

TSCG Minutes October 25 & 26, 2011

Red = document to be sent out to list serv

Tuesday October 25, 2011:

- Opening: Beverly Oskolkoff leading a prayer, Lisa Reiger welcomed everyone
- Francine & Christy L. welcomed everyone, house-keeping information.
- Everyone introduced themselves.
- cultural sharing with Cheryl Offt
- Positive collaboration:
(speakers: Andrew Beaver, Bridget Mullally, Mardi Hanson, Crystal Nixon-Luckhurst, Marion Hallum, Christy Lawton, Francine Eddy Jones, Dennis Swain, Natalie Powers)
 - Discussed how OCS practice has changed by trying to place children with families and not into foster care
 - OCS going the extra mile to keep kids
 - Tribal casa program with Kenaitze, 7 trained, sworn in by supreme ct and tribal court at the same time
 - Discussed success at the leadership summit in Seward
 - Metlakatla interested in possible TSCG participation
 - T&H, permanency round table roll out, worked with technical assistance for IV-B development of historical trauma program involving with elders
- KYWA- Dennis discussed:
 - Train the trainers will be April 10-12, 2011
 - KWYA schedule is out, other agencies asking for workshop
 - Need names of new trainers, discussed requirements for new trainers:
 1. Completed KWYA
 2. Completed Undoing Racism
 3. Champion positive racial and ethnic work
 4. Agency will need to give 2 year support letter
 5. Agency needs to financially support transportation and pay for facilitation days
- Christy discussed maybe other agencies or separate entity taking opportunity to take this work on (or) there possibly being a charge for attendance
- Suggestion to engage with National Guard, military when doing trainings
- UR (Undoing Racism) 2 sessions completed by AVCP in Bethel, 2 more coming December/2011 in Anchorage and Bethel

•PCA discussion- led by Christy Lawton

- Would prefer to have PCA called family services
- Stated that this came out of a PIP strategy- then sent into innovation sites, will over statewide
- Tribes were invited to participate in training
- Stated focus on getting to know the family, quality face-to-face contact with family and caseworker, OCS explain child welfare process, exploration- family articulate what they need (case plans), documenting
- Tribes wondered about:
 - Where the OCS worker will engage tribe
 - Want tribal signature line on documents (has been added)
 - How does this affect families like FASD/FAE, does it send it fast track
- Is OCS training workers enough in FASD/FAE as they process through PCA
- DVD's of PCA information available, request need to be sent to Christy Lawton.
- Need to bring on community partners
- When rolling out statewide, tribe will be included

•TSCG, tribal foster care licensing:

- Packet completed
- Standards created by tribal licensing group, sent to region X, stated it is in accordance of Federal outlines
- Tribes would be licensing their own foster homes
- Next step: copy provided to group, request comments due back to Kristie Swanson and Lou Johnson by end of December/2011 for review
- Then work group will put together comments to move towards presentation to AAG for legal considerations

•Report outs:

NRO	<p>OCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elder event, celebrate elders, expect about 300 people • Barrow, meet with OCS and Barrow to discuss “exclusive jurisdiction” contract • TCC, co-facilitate new worker ICWA orientation. Workers also shadow TCC workers and monthly case staffing. • OCS will participate in TCC TFYS training <p>Kawerak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCS and Kawerak meeting every Monday to discuss travel and events to try and collaborate work together • Case staffing twice a month • Health fair for recruitment, foster parent appreciation meeting
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	<p>Mannilaq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with OCS on ICWA compliance work and recruit foster homes • New director Debbie Moates • Working with TANF on DV public awareness <p>Nome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lester Keller hired as new family services director • Continue ARO office, Glenda Gologeren • Working with ARO, does intro to new workers and also support shadow by OCS workers
SCRO	<p>OCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 different field offices • New staff manager Linda Clapp-Damerow • Dillingham OCS staff and Kodiak doing well with relationships • Kenaitze/help desk- Vide left position • Gwen Emel- ICWA liaison, still doing well • Historical trauma workshop coming (organized by Geraldine Nicoli of Knik), mandated for all OCS workers, speaker will be with James Labelle Sr. • KWYA in Kodiak, success • Working on contract case management in Aleutian Islands, possibly with APIA staff. Idea started 1 year ago. • Management fully staffed <p>APIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excited by case management opportunities, contract with OCS • Recruit native foster homes, moving kids through higher preference placement • “word of the week”, information sent out to parents • Parenting classes through-out region, new DV program • Unalaska has a U-safe office, secure a victim of sexual abuse • Wellness gathering planned, Sept 2012 • Referrals for mental health, health, employment and training, substance abuse assessment <p>St. Paul: (Ozzy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that tribe created vision, all services focus with that vision • New domestic violence/sexual assault program, wellness program through tribal court • Working with tribal folks to motivate people to be foster parents <p>Chickaloon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook inlet tribes with CITC, created foster parent brochures • Navigate, court recognize tribal adoption for birth certificate

