

COLLABORATIVE CIRCLE / HOCOKA NEWS

MAY 2009

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **CC PSA seen across the state.**
- **Economic crisis and its impact on CC**
- **Updates from the CC committees.**
- **Notes from the ICWA Program Specialist**
- **Partnership with MPCWIC**

CC MEDIA PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTIONS

A state-wide television recruitment advertisement focusing on native family recruitment was completed in January 2009 and is being aired through the end of this year. It was

produced by the Education Training and Public Relations Committee with the leadership of Steve Deming, Co-Chair and its members. It is presented in the Lakota language with a strong message to Native families by LaCresha Bald Eagle of Rapid City, SD who is also a foster care alumni advocate and youth advisor to the Collaborative Circle. It is a beautifully produced video and we are all very proud of the ad! If you go to the Collaborative Circle website there is a link at the bottom of the home page to view this Public Service Announcement.

A Kinship Guide was produced by the Placement Resource

Committee and completed in December 2008. The guide is written for use by families providing kinship care. It is a unique reference document that includes cultural information for families caring for children of Lakota/Dakota/Nakota ancestry. We believe it is an excellent example of collaborative work by the tribes and other child placement agencies! There is also a link for this guide on the bottom of the C.C. homepage.

The Collaborative Circle website address is www.collaborativecircle.org which continues to provide information on charter activities.

Check it out!



CC Independent Contractor, Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen meets with OST Tribal President, Theresa Two Bulls and Bev Tuttle from OST CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

VISITS WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen, CC Coordinator and Joseph Ashley, DSS/ICWA Specialist have begun scheduling visits to government leaders to provide information on CC work activities and accomplishments. The first visit was made on Friday, May 16th with Theresa Two Bulls, Oglala Sioux Tribe President, Mr. George Patton, Tribal Attorney, Joseph Rosales, Health and Human Services Commit-

tee member and Beverly Tuttle, Oglala Lakota CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

President Two Bulls commented that she is aware of the Collaborative Circle's work and is supportive of its goals. She would like to attend the upcoming quarterly meeting.

RECONCILIATION IN CHILD WELFARE TRAINING AND PLANNING

Collaborative Circle members and invited guests participated in a 2 day Reconciliation Training event held at the Prairie Winds Casino on December 2-4, 2008. **Caring Across the Boundaries: Touchstones for Leadership in Reconciliation in Child Welfare**, was the training that included five (5) modules:

1. Primer for Touchstones in Leadership – over view of movement in Canada
2. Focusing on the Culture, Language and Holism Touchstones

3. Focusing on the Self-Determination Touchstone

4. Focusing on the Non-Discrimination Touchstone

Focusing on the Structural Intervention Touchstone

The workshop format and purpose was to engage state and tribal child welfare leaders and providers in creating a new path for the well being of children, families and communities. The presenters were Bonnie and Diane

Musquah, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada; and Connie Bear King, National Indian Child Welfare Association. The presenters were knowledgeable, skilled and resourceful. The workshop was a great success and information compiled in the work sessions will be summarized in a report. We look forward to incorporating new strategies and approaches in reconciliation in our collective work on behalf of Native children and families in our state!



WELCOME TO THE NEW S.R.S.T ICWA DIRECTOR

We would like to welcome our newest ICWA Director. Her name is Rose Chasing Hawk-Mendoza and she works for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Rose has 18 years of experience in the child welfare field. She worked for DSS-Child Protection in Pine Ridge and Mission (where she ended her state work as a supervisor). She also was an ICWA Director for Rosebud for (7) years (long ago) so she has that experience as well. She also worked for CPS for Standing Rock in McLaughlin on the South

Dakota side for 1 ½ years. Altogether Rose has worked on 3 reservations. Rose comes from a traditional family and was raised within the traditional ways which means she never had a babysitter when she was growing up other than family and that is how she raised her (5) children. She is happy to be working for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe doing a job that happens to be her dream job. Rose was recently elected as the new Chairperson of the Great Sioux Nation Indian Child

Welfare Consortium. We are looking forward to working with Rose.

Here is Rose's contact information:

Rose Mendoza, ICWA Director
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
 P.O. Box 526
 Fort Yates, ND 58538
 Phone: 701-854-3095/3096
 Fax: 701-854-5575

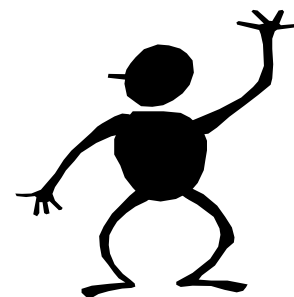
“Happy to be doing a job that is my dream job”

C.C. LEADERSHIP CHANGE & MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Shirley Big Eagle, ICWA Coordinator, Rosebud Sioux Tribe will succeed Raymond Cournoyer, ICWA Specialist, Yankton Sioux Tribe as Tribal Co-Chair of the Collaborative Circle on a temporary basis pending CC confirmation. Welcome Shirley! Thank you, Ray for your leadership! You have helped to establish the Collaborative Circle as a viable, credible tribal/state working entity dedicated to improving the outcomes of

Native children in care and placement.

