

TSCG minutes
Wednesday, May 9, 2012

- Introductions, house-keeping, guiding principles
- Charlene Hadley cultural presentation
- Dennis discussed “new member” procedures for TSCG, all approved, will be in effect as of today

● **Positive collaborations:**

1. Federal partners participating
2. New staff WRO shadowing Bethel ONC and AVCP, building good partnership
3. OCS has hired a Children’s Service Manager, Dr. Michael Isom, WRO starting June 4, 2012
4. ARO has 3 tribal partners in house, good partnerships.
5. Kawerak regional conference in Nome, OCS administration and NRO managers went to Stebbins and Nome. Community welcomed all the visitors, well attended workshops. Community was very active.
6. Tribes will be able to do home visits, OCS can count those for case work towards fed requirements.
7. Establishing tribal IV-E maintenance agreements, tribes will need to have a IV-B plan, a IV-E administration agreement, infrastructure built
8. AVCP- Bethel, Undoing Racism workshop #5, full participation over 200, Cheryl asked to be a national trainer with PISAB
9. Dillingham Undoing Racism workshop, completely filled, Crystal asked to be national trainer for PISAB
10. Senate bill 82 through representative Les Gara and Senator Bettye Davis, awaiting signature of the bill. Modify and revise foster care licensing standards based on community norms. Loosen the restrictions for licensing and harder for parties to use APPLA as a goal.

● **State report out:**

1. Discussed options for alternative funding for tribal services, voted to start with regional meetings, create list, then take to TSCG co-chairs for further vetting. Leadership would take over, pay for service to tribes issues **and** take on data for economist value to what it takes for OCS to care for youth/streamline reports for grants. Tribes support regional meetings first.
2. IV-E information, signed case plans or safety plans for “candidacy for care” for tribes reimbursement. Christy Lawton set expectation for CSM’s to audit cases for case plans and/or safety plans, send copies to tribes
3. ICWA help desk reference guide manual. Tribal co-chairs to discuss what to put on a ICWA quick reference guide.
4. Terry Challenge, identify cases, move to permanency with reunification or native placement, cases be ready to report by October
5. Youth/alumni regular participation after WPIC is gone, what their role is

● **Tribal report out:**

1. Unresolved discussion around grant reporting work group, RSS grantees and OCS to create report for everyone, possibly with Kim Ridle, Marsha Sloan willing to participate as well. Define outcomes and discuss logic model- work group. Discuss outcomes, data. Tanya McElfresh from Casey could facilitate.
2. Budgeting process for FY2014 timeline and how to ask for more funds
3. Data collection, expanding data on adoption, # of kids in specific placement.
4. What happens to the “adoption incentive” dollars, director stated most money generally gets put back into adoption recruitment
5. Questions to ask hiring ICWA specialist, statewide ICWA coordinator hires or participation in interview. Look into developing position descriptions and review their positions, committee possibly.ike to look at what needs to occur to re-look at the ICWA specialist job and statewide ICWA coordinator job to match TSCG needs, initial focus was not about reviews.
6. Tribal caucus would like to join in on discussion with APIA and OCS under tribal contract case management. Some understanding of the process and build infrastructure. This process would look more like a grant and currently working on grant language. This is not a contract process. Would include open OCS case in process of IA, then need on-going case management, details have not been clarified yet. Ozzy Escarte (St. Paul) wants to be included in discussion, how it affects their people with APIA.
7. CIP name: Mary Johnson, Northern region
8. Reaction to WPIC video:
 - Christy stated that she agreed with tribes that it took away from TSCG work.
 - Tribal caucus recommends inviting Markeeta and Terry to meet, next co-chairs is 18th of May, invite them 2nd half of meeting, Christy Lawton will contact
 - Want to have them put in TSCG history
9. Suggestion that proposal for RSS grants requirements, put it through tribal consortium, possible leverage tribal support. Christy stated that she can move forward with FY14 process about budgeting for grants and tribes should go through the consortium as an option.

TSCG minutes
Thursday 10, 2012

- Welcome back, Andrew Beaver leads morning prayer, no comments or follow ups from previous day

- Natalie Powers cultural sharing

- **OPA** (Office of Public Advocacy) presentation by Anita Alves & Marion Hallum
 - created initially as a “catch all” agency
 - encompasses CASA, public guardian, elder fraud, conflict counsel, criminal defense, appeals & statewide defense, adult & juvenile representation
 - handed out: map, contact list, role of GAL
 - CINA rule 11, sets out the rules and roles of GAL’s
 - Don’t interview kids, but more explain their role and try to set up kids being present for court hearings. They are child advocates for best interest.
 - What kind of continued training because GAL’s have a lot of power, GAL/CASA conference, different tracks like historical trauma, disproportionality, legal, etc
 - Contractors have not had to participate in trainings due to budget but will be trying to get them more updated
 - Supports that kids should be home or with family first (and) that siblings be placed together
 - Also part of practice should be placement based on cultural continuity
 - GAL is supposed to meet child face to face within 5 days once being assigned, if within 50 miles, reports can be called into to the deputy director
 - No policy for face to face contact, their policy states
 1. Within 5 days assigned
 2. Recommend seeing them prior to court case or talk to them

