

**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 October 25, 2013, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Hosted by Pala Band of Mission Indians
12196 West Pala Mission Road Pala, CA 92059
Pala Administration Building

MEETING M I N U T E S

OPENING REMARKS

The Invocation was given by Luke Madrigal and everyone was welcomed to the meeting by Judge Dickerson.

All members of the group introduced themselves.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes

The February 22, 2013 meeting minutes will be sent out to the group and approval will be requested at the next Tribal Alliance meeting.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 2: Subcommittee Workgroups

Domestic Violence Subcommittee

Ms. Thornsberry provided an update on the Domestic Violence subcommittee's accomplishments. The committee has created a brochure with Native American Resources for Victims of Domestic Violence. This brochure contains tribal specific resources available in addition to substance abuse, shelters, hotlines, county services, and resources for teens. Several members acknowledged the hard work of the subcommittee and expressed their thanks for producing such a valuable resource.

Placement/Foster Care Subcommittee

A brief update on the Placement/Foster Care subcommittee was given by Ms. Laurel Brown.

ITEM 3: Proposed New California Rule of Court

The Tribal Court/State Court Forum and the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee jointly recommended that the Judicial Council adopt a new rule of court 5.372, to provide a consistent procedure for the discretionary transfer of title IV-D child support cases from the state superior courts to tribal courts when there is concurrent jurisdiction over the matter in controversy. This new rule's effective date is January 1, 2014. Carrie Snuggs provided an overview of the new rule.

NOTE: In order for California Rules of Court, rule 5.372 to apply, the tribal court needs to receive funding from the federal government to operate a child support program under title IV-D of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 654 et seq.).

ITEM 4: Presentation by Smooth Transition

Smooth Transition Inc. is a resource for underprivileged foster care teens at risk as well displaced adults and is open to all age groups.

Chelsea Goins is a chef at Smooth Transitions. She gave a presentation to the group about the non-profit's culinary arts program they offer in the Coachella Valley and their new Riverside location that will open in January 2014. Additional information about Smooth Transition Inc. can be found on their website at www.smoothtransition.org.

ITEM 5: Mental Health Services for Dependent Children "Katie A" Update

A brief update on "Katie A" was given by Ms. Laurel Brown. One of the key highlights to Katie A's story, and the lawsuit, is the fact that children who are in need of behavioral and mental health treatment often move to higher levels of care including group homes or institutions such as psychiatric facilities, if they do not receive services to help address the underlying issues to reduce their symptoms.

ITEM 6: Open Discussion/Information

Luke Madrigal informed the group that Pechanga is implementing a new peacemaker court. This is ground breaking for California but is something many Indian communities have outside of California. Various discussions were held about the benefits of Indian tribes using a restorative justice model. Interest was raised for helping troubled minors on the reservations. The tribal communities would like to explore creating an intervention tribal court for their youth on the reservation. Some expressed interest in forming a subcommittee for the Tribes to implement their own youth intervention program. Sunshine Sykes and Peter Shorts volunteered to help co-chair this committee and asked for those interested in assisting to contact them.

Information was shared about an upcoming course titled: California Tribal Land Law Enforcement Response. This course is being conducted at the Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside on Thursday, February 6, 2014 from 8:00am-5:00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

The foregoing represents my understanding of the October 25, 2013 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,

Rachel Maurice
Division Manager for the Riverside Juvenile Court