The Collaborative Circle Executive Committee has mailed a letter to each tribal government Chairperson or President requesting official designation of its 3 representative members. These are 1 tribal leader, 1 ICWA Specialist and 1 alternate.

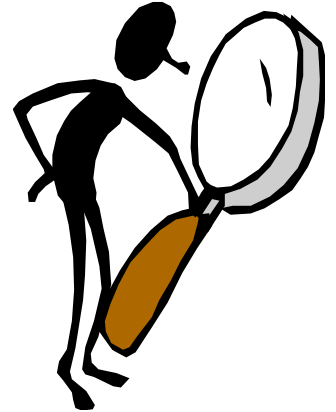


FUNDING OPPORTUNITY BEING CONSIDERED AS POTENTIAL SOURCE

The Executive Committee has identified a SD proposal writing team to respond to a Funding opportunity announced by MPCWIC. The funding focus is on creating and implementing system-wide child welfare changes that impact improved outcomes for children in care. The potential funding base ranges from \$100,000-\$750,000 for a two year project time frame. The team

members are: Shirley Big Eagle, Pete Small Bear, Virgena Wieseler, Rique Moore, Lisa Fleming, Steve Deming, Susan DuBray and Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen. The team has prepared a concept paper that will introduce child welfare system implementation changes addressing native child disproportionality factors. Family Group Decision Making and Team Decision Making

are proposed as family empowerment approaches that will be introduced initially in the Sicangu Sioux (Rosebud) Tribe and Region 4 DSS/CPS area. Based on evaluation and positive outcomes, the approaches will be introduced to the remaining tribes and regions. This proposal will be discussed at the June quarterly meeting with a decision being made on its viability.



COLLABORATIVE CIRCLE BUDGET

The US economic crisis has had an impact on Collaborative Circle resources. Casey Family Programs/Indian Child Welfare Programs provides contract funding for CC activities and events. As a result of CFP funding deliberations in January and February 2009, the Executive Committee made several key decisions and is announcing the following:

- CFP is providing \$99,300.00 for 2009 Collaborative Circle activities.

- The Independent Contractor Coordinator contract was not fully engaged until early March 2009
- Regional Collaborative Pilot Projects and 1/3 time contractors are temporarily suspended pending further deliberation by membership.
- Sub-committees will convene monthly business by conference calls for most activities

A search for sustainability

resources to maintain and continue collaboration activities will be a major focus in this year.

“The US economic crisis has had an impact on Collaborative Circle resources”

PARTNERSHIP WITH MPCWIC

Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen, CC Coordinator and Steve Deming, Co-Chair of Education, Training and Public Relations Committee have been invited to participate as SD advisory committee members to the Mountain Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center (MPCWIC) Bi-Regional Advisory Committee, University of Texas, Arlington. They will assist in planning Regional Forums, evaluating

proposals and planning future MPCWIC events. A Region VIII Regional Forum was held in Denver, CO on April 27-29, 2009 for information sharing on technical assistance services and grant eligibility and guidelines.



NOTES FROM THE DSS-CPS ICWA PROGRAM SPEC.

Since the last quarterly meeting in December, I have been busy with many tasks and it seems that a variety of things come up as time goes on. Here are the highlights of activities that I have done since our last meeting.

- Participated and completed Initial Family Assessment training on Jan. 12-16, 2009.
- Participated and completed Protective Capacity Assessment training on Feb. 9-13, 2009.

- Participated and completed Permanency and Well-Being training on Mar. 2-6, 2009. I was the presenter on Cultural Awareness piece of the PWB training on Mar. 2.
- I participate in ICW State Managers monthly teleconference calls which is a big help in learning what other state ICW managers are doing.
- I was one of the reviewers for the Federal IV-E review in May 09.

With my training out of the way, I will have more time to devote to other duties. One thing I have found out about my new job is first of all that I like it. Secondly, it gives me a chance to work with a wide variety of people both Non-Native and Native from across the country. But the bottom line that I keep in the back of my mind is that our children are sacred and they deserve my very best in this position.



I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself.
Lone Man - Teton Sioux

CC COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Placement Resources Committee monthly conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th at 9:00 a.m.

The Executive Committee has scheduled a special committee conference call for Friday, May 29th at 1:00 p.m. (MST)

The Education, Training and Public Relations committee held their conference call

meeting on Thursday, May 14th. Steve Deming, Committee Co-Chair has decided to step out of this role due to time commitment. Stardust Red Bow has volunteered to be a co-chair to the committee. Welcome Stardust!

