

Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC)
Olympia, Washington
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2006

Welcoming and Introductions – Liz Mueller
Invocation – Jim Sijohn
Roll Call – postponed

Blake Chard, Deputy Secretary, Public Affairs

Blake began by introducing two new staff members, **Christine Swanson**, Director, Government and Community Relations and **Lynnae Rutledge**, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Both took a moment to say a few words.

Sekou Shabaka, Assistant Secretary, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)

Sekou began with an overview of the Building Bridges meeting that took place on September 26, 2006 between JRA, Tribes, and IPAC. He felt the meeting is the beginning of effective communication between everyone.

Colville Agreement – currently forging a Parent Pay agreement and trying to bring in more cultural activities, i.e. sweat lodge. Sekou would like to use this as a model and invited tribes to contact JRA if they are interested in a similar agreement.

Integrated model developments – there is a need to balance with safety and good leadership. He went over the need to look at hiring affirmatively and at the disproportionate amount tribal youth with “Wearing the Shoes That Fit.” At this point, he acknowledged the concerns raised about having predominantly African American presenters and the lack of American Indian, Asian and Latino presenters. Sekou explained the need for a traveling social scientist doing assessment of native youth – Lisa Rey Thomas. JRA are waiting for the Latino and Asian communities to do the same. He also expressed that he feels he could do more and will do so in the future.

Helen Fenrich with Tulalip brought up that the tribe sent comments regarding the Integrated Treatment Assessment. Cheryl will check to make sure JRA received the comments and will get back to the tribe with an answer.

Jennifer Paddock with Samish brought up the cap on indirect rate – 8% for courts and 15% for administrative cost to tribal nations. How did JRA get to these amounts? There is a lack of consideration given to the fact that the money comes out of program funds.

JRA needs to look at administrative costs on a case-by-case basis. The administrative will need to get away from doing “blanket” contracts with all tribes. Sekou said he would investigate these points. Liz suggested and others agreed that the sub-committee should handle this matter.

Deb Marley, Assistant Secretary, Economic Services Administration (ESA)

Deb began by introducing her staff - John Clayton, Duane French, Sam Senn, David Johnson, Rebecca Henrie and Holly St. John.

Deb gave a brief overview on a few topics ESA has been working on.

ACES access – Four tribes: Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Tulalip Tribe, Lower Elwha Tribe and Suquamish Tribe. Information for the interested tribes was available at the sub-committee meeting.

Tribal Eligibility – ESA is looking for one TANF tribe to take part with Basic Food & Medical. Meeting scheduled for November 15, 2006 at the Lacey Government Center to discuss this issue and the federal requirements.

Deficit Reduction Act – Funding for TANF extended until 2010 at the same level. Draft changes are out:

- Reduction of participant requirement to 35 hours/week for two-parent, 55 hours/week with childcare
- If requirement not met, financial penalty, corrective plans, etc.
- Limits on education & mental health
- Changes with job searches, ESL cannot be a stand alone activity

State received caseload requirement for two-parent at 90% – state cannot meet – putting specialized workers on this. More difficult to meet requirements of the block grant to get credit – workers would have to check daily causing additional workload without funds.

Compliance activities – workers evaluation is more significant. After assessing, if there are not blocks (i.e. travel, etc.), the participant is forwarded to community college and employment office for placement. Sanction changes effective September 1, 2006; if participant is not in compliance (not working) during the first 6 months their grant is reduced. After 6 months, the participant will lose their grant all together.

To help avoid this, supervisors/CSO/Headquarters are to increase engagement through home visits, increased reviews and preparation for the day when they loose their grant.

Citizenship Verification – is going okay, no one has been denied. ESA is working on behalf of families to obtain birth certificates. Washington is not totally in compliance with feds, they are doing their best to keep people on programs.

Legislative Requests – placeholders for deficit reduction and child support. ESA asking for state funding be made available next biennium for additional tribes that choose to administer their own TANF so funds will not have to come out of welfare box.

Kathy Leitch, Assistant Secretary, Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA)

Governor's Long Term Care Taskforce – meeting to take place at the Muckleshoot Tribe on October 26, 2006. She will coordinate with Indian Policy and Support Services on this.

