

# NICWA News

service and advocacy for Indian children

National Indian Child Welfare Association's Quarterly Newsletter - Fall 1999

## Theme Attracts Workshops

A Call for Presentations was issued in August inviting workshop proposals for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual "Protecting Our Children" Conference scheduled for April 17-19, 2000, in Tucson, Arizona. As the deadline for proposals nears, a good number of quality ideas have been received.

This year's theme is "Protecting Our Children by Building on Our Strength, Success and Wisdom." At the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference we have chosen to look at what is good, healthy and positive about working with Indian children and families. Success stories can be found everywhere - in urban settings, on reservations, at tribal villages, on rancherias, in pueblos and at First Nation reserves. We invite the best practices, winning programs, model projects, innovative solutions and success stories to be told. They may be based on traditional or modern theory, high tech or "no-tech" or applied en masse or one-on-one.

They may rely on a team approach or solo practice and be fun or serious. The common thread of the presentations is to help Indian children and families to lead successful lives.

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page 12.

**Hammer Awards are presented by Ms. Cherie Stallman of the National Partnership to Reinvent Government. Recipients from left to right: Albert Hiat, Indian Health Service, Terry Cross, NICWA and Douglas Dodge, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Programs.**

## Hammer Awarded

The Circles of Care grant program for American Indian and Alaska Native communities has been recognized by Vice President Al Gore's office to receive the Hammer Award for its innovative approach to reinventing government by cutting red tape and empowering employees to improve services. NICWA is one of the agencies to receive the award.

The Indian Health Service has experienced massive reductions in funding, and many tribal programs are exercising self determination rights to contract their own mental health programs. The combined resources of SAMHSA, IHA, OJJDP, NIMH and BIA (see below for full names) make it possible for selected communities to develop culturally specific answers to serious problems with their youth. The National Indian Child Welfare Association and the National Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Research provide technical assistance, guidance and consultation to Native programs that have received the Circles of Care grants.

See *Hammer*, page 12.

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## NICWA Board of Directors News

The NICWA board of directors met in Palm Springs California one day in advance of the National Congress of American Indians. In addition to its usual business, the board welcomed Chris Leith (Dakota) of Welch, Minnesota as a new member of the board. He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Gabriel Landry, who resigned his post earlier this year. Mr. Leith is a spiritual leader and teacher and will provide guidance to the organization. A sacred pipe was presented to NICWA by Mr. Leith to be used for the betterment of the organization. The board, in turn asked Mr. Leith to be NICWA's pipe carrier.

In addition, the board approved the addition of two new projects and appointed a delegation to visit Anchorage, Alaska in preparation for a decision on the April 2001 conference site. NICWA board members affirmed support for two important pieces of legislation, Senate Bill 1213, amending the Indian Child Welfare Act, and Senate Bill 1478, which provides direct access to Title IV-E to American Indian tribes. Board members further discussed the upcoming reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and the need to address children's mental health issues in that legislation.

## Historic Agreement Signed with National Congress of American Indians

During its annual convention in Palm Springs, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Committee approved and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Indian Child Welfare Association. The MOU has been under development for the last three years. It establishes formally what has been in practice for some time.

NICWA has been a partner with NCAI for the last twelve years. In 1988 NICWA entered into a verbal agreement with NCAI to staff child welfare issues. In 1989, NICWA helped establish the original child welfare committee and has supported the committee through several transitions. NICWA has continued to provide staff support to the committee since the beginning. Over the last five years, NCAI's leadership role in national issues affecting Indian children and their linkage with the NICWA has been an effective strategy to stop legislation designed to diminish tribal sovereignty and undermine the ICW Act, as well as to enact positive legislation.

In July, the NICWA Board passed a resolution approving the MOU and were anxious to have it take effect. The MOU was approved October 5 and signed October 6. It is similar to relationships that NCAI has established with other national organizations. Under this agreement Gary Peterson, NICWA board president, was appointed to co-chair the Subcommittee on Indian Child and Family Welfare. Eloise King, NICWA vice president, was appointed to be Gary's alternate should he not be able to attend.

