

California State Department of Social Services
ICWA WORKGROUP

May 8, 2012 • 1:00pm to 3:30pm
CDSS, 744 P Street, Conference Room 202 (OB 9)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Meeting Notes

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. The AOC will send a request for information regarding TCA cases to tribes to obtain any information they can contribute.
2. CDSS will share the AOC's invitation at the next CWDA Operation's meeting on May 9th to announce the upcoming telephone focus groups for social workers regarding TCA scheduled for June 13 and 14.
3. Workgroup was asked to provide any feedback regarding CAPP Tribal Consultant qualifications to Karen and Aprille by COB 5/18/12.
4. CDSS will provide workgroup members with a list of state district offices that are being eliminated.
5. CDSS will send the "After 18" web link to the ICWA Workgroup.
6. CDSS will send out draft APSR and fact sheet to the workgroup. Comments are due to Jennifer White by June 15th.
7. CDSS will ask CWS/CMS staff to deliver an overview training webinar or informational meeting to demonstrate to tribal workers how the system is used.
8. Stephanie Weldon will send CDSS (Diana) a draft conference schedule to forward to the workgroup.

Welcome/Introductions

Participants were introduced, and the previous meeting's minutes and current meeting's agenda were reviewed.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Update

Ann Gilmour gave this report. The AOC continues to obtain information for their legislative report regarding any Tribal Customary Adoptions (TCAs) that have occurred or have been considered. The AOC will send a request for information regarding TCA cases to tribes to obtain any information they can contribute.

CDSS will share the AOC's invitation at the next CWDA Operation's meeting on May 9th to announce the upcoming telephone focus groups for social workers regarding TCA scheduled for June 13 and 14.

The AOC is pulling together a panel on ICWA in Probate Guardianship cases for this year's ICWA Conference. The panel will include Doug Miller (AOC attorney) and Hon. Christine Williams (tribal court judge), and will look at the differences between dependency proceedings and guardianship proceedings and the particular challenges in meeting all of the ICWA requirements in the Probate Guardianship context.

AOC's Online Self-Help Center contains general statewide information. The AOC will make recommendations for changes to site, and will ask ICWA Workgroup for input on what sort of changes they would like to see. ICWA-related brochures are available to view and print on the AOC Self-Help website.

The AOC will conduct trainings on May 22 in Siskiyou and June 8 in Santa Barbara. Although counties and tribes can request training sessions from AOC, training requests must be vetted and approved by the presiding juvenile court judge in the county.

ACTION 1: The AOC will send a request for information regarding TCA cases to tribes to obtain any information they can contribute.

ACTION 2: CDSS will share the AOC's invitation at the next CWDA Operation's meeting on May 9th to announce the upcoming telephone focus groups for social workers regarding TCA scheduled for June 13 and 14.

California Partnership for Permanency (CAPP)

Karen Gunderson gave this report. CAPP activities are occurring at the local level, and monthly project meetings are held in Sacramento. In addition, cross-site meetings are held monthly. Travel has been challenging for tribes.

A draft copy of the Tribal Consultant job description was distributed for review. Qualifications for this position are still in progress.

Workgroup members provided comments on the job description, such as: 1) one consultant may not be sufficient to cover all regions of the state, 2) structure may need adjusting, 3) Bachelor's degree may not be necessary, and 4) tribal social services/ICWA background would be helpful.

Karen invited workgroup members to be part of the selection process and asked that people let her know if interested. They would like to begin the selection process in June. Karen Gunderson and Aprille Flint would like all feedback within a week after this meeting.

Feedback regarding Circles of Sharing: Signs of Safety (SOS) training that was held in Fresno and Humboldt counties was very positive. This is a great engagement tool that empowers families and children in working together to solve problems regarding safety issues. All Emergency Response staff in Fresno have completed the SOS training, which has been adapted for tribes. Positive comments from attendees expressed that the training generated excitement.

ACTION 3: Workgroup was asked to provide any feedback regarding CAPP Tribal Consultant qualifications to Karen and Aprille by COB 5/18/12.

