

**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 August 28, 2015, 12:00-4:00 p.m.**

Hosted by Riverside Superior Court  
Banning Justice Center

**MEETING MINUTES**

**OPENING REMARKS**

The Invocation was given by Senior Peacemaker Joaquin Fletcher.

Judge Jackson welcomed and greeted guests. Judge Prevost welcomed everyone to the new Banning Justice Center. 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 Department of Social Services Children's Services Supervisor, Cameron Galford, the minutes of April 3, 2015 were approved as submitted.

**DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ITEM 2: Subcommittee Workgroups Updates**

Updates were provided by the subcommittee workgroups as follows:

*Domestic violence subcommittee*

Julie Andrews advised that the committee is currently regrouping since they have had some leadership changes. Julie Andrews (LCSW) is the Chair; Mark Rigali of Riverside County Sheriff Department is the co-chair. An invitation for new subcommittee members was made. Judge Perantoni, Commissioner Kubelun, California Indian Legal Services, Yvette Morales (Advocate), Susan Dalati (Attorney), and Deputy District Attorney Carlos, joined the subcommittee.

Julie Andrews introduced Susan Dalati, a Domestic Violence Attorney for the California Indian Legal Services and Yvette Morales who is Domestic Violence Legal Advocate in Escondido.

The Domestic Violence sub-committee is exploring group consolation and is developing necessary informed consent and releases of information forms for clients seeking services. They are also updating their brochure. You may also visit the Riverside County's website at [www.riversidesheriff.org](http://www.riversidesheriff.org). Under the Departments tap, select Liaison Unit. They have added a section called "Tribal and County Organizations.

Placement/Foster Care subcommittee

No Update was given.

**ITEM 3: Introduction of District Attorney Mike Hestrin and Public Defender Steven Harmon**

Judge Jackson introduced District Attorney Mike Hestrin and Public Defender Steven Harmon.

District Attorney Mike Hestrin gave an overview of the District Attorney's Office. There are 650 employees within the department which includes lawyers, advocates, and clerical staff. They have a Tribal Gaming Unit that deals with gaming and tribal issues. Mike Hestrin introduced Deputy District Attorney, Richard Rubio who oversees the Tribal Gaming Unit. He also introduced Deputy District Attorney Carlos Corona.

Public Defender Steve Harmon gave an overview of the Public Defender's Office. There are 250 employees of which 130 are lawyers. They have 6 office locations from Blythe to Riverside. Their case load ranges from 36,000 to 40,000 a year. The lawyers are very dedicated and fight hard in court to get things done. Public Defenders get cases assigned them, they do not get to pick the cases they want to handle.

**ITEM 4: Presentation on Accredited Culinary Program Smooth Transitions Inc.**

Dr. Robin Goins and Executive Director for Smooth Transitions introduced Elsa Rodriguez (Director of Operations) and Marty (Director of Culinary). Smooth transitions are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. They provide free or low cost accredited educational, vocational and life skills training and mentorship. They offer flexibility and options for students who otherwise could not obtain training.

Some programs they offer include:

- G.E.D Preparation and testing
- Career Development
- Microsoft Office and Basic Computers
- Small Business Entrepreneurship
- Parenting and Child Development
- Culinary Arts Certification

Over 200 students have passed the G.E.D class in the last three years. 55% pass rate as compared to the county 4% average. G.E.D preparation courses are offered in Riverside and Desert Hot Springs or at private venues.

The Culinary Arts Certification is a 6-month WASC accredited culinary program, which is held 4 days week, 4 hours per day. New classes are now in Perris, Banning and Riverside. The Riverside location will provide catering which will allow students to practice their bakery training skills. The minimum age requirement is 17 and enrolled in high school.

Smooth Transitions presented a Video Presentation: Serving Communities throughout the Inland Empire.

#### **ITEM 5: Tribal Court Protective Orders – CRC 5.386 and Family Code Section 6404**

Judge Jackson provided information regarding Tribal Court Protective Orders (CRC 5.386). Per CRC 5.386, at the request of any tribal court located within the county, a court must adopt a written procedure or local rule to permit the fax filing or electronic filing of any tribal court protective order that is entitled to be registered under Family Code section 6404.

#### **ITEM 6: Open Discussion**

Alex Tortes updated the committee regarding the construction of the monument for Native American Veterans at the Riverside National Cemetery. This is a nationwide project. The Riverside National Cemetery needs to raise 2.5 million. With a \$25.00 donation, you could receive a t-shirt, coin, or dog tag. To donate, visit [www.aianveteransmonument.com](http://www.aianveteransmonument.com).

#### **ITEM 7: Closing Comments and Tour of Banning Justice Center**

Judge Jackson thanked everyone for coming. Attendees were invited to tour the new Banning Justice Center. Deputy Executive Officer Chris Talbot, who oversaw the building of the Banning Courthouse, provided the tour.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The foregoing represents my understanding of the August 28, 2015 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