

NICWA News

service and advocacy for Indian children

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

The Kainai Chieftain Society of the Blood Tribe's newest honoree, Terry Cross (*center*) is escorted to the circle by Mrs. Martha Day Chief (*left*), and Mr. Winston Day Chief (*right*), during the 17th annual conference.

17th *Protecting Our Children* Achieves New Heights

Special features, new-old ways, exciting people, special ceremonies, quality workshops and stimulating speakers combined to make the 17th Annual "Protecting Our Children" conference one of the best and most memorable ever.

Over 850 participants from across the U.S. and Canada witnessed an opening ceremony that featured the traditional ways tribes and nations would come together. That is, in a circle. Elders spoke of the good ways used to honor and raise children. They spoke of the good ways our ancestors showed respect to each other, to the earth and the creator.

Thirty-six workshops, each given twice, demonstrated how the theme of "Protecting Our Children Through Honoring Our Traditions" was put into practice in practical ways. Monday evening's Pow Wow, organized by Joe Big Bear of the Little Earth Residents Association, drew over 125 dancers and nine drums

See Heights, page 7.

National Tribal Title IV-E Conference Draws A Crowd

Over 230 people attended the 3-day conference June 15-17 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Representatives included people from tribal governments, state and federal agencies, urban Indian organizations and state universities. The conference provided intensive discussion and training on a wide variety of topics related to developing and operating a Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance agreement with a state. Keynote speakers and workshop presenters discussed everything from a basic overview of the federal entitlement program to the intricacies of fiscal management and data collection systems.

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NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD
WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

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NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, April 12, 1999

Minneapolis, Minnesota

The annual membership meeting was held in conjunction with NICWA's annual Protecting Our Children conference. There were approximately 20 members present, in addition to staff. Representing the board of directors were Gary Peterson (president), Eloise King (vice-president), James Knapp (secretary), Lola Sohappy, Delores Greyeyes, Bill Clark, Debra Foxcroft, Tracy King, Gloria Wilson (alternate), Muriel Sharlow, Donne Fleagle, and Mary Tenorio.

President Gary Peterson opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Bill Clark gave the blessing.

Secretary's Report: Jim Knapp said that NICWA is looking for leaders in the community who may be interested in serving on the board. The organization strives for wide geographical representation.

Treasurers Report: Executive Director Terry Cross made the report for Dan Gargan, who could not attend the conference. He reported that the organization is in good fiscal health, with a clean audit. The financial picture has improved considerably since three years ago, when there was a large amount of time and money spent due to the threat to the Indian Child Welfare Act. NICWA had a \$1.4 million budget last year, and next year's is \$1.8 million. The increase is due to more fee-for-service contracts.

Functions Committee and Nominations Sub-committee: Jim Knapp relayed that there are nine current members up for re-nomination: Lola Sohappy, Eloise King, Gabriel Landry, Don Milligan, Mary Tenorio, Bill Clark, Donne Fleagle, Debra Foxcroft and Ernie Stevens, Jr. Two new names recommended for nomination: Gloria Wilson (Squamish), and Faith Roessel (Navajo). Jim moved that the names of the current board members and Gloria Wilson and Faith Roessel be placed in nomination. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. All voting members (those at Indian organizations or who work in the Indian child welfare field) will receive a mail-in ballot, as this was the new procedure adopted at the August 1998 board meeting in order to have more participation by members in the election process.

Program Committee: Judy Houck (chair) discussed that there were three focus groups held at the conference. These sought input from ICW workers, ICW directors and tribal leaders on the topics of NICWA's becoming a body for the certification of ICW workers and accreditation of ICW programs.

Policy Committee: Gary Peterson stated that NICWA wants to be "at the table" when decisions are made that affect Indian children and families, not just to hear about those decisions after the fact. Terry was invited to the White House to give input on child welfare issues and also gave testimony before Congress in the past year.

See Annual, page 9.

ADVOCACY

Indian Child Welfare Act Amendments of 1999 Introduced

One of the legislative issues that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs worked on during the 105th Congress (1997-98), was amendments to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*, (ICWA). Two bills, S. 569 and H.R. 1082, sought to protect the ICWA from legislation that would undermine it and strengthen a number of key areas (notice to tribes in voluntary child custody proceedings and criminal sanctions for trying to avoid applying ICWA requirements). S. 569 was introduced by Senator McCain and sponsored by Senators Campbell, Dorgan, Wellstone and Domenici. H.R. 1082 was introduced by Congressman Young with sponsorship from Congressman Miller. Neither S. 569 nor H.R. 1082 was passed by the full Congress, but neither did any amendments to undermine the ICWA, such as those introduced in 1996 by Congresswoman Pryce (R-OH).