*See Agreement, page 7.*

# ADVOCACY

## National Congress of American Indians Supports ICWA Amendments and Development of a Task Force

At NCAI's annual convention, the Indian Child and Family Welfare Subcommittee discussed three Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) related resolutions. The first two addressed the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) amendments in S. 1213 that were introduced in the United States Senate on June 10, 1999, by Senators McCain (R-AZ), Campbell (R-CO) and Domenici (R-NM). These resolutions (#PSC-99-34 and PSC-99-45) asked NCAI to support the enactment of S. 1213 with additional support for amendments to S. 1213 that would address the "Existing Indian Family Exception" and help tribes in Public Law 280 areas more easily exercise exclusive jurisdiction over children who are wards of tribal courts. The third resolution asked NCAI to establish a task force of tribal leaders to evaluate and determine the need for ICWA amendments independent from those in S. 1213 and complete an advocacy plan for strengthening ICWA with a December 31, 1999, deadline. No details are available yet on the scheduling of a task force meeting or who will be on the task force, but the National Indian Child Welfare Association will be staying in close touch with NCAI on this issue and getting information out to tribes as it becomes available.

At NCAI there was some confusion about how the current ICWA amendments came to be developed. A few people claimed that tribes were not involved and that the amendments themselves were not thoroughly discussed. Because the National Indian Child Welfare Association has been involved from the beginning, we are providing a brief history of the amendments' development and history below.

### History of ICWA amendments 1995-1999

The current ICWA amendments were developed as a result of several meetings and working sessions that began over four years ago involving many tribes, a few Indian organizations and the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. Shortly after a May 10, 1995,

hearing on anti-tribal ICWA amendments that were being proposed in the United States House of Representatives (H.R. 1448), representatives from the Association on American Indian Affairs, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference (representing 43 Native Alaskan Villages in Alaska) and the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys discussed the possibility of finding some common ground on amendments to the ICWA that would preserve tribal rights and help provide more clarity for adoptive families being considered for placement of an Indian child. Representatives from this group made an inquiry to Congressman Don Young (R-AK), chairman of the House Resources Committee that has jurisdiction over ICWA matters in the United States House of Representatives, as to whether it would be a good idea to pursue a set of positive tribal amendments to the ICWA. Congressman Young suggested that it would not only be a good idea, but would help greatly in an effort to avoid further attacks on the ICWA.

After two meetings in the summer of 1995, a draft set of ICWA amendments was developed. The draft contained ICWA amendments that both Indian child welfare and adoption attorney interests could agree to. The draft was then circulated to a small group of attorneys for their review. These attorneys worked for tribal interests and had considerable experience in litigating ICWA cases regionally, if not nationwide. After this review it was felt that the draft set of amendments was ready for dissemination to tribal governments. The National Indian Child Welfare Association and the National Congress of American Indians each mailed a set of the draft ICWA amendments to each tribal government in the United States in September of 1995. A cover letter provided a brief explanation of the reason these amendments were being distributed and asked tribes to carefully review the amendments and respond by sending comments or questions to either the National Indian Child Welfare Association or the National Congress of American Indians within the next few months. In early December, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona hosted a meeting in Phoenix where representatives from the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Navajo Nation, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Association on American Indian Affairs, National Indian Child Welfare Association and American Academy of Adoption Attorneys met to further discuss the draft set of ICWA amendments. Comments from this meeting were incorporated into the draft amendments.

By 1996 the anti-tribal ICWA amendments in H.R. 1448 were still alive and being considered as amendments to a larger adoption bill, H.R. 3286, that was moving through the House of Representatives. In April, Tanana Chiefs Conference began sponsoring conference calls to discuss the progress of the anti-tribal ICWA amend-

*continued next page*

*Advocacy, continued.*

ments in H.R. 1448 and the draft set of ICWA amendments. These conference calls occurred at least once a month and continued for over a year until the fall of 1997. Anyone was welcome to participate with representatives from Senate and House Committee staff that have jurisdiction over ICWA, tribal governments, tribal lobbyists representing tribes and Indian organizations that work in the area of Indian child welfare. Some of those that participated included the National Congress of American Indians, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs staff, House Resources Committee staff, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Washoe Tribe of Nevada, Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Mississippi Choctaw Tribe, Navajo Nation and Tanana Chiefs Conference.

