

Tribal Early Childhood Workgroup Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2017
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
2214 N Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ

- Ten (10) tribal child care representatives participated in the meeting.
 - Jason Clark - Ak-Chin Indian Community
 - Bernita Kuwaninvaya - Hopi Tribe
 - Rosie Gutierrez - Pascua Yaqui Tribe
 - Carmen Osuna - Pascua Yaqui Tribe
 - John Thomas - Kaibab Paiute Tribe
 - Nolita Noline - San Carlos Apache Tribe
 - Velma Kaytoggy - San Carlos Apache Tribe
 - Chira Walema - Hualapai Tribe (phone)
 - Kristy White - Cocopah Indian Tribe (phone)
 - Aurora - Cocopah Indian Tribe (phone)

- Twelve (12) state and federal stakeholders participated in the meeting.
 - Shawn Sellers - AZ Department of Economic Security
 - Archie Mariano - AZ Department of Economic Security
 - Daren Sweet - AZ Department of Child Safety
 - Geoff Thomas - AZ Department of Economic Security, Child Care Administration
 - Jackie Salvano - AZ Department of Economic Security, Child Care Administration
 - Lorie Jewett - AZ Department of Economic Security, Child Care Administration
 - Delores Fragua - National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development
 - Tina Warren - Region 9 Office of Child Care (phone)
 - Abby Cohen - Region 9 Administration for Children and Families (phone)
 - Kurt Gee - Region 9 Administration for Children and Families (phone)
 - Melody Redbird-Post - National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development (phone)
 - Candida Hunter - First Things First

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- Overview provided of the Health and Safety requirements for tribes in the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) final rule. A staff member from the National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development provided information on the mandatory and optional health and safety requirements for tribes. Tribes receiving CCDF are to be in compliance with health and safety by October 1, 2019. The presentation included information on available online resources for tribes on training and technical assistance.

As part of the group discussion, training resources available in the state were identified. Through First Things First training is available through child care programs participating in the Quality First program. Some of the tribal child care programs will access training through the Indian Health Service (IHS) if there is a clinic or hospital located in the

community. Programs will also access trainings through their tribal fire departments and health departments. At the state level, training for emergency preparedness plan development is available online through the AZ Department of Health Services. The challenge on access training is coordinating the piece-meal resources to provide appropriate training for tribal child care staff. For the tribal child care programs represented, the following training areas are in need:

- Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Immunizations (this can be a challenge because some tribes, based on religious belief, do not enforce immunizations)
- Medication Administration (some tribes have a policy on not administering medication. This policy will require some review to determine on how to meet CCDF requirements.)
- Allergic Reactions
- Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Safe Sleep

From the tribal representatives, emergency preparedness was the consistent training need identified with medication administration coming in second. Several tribes stating needed training on all the required health and safety topics.

For a next step, the ITCA Project Manager will meet with the ADES Child Care Administration Program Administrator to determine where coordination can take place with the state on training resources for the tribes needing assistance.

- Staff from the ADES Child Care Administration (CCA) provided an overview of the requirements to becoming a registered child care provider with the state. For tribal child care programs interested in becoming a registered provider with the state CCA, the tribal programs may not yet have all the CCDF requirements in place. The state accepts the licensing requirements dictated by the tribe for their tribal child care program. As part of the registration process, tribes are not required to enroll in the Empower Program facilitated by the AZ Department of Health Services. For some tribes, meeting the background checks to the extent required by DES CCA. The CCA contracts staff will work with tribes on the background check process. Liability insurance has been an issue for some state group homes and as well as the small tribes because of the rate increase. The state is currently reviewing the insurance limits and the requirements related to sexual abuse/molestation - most insurance providers do not provide this coverage. Overall, the state CCA Contracts team will work with the tribes interested in becoming state registered providers. The ITCA Project Manager encouraged tribes seriously consider registering with the state because of the resources available to provide care for children whose families are involved with TANF and state child protective services.
- For a number of tribes, off-reservation child care centers are used by tribal members that the tribal child care program will pay. Questions were raised in the last workgroup meeting regarding the verification and monitoring of the off-reservation child care center by the state to ensure the center is meeting the tribe's CCDF plan requirements. Staff from the AZ Department of Health Services (ADHS) provided information on the licensing requirements

for child care centers in Arizona. Information included the monitoring process the state performs to ensure child care centers are in compliance. For information on a child care center's licensing status, inspection documents, or enforcement actions, tribes can call ADHS or log onto their website. ADHS staff also provided brochures for parents on how to choose the right child care facility and how child care centers are regulated.

- Upcoming event: First Things First Early Childhood Summit - August 2017. The ITCA Project Manager informed the tribal child care staff that funds may be available to provide assistance to program staff to attend the summit. Information will be forthcoming.
- Next meeting – September 2017