On June 10, 1999, Senator McCain (R-AZ) with Senators Campbell (R-CO) and Domenici (R-NM), introduced the Indian Child Welfare Act Amendments of 1999. These are the same ICWA amendments that were introduced in the last Congress as S. 569 with some additional language that Senator Hatch (R-UT) asked to be included regarding consideration of an Indian child or birth parent preference for the placement of an Indian child. A copy of the full text of the bill is on NICWA's website at www.nicwa.org. The key provisions in S. 1213 do the following:

- Amend the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 to provide for retention by an Indian tribe of exclusive jurisdiction over child custody proceedings involving Indian children who are (a) residing or domiciled with the reservation and are made a ward of a tribal court or (b) become a ward of a tribal court after a transfer of jurisdiction.
- Revise requirements, with respect to Indian children, regarding: (1) the voluntary termination of parental rights and (2) the withdrawal of a consent (birth parent) to such a voluntary termination of parental rights or adoption of an Indian child.
- Require a party seeking the voluntary placement of an Indian child or the voluntary termination of parental rights to provide written notice to the Indian child's tribe (ICWA does not currently require notice to the tribe in voluntary proceedings

or placements). Specifies the content for this type of written notice. Permits an Indian tribe to intervene if the child's tribe has, (1) sent a notice of intent to intervene (this does not obligate the tribe to accepting a transfer of jurisdiction or intervening in a certain way, only their intent to intervene in the case); or (2) a written objection to the proposed adoptive placement to the court or the party seeking the voluntary placement of the Indian child. A timeline is specified for when a tribe must respond to the notice, but permits the child's Indian tribe to intervene in any case in which the Indian tribe did not receive a written notice that meets the specified requirements for a notice. When an Indian tribe files a motion for intervention (different from the response to the written notice of the proceeding or placement described above) they must include a certification of the child's membership or eligibility for membership in the tribe.

- Modify requirements regarding consideration of the personal preference of an Indian child or parent with respect to adoptive placements, foster care, and pre-adoptive placements. Specifies in any case in which a court determines that it is appropriate to consider the preference of a parent or Indian child, that preference may be considered to constitute good cause to deviate from ICWA's placement preferences.
- Provide criminal sanctions for anyone, other than a birth parent, who knowingly and willfully tries to avoid application of the ICWA by covering up the fact that a child may be Indian.

Senator McCain and others continue to support legislation that will resolve several of the misconceptions that hamper proper implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act. Plans for a hearing in the Senate or other strategies for S. 1213 are not available yet, but likely will be discussed at the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference in Vancouver, B.C., on July 20-23. You can make your thoughts on this legislation known by contacting the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs at (202) 224-2251 or David Simmons at the National Indian Child Welfare Association (503) 222-4044, extension 19. NICWA is very interested in trying to answer your questions and receiving your comments on this important legislation.

Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Funding for Indian Children

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

continued next page

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 on the problem and use those opportunities to correct an oversight in the law that causes Indian children, placed by tribes, to be without Title IV-E funding support.

Senator Daschle (D-SD) will be introducing a bill soon that amends Title IV-E and provides tribes with direct reimbursement from this program. A number of other Republican and Democratic Senators are expected to co-sponsor the bill with him. 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.

Another source of information on the issue was a conference that was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on June 15-17 (see cover article). It looked at the issue, both from the perspective of tribal/state agreements and from direct access to the federal program. NICWA is encouraging tribal governments to become knowledgeable and involved in efforts to obtain direct funding from Title IV-E. For more information, please contact NICWA staff member David Simmons at (503) 222-4044 or e-mail at desimmons@nicwa.org

See Advocacy, page 6.

Children's Mental Health Services Grantees Native American Hub Meet

Passamaquoddy Nation's Kmihqitahasultipon Program in Indian Township, Maine hosted the annual hub meeting of the five American Indian grantees who are receiving Center for Mental Health Services funds to improve the systems of care for, and deliver services to, Indian children with serious emotional disorders and their families in their Native communities. The hub meeting was held May 4-6.

