

Indian Policy Advisory Committee
July 10, 2008

Present: see Sign in sheet.

Marilyn Scott conducted the invocation; Liz Mueller, IPAC Chair, began introductions and those present introduced themselves. Jennifer LaPoint, Secretary, followed with roll call. Quorum was not reached at 9:18 a.m., but was reached at 9:43 a.m.

Liz thanked those who attended the meeting despite the many other obligations at this time of year.

Health and Recovery Services Administration

Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary

Doug said he is working to prepare the 2009-11 budget and preparing decision packages to forward to Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams, who will then present them to the Governor's Office of Financial Management. Doug will share these in August, but said the proposals are generally for equal parts new funding and savings. The state's revenue picture may bring a \$2 – \$2.5 million shortfall.

Provision of an encounter rate match will be part of the request for additional funding. Doug doesn't expect eligibility to be cut, and work is underway to increase the federal poverty level. Potential cuts may affect rate schedules for hospitals and other facilities, and HRSA is considering ways to decrease costs for purchases such as durable equipment.

Doug said the Provider One system's operation looks good and will speed payments. However, the "go live" date is again delayed; it might be ready in January. The system will not go live until providers, staff and the system are ready.

The HRSA Tribal Gathering will be October 6-8, 2008 at Little Creek Casino/Resort. People from various HRSA divisions will be there; agenda items are intended to improve working relationships.

DASA is extending ADATSA contracts to new Tribal providers.

The Tribal Home Health initiative is going slower than hoped. Cecile Greenway is working with Port Gamble and the Department of Health to develop the pilot.

Greg Twiddy is the new Mental Health Liaison; he started May 1. Greg comes from the Skokomish Tribe, has worked for several tribes in the area and for the state for several years. He is currently working on the Mental Health mini-grants. He has received about twenty completed applications. He is also working with the tribes and RSNs.

Todd Sletvett provided an update on the tribal MAM cost allocation plan he has worked on with tribes for over three years. He continues to work with CMS; the current issue deals with a time study to allocate staff time spent on MAM activities.

Todd is awaiting a letter to Doug Porter from CMS detailing their expectations. They are currently questioning how reimbursement is determined. CMS expects tribes to be reimbursed based on an *average* time study rather than individual rates; this could result in consultation. Todd and Doug hope to negotiate something in line with the agreement reached three years ago for a one week time study, rather than the current two week expectation.

Todd and Doug will also ask that our statisticians validate the process, rather than CMS'. They will keep tribes informed. Todd has worked to improve the forms, making it an automated process. HRSA will facilitate monitoring where activities occur; tribal staff will only have to complete the time study forms.

Todd announced he had accepted and started his new position at Family Healthcare. He will remain involved in Tribal MAM and train the new person.

Most states have followed our MAM cost allocation plan after waiting to see what happened with our consultation with CMS. The difference is our state had an agreement with CMS for a provisional cost allocation plan, with the understanding we would negotiate a final plan. Most other states are not conducting MAM.

John Stephens thanked Doug and Todd for their perseverance and asked, after the consultation with CMS, was there any impact on the conduct of CMS related to this cost allocation plan. Doug replied it's hard to say, and discussed CMS' understanding of how Medicaid programs are administered at the state level.

Vazaskia Caldwell, Patient Navigator, discussed eliminating health disparities in Medicaid eligible communities experiencing health issues. In January, Patient Navigator released contracts; Colville is contracted to run a Patient Navigation pilot. Proposals are specific to the communities they serve. Vazaskia will share more later, but one important thing is the federal match she had hoped for didn't happen, so funding is half the planned amount. They will apply for federal match again and will let tribes know the outcome.

Tyron Nixon, Apple Health for Kids, started work May 16, and his goal is to get all children under age nineteen insured. The program is moving into the outreach phase. A name, logo and media event will kick off the program from the end of July through early September and will go to fourteen cities. Tyron provided some details of the events.

Apple Health is also developing a webpage with information about the program, who can apply and application information. Eligibility for the insurance has not changed. Outreach efforts will also include radio and newspaper activities in communities with large populations of uninsured children.

Liz pointed out the efforts are mainly along the I-5 corridor and said she would like to see outreach to rural areas. Jennifer added the need to target Indian communities and individuals in urban areas, too, and to invite tribal leaders to participate alongside the state and community leaders involved.

Ed Fox hopes there will be an opportunity to address Medicaid and exempt income. He suggested a need to retrain those who sign people up for Medicaid.

