



**TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT**  
**July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

**Agency Overview**

The Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) is the single state administered child welfare services agency for Arizona with a mission to successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency. The DCS vision is that children thrive in family environments free from abuse and neglect.

**Tribal Consultation Activities**

Consultation and communication between DCS and Tribes are essential, and are especially important in the areas of contracts management, policies and procedures, Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA), and Indian Child Welfare Act case-related issues. The Tribal consultation activities and performance measures for SFY 2018 for DCS are listed in the following table.

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
Increase the knowledge and understanding that American Indian Tribes have of the Department's programs and policies		
	Build meaningful relationships with American Indian Tribes by engaging in open, continuous and relevant collaboration	In SFY18, DCS engaged in numerous collaborative activities with Arizona's 21 tribes including visiting each tribe in their community at least once a year; conducting case reviews with tribes at their request to ensure that the integrity of ICWA is maintained and information is shared; and the creation of a Tribal/Urban Advisory Team that will provide input into the development of policies and procedures for DCS.
		The Office of the DCS Tribal Liaison maintains an "open door" policy with all tribal communities.
		A concerted effort was also made to develop and maintain relationships with the Urban Indian Community in Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff. In SFY18, DCS began several projects of which the Urban Programs are a part.
	Dialogue with American Indian Tribes to discuss potential changes to policy, rules, legislation, or provision of services that may have a significant impact on American Indian Tribes in Arizona particularly regarding any critical events that have occurred or may occur.	Established several small workgroups with tribes to obtain input on DCS Policy in the areas of foster care reimbursement, and the revision of Chapter 6 of the DCS policy manual which is the section dedicated to Tribal Relations and ICWA. DCS is also planning to provide an opportunity for tribes to learn about the legislative and

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
		policy changes that have affected DCS in the past year.
		Continue to solicit tribal input regarding the development of the new Guardian system. Input sought includes considerations for the new AFCAR Rules as well as additional data collection that might be useful to the tribes.
	Coordinate a quarterly communication and consultation meeting to which the American Indian Tribes in Arizona are invited regarding the development of new policy, rules, regulation or services with substantial tribal implications.	Conducted quarterly meetings, in collaboration with ITCA, with Tribal Social Services Directors and Tribal ICWA contacts. These meeting took place on: Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> , Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup> , March 8 <sup>th</sup> and June 7 <sup>th</sup> .
		As per the IGA established with the Navajo Nation, DCS conducted quarterly meetings with the tribe in September and December 2017 and March and June of 2018.
Consultation with American Indian Tribes shall occur (but is not limited to) when any legislative proposal, new rule adoption, policy change or change in the provision of services occurs that the Department or an American Indian tribe determines may significantly affect Tribes in Arizona.		
	The DCS Tribal Liaison will strive to meet annually and individually with each of the 21 American Indian Tribes in their respective communities.	
		Site visits were conducted to 20 tribes between July 2017 and June 2016 in their respective tribal communities.
The Department shall participate when appropriate in any Joint Tribal/State/Federal Workgroups.		
	The Department may establish or participate in workgroups, task forces, other groups or committees with American Indian Tribes and others to address issues affecting American Indian Tribes in Arizona.	The Department continues to be a participant in the DCS led Native American Foster Home Recruitment Project.
		The Department continues to participate in the Arizona Supreme Court ICWA Committee that strives to ensure Tribes, the Courts and DCS stay up to date on the latest and most current ICWA information. The committee meets regularly every

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
		quarter and hosts an annual conference.
		The Department has engaged in a collaborative effort that includes the Capacity Building Center for States, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and the Hopi Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Salt River, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation, and Native Health to develop a strategic plan for the Office of Tribal Liaison.
		The Department collaborates with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, ASU, and the Arizona Attorney General's Office to provide updated information and changes to ICWA through an ITCA sponsored ICWA academy that is held twice a year.

**Highlights:**

- Conducted site visits to 21 tribes in their respective communities.
- Established an informal Tribal/Urban Advisory Team in collaboration with the Capacity Building Center for States and ITCA that will provide input to the policies and procedures of DCS.

**Recommendations from Tribal representatives:**

An anonymous survey was conducted in 2017 to assist DCS in prioritizing the challenges they face in both policy and the practice of ICWA. When the survey was returned, the top five challenges the tribes indicated were: Training for DCS Specialists (case managers) on ICWA; access to DCS ICWA case documents; training for tribal workers on ICWA; a protocol for contacting DCS Specialists about ICWA cases; and timeliness of ICWA notices to tribes. Since the survey's completion, the results have provided significant guidance into the projects, training, technical assistance and activities that DCS has engaged in the past year.

**Revisions to Tribal Consultation Policy:**

There have been no changes to the Tribal Consultation Policy since it was finalized by DCS in 2017.

**Challenges:**

There have been no significant challenges for the Department with efforts to provide quality consultation, communication and collaboration with Arizona's tribal community.

**For questions or more information, please contact:**

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