The grantees, family representatives, consultants, evaluators and NICWA staff traveled by chartered bus from Bangor, Maine to Passamaquoddy Nation's Indian Township reserve. There, the group was honored with prayer, lunch and the opportunity to meet with Kmihqitahasultipon Program staff, community members, collaborative partners, consultants and local artists. Elizabeth Martin, project director, and Marjorie Withers, the clinical supervisor, gave an overview of Kmihqitahasultipon Program, which is in year two of its five-year grant. A locally produced video on huffing was given its first public viewing and was well received. A tour by bus through the Nation was moderated by Ms. Withers.

Days two and three of the hub meeting convened in Bar Harbor, Maine. There, presentations were given by Carol Iron Rope Herrera on the topic of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Michael Guilfoyle on juvenile justice and Nancy Goetschius on Medicaid.

Spring Grantee Meet

K'e Project was honored as a graduating site at the Spring Grantee Meeting of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program. K'e Project, along with 10 other graduating sites, are in their fifth year of the grant to improve the system of care for children with complex emotional needs in their communities. The K'e Project, which is governed by a nonprofit organization, Children and Families Advocacy Corporation, has several service sites on the Navajo Nation. It was the first Native American grantee to participate in this unique Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program.

There are presently four other Native American grantees. The Sacred Child Project, with its administrative offices in Bismark, North Dakota, and Kmihqitahasultipon Program (Passamaquoddy Nation)

in Indian Township, Maine, are both in the second year of five-year grants. M'No Bmaadiz Endaad (Sault Ste. Marie) in Michigan and With Eagle's Wings (Northern Arapaho) on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming are both in the first year of their projects. These five current Native American grantees on this project comprise the Native American Hub. The National Indian Child Welfare Association provides technical assistance to the sites of the Native American Hub.

NICWA & the FAPE Project

The families and advocates partnership for education (FAPE) project is in full swing. NICWA has been working to educate families and advocates of disabled Indian children in its partnership for education.

NICWA has assembled a packet of information that is free of charge and readily available to those requesting such materials. The material in the packet includes such pieces as IDEA '97 Final Regulations; major issues; provisions of special interest to parents, teachers and administrators; and discipline procedures.

Trainings on the newly released IDEA '97 regulations for the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act have been performed at a number of locations as a result of this partnership between NICWA and the PACER Center. On May 5 in Bangor, Maine at the Native American Hub Meeting, Carol Iron Rope Herrera, presented an hour-and-a-half workshop on the IDEA '97 regulations. Shannon Cross Bear presented a workshop at the Building on Family Strengths: Research and Services in Support of Children and Their Families conference which was held June 3-5 in Portland, Oregon. Carol also did a presentation on the IDEA '97 regulations at the Circles of Care Technical Assistance Grantee Meeting in Arlington, Virginia on June 8.

Shannon and Carol will co-present at the upcoming conference, "Continuing the Journey – Keeping the Vision Alive," sponsored by the National Indian School Board Association on July 21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. NICWA is working to get an IDEA '97 workshop presented at the National Indian Education Association's 30th Annual Convention in October.

The summer issue of *Pathways* will focus solely on the topic of the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and how it will effect Indian children and families across the nation. Featured columns to be submitted are from Angelita Felix, director of BIA-Office of Indian Education-Branch for Exceptional Children, and a story from Dorothy Larson at Standing Rock Sioux Early Childhood Development.

Training Institute Workshops

September 13-17 Reno

Workshop 1: Current Issues in Foster Care & Kinship Care

An interactive workshop that uses mini-lecture, case examples, class interaction, videos and other experiential teaching methods. Aspects of the Adoption & Safe Families Act of 1997 will be included.

Workshop 2: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

A nuts and bolts workshop on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The course will include what the law says, its intent and how to implement it.

Workshop 3: Family Resource Centers at Work in Your Community

Using a team-based strategic planning process (TSP), the workshop will provide a step-by-step process guide on how to research, develop, design, implement and maintain a family resource center that provides comprehensive family support services.

October 11-15 Anchorage

Workshop 1: Developing Tribal Child-Placing Agencies

The basic components of starting a program at the Tribal level will be covered in this interactive workshop. It will include components of successful tribal-state agreements for tribes to operate child placing agencies and involve strategy planning.