Doug responded part of the reason for those uninsured children is the variety of eligibility requirements in the various programs. He hopes all sorts of people apply, and then HRSA will sort out those eligible. He's committed to making the eligibility process "as consumer friendly as the federal government will allow".

Helen discussed her three children who are on Medicaid; two are on one program and the third is on another. Two can go to tribal clinic, the other cannot.

Doug said eligibility coverage will change in January; state subsidized coverage will be raised to 300% of the federal poverty level. He also announced HRSA is seeking legislation to allow electronic signatures.

Outreach for MAM contracts is reimbursable. A potential concept for next year would be paying application agents \$75 for every successful application.

Jim Sherrill discussed Cowlitz tribe's allotted \$60,000 to operate their medical clinic. He asked whether federal or state requirements prevented the tribe from getting an encounter rate. He said Cowlitz could help resolve the lack of providers who will accept Medicaid. Doug agreed to work on it.

Doug Allen, from DASA, talked about addiction treatment, thanking tribes who have given funding toward problem gambling treatment programs. He would like to continue with that project. He said HRSA included a decision packet in their funding requests for the non-native encounter rate for an amount of \$3 million.

Doug announced DASA will move to Cherry Street Plaza during the next two weeks and asked for patience.

DASA has received a number of Intergovernmental Agreements and will move them forward. DASA has some new ADATSA contracts, with one new tribe requesting those funds. Doug complimented tribes on participating in the monthly HRSA Subcommittee meeting, saying he feels the discussions are helping.

June O'Brien requested a letter from IPAC to Governor Gregoire about residential treatment dollars. Last year ADATSA residential funding was not enough, but there were treatment expansion funds left over. It's difficult to access those funds; the inflexibility of access to those beds is an issue. June requests that IPAC ask the Governor to make

those treatment expansion funds more flexible so remaining funds could be available as ADATSA funds. The only funding for tribal ADATSA is the \$436,000 for the biennium. The letter was tabled until later in the meeting.

When people are eligible for GAU, CSO staff sometimes code them as ADATSA. Unless they are already GAU eligible, that is not the correct slot. People who are GAU eligible often have one or more co-occurring disorders. June pointed out that rather than trying to fix CSOs, it would be easier if accessing those funds were more flexible. Now, people are being denied residential treatment that could be funded with that money.

Some discussion followed. The proposed letter was passed around for delegates to review before taking action.

IPAC had pointed out that some tribes were spending less than others on Tribal ADATSA and might be affected due to larger billings from other tribes. When DASA pooled the funds IPAC said it might not be fair to tribes spending less and asked DASA to understand they might need to come up with more money in the second year to be fair to the tribes not spending as much. Those tribes bought into the plan reluctantly based on the idea that DASA would not let that happen. At the current expenditure rate for ADATSA it doesn't look like there will be enough funding for next year.

Jennifer thanked Doug Allen for his commitment to getting co-occurring disorder certification for providers, and asked that the process for dual certification "ease up". She asked for Provider One training at the tribal gathering and that Dept. of Health staff be invited. Doug agreed.

Rebecca Peck said DASA's response to her inquiry about indirect payments being limited to 10% was that it was a business decision. She wanted IPAC to remember there had been no consultation before the decision was made. Liz later stated this was an important government to government decision and therefore required consultation.

The Skagit County prosecutor's office has decided to stop paying for attorneys for mental health clients. If the prosecutor follows through, there will be a significant impact on the provision of mental health services under the Mental Health Act. Chuck Benjamin is keeping Doug informed.

Rebecca also asked if tribes were involved in interviews to fill the recent vacancies, saying only certain tribes had been invited to participate.

Melodie Olsen provided updates about Provider One, saying HRSA had received requests to go to the tribes and talk directly to staff about Provider One. They have a contractor developing training materials, and have committed to one tribal training so far, but will provide tribal specific trainings within months of going live. Colville and Jamestown have offered to host and they are seeking four more venues.

On October 8, Provider One training will be available to credentialing staff; they will review data that has been moved, make sure checks will be issued to right places, etc. They will have onsite supported labs with staff to help tribal staff through the process.

Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)

John Clayton, Assistant Secretary

John said he had come to ask for assistance. John said in trying to serve troubled youth, JRA is considered to have one of the best juvenile justice systems in the country. However, there are still some troubling aspects related to disproportionality. John said the number of youth of color in juvenile justice system is not truly represented; the numbers on the handout provided in the packets only represent youth in JRA. The chart shows the number of minority youth in the system is diminishing, but the numbers are still astonishing. John wants to make sure the community is involved in the grant system. Grants were sent to the Tribes, but not many have come back. John wants to work directly with tribes and have them more involved in the process.

Liz asked if Native Americans were represented on the committee making the recommendations. John replied it is a generic group, but he plans to recruit a more diverse representation from the communities he visits. Liz discussed the remediation planning from the Disproportionality Committee and offering more training in the community to “undo racism”. She asked that JRA staff attend the legislative advisory committee, to which John agreed. Also, John is scheduled to attend undoing racism training and expects all JRA managers to attend, as well. He hopes to have all JRA staff attend within the next year.

There was discussion about how and where the data is gathered for the number of youth in the juvenile justice system. The data provided does not show youth in Tribal justice systems. Rebecca added the data is probably 50% underreported due to youth who are not identified as native.

Jim Sherrill mentioned federal funding to address disproportionality in the juvenile justice system across the country and asked to hear what Washington State is using those funds for and how we are addressing disproportionality in the juvenile justice system. He asked how IPAC could help look at disproportionality across the board in DSHS. John liked Jim’s suggestion, adding that the court system and other systems need to be involved.

Liz has shared the Disproportionality Report with local and county staff and JRA in her county. She suggests IPAC Delegates form committees in their own areas to start local remediation.

Doug North mentioned the need for funding to address any remediation, and discussed the committee for Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents.

John doesn’t anticipate any loss of revenue with the new budget.

JRA is looking at youth leaving the system and how to prevent re-offending. They need survival skills to stay out of trouble. JRA is looking for funding for transitional assistance for youth who reenter society. They are also seeking funding for youth with more severe behavioral health problems. There was discussion about youth offenders who become adult offenders and the need for wraparound services to decrease the occurrence.

JRA is looking at the system to recognize the value of culture to youth in the system. John has formed a committee to review client services, who JRA hires (diverse staffing to offer role models for youth in the system), and whether training is comprehensive enough.

Mentoring

Tom Pennella, Larry Wright, Angela Hess

Tom Pennella works with DSHS to try to involve businesses with the lives of youth. Youth with mentors are less likely to use drugs or need public assistance, and are more likely to go to college. For youth who don't participate in the cultural youth projects/programs, mentoring is another opportunity to get them involved. The Mentoring program shares their funding and training tools with communities.

They are currently working to mentor children of incarcerated parents. Tom visited moms and dads in prisons and gathered names of a thousand children and youth who potentially need mentors. Tom mentioned that seven percent of the prison population is Native American and he offered to work with communities wanting to develop a mentoring program or augment an existing one.

Larry Wright works for the Washington State Mentoring Organization (WSMO). They serve about thirty percent of the youth in Washington; five percent are Native American youth. There are 210,000 youth in the state who could benefit from the program. WSMO offers grants and supports mentoring organizations. They don't have much tribal membership due to lack of outreach, but hope to improve that.

Angela Hess described Caregiver's CHOICE, which provides mentoring to children of incarcerated people. It provides grants to organizations to provide outreach to the targeted population. Angela understands outreach needs to be done differently for Native American youth and she is trying to learn how. Caregivers can choose which mentoring program to work with in their area. Tribal mentoring programs are invited to register to accept the \$1000 vouchers and provide services in their area. Tom offered to work with tribes to help them meet the stringent requirements.

The types of mentoring include school based and community based. Some school based programs have summer routines. Community based programs provide activities in the community. Faith based programs can be school or community based. Peer to peer

mentoring has other youth working with the youth in the program. Group mentoring is another option.

Vouchers are honored by any provider that has an account with the program. The Mentoring programs encourage local programs to serve all comers, but it is not required. Washington Mentoring can help individuals connect with other programs if a provider has reached capacity.

Liz pointed out that transportation is an issue.

When Caregiver's CHOICE sends the voucher to a caregiver, they include names and descriptions of programs within twenty-five miles of the caregiver's home. There is also a toll free number where caregivers can find approved providers based on zip codes.

Larry said Washington Mentors had given out \$5.2 million in the past two years and they recently put out another RFP. Washington Mentors is in Washington State and brings mentor providers together to discuss problems and solutions.

Successful programs include Big Brothers/Big Sisters, 4-C, JRA, and Friends of Children of Walla Walla; most are non-profit. Tribal facilities are currently excluded from using the voucher, but Angie said they need to work on that.