In May of 1996 the Association on American Indian Affairs met with tribes from South Dakota. At this meeting in Pierre, South Dakota, representatives from these tribes commented on the current draft ICWA amendments and developed some additional amendments or made changes to the current draft. During the same time, the National Indian Child Welfare Association was making presentations and collecting comments on the draft amendments at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians conferences that are attended by tribes in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

After a contentious debate on the House floor in May of 1996, the anti-tribal ICWA amendments in H.R. 1448 were added to Title III of H.R. 3286, which passed the House on May 10. Once in the Senate, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs received jurisdiction over the ICWA amendments in H.R. 3286. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs staff now suggested that it would be good for the National Congress of American Indians to endorse some alternative amendments to those contained in H.R. 3286 during their Mid-Year Conference in June. The NCAI scheduled a full day working session at their conference, where representatives from many tribes across the country participated. The working session looked at three different sets of amendments that were brought to the meeting. One of the sets of amendments discussed was the set that had been worked on since 1995, as discussed earlier. After four days of collecting feedback and direction from conference participants, the tribal delegates approved a resolution (#TLS-96-007A) that supported the ICWA amendments that are presently in S. 1213, with only one

exception regarding the provision under Section 7 of S. 1213, which was an amendment offered by Senator Hatch in 1997 that was approved during a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs mark-up of the bill.

Two hearings occurred on the tribally-developed and supported ICWA amendments since 1996. The first hearing was held on June 26, 1996, and sponsored by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The focus of the hearing was on amendments to the ICWA (good or bad). Numerous tribes submitted written testimony, including oral testimony given by the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona. The National Congress of American Indians also provided written and oral testimony in support of the tribal amendments.

In June of 1997 a joint hearing with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and House Resources was held specifically to focus on the tribally-developed amendments that had been introduced as S. 569 and H.R. 1082 respectively. Again, numerous tribes submitted written testimony, and the Navajo Nation, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Tanana Chiefs Conference of Alaska provided oral testimony. The National Congress of American Indians also provided oral and written testimony in favor of the bills, which were supported by resolution at their Mid-Year Conference in Juneau, Alaska (#JNU-97-069).

Legislative action in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress (1997-1998) included a mark-up and report of S. 569 by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, but no Senate floor action. H.R. 1082 had no committee or House floor action. With the new 106<sup>th</sup> Congress beginning in January of 1999, Senator McCain again introduced the tribal ICWA amendments as S. 1213 on June 10. No hearings or committee mark-ups have been scheduled yet.

### **Where do we go now?**

Because many tribes still believe that the amendments in S. 1213 will strengthen the ICWA in areas where the law has been limited, there are still efforts being organized to pursue passage of these amendments. While the immediate crisis that was before us in 1995 and 1996 has dissipated some, there will always be the threat of another high profile ICWA adoption case coming before the media and Congress in the future, fueling more efforts to limit tribal sovereignty and involvement in voluntary placements of Indian children. While the amendments in S. 1213 may not be perfect, they do provide at least a place to start and an opportu-

nity to begin strengthening the ICWA for future generations. If you have comments or questions about S. 1213, the National Indian Child Welfare Association would like to hear from you. You can contact us at the phone number listed at the end of this article. A copy of the full text of S. 1213 is on NICWA's Website at [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org) under the policy page. Below is a brief description of the ICWA amendments in S. 1213.

## Description of ICWA amendments in S. 1213

### **Section 2 Exclusive Jurisdiction**

This provision clarifies the ICWA law on children who are under the jurisdiction of a tribe and domiciled and resident on the reservation or off-reservation children who are designated as wards of the tribal court (after transfer of jurisdiction from a state court).

### **Section 3 Intervention in State Court Proceedings**

Makes a conforming technical amendment that makes a tribe's existing right of intervention relate to the time limitations added by Section 8 of S. 1213.

### **Section 4 Voluntary Termination of Parental Rights**

Clarifies that ICWA applies to consent to adoptions, pre-adoptions and foster care placements. Requires that a presiding judge must certify that any attorney or public or private agency facilitating the voluntary termination of parental rights or adoptive placement of an Indian child has informed the birth parents of: 1) the placement options available, 2) provisions of ICWA that apply, and 3) that birth parents will be notified within 10 days of any change in the adoptive placement.

### **Section 5 Withdrawal of Consent**

Sets limits on when an Indian parent may withdraw consent to an adoption. A birth parent can revoke consent under one of the following timelines, whichever is later:

- 1) if original placement specified by the birth parent terminates before a final adoption decree is entered,
- 2) revocation is made before the end of a 30 day period that starts on the day the parent receives notice of the adoption proceeding, or
- 3) before the end of a 180 day period that begins on the day the tribe has received notice of the adoptive placement.

