

****FULL T/SCG MEETING****

State Caucus Report out:

1. **the need for workers to make it clear the role of the Tribe and OCS's role and how collaborations are made.**
2. regular contact between bush OCS & Tribal offices needing to improve.
3. KWYA:
 - a. 11 trainers- need to identify more
 - b. KWYA needs to be "rolled out" to Managers and Supervisors
4. Due to financial issues, OCS will not be able to send majority of folks to next TSCG, Fairbanks OCS will be present (or) TSCG could be cancelled for Fairbanks

Tribal Caucus Report out:

1. Discussed IV-E meeting held the previous day & the luncheon with Legislator & several Legislative aides, etc.
2. Tribal Caucus requested more than one hour to discuss authentic partnership.
3. There will be a workgroup tasked with exploring direct IV-E funding.
4. Tribal Caucus reported they would like to keep May 12-14 for T/SCG meeting in Fairbanks- keep the date and the location.
5. Tribal Caucus continues to want clarification regarding the authority held by the ICWA Specialists.
***Specifically, what happens when SW's don't do what they've been asked to do?**
6. Want to know if there is any kind of a plan in place to address the movement of families to urban areas.
7. Tribal Caucus reminded State Caucus of the three top priorities of T/SCG, as decided in 2008. They are:
 - KWYA
 - Tribal involvement in case plan development
 - Contracting case mgt.
8. Many Tribal Caucus members have noticed an increase in TPRs, especially with parents who suffer from DD or mental illness.
9. The "natural flow" of the Undoing Racism/KWYA was discussed. Tribal Caucus asked that Undoing Racism be re-visited for trainings. Additionally there was concern regarding a lack of financial support for relative caretakers.

- ICWA Specialist & Dennis S. will work on possible mapping out process if a tribe has a concerns/complaints
- Phil Kaufman & Dennis Swain will begin meeting together with Anchorage SW's who are in the Investigations Unit and Dennis will be making a point of discussing the importance of contacting Tribes to participate in investigations and why that is vital. Also providing "business map" for how to engage tribes and when to do that.
- Additionally along this line, it was suggested that T/SCG go to supervisors' meetings, etc. regarding why we ask SW's to do things like KWYA, etc. and give presentation on T/SCG.
- Re: Admin Reviews- there is a need for consistency. Some regions have a teleconference while others call each participant. Invitation letter should be changed to reflect consistency statewide. Dennis Swain is tracking Tribal participation in reviews. Although regular Tribal Caucus participants' agencies regularly participate in reviews, there remain a number of Tribal reps that do not participate for whatever reason. Tribal Caucus was asked to spread the word about the importance of being active participants in reviews.
- Marcus Gho presented data to T/SCG. Request was made for data to be provided in hard copy form to Tribal Caucus for T/SCG. Data requests should be sent to Dennis Swain & he'll take it to Marcus Gho.
- Discussion surrounding FLAME group- Faith Led Alliance to Maintain & Empower. Ultimately, FLAME wants to create a faith based foster care organization- FH licensing, retention of foster homes and a child placement agency. Travis/James will contact them to arrange a presentation with them to TSCG.
- Traci Spartz-Campbell reported on the Casey Family Assessment Inventory. (CFAI) Licensing summit is a maybe for Sept. No opportunities to train on the CFAI. It is a computer-based training. CFAI culturally nor med & would be used in licensed FH's first, maybe unlicensed relatives later.
- AK Native Family Preservation Unit in Anch.- It was reported that none of the families served have re-entered OCS contact thru PSR, etc. There are 20 cases for the 6 workers- maximum. Anyone with a family to refer can contact Cecilia at the AK Native Family Preservation Unit.
- BBNA reported that the PREVENT Institute is working with Lou & Tammy on a project- BBNA Child Abuse Prevention Plan
- Isabel Bowers (OCS Central Office) reported to T/SCG. Emergency Response form to be a part of licensing packet. It was suggested to have teleconferences with each Tribal partner who requests it, re: IV-Be disaster plans & collaboration. Isabel agreed to think about this and get back to Tribal Caucus.

●CRP annual report is on the OCS website. OCS did an official response, copies will be sent out with minutes for TSCG 2/2009.

●Re: PIP- Kristi Swanson has been working on this. The documents will need review. PIP final draft due 5/3/09. Upon acceptance of the PIP, OCS will have 2 yrs to make the improvements. PIP groups need members & individuals who do direct case work are especially needed as members. At an upcoming Tribal Caucus teleconf. PIP work will be reviewed for input.

● Kristie Swanson reported re: Family Support, Family Preservation, & Time Limited grants. They are going to be 1 yr grants in order to continue to evaluate the needs and outcomes. Differential Response is not funded any longer.

●Contracting Case Mgt- In home services grant has to meet Federal guidelines. We can re-work the committee; Grace Smith offered to take CCM on to re-work the committee. Tammy states Dept. of Law & Region X were talked with about this and unless OCS takes a current grant & changes it around or lay off staff they state they can't afford CCM. It was decided that the Contracting Case Mgt workgroup should re-convene to look at the notes taken at previous meetings & at resource re-alignment. Additionally, admin reviews are a type of service that could be contracted out easily, allowing ICWA Specialists to be more of a liaison.

Discussion surrounding T/SCG's #2 priority- Tribal involvement in case planning:

1. Obstacles- Case plan needs to be drafted before case transferred to permanency unit. Permanency workers seem to be better at including Tribes in case planning. Internally, OCS may have to figure out how to re-evaluate the key decision point when a case plan is drafted.
2. CFSR says that parent participation in case planning is around 37% of the time in in home cases, 58% of the time in out of home cases.
3. One possibility is to have SW's who do well at including ICWA workers in case planning talk to/present to newer SW's or SW's in TONE training- a targeted audience. **Dennis agreed to create a "checklist" regarding calling/contacting Tribes.**
4. At the next T/SCG the group will review what was done within the last 3+ months to improve Tribal involvement in case plans.

NEXT : TSCG meeting, May 11-14, 2009, Fairbanks, AK

May 11 & 12, 2009- tribal IV-E meetings (Anchorage and Fairbanks)

May 13 & 14, 2009- TSCG meetings at :

**Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center
101 Dunkel St., Ste 210
Fairbanks, AK 99701**