- Contact Tom Pennella at 360-902-7797 or penneTX@dshs.wa.gov.
- Contact Larry Wright at 425-416-2032 or www.WAmentors.org.
- Contact Angie Hess at amh@daremightythings.com.
- Contact Caregiver's CHOICE at 877-333-2464 or caregiverschoice@daremightythings.com; the website is www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice.

Miscellaneous

Colleen announced Rosi Francis had accepted a position with IPSS, which created the need to fill her now-vacant position on the IPAC Executive Committee. She also presented Trudy Marcellay with a certificate for her Twenty Year of service with DSHS. Liz congratulated Trudy and thanked her for her years of service and her knowledge.

Liz asked Jennifer to call the roll again to see if a quorum was present; it was.

Resolution:

June moved that IPAC send a letter to Governor Gregoire asking that remaining treatment expansion funding be transferable to ADATSA; Amadeo Tiam seconded the motion. A question arose whether this addressed the problem of pooling as well, the answer was no. After some discussion, the motion carried.

Jennifer LaPointe was elected vice chair after being the only person nominated. IPAC needs to provide thirty day notification before holding elections to fill the now vacant Secretary position, so that election will be held in October.

Jim Sijohn was recently elected vice chair of Spokane Tribe.

IPAC Annual Report and Strategic Plan

Colleen apologized for not providing the draft Annual Report in delegates' packets and said IPSS would email it. She explained the Report is assembled from information received from Tribal Liaisons, subcommittee matrices and other input, and is prepared in a format to show activities and progress. She hopes this first effort will become a regular means to capture successes, identify issues to work on, and recognize work from all partners. She asked delegates, tribal liaisons and each subcommittee to read it and respond with any needed revisions.

Liz thanked the IPAC delegates for their work over the years, their longevity and commitment.

Blake Chard talked about Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). He explained that years ago the federal government created the Office of Juvenile Justice, which administers the DMC funds. They are pass-through funds and people need to apply for them. They relate to thirteen areas of focus and are administered through the state advisory group. The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC), a part of DSHS, administers them in Washington. GJJAC's new director is Ryan Pinto. Jim asked to have Ryan address IPAC. During their last visit, the "feds" recommended GJJAC work more closely with tribes, which they will do.

Marilyn Scott asked if there been more discussion about coordination between DSHS and DEL and how it would work. Colleen is meeting with DEL to help them understand how 7.01 works and how we work with it.

There was a false rumor that American Indian Administrative Policy 7.01 had been rescinded. Robin Arnold-Williams issued a memo to the Assistant Secretaries dispelling the rumor. Each tribal chair received a CD of the current DSHS 7.01 plans at the Centennial Accord.

Lisa Ray Thomas

Lisa discussed her Grants Research project, titled "Methamphetamine: Where Does it Fit in the Bigger Picture of Drug Use of American Indian and Alaska Native Communities and Treatment Seekers?" The project would use aggregate TARGET data for NA/AI clients receiving state support services to look at trends for drugs they report at intake. She wants to approach the Tribal Leaders to request permission to use the TARGET data. There was discussion about how to request the data and potential sticking points.

Lisa suggested a letter from IPAC to the University to help them develop a protocol to approach the tribes. There was some discussion about this. Marilyn suggested Lisa send the request for the TARGET data to the tribes and let them respond for themselves.

June pointed out that many people do not divulge their opiate use. She discussed methamphetamine addicts who are diagnosed as bi-polar. She suggested maybe they are not truly bi-polar, but showing the effects of methamphetamine on the brain.

There was discussion about whether tribal data collected at intake was tribal specific or just that a person was NA/AI. Consensus was that tribal affiliation was identified by the vendor identity only.

Lisa's second objective is to write a manual for Native American communities to identify and address behavioral health issues. She introduced her work partner, Cynthia Pearson, and asked people to contact them if they are interested in participating.

Lisa then handed out copies of her request to submit a proposal for a second Native Healing and Wellness Conference. She thanked IPAC and AIHC for their support and for their work for the conference held in May. Lisa requested support for her proposal and a letter of support by August 12th. She asked for input for speakers (tribal and community) and a location. She said based on feedback, the first day would be open to native attendees only. There was some discussion about this, ending in a recommendation that all sessions be kept open to all, but to honor any request for tribal-only time with a designated time.