CDSS Updates

State Budget Update/Realignment

The trailer bill language (TBL) is posted on the California Department of Finance website. ICWA language begins on page 135, and focuses on preserving the sharing ratios for tribes with tribal/state agreements.

Significant budget impacts:

- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs);
- Subsidized child care;
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) programs; and
- Some state adoptions district offices are being realigned to the counties. CDSS will provide workgroup members with a list of state district offices that are being eliminated.

ACTION 4: CDSS will provide workgroup members with a list of state district offices that are being eliminated.

AB 12 Implementation and Tribal Forums

Karen Gunderson gave this report. CDSS is currently working with the northern and southern California regions to schedule a tribal forum in each region. There has been light attendance at previous forums, and CDSS has been trying to determine how to improve participation. These regional meetings are designed to give a broad overview and general awareness of the “After 18” program. Curricula are available at the www.after18ca.org website for anyone to use. On the website, informational videos are available for outreach purposes on the following subjects:

- Overview
- Eligibility
- Placement
- Probation Youth

Questions were brought up regarding AB 12 training (e.g., what type, who, where, etc.). Karen clarified that some counties were doing their own training and that the State role was to make available training resources to the various audiences. There was discussion regarding how Indian money should be categorized for non-minor dependents (NMDs) that stay in foster care (e.g., per capita distribution minor trust, revenue sharing distribution, funding held in trust from insurance proceeds, etc.). When such funds come into the possession of Indian youth, how will training address these specific type topics? Karen Gunderson proposed they be handled on a case-by-case basis and addressed with the tribes. Karen stated that the initial AB 12 rollout was to get the broad information out first, and address special circumstances as they emerge. CalSWEC is the resource for curricula and resource information for workers and youth. The link is: http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining_AB12.html. CDSS will send the “After 18” web link to the ICWA Workgroup as well.

Karen Gunderson offered to conduct a webinar specifically geared to tribal workers. CDSS is considering posting Q & As on a rolling basis. Questions can be emailed to AB12@dss.ca.gov.

ACTION 5: CDSS will send the “After 18” web link to the ICWA Workgroup.
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Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR)

Jennifer White (CDSS) will send out the draft APSR to the ICWA Workgroup on May 18th. Comments are due to her by June 15th. She will also send out the fact sheet to the workgroup.

ACTION 6: CDSS will send out draft APSR and fact sheet to the workgroup. Comments are due to Jennifer White by June 15th.

Other

- In the near future, CDSS will ask CWS/CMS staff to deliver an overview training webinar or informational meeting to demonstrate to tribal workers about how the system is used (can include screen shots, etc.).
- It was proposed to have the full workgroup meeting in the morning, and to have both tribal and state/county caucuses in the afternoon. Issues brought up during the morning workgroup meeting could then be discussed in the afternoon caucuses.
- A CDSS document (*Issues of Non-Compliance with ICWA-2003*) was distributed. Cheryl Treadwell suggested that the workgroup review the items discussed in the document and consider using the information to create a work plan that would prioritize issues for the workgroup to address. The ultimate outcome would be to tackle topic areas one at a time, and possibly produce a self-assessment desk guide that would be useful for both tribes and counties.

ACTION 7: CDSS will ask CWS/CMS staff to deliver an overview training webinar or informational meeting to demonstrate to tribal workers how the system is used.

19th Annual Statewide ICWA Conference

Stephanie Weldon, Tribal Social Services Director of the Yurok Tribe, gave this report. Stephanie will send CDSS (Diana) a draft schedule. This year's State ICWA Conference will be hosted by the Yurok Tribe and is scheduled for June 19-21, 2012 in Humboldt County at the Blue Lake Casino's Sapphire Palace in Blue Lake (near Arcata). Registration and conference information is available on the tribe's website at <http://www.yuroktribe.org/departments/socialservices/icwaconference.htm>.

ACTION 8: Stephanie Weldon will send CDSS (Diana) a draft conference schedule to forward to the workgroup.

Next ICWA Workgroup Meeting Discussion

The workgroup opted to cancel the July meeting, since the Tribal Caucus will meet the day before the ICWA Conference. The next ICWA Workgroup meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at CDSS Headquarters in Sacramento.