	<p>Kenaitze:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking ground on their building, for family services, clinic, mental health, social services • New building for youth, gym for kids to practice NYO activities • Vide will be part time with Kenaitze until they hire, will be part of TSCG for now • Vide created “all nations family center” program, positive Indian parenting curriculum, will take native values and work through the care, signing contracts with Knik and Tyonek <p>Kodiak/KANA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just opened a child advocacy center in Kodiak • Do FAS screenings for native foster kids, in process to identify services • KWYA completed, it was wonderful • OCS collaborate well, includes tribes and native organization <p>Dillingham/BBNA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crystal back full time, family services now fully staffed • Part time worker in ARO, prevention activities, berry picking • Recruiting foster homes • Tribal victims response coordinator, working with SAFE and cross train workers in villages • Been receiving a lot of inquiries from out of state • Working more with tribal courts in Dillingham • Information on contacting Stacy Bai <p>Chugachmuit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will focus on disaster planning issues • Increase working with elders, cultural ways for positive parenting curriculum, and cultural awareness • Recruiting native foster parents under the ICWA grants • Grant for DV program or women’s coalition group
ARO	<p>OCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management fully staffed • Last year of ANFP unit grant, developing next steps • Still in development of ICWA unit, need to hire 2 staff • PCA overview for grantees • Continuing new employee orientation • Alaska Native heritage month pot luck, will nominate Alaska native foster homes, taking nominations

	<p>CITC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New initiatives: expansion of fatherhood program, will reach out to non-resident families & flourishing child program for kids who have been exposed to trauma • Awarded Safe haven funding for contacts • OPA/CASA working, Donna Huntington hired • ICWA help desk, Beverly, co-facilitate ICWA orientation, work with kids in the home are increasing and doing well, loves the PCA process • Governor Parnell will visit CITC next Wednesday <p>APIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Anchorage, have monthly elders pot luck • Meets with new OCS workers, orientation
SERO	<p>OCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring a staff manager • Will work with T&H to discuss how OCS shares information • DV coalition with OCS, T&H, AWARE, Council of DV and assault, training Dec 12 & 13, in Juneau, AK, will open up with historical trauma and how it connects with DV. (4 pilot sights form a grant) • Hiring ICWA Specialist, explore creative position duties • KWYA in Juneau, 30 participants, now will focus on Juneau school district <p>T&H:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at system model, based form WPIC, internal process of how to service in home, better connecting to tribal TANF • Working to better partner with tribal TANF to identify families who cross both arenas • Focus on historical trauma, T&H staff • Working on tribal court development, working on tribal court committee for statutes • Granting for DV services • Wants OCS to consider moving ICWA specialist to Juneau • National level of how states partner with tribes, working with region X
WRO	<p>OCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSM position is in process of recruitment • Jerry Sherman is new staff manager • Partnership with OCS staff to shadow tribal partners • Vacant ICWA specialist • ICWA compliance grants, use collaborative work • Brian Penner & Jacqueline Hardy, providing assistance to Bethel OCS

	<p>AVCP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing with OCS Bethel office, new staff shadowing starts a successful relationship • Also offers healthy families to community • Training hours for native foster homes licensed • Native foster home care recruitment • 2 staff working on RSS, in home services with healthy families program • DBH funding to health provide healthy families training • New TANF coordination grant • Community collaboration group, funded Undoing racism • UR funded by ICWA compliance grant, dec, anchorage • Starting to work on healing process, have already covered awareness • Andrew Beaver stated “OCS has made an active effort to keep children in the home” <p>Bethel ONC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truancy program working with parents • Youth coordinator working with youth facility • Working with sex offender programs • Healthy family programs • Talking circles at the senior center
State Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHSS, new Deputy Commisioner, Ree Sailors (coming from Washington DC) • Mapping out of state office positions and job duties • Natalie Powers, social service program administrator Kim Guay, adminstrator, practice and training Travis Erickson, field office Naomi Harris, new community relations manager Administrative officer, Joe Hall • Sandi Benzel, ICWA and RSS grants
OPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA with CITC for Native CASA and guardian ad litem work • Richard Allen (OPA director) went to leadership summit, enjoyed participation

Wednesday, October 26, 2011:

- Welcoming prayer by Mardy Hanson.
- Housekeeping items, agendas for next few days, meetings discussed making available the vision and logic model guiding principles handed out
- cultural sharing with Joanne Simmerman
- Update on Tanana Decision and process of policy changes:
 - Carla Raymond & Natalie Powers
 - Program instruction sent out last spring covered information sharing
 - Hand out list of the policies being revised
 - Will be posted on line for review, OCS web page
 - comments can then be sent out, email will be sent out when they are posted
 - update on CINA rules, regarding tribal court orders that come to state court, the CINA rules committee drafted a new CINA rule (joint rule), now in process for revisions, then sent to Alaska Supreme court. Supreme court will then send to public for comment, and then discuss is Supreme court will adopt the rules or send back for revisions.
- PIP (program improvement plan) updates:
 - areas identified to develop plan to improve outcomes for safety, permanency, well being, should be achieved by 11-30-11
 - still working on APPLA (another permanent planned living arrangements) issues
 - gearing up for federal review in 2012
 - will make available copies, data over last 2 years (Christy Lawton)
 - huge success that Alaska has increased keeping kids in placements, went from ranked 37 to ranked 7th, average moves/placement for children in Alaska is 2.
- State caucus:
 - sharing information, tribes have parameters about how they share and OCS has requirements to confirm who they speak with
 - (tribal response) tribes should have a channel of contact for confidential information
 - (tribal response) want tribes to be at meeting when OCS admin go to do site visits, like a regional TSCG
 - (tribal response) improve information to regional corporations
 - topics have come up already through the last 1 ½ days
 - Steve talked about local involvement in really early information sharing when cases are identified
 - **Will send out the flow chart to all email list serv, send out program instruction for Information sharing**

•Tribal caucus:

- Under WPIC project, 1-800 number set ups for tribal caucus
- ICWA grants meeting in Anchorage January 10
- TSCG, next February 6-10, Juneau @ VTRC
- Want to do caucus during time together, not prior, minimal ½ day
- RSS work group, to become a work group through WPIC (to include Sandi Benzel), suggest asking that state identify new chair
- Tribal participation issues in WPIC work groups and other collaborations with OCS
- they want to add tribal participants to ESC, suggest 1 tribal rep in each of the 6 subgroups, with responsibility to report to tribal caucus
- Reviewed CIP, will need to replace Maude Hopson seat at CIP
- Navajo nation in region IX, delegation of 3 tribal reps going to Navajo week of November 9
 1. Child welfare
 2. Tribal courts
 3. Embedding values in system
 4. How to roll out in home services
 5. Funding
- Courageous conversations, how to keep on agenda, identify barriers/concerns/challenge, and making sure it is being addressed.
 1. Concerns how information from TSCG is being processed at a local level
 2. Concerns of power that OCS line workers assert and how the worker questions tribal partners and their professional credentials
 3. How OCS promotes tribal involvement
 4. Tribes identify tribal families, how does OCS view the placements
- Access to information
- Update on OCS centralized intake, phone numbers
- Hiring practices of OCS, recruitment numbers are high from out of state, how do we ensure hires are oriented to Alaska and Native culture
- How tribal folks can be hired, what are the challenges
- Get an update on variance process, tribes have been working with families who need variances, get tribal participation on variance committee
- Description for ICWA unit in ARO..... (OCS response)
 1. to be staffed with 7 family services workers, supervised by Jessica Ullrich, none Native currently.
 2. Specific people internal made request to be on unit
 3. Each worker would be assigned a region and that worker would become familiar with the tribes and customs of that region
 4. Priority is Alaska Native families and out of preference placements
 5. Extra supports, intern student to gather tribal enrollment paperwork, corporation paperwork, contact list for access to services
 6. Link to ANFP unit to ICWA unit at OCS
 7. Intention for worker to meet with regional tribes that have children in this unit
 8. Creation was a process, still in process

.....concerns about how a qualified native TSCG tribal worker would address process. Look into legislative Native preference hire (Washington has done it), tribal reps on interviews

- Strengthening Families- presentation by Shirley Pittz
 - Focus on prenatal to age 8, looking at all services for those children
 - Several systems focus, one is child welfare
 - Studies show early experience stressors, youth are affected in many health areas like diabetes, depression, and modeling past experiences
 - 3-day process: Training on process and strengthening families initiative in many areas statewide
 - Looking at protective factors created by the center of social policy, focus to prevent abuse before it ever happens
 - Outlined 5 protective factors that affect if a family is more likely to be involved in abuse or neglect
 - Alaska chose as a site and go to place where families are already there
 - Invitations will be sent out for roll outs (one time funding), will come from Child Welfare Academy
 - Anchorage, Dec 13 &14, 2011 & Jan 17 & 18, 2012
Juneau, March/2012
And more coming
 - Shirley will send information to Dennis to send out

- Regional break out:
 - WRO- beginning plan to get regional quarter meetings outlined
 - SERO- wants standing agenda items

- Data:
 1. Cases being screened out referrals (check on cases being screened)
 2. Based on % of all children population
 3. Discussed disparities and disproportionality

- Goodbyes to Steve Hudson

- NEXT TSCG, week of February 6, 2012 in Juneau (4-5 days), look at if hotel needs to be blocked
WPIC request to have February 6 & 7, TSCG will follow