This section also says that if a birth parent has not revoked consent under one of these timelines, that they may only revoke consent then under applicable timelines established under state law or by a court finding that the consent was obtained through fraud or duress. No adoption that has been in effect longer than or equal to two years can be invalidated.

### **Section 6 Notice to Indian Tribes**

Requires that notice be provided to the child's tribe by any person seeking a voluntary placement of an Indian child or termination of the parental rights of a parent of an Indian child. The notice must be provided under the following timelines:

- 1) 100 days after a foster care placement,
- 2) five days after a pre-adoptive or adoptive placement,
- 3) 10 days after a proceeding to terminate parental rights, and
- 4) 10 days after an adoption proceeding.

Notice may be given prior to the birth of an Indian child. If it is discovered, after the notice periods have expired, that a child is Indian or a birth parent was Indian, the time limitations on tribal right to intervene only apply if the tribe is provided notice within 10 days after the discovery was made.

### **Section 7 Content of Notice**

Requires that a notice must include the following and be based on a good faith investigation:

- 1) name of the Indian child,
- 2) actual or anticipated date and place of birth of the child,
- 3) identification, if known after reasonable inquiry, of the Indian parent, grandparent and extended family members of the Indian child,
- 4) statement of the reasons why a child may be an Indian child,
- 5) information on the parties involved and court proceedings in state court,
- 6) inform tribe it may have a right to intervene,
- 7) inquire whether the tribe intends to intervene or waive its right to intervene,
- 8) state that if the tribe fails to respond by the deadline (Section 8), the right of the tribe to intervene will be considered to have been waived.

### **Section 8 Intervention by an Indian Tribe**

An Indian tribe may intervene in a voluntary proceeding under the following criteria and timelines:

*continued next page*

*Advocacy, continued.*

- 1) termination of parental rights proceeding - tribe filed notice of intent to intervene or a written objection not later than 30 days after receiving the notice of the termination of parental rights proceeding.
- 2) voluntary adoption placement - tribe filed notice of intent to intervene or a written objection to the placement not later than 90 days after receiving notice of the adoptive placement.
- 3) voluntary adoption proceeding - tribe filed notice of intent to intervene or a written objection not later than 30 days after receiving a notice of the adoption proceeding.

If the tribe does not receive proper notice under the requirements in S. 1213, a tribe may intervene at any time. However, a tribe may not intervene after it has provided written notice to a state court that it does not intend to intervene or that neither the child or birth parent(s) is a member of the tribe. A tribe must provide a tribal certification of the tribal membership or eligibility for membership of the Indian child with its motion for intervention.

If a tribe chooses not to intervene, either through a written response or by not responding to a notice, the placement preference or rights of others under ICWA will not be affected. If the proposed adoptive placement is changed, the tribe will still have a right to intervene.

The court is prohibited from conducting a voluntary termination of parental rights or adoption proceeding sooner than 30 days after the tribe has received notice.

State courts are authorized to approve, as a part of an adoption decree, a voluntary agreement involving the adoptive family, birth parent, member of the extended family, or the tribe to have an enforceable right of visitation or continued contact. This may happen even in states where open adoptions are outlawed under state law.

### **Section 9 Placement of Indian Children**

Re-words existing provision in ICWA that allows a court to consider the placement preference of an Indian parent or child and that this preference may constitute good cause to deviate from ICWA's preferred placements.

### **Section 10 Fraudulent Representation**

Applies criminal sanctions to any person other than a birth parent who does the following:

- 1) knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up a material fact concerning whether a child is an Indian child or a parent is an Indian,
- 2) makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement, omission or representation, or falsifies a written document knowing that the document contains a false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry relating to the child or parent being Indian.

Also provides criminal sanctions to any person who knowingly and willfully assists any person in removing a child from the United States in order to obstruct the application of the ICWA.