Adult Protective Services (APS) – tribal code to do APS investigations is near completion. The working agreement is close to being signed with Colville.

Revision of Training Academy – making it available to tribes to do their own training and investigating. Kathy will coordinate with Colleen on training notice.

Decision Package – additional services added for APS of 1.8 million.

Port Gamble and Muckleshoot – non-response to a letter with Bill Moss. Tribes will be moving to communication with the Governor. Kathy gave Marilyn Olson and Sharon Hamilton-Curley her number to discuss this matter.

Kathy had to leave for a meeting at this point, however conversions continued.

Port Gamble S'Klallam, Muckleshoot and Suquamish all expressed that their counties are requiring their tribes to waive their sovereign immunity in order to contract with them for meals and transportation. The tribes feel the state needs to hold the counties accountable when it comes to racism.

Problem is not just with Aging contracts it is with the counties themselves. An option would be to have DSHS contract directly with the tribes and not with the counties.

Roll Call

Quorum established

Liz Dunbar, Deputy Secretary, Management Operations

Liz will be retiring at the end of November 2006. In honor of her years of state service, Liz Mueller presenter her with a beautiful broach to show IPAC's appreciation.

Elections

Chair

Motion made by Don Milligan of Small Tribes of Western Washington, to nominate Liz Mueller of Jamestown S'Klallam, seconded by Jennifer LaPointe of Puyallup.

Motion to close nominations and seat by acclamation by Marilyn Scott of Upper Skagit, seconded by Helen Fenrich of Tulalip, all in favor, no opposed, nominations closed and motion carries.

Secretary

Motion made by Jim Sijohn of the American Indian Community Center, to nominate Helen Fenrich of Tulalip, seconded by Gwen Gua of South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency.

Motion made by Chuck Wagner of Suquamish, to nominate Jennifer LaPointe of Puyallup, seconded by Rosie Francis of Lower Elwha Klallam.

Motion to close nominations by Jim Sherrill of Cowlitz, seconded by Don Milligan of Small Tribes of Western Washington, all in favor, no opposed, nominations closed and motion carries.

Voting done by ballot, Helen received 8 votes and Jennifer received 10 votes. Jennifer continues as the IPAC Secretary.

Member-At-Large

Motion made by Jim Sijohn of the American Indian Community Center, to nominate Helen Fenrich of Tulalip, seconded by Chuck Wagner of Suquamish.

Motion to close nominations and seat by acclamation by Jennifer LaPoint of Puyallup, seconded by Don Milligan of Small Tribes of Western Washington, all in favor, no opposed, nominations closed and motion carries.

Melodie Olsen, Provider One Project

Melodie did an overview of where the Provider One Project is at in relation to tribes. They had at least 15 tribes (clinics) attend the workshops. Provider One will be working with tribes to find out what else they may need.

Melodie mentioned they had an unfortunate incident where they had to turn people away from training in Eastern Washington because the workshop was full. A DVD of the training that took place in Lacey will be available for those who missed the workshop. Melodie, Brett Lawton and Robin Torner will work together with Colleen Cawston to tailor training and outreach for the tribes.

Melodie also mentioned that a letter will be issued to the tribal chairs making them aware of any changes are taking place and provide an opportunity to provide feedback. The letter will also request information for a primary contact for the tribe.

Provider One is hoping to schedule most workshops to take place during November and December to train on National Provider Identifier (NPI). Swinomish offered to host training.

Some expressed the following concerns:

- Unable to correct mistakes
- Multiple numbers for mental health and third party billers
- Cannot delete information that is entered incorrectly
- Not useful for outpatient

Melodie clarified they will work on number and explained that the provider identifiers are federal (CMS) and that DSHS is finding it challenging to work with as well. She did acknowledge there is an immediate need to contact CMS to fix incorrect provider numbers. May 23, 2007 is the national date for NPI to be in effect.

Sheila Huber, Child Welfare Adoption

Sheila Huber from the Attorney General's office gave an overview changes taking place regarding Child Welfare issues.

Meeting adjourned