of August this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Benefits Check-Up: Sally Farrell, National Training Specialist, Washington State Project Coordinator, the National Council on Aging,**

Sally gave a presentation on how tribal elders can access a database to determine eligibility for various social and medical programs.

- The database covers 1300 State and Federal programs. When a potential user logs in, they will receive state specific information. It is a nationwide program that is confidential.
- This program is for people 55 and older or under 55 with disabilities.
- A person can complete a screening in approximately 20 minutes. She gave an example of an elder with an income of \$900 a month who was paying \$350 for medications who identified 22 federal and/or state programs they didn't know they qualified for.
- The database uses large type that is easy to read, it is free and easy. It takes less than 30 seconds to get the results.
- You can customize the report with your agency information at the top of the report, which you can print out for the client.
- The information is not shared with any outside agency other than the entering agency. All you need to enter is a person's Date of Birth and Zip Code or birth date and first and last initial.
- She is able to come to tribal sites to assist with accessing the program.
- Organizations are welcome to link to their website.
- She is offering grants for organizational subscription to information about Benefits Check-Up.

Sally can be reached at (206) 795-6543 for more information.

**Earned Income Tax Credit: Roxanne Lowe, Executive Policy Analyst, Work First Performance Team, Office of Financial Management**

Roxanne gave a presentation on Earned Income Tax Credit. This program is for people with an annual income up to \$36,000. (She gave a handout with detailed information).

For more information, Roxanne can be reached at (360) 902-9803.

**Tim Brown, Assistant Secretary, Health and Rehabilitative Services Administration**

Tim passed out a letter from Dennis Braddock stating that the DASA encounter rates will not be included in the 2004 supplemental budget or the 2005 budget. He explained that the request was not granted and referred to the \$1.8 million shortfall.

Nancy Dufraine asked if there was a possibility for reentering this request. The new Governor might react differently (only as it applies to DASA).

This issue only applies to non-tribal members in tribal facilities. Tribal members in tribal facilities will still receive the full encounter rate.

**Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary, Medical Assistance Administration**

Doug shared the recent legislative proposals.

- CMS is getting tougher on cost allocation models.
- No new government, no new taxes. Taxes on beer, wine, alcohol, and doctors are proposed.
- The doctor tax is a provider fee increase up to 75% of Medicare rates, 1% tax on physician's revenue. They are currently taxed at 1.5%. Washington State Medical Association is not in favor of this tax proposal.
- There is a change in the eligibility guidelines to the Basic Health Program. It used to be that people would qualify for both Basic Health and Healthy Families TANF. The change will shift the usage of Basic Health Program slots to TANF. This means a 17,000 reduction in Basic Health slots.
- There is a proposal to require people to be enrolled in Medicaid who are eligible rather than enrolling in the Basic Health Program. This would free up BHC slot and free up federal money.
- New legislation would require a person to go to only one pharmacy and only one hospital (except for ER visits). DSHS will ask clients which provider they would like to get restricted to. He said this proposal would allow for better regulation and save the state \$17 Million.
- There is also a proposal to cut adult dental care to pare back to ER services with limited restoration services. In Book 2, which the Governor supports, this reduction is brought back.
- There will be a 15% reduction in giving coverage to hospitals for teaching purposes.
- Standardized medical necessity definition. Reduction in bariatric surgery approval.
- He also stated there will be a cut in medical nutrition programs. Dietary supplements such as "Ensure" will not be covered. Payment will only be covered for tube feedings. This will realize a \$5 Million savings. This legislation was proposed because of a case of

a person selling “Ensure” that was obtained with a prescription on the internet. Only tube feeding clients and only ones who qualify during rigorous prior authorization will still receive this nutritional supplement.

Marilyn Olson asked if the tribes could determine eligibility for Medicaid. The Tribes already have the ability to determine TANF eligibility.

Roger Gantz – Currently working on ways to allow the Tribes to determine Medicaid eligibility. Minnesota and Wisconsin are states working with tribes so that tribes are able to determine their own Medicaid eligibility.

It was suggested that Deb Sosa would be the main contact in MAA. She will get together with Steven Wish in the eligibility division.

Colleen Cawston was assigned the task of setting up a meeting to discuss of the possibility of Tribes determining eligibility.

Colleen Cawston was asked to set up a meeting regarding tribes gaining access to ACES. Port Gamble and Lower Elwha have expressed an interest.

**Uma Ahluwalia, Assistant Secretary, Children’s Administration:**

Uma gave updates on the following:

- Spoke about the success of IV-E, tribal licensing at Port Gamble.
- ICW manual is complete.
- Kids Come First approved by the Feds. The first quarterly report to the feds is due next month.
- Uma summarized the Braam lawsuit and how that lawsuit resulted in development of the Kids Come First Plan.
- The ICW budget cut has not been restored. Uma stated that she is still firmly committed to restoring the funds; however it did not make the Governor’s budget. The state has always maintained those funds should be restored.
- Book 1, guardianship legislation wasn’t approved, they will resubmit legislation. She mentioned the guardianship resource centers and stated that one of the resource centers was to be strictly for tribes, did not make the budget.

Uma encouraged tribes to join workgroups. We cannot make reform happen without you at the table. I will not ever make a commitment that I cannot honor. We need to be partners to do this together.

**Other items:**

There was further general discussion about subcommittees overlapping and the interest in attending both subcommittee meetings at IPAC meetings.

The next IPAC meeting is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> in Olympia, OB-2, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Lookout Conference room. Meeting adjourned.