*If you would like more information on this issue, you may contact National Indian Child Welfare Association staff member David Simmons at (503) 222-4044 or e-mail him at [desimmons@nicwa.org](mailto:desimmons@nicwa.org).*

## **Tribal Title IV-E Foster Care Bill Introduced (S. 1478)**

### ***Tribes Needed to Get More Co-Sponsors on the Legislation***

At hearings in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) has provided testimony on the availability of foster care and permanent placement resources for Indian children. NICWA's testimony described the barriers that tribes face in trying to access federal foster care funds, especially under the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program. Since 1981 when this program was authorized, few tribes have been able to access the program, despite the fact that the program is an entitlement. Several efforts were made to educate members of Congress about this problem and opportunities to correct an oversight in the law that causes Indian children placed by tribes to be denied Title IV-E funding.

On August 3, 1999, Senator Daschle (D-SD) along with Senators McCain (R-AZ) and Inouye (D-HI) introduced S. 1478, which amends Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide tribes with direct reimbursement for foster care and adoption assistance services. Other co-sponsors include Senators Dorgan (D-ND), Feinstein (D-CA) and Hagel (R-NE). A copy of the bill is on the NICWA Website at [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org) under the policy page. The tribal IV-E amendments would:

- provide reimbursement for Title IV-E eligible services to tribal placements of Indian children in tribal foster and adoptive homes that meet Title IV-E eligibility requirements.

- authorize tribal governments to receive direct funding for the administration of the IV-E program.
- recognize tribal standards for foster home licensing.
- allow the Secretary flexibility to modify the requirements of the Title IV-E law for tribes, if those requirements are not in the best interests of Indian children.
- allow the Secretary to modify Title IV-E matching requirements in recognition that tribes, unlike states, have not previously received funding to build the type of service delivery systems available to the states, and permit other federal and state funds to be used for any required tribal match.
- continue to allow tribal-state Title IV-E agreements.
- develop regulations in partnership with tribes and others with expertise in the Indian child welfare field.

What is needed now are letters from tribes to their Senators, especially those Senators who are on the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over S. 1478, to ask for them to sign on as co-sponsors of the bill and work to pass it through the Senate. Since this is a relatively unknown issue for many Senators, it would be helpful if letters could discuss the tribal need for more foster care funding and what this would mean for Indian children and families on the reservation or Indian lands. For more information, please contact NICWA staff member David Simmons at (503) 222-4044 or e-mail at [desimmons@nicwa.org](mailto:desimmons@nicwa.org).

*Agreement, continued from page 2*

“This agreement strengthens our relationship and shows unity for our children and families.” said NICWA Executive Director Terry Cross, “We look forward to a stronger and expanding partnership.”

## **NICWA to Begin New Partnerships**

NICWA has recently agreed to enter into two new partnerships to extend our capacity to provide training and technical assistance (TA) to tribal child welfare programs. The National Resource Center for Permanency Planning (NRCPP) operated by Hunter College in New York City and the National Resource Center for Information Technology in Child Welfare (NRCITCW) operated by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) have both been recently funded by the Children’s Bureau to provide technical assistance and training to states.

NICWA’s role will be to help these resource centers respond to tribal needs as well. Under a contract with Hunter College, NICWA will provide on-site training and TA on permanency planning issues to tribes. This will include working with programs to implement the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

Through its partnership with CWLA, NICWA will study the information technology needs and capacities of tribal child welfare programs. We look for promising practices in local data storage and will examine options for tribes to participate in the national data systems. Our objective is to make sure that tribes have the capacity to store, retrieve and use data that will help them improve child welfare outcomes. By the end of the project we hope to have much better data nationally on which policymakers can base important decisions.

As with other resource centers, tribes can access these services through their regional office of the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Tribes may call NICWA directly to learn how to access these free services.

## **NICWA / NRCOI Partnership Has Been Refunded**

In September, the Department of Health and Human Services notified the University of Southern Maine that its proposal to operate the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement had been approved. This 5-year grant includes a continuing partnership with NICWA. The university has operated this resource center for the last 10 years and has partnered with NICWA for the last five years. Under this contract, NICWA is able to provide technical assistance and training to Indian tribes on issues affecting the management of tribal child welfare programs. Tribal-state relations, contracting, standard-setting, funding and program planning and evaluation are just a few of the topics that can be addressed under this resource center. NICWA provides training and TA to tribes on-site or in common-interest small groups.

Tribes can access these services through their regional office of the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. They may call NICWA directly to learn how to access these free services.