We are requesting that other committee co-chairs schedule meetings for the upcoming year. The Collaborative Circle conference call line will be available. For call numbers, contact Emily at 605-

441-1822
ekoenen@gwtc.net.

or

“Stardust Red Bow has volunteered to be a co-chair to the Placement Resource Committee”

CONSULTANTS PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CC

Steve Preister, National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement and Kathy, Deserly, AdoptUSKids, have provided organizational development technical assistance

to the Collaborative Circle since 2004. Their guidance includes development work, attendance and oversight of quarterly meetings and participation in monthly Executive Committee conference

calls. Steve and Kathy continue to provide expertise in facilitating the creation of the Collaborative Circle charter, goals, objectives and subcommittee work groups. We are grateful for their willingness to bring the collaborative work to a higher level of development!



QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED IN WINNER, SD

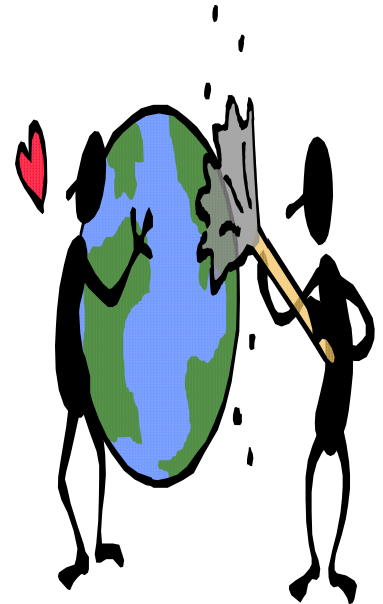
The next Collaborative Circle Quarterly meeting will be held on June 10-11, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Winner, and SD. Attendees will be the 36 member committee comprised of 18 tribal representatives and 18 child welfare and other care providers, family and youth rep-

resentatives, tribal government leaders and representatives from the Native Training Institute, National Indian Child Welfare Association and Casey Family Programs.

16-17, 2009 at the Rosebud Casino.

The 4th Quarterly meeting was set for December 2-3, 2009 at the Grand River Casino in Mobridge, SD.

Future plans for the 3rd Quarterly meeting were set for August



UJS STATE-TRIBAL LIAISON INTRODUCTION

Judith Roberts is another one of our newest members and will be serving on the ICWA Implementation and Compliance Committee. Her Legal & Legislative Counsel office within the Unified Judicial System provides legal advice and legislative services to UJS, as directed by and in consultation with the Chief Justice and the State Court Administrator. Duties include, but are not limited to, drafting proposed legislation, tracking and testifying on legislation, writing outside contracts, and managing

litigation matters. In addition, her office coordinates the child support referee program, is the liaison for media inquiries, promotes state-tribal relations, and staffs many Supreme Court committees. We welcome Judith to the Collaborative Circle.

The June Quarterly meeting will be held in Winner, SD at the Holiday Inn Express on June 10-11, 2009.

SOUTH DAKOTA ICWA LEGISLATION

Jim Bradford, Senator (R) authored a SD version of an Indian Child Welfare Act Bill for legislative review in December 2008. The bill was withdrawn due to disapproval of the ICWA Consortium. The Collaborative Circle legislative committee is reviewing this action and will address its legislative approval process.



We are on the web:

www.collaborativecircle.org

**COLLABORATIVE HOCOKA
(CIRCLE)**

Organization Address

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Phone: (605) 441-1822

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Mission Statement

The Native children and families of South Dakota who come into the child protection system need and deserve better results in the areas of safety, stability, and well-being. Therefore, we have come together—families and youth, providers, Tribes, State and local agencies, and other community stakeholders—to create a formal Collaborative dedicated to achieving better outcomes. To ensure that these results can be achieved, each member commits to functional, trusting, working relationships with each other and with other community stakeholders, and to constantly strive to improve those relationships.

As we work together for South Dakota's Native children and families, we strive to protect those children through a system that: matches them with their culture; empowers families, birth, kinship, foster, adoptive- to create safe and nurturing homes; provides family preservation services to prevent children and families from needing child protection services; and helps children and families who do come into the system leave as soon as possible, having achieved the goals they set for themselves by providing individualized and appropriate services, including aftercare services.

UNITED FOR FAMILIES: THE COLLABORATIVE HOCOKA (CIRCLE) FOR THE WELL-BEING OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S NATIVE CHILDREN

FUTURE EDITIONS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The goal of this newsletter for the Collaborative Circle is to keep people informed on what is going on with our group in between quarterly meetings. Keep in mind when you have your meetings or other events to keep a short narrative (under 200 words) on what has taken place and email them to Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen, if you feel that it should be included in the newsletter. If you have an opportunity to take a picture of your event then please do so, so it can be included in our newsletter. If you don't have a digital camera that is okay, we can scan a regular photograph and still be able to use it. We would return any photos that we use in this newsletter. We

hope that this newsletter will be a helpful tool that will be useful to CC members and give non-members a look inside what is happening with the circle. Thank you for keeping us in mind.

For more information regarding the Collaborative Circle, please contact the Independent Contractor, Emily Iron Cloud-Koenen at the above contact information.

