

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRIBAL ALLIANCE (RCTA)
FOR INDIAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Minimize Court and County intervention and increase Tribal participation and control by developing culturally appropriate services for Native American children and families. To create and sustain partnerships founded upon understanding, communication, and cultural awareness among the sovereign tribal nations and community and governmental agencies.

Friday January 22, 2016, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Hosted by San Manuel Village
San Manuel Village Department of Human Resources, Training Rooms 1 & 2
27995 Highland Avenue Suite 100, Highland, CA 92346

MEETING MINUTES

OPENING REMARKS

The Invocation was given by Luke Madrigal

Judge Jackson and Luke Madrigal welcomed and greeted guests. Meeting participants introduced themselves and indicated their organization, department, or tribal affiliation.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Judge Perantoni and seconded by Commissioner Kubelun, and carried, the minutes of August 28, 2015 were approved as submitted.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 2: Domestic Violence Subcommittee Workgroup Update

Julie Andrews announced that the DV committee meets once a month and the next meeting will be at Morongo on February 26, 2016 from 1pm to 3 pm.

Julie welcomed new member Olga Garnica to the subcommittee.

The following announcements were made:

8th Annual Golf Tournament set for April 22, 2016 at Mount Wood.

CILS-Linda Schwartz shared that they are still looking to hire a part time position for their safe house in Escondido. Both apartments in Riverside County are no longer available. One was closed due to a fire and they are not renewing the lease on the other apartment. They are in the process of looking to rent or purchase a home. Lieutenant Rigali offered assistance in doing a neighborhood profile when the home is selected. Linda Schwartz is from Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition(SHMWC).

Soboba DPS – Chief Araujo advised that the tribe has approved the purchase of the app that will notify tribal members of emergency information. This system will be able to send information via cell phones to all tribal members. Persons using this system can also report incidents anonymously for crime tips. The app will be free for tribal members and any other persons interested.

ITEM 3: Independent Living Program (ILP) Eligibility for Tribal Youth

Michelle Wohl, gave an overview of the Independent Living Program (ILP). The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 permanently authorized the ILP which offers training, services, and programs, to assist current and former foster youth achieve self-sufficiency prior to and after leaving the foster care system. The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169), amended Section 477 of the Social Security Act providing more flexibility in the use of the ILP funding.

The core services are based on the youth's individual needs and goals as described in their Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILIP). Services are designed to assist youth with: education, career development, financial budgeting skills, health, safety, housing and permanency.

Examples of Services Provided:

- Daily living skills
- Money management
- Decision making
- Safety skills
- Career development
- Employment resources
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Educational Resources
- Help with accessing financial assistance for college or vocational schools
- Housing referrals.

Eligibility is determined by county social workers and probation officers. Youth are eligible for ILP services at age 16 up to their 21st birthday, provided one of the following criteria is met:

- Youth are/were a dependent or ward in foster care at any time between their 16th and 19th birthdays.

- Youth placed in out of home care by a tribe or tribal organization between their 16th and 19th birthdays.
- Youth is/was a former dependent that entered into a kinship guardianship at any age and received a Kinship Guardianship Assistant Payment (Kin-GAP) after the age of 16.
- Youth is/was a former dependent that entered into a non-related legal guardianship after attaining age 8 and is receiving permanent placement services.

Michelle Wohl gave an overview of other services offered which include:

Extended Foster Care (EFC)

Youth in foster care on their 18th birthday participating in the following:

- Attending high school or secondary education
- Enrolled in college or vocational program
- Employed at least 80 hours per month
- Participate in a program to remove barriers
- Disability prevents participation in the above

Re-entry/Return to Foster Care

- Complete a JV 466 directly with the Court
- Contact 800-442-4918 for Social Worker Assignment
- Social worker will complete a Mutual Agreement with the youth
- Approved and Supervised Placement

ITEM 4: Voices for Children Presentation (CASA)

Julie Woodruff from Voices for Children gave a presentation and provided the history of the organization.

Julie shared that they are now the providers of CASA volunteers for Riverside County.

Studies show that foster children with CASAs are:

- More likely to be adopted
- Less likely to re-enter child welfare system
- Tend to receive services sooner, longer and more consistently
- 20% more passed all of their school courses
- Less likely to be expelled
- Scored higher on protective factor scales

Julie shared that CASA's responsibilities include monitoring a child's case, maintaining a consistent and supportive relationship with the child, facilitate visits between siblings, participating in the child's education and contributing to educational decisions, assisting the social worker in identifying issues important to the child, and providing the court with information about the child.