# THANK YOU

## NEW & RENEWING NICWA MEMBERS & DONORS

**The board of directors and staff of the National Indian Child Welfare Association extend our sincere thanks to you for your investment in NICWA's mission, goals and programs. If at any time you have questions regarding your membership, or if we can be of service to you, please call us at (503) 222-4044. Thank you for your support.**

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*Listing for receipts from June 28 through October 1, 1999*

## ***Pathways Is Now by Subscription***

***Beginning in November, Pathways Practice Digest is by subscription only.***

**The subscription fee is only \$25 for one year.**

***Pathways Practice Digest is published bimonthly.***

The contract between the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to publish *Pathways* expired a year ago. The BIA decided not to continue funding the publication, citing lack of funds as the reason. NICWA believes *Pathways* is important and made the decision to take on the financial responsibility. This puts an added burden on the association's budget, *and for that reason, a subscription fee is necessary.*

If your organization or tribe intends to subscribe, please pass this information on to the person who makes the decision.

We encourage you to subscribe personally, as well as your organization or tribe. This will ensure that you will receive a copy, rather than having it sit in someone's in-box.

(coupon stripped in)

Send to: National Indian Child Welfare Association  
3611 S.W. Hood St., Suite 201  
Portland, OR 97201

## Child Abuse Prevention Report To Be Published !

NICWA is in the final stages of preparing a report titled *The Status of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention in American Indian Communities*. The report will be available for purchase very soon.

This report was made possible by the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (NCCAN), with funding provided by the Children's Bureau at the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. It grew out of an effort to include tribal prevention programs in the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information Prevention Programs Database. In the process of seeking out potential American Indian programs for inclusion in the Prevention Programs Database, a great deal was learned about the tremendous struggle American Indian tribes face in attempting to secure resources for prevention. Even more was learned about what they are able to do, despite the lack of access to specific prevention resources. The purpose of the report is to provide the reader with a sense of the issues facing Indian tribes regarding child abuse and neglect prevention and to highlight some important work that is happening. Based on the findings of the report, recommendations are offered for needed reform.

This report, prepared by the National Indian Child Welfare Association, summarizes the issue of child abuse and neglect in Indian communities, discusses the tribal role in prevention and examines the types of prevention activities in use in 11 Indian communities in various parts of the country. Resources for tribes to help develop their own prevention programs are listed in the appendix, as are the profiles of the programs highlighted in this report.

Please call NICWA at (503) 222-4044 and reserve your copy today!



## Family Resource Center / Family Support Packet Being Sent to Tribes

Watch for a new packet of information that is being sent to tribes' social service programs across the United States. The recent partnership between NICWA and the Family Resource Coalition of America has allowed us to send an informative "how-to" packet of materials to each tribe in the country. The contents of the packet will focus on demonstrating the steps to take for developing a family resource center in your community. The packet will describe two models of family resource centers that currently exist in tribal communities. It is scheduled to arrive in Indian Country by early to mid-November.



## NEW STAFF TO GREET YOU

Lois Chilcott joined the NICWA staff recently as our new secretary/receptionist. She has had much experience with American Indian programs throughout her career, from being a tribal enrollment officer to working as a budget officer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Lois tried to retire from the Bureau several years ago, but found she really missed being around people and has since worked as the receptionist for the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission here in Portland. Lois is a member of the Menominee Tribe, has five grown children, seven grandchildren and lists her hobbies as baking, crocheting and learning to make quilts. Welcome to NICWA, Lois, we're glad you're on board!

## Two Native Sites Awarded Children's Mental Health Grants

The Oglala Sioux (Lakota) Tribe, Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and the Yukon-Kuskokwin Health Corporation at Bethel, Alaska, are the two newest Native sites to win children's mental health grants. The Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration made the award announcements public the end of September. The Native sites were two of 20 sites in the United States that were awarded grants this year to develop mental health systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances and their families. Indian children are the most under-served group in the United States when it comes to the receipt of mental health services.

The two new Alaska Native/American Indian grantees join five other Indian grantee sites that are developing systems of care to deliver mental health services for American Indian children and their families in their communities. Those projects are:

- Kmihqitahasultipon Program at Passamaquoddy Nation, Indian Township, Maine;
- M'no Bmaadzid Endaad Program, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan;
- With Eagle's Wings, Northern Arapaho Tribe, St. Stephens, Wyoming;
- The Sacred Child Project serving Three Affiliated Tribes, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Standing Rock Nation, Spirit Lake Sioux and Trenton Service District, main office in United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, North Dakota; and
- K'e Project, Navajo Nation, serving five sites, main office in Tohatchi, New Mexico.

