



July 10, 2015

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Tribal Consultation Annual Report

Dear Director FireThunder:

Pursuant to Executive Order 2006-14, Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes, the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) respectfully submits the DCS Annual Tribal Consultation Report for the period covering July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

I am pleased to provide you with the Department's efforts to enhance communications with Indian tribes and nations during SFY 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory McKay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gregory McKay
Director

cc: President Andy Biggs, Arizona State Senate
Speaker David M. Gowan Sr., Arizona State House of Representatives
Members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Kristine FireThunder, Executive Director, Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs
Joan Clark, State Librarian, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records



Agency Overview

The Arizona Department of Child Safety (the Department or DCS) is the single state administered child welfare services agency for Arizona with an overarching goal to protect children. On February 17, 2015, Governor Douglas A. Ducey appointed Gregory McKay as the new Director. DCS established a mission to successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency.

Tribal Liaison

The Department created a Tribal Liaison position in 2014 in accordance with Executive Order 2006-14. The Tribal Liaison is responsible for facilitating state-tribal consultation and is tasked with developing, maintaining, and improving communication between DCS and tribes of Arizona. Sharon James-Tiger, DCS Liaison began working for DCS on February 17, 2015 and serves as the single point of contact for the 22 Tribes regarding consultation.

Tribal Government Consultation Policy

The Department is committed to working with American Indian Tribes to improve the quality, availability, and accessibility of human services to children, youth, and adults. The establishment of the Tribal Government Consultation Policy ensures that DCS engages in open, continuous, and meaningful consultation with the 22 Arizona Tribal Nations. The purpose is to provide the forum for information exchange and mutual understanding prior to taking actions that will likely have a direct impact on the American Indian Tribes in Arizona. DCS Tribal Liaison is collaborating with the Tribes to establish the Policy.

Tribal Consultation Activities

The Department continues to honor tribal sovereignty and collaborate with the 22 Tribes of Arizona regarding child welfare programs, policies, and new regulations. The communications are through a variety of mechanisms including the Tribal Consultation Sessions, Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA), Contracts, and quarterly meetings with the Tribes. The Department has 15 contracts or IGAs with tribes. There are seven contracts for Family Support (FS), Family Preservation (FP), and Family Reunification Services (FRS), four contracts for Specialized Substance Abuse Treatment services, one contract for Comprehensive Service Development, one Title IV-E IGA, one ICWA IGA, and one Consultation contract with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITC-A).

The Department held three formal consultation sessions with the Tribes in this report period; December 2014, February 2015, and June 2015. DCS engaged in several collaborative activities with the Tribes during the interim and major collaborative activities are listed in the following table.