Types of cases that CASA's are involved in are Reunification and Long term foster care or post permanency. For the Reunification case, the CASA's role is to ensure the children and their families receive the services they need. For the Long term care or post permanency case, the CASA's role is to ensure the youth have the services they need to become successful adults.

CASA's receive the following training:

- Advocate University – 35 hours of training and court observation
- Support Staff – Matched with a dedicated Advocacy Supervisor
- Small Groups – Network with CASA's and Voices for Children Staff. Discuss cases and specific advocacy issues.
- Continuing Education – Monthly opportunities, Enhance knowledge and skills.

Julie shared that CASA's are hundreds of dedicated volunteers.

The Eligibility requirements are:

- 21+ years old
- Valid driver's license
- Clear a criminal background and DMV record check
- Willing to drive throughout the county
- Reliable access to a vehicle
- Maintain confidentiality and professional boundaries

Julie shared that there is a list of 60 children waiting for a CASA appointment in Riverside County.

Judge Jackson urged tribes to become a CASA volunteer because CASA needs more volunteers with knowledge of tribal culture.

ITEM 5: Active Shooter – Run, Hide, Fight!

In light of the recent tragedy in San Bernardino at the Inland Regional Center a YouTube Video titled "Run, Hide, Fight!" was shown to the participants to provide them with how to protect themselves if they find themselves in an active shooter situation.

ITEM 6: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program

Allison Donahoe-Beggs, Department of Social Services Regional Manager, presented information regarding the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program (CSEC).

Allison shared that Riverside County Children's Services Division (CSD) receives about 5,000 calls a month to its hotline and about half of those reports turn into investigations for child abuse or neglect. Riverside County CSD launched active efforts to combat the Sexual Exploitation of Children into its child welfare practice in September of 2013. Riverside County currently have 41 CSEC identified Social Workers across the County.

Allison also shared that the average age of entry into “the life” is 12 years old. Currently CSD has 75 youth identified as CSEC.

CSD chairs the Interagency CSEC Steering Committee that meets quarterly and CSD completed the CSEC Interagency Protocol Agreement that was due to the State on 10/1/15. (ACL 15-48).

Riverside County is also a PACT County. They were awarded “Grants to Address Trafficking within the Child Welfare Population” by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. The grant was awarded to the California Department of Social Services and the term is October 1, 2014 – September 20, 2019. The mission of PACT is to implement a state and county level coordinated cross-system, inter-agency collaborative models that effectively serves child labor and sex trafficking victims. Protocols and models will build on existing collaborations at the state level, leverage funding from the state to provide services at the county level, implement newly created state law, and ensure child-serving agencies coordinate to more effectively serve a population of extremely vulnerable and traumatized children.

The CSEC Multi-Disciplinary Team consists of the following:

- Children’s Services
- Youth
- Mental Health
- SafeHouse
- Caregiver
- Probation
- Youth Partners
- RCAHT/RSO
- District Attorney – Victim Services

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute is pleased to announce the launch of Tribalcoalitions.org which provides a one-stop access to a wide range of resources on sex trafficking in Indian country. The primary focus of the website is:

- To provide Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Tribal Coalitions with quick access to information their advocates need.
- Enhance the capacity of Tribal Coalitions and victim service providers so they can better respond to victims of sex trafficking.
- Enhance access and communication between Tribal Coalitions.

Allison shared that Tribes can contact the Regional Training Academy (RTA) that serves their region for tribal caseworker training to identify and provide services for commercially sexually exploited children. (CSEC)

In addition, the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) has made a CSEC Awareness e-Learning module available on their website.

ITEM 7: Open Discussion

Members expressed that they would like to see a presentation on Adult Protective Services – Elderly Abuse at a future Tribal Alliance Meeting. In addition, they requested to have a full presentation on Active Shooter by the Riverside Sheriff's department.

Upcoming Events:

Riverside Municipal Theater – Native Indian Tribe Presentation on January 23, 2016 from 8 am to 5 pm. It is presented by UCR and it is free.

Native American free poetry festival in Banning on January 23, 2016.

ITEM 8: Closing Comments

Judge Jackson and Luke Madrigal thanked everyone for coming.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The foregoing represents my understanding of the January 22, 2016 meeting of the Riverside County Tribal Alliance for Indian Children and Families. Approval of these minutes will be requested at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah White
Division Manager for the Riverside Juvenile Court