Liz requested a motion for a letter of support for the next Healing and Wellness Conference. Jim moved and Marilyn seconded; the motion carried.

Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA) Subcommittee Report Garnet Charles and Jeannie Johnson

Garnet reported ADSA had arranged a meeting with the Tribes and AAAs on September 4th, the day before the NICOA conference begins in Tacoma. Yvonne Jackson will be a guest speaker. Kimberly Chabot will send out the information when it is available.

The COPES Waiver program is funded with state and federal title IX funding; the contract will be renewed in October 2009. COPES provides personal care service in one's own home, adult family home or group home. ADSA plans to contact Tribal Chairs for input.

At a past IPAC meeting, someone asked if a tribe could hold money for a family for funeral expenses. Bill Moss researched the issue and found the Tribes can hold a funeral expense fund with a trust document showing the management of the account. ADSA will continue to work on this. Contact Bill with any questions at 360.725.2311 or MossBD@dshs.wa.gov.

Liz Prince presented at a previous IPAC meeting about a federal program called Money Follows the Person, which is now called Roads to Community Living. There are currently thirty-two participants in the program, which provides transition funding to support a person moving from a nursing home or institution back into the community. The recipient must be Medicaid eligible, have lived in the institution at least six months and need services not normally provided.

The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) Elders Conference will be September 5-9, 2008. Colleen introduced the IPSS staff and thanked them for their work making beaded lanyards to present with name badges to conference participants. The local planning committee has worked with NICOA to build an agenda that will provide opportunity for social and critical interactions. Session topics include kinship care, legal and health issues, and will incorporate the diverse culture of the northwest. There will also be Title VI training. The traditional evening will represent local tribal culture, from the dances and foods to the decorations in the staging area.

Jeannie Johnson, from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), reported her plans to meet with each tribe in the state to discuss supported employment and gauge interest in having a supported employment program. She will also discuss 7.01 plans as she is now DDD's 7.01 coordinator. Kathy Leitch will discuss the Supported Employment program at the October IPAC. There was discussion about supported employment and 7.01 plans, as well as attitudes of DDD staff around the issues.

Rosi Francis announced the Suquamish Tribe will have a luncheon to honor many elders September 18 at 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Kiana Lodge.

ESA Subcommittee Report

Helen Fenrich, Sarah Colleen Sotomish

ESA recently held its first subcommittee meeting at Little Creek Casino/Resort. The group will meet monthly for the first three months to develop the subcommittee. The next meeting is scheduled August 11 at Little Creek; teleconferencing will be available.

Prior to July 1, people were approved for Medicaid without the right certification. As of July 1, Medicaid approval requires verification of citizenship. Tribal identification with a picture is sufficient to document citizenship. The ESA subcommittee will address the issue of exempt income. They want to simplify the rules, maximize the exemptions and provide training to state staff so rules are followed consistently. They will seek input from tribes on how to move forward and hope to complete the process quickly.

The TANF WAC development workgroup has met regularly; the plan is to allow time on the ESA subcommittee agenda. They hope to schedule ongoing agenda items at same time each meeting so callers will be able to choose when to participate.

Helen described the last WAC development meeting, where there were two voting delegates and the rest were staff. She had expected the group to be able to work on a

document drafted by the Tribal attorneys. She moved to have STRU create a document to work on at the next meeting. Discussion followed. The motion eventually failed, with the intention that the Tribes would present their draft at the August meeting.

Sarah Colleen discussed exempt income. Marilyn voiced her doubt that representatives attending the subcommittee meeting would have that information. Sarah Colleen suggested bringing it to the subcommittee, and if necessary, creating another workgroup to work on it.

Helen moved that a standardized American Indian code be put in ESA ACES to use existing tribal identifiers from other state and federal programs as identification codes.

When ESA started welfare reform a group recommended that DSHS use one data source agency wide. There was never agreement so ESA decided to create their own tribal specific identifiers, rather than adopting BIA or HIS codes. Troy Hutson has staff reviewing the coding issue now; change is possible and he should have an answer soon. Provider One has already identified codes and tribal affiliation; those codes available in Provider One should be available to cross over to the current MMIS system. Nancy Dufraigne said Children's Administration uses individual codes to identify tribes nation wide.

Marilyn remembered the many meetings to implement Work First, and remembered the Information Management Division of DSHS tried to figure out how to get a field with a standardized code used for every federally recognized tribe within the US. Data agreements resulted from this work. Bob and Brady offered to see if they still had any documents from those days, but Brady recalled a memo saying DSHS would use standard codes.