Each site is funded for five years, and it is anticipated that during that time the grantee will put in place a system of care that will allow the project to become a sustainable one. The Sacred Child Project and the Kmihqitahasultipon Program have just begun their third year of the project, and With Eagle's Wings and M'no Bmaadzid Endaad Program have just completed their first year.

The grants are won through written proposals and a competitive process. The Native American/Alaska Native grantees comprise the Native American Hub. Technical assistance is delivered to grantees in the hub through NICWA.

## Native American Hub Meeting and Federation of Families Conference

The next Native American Hub Meeting is scheduled for November 17 and will be held in Washington, D.C. It is being held back to back with the annual Federation of Families Conference.

This year, there will be an American Indian track at the conference. Workshops in the Indian track include one that will be presented about the incorporation of the Community Readiness model into the communities of Choctaw Nation through the CARES Project. The CARES Project operates a 3-year Circles of Care planning grant through Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The other workshop will be presented by Kmihqitahasultipon Program staff (Passamaquoddy Nation, Indian Township) and will address advocating with parents and supporting parents' advocacy on behalf of their children in school-related situations.

An important event during the Federation of Families Conference will be a meeting with Indian family representatives and American Indian/Alaska Native grantees to discuss the possibility of forming an Indian parent organization/chapter. The purpose of such a cohesive organization would be a) to unite American Indians and Alaska Natives around issues of concern related to Indian children with complex needs and their families and b) to provide a support network to other Native parents and caregivers.

A highlight of the Federation of Families Conference will be Policy Day, during which there is an opportunity for American Indian/Alaska Native parents and grantees to visit with their representatives or their staff on Capitol Hill. The Native contingent will be given a packet of information and some appropriate training on the policy and advocacy process.

This year a special opportunity has been made available. Each of the seven services sites on the children's mental health project are provided a stipend from Indian Health Service to bring an additional parent representative to the hub meeting. The objective is to get Native parents involved in the Policy Day activities and in the discussion meeting about forming an organization for American Indian/Alaska Native parents and caregivers of children with complex needs.

# NICWA News

NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
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## CALENDAR

### Indian Child Welfare Training Institute

1. Positive Indian Parenting  
2. Permanency Planning  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
November 1-5, 1999, Buffalo, NY  
Contact: Kim Just, (503) 222-4044

### Managing Aggressive Behavior—Training of Trainers

NRC Youth Services, University of Oklahoma  
November 8-12, 1999, Tulsa, OK  
Contact: NRC Youth Services, (405) 537-6870

### Building American Indian Nations for the 21st Century

Udall Center of Studies in Public Policy  
University of Arizona  
November 11-13, 1999, Tucson, AZ  
Contact (520) 621-7189

### 21st Annual American Indian Science & Engineering

Society (AISES) National Conference  
November 18-20, 1999, Minneapolis, MN  
Contact: (303) 772-7062

### National Association of Native American Studies

National Conference  
February 21-26, 2000, Houston, TX  
Contact: L. Berry (606) 783-2650

### 18th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

April 17-19, 2000, Tucson, AZ  
Contact: (503) 222-4044

*Hammer, continued from page 1.*

At a presentation ceremony recently in Arlington, Virginia, Cherie Stallman, of the National Partnership to Reinvent Government, praised the efforts of the team of agencies that have worked since 1994 to conceive, plan and implement the Circles of Care program. Team leader Gary Decarolis of SAMHSA singled out the contributions made through out the project by NICWA's executive director, Terry Cross.

The lead federal agencies are: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Indian Health Service, (IHS), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, (OJJDP), National Institute for Mental Health, (NIMH), and Bureau of Indian Affairs, (BIA).

*Theme, continued from page 1.*

Noted Tucson artist, and Hopi tribal member, Gerald Dawavendewa has been selected to produce this year's conference poster/flyer. It will be mailed to Indian Country early in January, 2000 and will contain a complete list of workshops and presenters, keynote speakers, registration and hotel information. Everyone on NICWA News mailing list will be receiving a copy of the flyer. Watch for it and plan to attend!