Workshop 2: Operating Tribal Child-Placing Agencies

A course to help workers develop tribal foster care standards and recruitment programs, examine day-to-day management issues and gain an understanding of what has and has not worked in tribally operated programs.

November 1-5 Buffalo

Workshop 1: Permanency Planning: Exercising Our Options

An Indian perspective on permanency. It deals with the principles, concepts and skills used in ensuring that children are provided with continuity in their lives and a sense of belonging over time. The course will include aspects of the Adoption & Safe Families Act (ASFA) and current Title IV-E issues.

Workshop 2: Positive Indian Parenting

A course providing workers with information on how to organize and conduct parenting training, prepare lesson plans, set up meetings and help parents.

Advocacy, continued.

Document Available Soon on the Impact of the Adoption and Safe Families Act On Indian Children and Tribal Programs

Another issue that attracted attention last year and will probably continue this year is the implementation of the Adoption & Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), P.L. 105-89. Tribes and states have been working to implement the law with Indian children, who are also covered by other federal child welfare law, such as the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). While ICWA and ASFA are not necessarily incongruent, there are a number of areas where their interface raises serious questions and possible conflicts.

The federal Administration for Children and Families has not been able to answer all of the questions regarding implementation of ASFA with Indian children and families, but NICWA has been working with them to clarify several. These and several other issues will be discussed in a document that will provide an interpretation of how many of the ASFA provisions will apply to tribal programs and Indian children and families. The document, entitled "Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997: Issues for Tribes and States Serving Indian Children," is close to publication and will be disseminated to all tribes, states and federal Administration for Children and Families regional offices. In addition, NICWA has been conducting trainings on this subject for a variety of groups, including tribes, states, Indian organizations and federal agencies.

If you have any questions regarding the ASFA, are interested in training or would like to make sure you get a copy of the new document, please contact NICWA staff member David Simmons at (503) 222-4044 or e-mail at desimmons@nicwa.org.

Department of Health and Human Services Tribal Budget Consultation Meeting

On May 4, tribal leaders met with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Budget Review Board to present information on the needs of Indian people in relation to budgets for programs under DHHS. The focus was to have tribal leaders and DHHS officials begin a dialogue that would help DHHS build a budget for Fiscal Year 2001 that would reflect the needs of Indian people. The National Indian Child Welfare Association was asked to come and provide

testimony on programs under DHHS that provide child welfare and mental health services. As with other DHHS programs, appropriations for tribal governments were either very low, or the authorizing statute did not allow tribal governments to apply for funding. Other participants focused on areas such as health services, community and economic development, child care, welfare reform, head start, services to urban Indian populations, tribal-state relations, services to elders, disabilities and substance abuse. This meeting was expected to be the first in a series of consultation opportunities for tribal governments as the budget process continues within DHHS this year. If you would like a copy of NICWA's comments, you can get them by calling David Simmons at (503) 222-4044, extension 19 or e-mailing him at desimmons@nicwa.org.

Comment Period Extended on the Draft Bureau of Indian Affairs Financial Welfare and Social Services Regulations

The BIA published their newest draft of Financial Welfare and Social Services regulations in the Federal Register on May 6, 1999 (pages 24296-24308) which proposes changes to several of the programs under this category, such as General Assistance and Child Welfare Assistance. The 60-day public comment period initially established has been extended to September 7 so that additional comments, concerns and recommendations can be provided. The Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona in Phoenix, Arizona has developed comments, and NICWA will soon be developing comments for dissemination. The address for submitting comments is:

Division of Social Services
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
MS-46600-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Two national consultation sessions on these regulations were conducted this year. The first one took place on May 10 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the second was held May 25-26 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Tribes have expressed great concern over the draft regulations, as they reflect the BIA's continued trend of reducing access to their resources and pushing Indian people toward state run programs. Several tribal advocates who participated in earlier consultation sessions last year on these regulations have said that the current draft incorporates little of the recommendations or concerns that tribal representatives raised. A copy of the draft regulations can be found on the Internet at <http://www.doi.gov/bia/tlgaregnolines.htm> or by calling Larry Blair, Division of Social Services, at (202) 208-2479.