Helen's motion carried.

Legislative Committee

Jennifer LaPointe and Phillip Ambrose, III

The Legislative Committee matrix represents the committee's priorities. There were no bills to report. The Office of Community and Government Relations staff have changed and they have a new Director, Rosemary Tureaud. Phil has involved that office in order to get the tribes' lobbyists and liaisons ready to work with the DSHS Administrations to have an active role in budget development.

Last spring, Phil emailed delegates the timeline for budget development. As the department prepares for the next legislative session, it's important to talk to local regional administrators to see what the divisions are requesting in their administration's decision packages. Phil will forward training packets that include the names of WAC writers, etc., and encourages the tribes to work with key people to help develop budgets. The IPAC Executive Committee will meet with the Cabinet to discuss proposed legislation and will forward the information to the delegates to share with their Tribes.

The IPAC Executive Committee, in a letter to DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams, requesting that certain issues be included in the decision packages. Those issues are the CMS match for chemical dependency, the need for resources (grants) for the tribes to develop codes to protect aged and disabled populations, tribal staff serving as case managers for their communities, and training opportunities, including ASDA providing culturally relevant Elder Abuse trainings. Also mentioned was direct funding to the Tribes for Mental Health contracting.

Phil will provide the legislative link, which is <http://www.leg.wa.gov/lic/documents.htm>.

Jennifer, once again, asked delegates to consider joining the Legislative Subcommittee. She asked for a liaison from each of the other subcommittees. Liz agreed, asking if the subcommittee would have quarterly meetings with conference call capability. She asked that co-chairs talk to their subcommittee members and appoint one person within the next month. Two delegates volunteered to work with the Legislative Subcommittee.

Rebecca asked Blake about having an IT person attend IPAC. Blake explained that one IT person would not be able to answer questions for the various issues and administrations, and said he would see what staff time might be available.

Children's Administration Subcommittee Report

Nancy Dufraine and Trudy Marcellay

Nancy discussed the committee working on the disproportionality of children of color in the child welfare system. The data has established that disproportionality exists and that Native American children are the most overrepresented group. Secretary Arnold-Williams plans to work with communities to develop a remediation plan to address the issue. The second report from the Disproportionality Committee is due to Secretary Arnold-Williams December 21.

The Symposium on Disproportionality, held in King County, was an opportunity for public comment. Yesterday, the Children's Subcommittee learned they would be instrumental in gathering data from community input for the committee to put into the report. Janeen asked if the result would include mandated funding. Liz responded that the result would be funding and action to address the issue, and that IPAC will put effort into asking for appropriations to fund remedies.

Copies of the Disproportionality Report were mailed to tribal leaders; the publication is being reprinted. Nancy will try to get enough copies for IPAC, but the report is also available at www.disproportionality.com. Trudy reported that each region will address this differently and she discussed the process to gather the data for the second report. The next meeting for Region 6 is August 4 in Tumwater. Liz requested that each region's meeting be led by ICW. The information gathering will look at reporting and removing the child after intake. The ICW citizen review panel will monitor to make sure the plans from the regions are developed and actually put into effect.

John Stephens discussed the results of the Braam case regarding staffing ratios. To comply with Braam and the national standard, the department needs to hire 1200 caseworkers, but has only hired 450. Nancy would like to see an accountability requirement. John said the Braam decision could be an entry point to address the rest of the issue. July 23 is next disproportionality committee meeting and delegates are encouraged to attend.

Related to the Adam Walsh Act, the state has access to the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC), but tribes do not. The system is owned by Washington State Patrol and the FBI. Sheila Huber presented the draft access agreement at the Children's Subcommittee meeting; Nancy will send it out when it is redrafted and will follow up at the October IPAC meeting.

Nancy discussed the WAC definition of Indian child. Children's Administration has five WAC definitions of Indian Child; there is current activity to incorporate the five WAC definitions into one.

Nancy asked for volunteers to work on the 2009 ICW summit. The planning committee meets monthly and will meet more frequently as the date nears. The meetings are accessible by phone. Funding is in the budget but they are working to find a date. The next subcommittee meeting is Aug 13 at Jamestown.

Jim Sherrill announced he is very proud of the staff at Cowlitz Indian Tribe for receiving CARF accreditation for the next three years.

Colleen provided the closing prayer, thanked the committee for their hard work and for staying for the entire meeting.