

Tribal State Collaboration Group



Tribal State Collaboration Group (TSCG) has been meeting since 1994. TSCG is comprised of representatives from tribes/tribal organizations, the Office of Children's Services (OCS) and federal Bureau X. TSCG meets three times a year to collaborate on issues pertaining to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) families and youth. The group's focus is to decrease disproportionality in Alaska's child welfare system, increase compliance with the Title IV-E Welfare Act (ICWA), promote healthy, safe and ethnically and culturally authentic care for children.

Over the past years, TSCG has made significant progress in many areas focused around effective partnerships, working together for solutions, and mutual accountability in improving the child welfare system for AI/AN children and families. Efforts include:

Establishment of tribal Title IV-E Pass-Through Agreements for administration & training. Currently there are 11 agreements.

Creation of one statewide ICWA coordinator and five regional ICWA specialist positions.

Creation of ICWA help desk positions (tribal or native organizational positions within OCS).

TSCG, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, began discussing the issue of disproportionality and Alaska's quest to reduce the number of AI/AN children in out of home placement in 2000. With the support of Casey Family Programs, TSCG members participated in Undoing Racism and Knowing Who You Are cultural trainings. These trainings established discussions on critical thinking, a child welfare power analysis, definition, stereotypes, discrimination, internalized racial oppression, and different forms of racism (cultural, institutional, individual). In addition, the trainings helped TSCG members to begin speaking a common language and recognizing the importance of each individual's cultural and ethnic identity. KWYA continues to be provided to new OCS and tribal staff throughout the state, on an ongoing basis.

Creation of ICWA training for all state workers and tribal workers. The two-day specialized training outlines historical trauma, racism, and the federal ICWA laws. It also goes through the life span of a case, from beginning to end, when involved in state custody.

Development of the Alaska Native Family Preservation unit, which was an idea brought on through collaborative work between the State of Alaska, the Native Village of Eklutna, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, and Casey Family Programs. This unit is the first of its kind across the country, where six workers — two from the state, two from a tribe, and two from a native organization — work in a unit together. The focus is on in-home services with AI/AN families, and the goal is helping them never enter into the state system.

OCS has partnered with the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (including 15 other Alaska Title IV-B Tribes) to work on a systems change initiative through the Western and Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center. The focus of the work is to emphasize tribal in-home services, tribal foster homes, and direct services that are culturally consistent with the families we serve in order to impact disproportionality.

ALASKA CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVE

Meeting Sign in sheet

Date:	
Time:	
Type of meeting:	
ORGANIZATION	NAME
1. Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association (APIA)	
2. Association of Village Council Presidents	
3. Bristol Bay Native Association	
4. Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes (CCTHITA)	
5. Chugachmiut	
6. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC)	
7. Kawerak, Inc.	
8. Ketchikan Indian Corporation (KIC)	
9. Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA)	
10. Maniilaq Association	
11. Metlakatla Indian Community	
12. Native Village of Kotzebue	
13. North Slope Native Association	
14. Orutsararmuit Native Council	
15. Sitka Tribe of Alaska	
16. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)	