- CASA-** Court Appointed Special Advocate, national group,
 - volunteer programs & paid programs
 - CAPTA supports that CASA can be court representatives
 - There are tribal CASA programs
 - Focus on how to better serve children
 - Must have 3 hours of training
 - National contact standard is face to face contact with youth every 30 days
 - Funding comes from OPA general funds, national CASA gets funding from Federal grants
 - Recruitment efforts: looking to strategize around volunteers in remote areas
 - There is a blended learning version for training new CASA’s and matching it to how we can train and recruit in Alaska

Resource family unit- Karilee Pietz (program manager) &
Sue Frisby (statewide licensing coordinator)

- Resources families: anyone around a family or child for placements, supports, cultural supports, etc
- “Alaska’s resource family” handbook, counts as 2 hours of training
- Children in state custody have to be in homes approved by State of Alaska, either licensed or relative home (not licensed).
- Placement options: relative homes or licensed
 - a. Over age 21
 - b. Healthy physical
 - c. Pass criminal background check
 - d. Able to care and motivation
 - e. Space
 - f. Safety standards- basic fire and safety standards
 - g. Attend trainings, required and hours
- Background checks and variances, BCP = background check program
 - a. APSIN data base & finger printing
 - b. BCP= checks JOMIS, APSIN, national sex offender registry, ICCIS, state and federal finger print checks (finger prints takes 4-6 weeks). Will do follow up checks, there is a flag system for any new issues
 - c. Barrier crimes: there are separate federal and state bar
 1. If there is a federal bar, then person cannot be licensed
 2. State bar has limits and times
 - d. Variances: 2 type general and background check
 1. General variances EX: windows, capacity issues, etc
 - *looking into possible tribal participation
 - a. Weekly regional general variances committees to discuss, make decisions
 2. Barrier crime variance (no tribal committee members)
 - a. goes through Sue Frisby & regional committee for recommendations and then sent to department committee for decision.
 - b. The department committee is appointed positions.
- Placement decisions that affect placements
 - a. Is it an emergency and why is it an emergency?
 - b. Licensed versus placement decision
 - c. Home studies for adoption
 - d. Improve stability through careful consideration of background issues
- When applying for license, application time response starts once all documents are in
- Once application is submitted, OCS has 10 days to send letter letting them know what is missing and that application is incomplete
- Once full application is submitted, it is 90 days to complete and verify is approved or not
- Provider conferences across the state, next is Bethel next week, Juneau next week, and Wasilla & Anchorage

Alaska Native Unit- supervisor Jessica Ullrich

- Trying to assigned cases per regions areas
- Case workers introduced themselves
- Doing in service meetings to discuss how to change process to cultivate native culture & focus on relative search form
- Using list of native foster homes in anchorage to keep focus on higher preference placements on these cases
- Keeping focus on culture camps and building relationships
- Christy stated that after July1, 2012, the unit members will be traveling to the areas they focus on to meet folks and build relationships

OCS IV-B plan- handed out excerpt from OCS 5-year plan

- Federal requirement to seek tribal input
- Natalie discussed that strategy “D” on collaboration with tribes
- Asking tribes for comments and development. This plan has several sections that are in continuous efforts
- New updates/requirements:
 - a. Screening, assessing, and treating trauma
 - b. Understanding and tracking treatment systems on medication, etc
 - c. Psychotropic updates
 - d. Information on work force
- Discussed Kevin Campbell program for relative search

Tribal IV-B plans

- *Bethel ONC* using to expand into healthy family services, pass through for healing and wellness
- *T&H*, used for wellness programs, counseling services, has a LCSW who does group cycles on many different areas, historical trauma, TAANF, head start, ICWA help desk. Discussed
- *Nome*, focus on in home services, supervised visitation in Anchorage, 1:1 parenting, building foster families in tribe and maintain them
- *TCC*, annual training to 37 specialist with focus on identifying resources and connecting. Connection for healthy families and children. Teaching about permanency and court order understanding.
- *AVCP*, pass through money to ONC and look to pass to others, cover cost for things like needs basis, travel issues, supplies for compacted ICWA workers in villages due to their low budgeted ICWA dollars, advanced ICWA and KWYA for non-compact tribes as well

WPIC work group- updates will go out with minutes

SKILS/Training changes- process

- Step one, worker will do online modules
- Step two worker will do SKILS I, at Child Welfare Academy
- Step Three live training at their local offices
- Step four, CWA trainers will go to office hubs for additional training on IA and FS issues
- Step five, continued existing training

BREAK OUT into regional meetings