

**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 May 12, 2017, 12:00-4:00 p.m.**

Hosted by Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Tribe  
66725 Martinez Road, Thermal, CA 92274

**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.

Luke Madrigal shared that the Tribal Alliance meetings began 15 years ago by Riverside Superior Court Judge Jean Leonard and Annette Chihhauhua from the Torres Martinez Tribe.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Judge Perantoni and seconded by Julie Andrews, and carried, the minutes of June 3, 2016 were approved as submitted.

**DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ITEM 2: Domestic Violence Subcommittee Workgroup Update**

Julie Andrews provided the committee with an update from the Domestic Violence Subcommittee.

Julie welcomed new members Stacia Cozart (CASA Soboba), Antonia Briones (CASA Soboba), Brittany Kernz (KIICHA Housing specialist), Lori Markin, and Margie Falk (Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition Victims (SHNWC) services specialist). She also welcomed back returning group member Samantha Thornsberry. Julie also advised that this committee meets every other month.

Carlos Corona discussed the enforcement of tribal court orders and how to better serve tribal enforcement orders. Morongo reservation contacted the Riverside Family courts to discuss tribal court orders. Based on the conversation, the protocols were revamped to ensure that tribal court orders were handled properly by the court. They are hoping to continue to meet with the courts regarding this topic. The goal is to provide better service for enforcement of tribal orders.

### **ITEM 3: Continuum Care Reform**

Chris Rosselli gave a presentation on the purpose of Continuum Care Reform (CCR) and defined Resource Family Approval (RFA).

The purpose of CCR is to improve California's child welfare system for foster youths. To improve the outcomes of our foster youth, CCR has reduced the use of congregate care placements settings, increased the number of youths served in home based family settings, and decreased the length of time for youths to achieve permanency.

RFA combines the processing elements of the current foster parent licensing, relative/NREFM approval, and approvals for adoption and guardianship. RFA will not affect Indian children because its process is to ensure that caregivers are certified. With RFA in place, RFA was able to streamline and eliminate duplicate processes, unify approval standards for all caregivers regardless of child's case plan, prepare families to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system, provide comprehensive psychosocial assessment, home environment checks and train all family including relatives. In addition, RFA allows for a seamless transition to permanency.

Chris also provided information regarding the Core Practice Models. He advised that the goal is to have the family be the head of the table. One method that has been implemented is the Child Family Team Meeting. This meeting gives a voice to the family and child.

### **ITEM 4: Riverside County District Attorney's Office Presenting on New Family Stabilization Grant**

Melissa Donaldson presented information regarding the Family Justice Centers.

The Family Justice Center is a California State approved Nonprofit that have been given space in three DA office sites to provide domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault and child abuse services coordinated by confidential nonprofit case managers. Its mission is to provide victims of domestic violence with centralized access to public and private resources in a safe, secure and private environment. They provide counseling, legal assistance, crisis intervention, victim restitution assistance and other services. Currently, there are three (3) Family Justice Centers located in Riverside, Murrieta, and Indio. Blythe is also an extension of the Family Justice Center. A victim does not need to have an active case in order to receive these services and the victim's siblings can receive services as well.

Recently, the Family Justice Center received a 2 million dollar grant that will assist with child victims. With this grant, the Family Justice Foundation has contracted with nonprofit partners for clinical services, case management services and some group therapy services for children and youth.

#### **ITEM 5: Tribal Communities Sovereignty and the Environment**

James Fenelon, a Sociology professor with Cal State San Bernardino, gave a presentation on sovereignty and the environment. This presentation included a history of the various wars fought in order to provide a foundation for the youth and for generations to come.

Mr. Fenelon emphasized that the community is the basis of the Indian family and that water is the essence of life.

Mr. Fenelon also advised that the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and Tribal Nations will be revisiting the water rights.

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

Tom Lidot advised that Tribal STARR currently serves five (5) counties. It has been requested that Tribal Star visit various courts to determine how counties are handling ICWA cases. The first visit will be June 2, 2017 in San Bernardino.

Judge Jackson provided an update on the implementation of CCR. Out of the 58 counties, Riverside County was the only county ready to implement CCR by June 1.

Tom Lidot announced the sixth Annual Judges Dinner will be held Friday, June 16, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. There will be discussions regarding the best practice concerning social work between the tribes and courts. In addition, legislation updates will be discussed.

#### **ITEM 7: 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 May 12, 2017 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,

Tamica Dowell  
Supervisor for the Riverside Juvenile Court