

Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC)
Olympia, Washington
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2006

Welcoming and Introductions – Liz Mueller
Invocation – Jim Sijohn
Roll Call – quorum not established

Colleen Cawston began the meeting by announcing that there would not be a Legislative Sub-Committee meeting.

Colleen also informed everyone that the Mental Health Transformation Grant Plan Review and Comment period would be August 1 to August 15. Those interested can access the plan at <http://mhtransformation.wa.gov/MHTG/newsletters.shtml>.

Presentation in honor of Nancy Dufraine

Liz Mueller presented Nancy Dufraine with a beautiful Pendleton blanket in honor of all of her hard work over the years with IPAC.

Nancy was very surprised and thanked everyone for his or her kindness and for his or her work with her over the years.

Cheryl Stephani, Assistant Secretary, Children’s Administration (CA)

Cheryl started her presentation explaining the two budget requests in support of Children and Families:

- 1) Capacity and infrastructure are to be built up, bringing in administrative funds as well
- 2) How CA can improve and present initiatives in Indian Child Welfare (ICW). ICW funds have not kept up when ICW receives a broader piece of work. There is a need to ensure funds are there from the Legislature.

Cheryl summarized some of the key topics from the ICW Summit that took place in May.

- A major issue, the lack of consistent training and framework for Local Indian Child Welfare Act Committees (LICWAC); Nancy Dufraine will work on this issue.
- Reinstate monthly meetings between CA and the tribes as an avenue for consultation (practice model, case management, neglect legislation, training).
- Nancy is working on identifying liaisons in each of the regions to take part in monthly meetings and to work on ICW issues across the state.
- Statistics from Ombudsman report, especially the fatality report, show a need for CA and the tribes to work closely together. Out of home placement is another important issue shown in the report.

Rhonda Metcalf raised concern of foster care licensing. She brought to everyone’s attention a case where the chaperones did not have background checks and raped a child. As she pointed out, more needs to be done – screening should be more thorough.

Gina Beckwith inquired about the timeline for the budget cycle. OFM is building this for this next Legislative Session for the Governor's Budget by December. They will have this to go over end of August 2006 / beginning of September 2006.

Marilyn Olson informed everyone that tribal leaders are requesting a larger approach in a more holistic way that would include drug, alcohol, injuries and deaths of children. Tribes are serious about working together and hoping leaders from DSHS will take part in the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) meeting that will take place in Lincoln City, Oregon in September. Cheryl stated she hoped to be there and would look into it.

Liz expressed the need for tribal leaders to be more involved and she agreed to sit on overall steering committee. She also explained the need for financial assistance to attend some of these meetings; Cheryl agreed with Liz and will support all efforts for her to be involved.

Liz also wanted to know if access to 4-E dollars could be made more accessible to smaller tribes in Washington State. She went on to explain there are many small tribes in the state and there is a need for a more cost efficient way to access those dollars. Cheryl stated she would take this back to the 4-E group and follow-up on this. They may have to look at a new approach to access for the tribes. She will look into this.

Cheryl mentioned the term "Cultural Competence" and those in attendance wanted to know the definition of this term. It is being competent in the understanding of vast cultures and learning about them before making a decision or taking decisive actions. Jim Sijohn expressed to Cheryl though the state is listening there is still the need to get to know the tribes individually. He gave some examples to show some of the differences. Others also agreed that there is a need for state officials to understand each tribe and to try to avoid "lumping" the tribes together. Jim encouraged Cheryl to keep up the good work in this area and commended Blake Chard with always taking part in the IPAC meetings.

Marilyn mentioned the Evidence Based Practices with regard to Cultural Competence and the need to recognize tribal members who are educated about the traditional knowledge of their respective tribe. Most often, these elders do not have a 'paper degree'. How can we recognize these individuals? She suggested having the licensed individual sign off on the work and list the individual as a 'Community Specialist'. Cheryl will explore this issue.

Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary, Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA)

Doug announced that Tiffany Villines is now the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse's Region 6 Administrator.

Deficit Reduction Act – verification of citizenship; tribes will lose money without documentation.

Meeting adjourned