Goal	Objective	Activity and Performance Measure
Establish effective communication channels to build meaningful relationships with Tribes.	Introduce new DCS leadership and Tribal Liaison staff.	February 26, 2015 DCS/Tribal Government Consultation Session. DCS provided an overview of the department attendees participated in a round table discussion regarding child welfare.
Address issues affecting Tribes in Arizona.	Design a foster care recruitment plan for American Indian foster homes.	March 26, 2015 DCS/Urban Indian Coalition Child Welfare Subcommittee. Transfer of knowledge and ongoing monthly meetings to develop the plan for training, and foster home recruitment. Established point of communication, Increases collaboration with tribal agencies.
	Build state/tribal relationships.	March 31, 2015 DCS/Gila River meeting of Tribal Leadership and DCS Director and staff to improve collaborations and build relationships.
	Introduce new DCS leadership and Tribal Liaison staff.	April 3, 2015 DCS/First Things First (FTF) Tribal Regional Directors meeting. DCS staff provided presentations and DCS Tribal Liaison presented a paper on the Indian Child Welfare Act to Regional Tribal Liaisons of FTF. Collaboration between Tribal Liaisons strengthens relationships between agencies and Tribes.
Build meaningful relationships with Tribes.	Establish point of contact and engage in discussions to improve relationships.	April 6, 2015 DCS/Ft. McDowell Yavapai Apache meeting. Tribe provided history and cultural information, request to meet local office case manager, social workers, scheduling a cultural exchange for increased and better communications between DCS/Tribe.
	Engage in open, continuous, and relevant consultation regarding the Navajo Nation IGA.	April 8, 2015 DCS/Navajo Nation Quarterly meeting. DCS met with the Navajo Nation to continue the dialogue.
	Establish effective communication channels and build state/tribal relationships.	April 16, 2015 DCS/Hopi Tribe meeting. Establish a Tribal IGA for ICWA implementation.
Address issues affecting Tribes in Arizona.	Build state/tribal relationships.	April 17, 2015 DCS/AIOHC/ITC-A meeting DCS/CMDP. Tribal youth aging out of child welfare systems have continued health coverage with no lapse in coverage.
Establish and cultivate working relationships with key persons in tribal governments.	Provide point of contact information to increase communication, and resolve issues.	April 29, 2015 DCS/Gila River meeting DCS Tribal Liaison met with Gila River Tribal Social Services staff. Provide resources and access to contacts within the department.
Maintain open dialogue with Tribes.	Provide an opportunity for American Indian Tribes to submit written comments during any period of ongoing consultation	April 30, 2015 DCS/Tribal Quarterly ICWA meeting. DCS presented Review Summary Bureau of Indian Affairs ICWA Guidelines, Policy Impact Review and Child and Family Services.

Goal	Objective	Activity and Performance Measure
Build meaningful relationships with Tribes.	Provide an opportunity for American Indian Tribes to submit written comments during any period of ongoing consultation.	May 4, 2015 DCS/Tribal Outreach. DCS corresponded with Tribal Leadership and Social Services Directors seeking commentary on DCS Tribal Consultation Policy and new Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Child Welfare Act; increased communication.
	Provide point of contact information to increase communication, and resolve issues.	May 6, 2015 DCS/Ft. McDowell meeting. DCS/Ft McDowell Yavapai Apache Tribe met to increase communication and collaborate on services.
	Provide point of contact information to increase communication, and resolve issues.	May 22, 2015 DCS/Quechan meeting. DCS/Quechan Tribe met to increase communication and collaborate on services.
	Introduce of DCS Tribal Liaison and establish point of contact and information.	June 11, 2015 DCS/ITC-A meeting. DCS Tribal Liaison was introduced to Tribal Social Services Directors.
	Engage in open, continuous, and relevant consultation regarding the Navajo Nation IGA.	June 12, 2015 DCS/Navajo Nation. DCS/Navajo Nation met to increase communication and collaborate on services. DCS Tribal Liaison facilitates the quarterly meeting and DCS Independent Living Program conducted outreach to the Tribal staff.
Formal consultation session.	Discuss potential changes to policy that will have a significant impact on Tribes.	June 19, 2015 DCS/Tribal Government Consultation. DCS provided an overview of the department and (17) Tribal representatives and (28) attendees participated in a round table discussion regarding child welfare.

Major Accomplishment(s)

The Department works closely with the Tribes to increase compliance with ICWA and provide ICWA training to state and tribal social workers. The Department has a new specialized ICWA Unit located in Phoenix to increase workforce capacity in the area of Indian Child Welfare.

The Department and the Navajo Nation have been engaged in extensive discussions to develop an IGA for coordinating child welfare cases under ICWA. The revised IGA was finalized in December 2014. The Department's Tribal Liaison continues to facilitate quarterly meetings with the Nation's Social Services Department to engage in a dialogue focused on improving outcomes for Navajo children. The quarterly meetings afford the opportunity for a transfer of knowledge and to develop immediate and near term strategies to address mutually identified Indian Child Welfare challenges. The Navajo Nation IGA will serve as a model template for establishing agreements with other Tribes within the state of Arizona.

For questions or more information, please contact: Sharon James-Tiger, DCD Tribal Liaison, at (602) 255-2662 or by email at SJames-Tiger@azdes.gov.