NEW FACES AT NICWA

Rose Hill was hired as the development manager in early April to fill the vacancy left by Lisa Watt. Rose is well known at NICWA and in the Portland Indian community, as she's been active for many years. She has been working as the executive director of the American Indian Association of Portland, director of the Northwest Indian Nursing Program with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and ethnic student advisor with Portland State University. Most recently, she worked as the coordinator of the American Indian Student Academic Services at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Rose is busy learning the ropes of the non-profit world and is specifically working to keep NICWA's membership program and funding proposals on track. She's of Mohawk/Choctaw/Oneida descent and is a member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. Rose has a 20-year-old son and is an avid gardener. She also enjoys painting, drawing, pottery and all kinds of handicrafts.

Kelly Mitchell joined the staff on July 6 to assume the duties of a new position at NICWA. As the new logistics assistant, Kelly will coordinate logistical details of consultants and staff when they provide training, technical assistance and consultation. Kelly comes to us from Portland Community College, where she worked in the Teaching/Learning Center. In the past she's worked for the American Indian Association of Portland in the field of development and was assistant ethnic student advisor at Portland State University. She is of Cherokee descent.

She has a lot of experience with planning and organizing events, as well as having strong writing skills. She takes over many administrative tasks currently being handled by the office manager and other program staff, which will help to even out their workload. She has two grown children, plays guitar, loves to garden and dabble in art and can really get caught up in her computer.

Circles, continued.

This is the first year of funding in this 3-year grant. The availability of the Circles of Care grants, announced by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in collaboration with Indian Health Service Mental Health Programs Branch, was made public in the Federal Register in January 1998. Nine grantee awards were announced the following September.

Conference Audio Tapes are available!!!

for the

**Gaining Equal Access:
Making IV-E Work for Our People**
*a National Tribal Title IV-E Foster
Care Conference*

Were you unable to attend the recent Title IV-E conference on June 15-17, 1999, in Albuquerque, but need the important information that was presented?

A full set of 17 audio cassette tapes covering all general, keynote, breakout and workshop proceedings is available. The price for the set is \$170, plus shipping and handling. Included with the tapes is the conference agenda, with topics and speakers listed.

Call NICWA at (503) 222-4044, to request a tape order form or fax at (503) 222-4007.

Heights, continued.

from the Twin Cities area to join those from the conference who brought their native dress. A powerful Headdress ceremony was presented by the Kainai Chieftainship Society of Blood Tribe of Canada to honor the work of the National Indian Child Welfare Association and its executive director, Terry Cross.

Other conference highlights included an inspiring keynote address and workshop by noted native author, teacher and lecturer Joan Middleton-Moz. The annual Honor Luncheon featured the introduction of Ojibwa artist Joe Geshick, who created this year's popular conference poster, "The Children," followed by a delightful program by Mohawk/Apache entertainer, puppeteer and magician Buddy Big Mountain.

In his closing keynote address, in which he provided a "state of the art of abuse prevention" report, Terry Cross stressed the continued need for preventing child abuse and neglect at every opportunity. He also announced that the site for next year's conference is Tucson, Arizona, April 16-19, 2000. Mark your calendar, and save the date! Also, watch your mail box in late August for the Call for Presentations, which will announce next year's theme and conference details.

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 in any way, please call us at (503) 222-4044. Thank you for your support.

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NEW & RENEWING

continued

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Sioux City, IA
Picuris Pueblo, Penasco, NM
Seminole Tribe of Florida,
Hollywood, FL
Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo
Indians, Willits, CA
Spirit Lake Tribe, Fort Totten, ND
St. Regis Mohawk Human Services,
Akwasasne, NY
Squamish Indian Band, North
Vancouver, BC
University of Oklahoma, Tulsa, OK
Walpole Island First Nations,
Wallaceburg, ON
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head
(Aquinnah), Gay Head, MA
Washington University of St. Louis,
St. Louis, MO
Yerington Paiute Tribe, Yerington, NV

DONORS

Lee Andren, Prior Lake, MN
Rayette Brooks, Prior Lake, MN
Roxanne Claire, Houston, TX
Constance Gohlman, Lincoln City, OR
Leona Goren, Winthrop, MA
Mr. & Mrs. Armstrong Hunter,
Weathersfield, VT
Michael Johnson, Ledyard, CT
Richard Jurek, Prior Lake, MN
John Lynch, Springfield, VA
Robert Miller, Tigard, OR
Cynthia Prescott, Prior Lake, MN
Gregory Schaumburg, Prior Lake, MN
Walter Schur, M.D., Oxford, MA
Timothy Walker, Mashantucket, CT

*Listing for receipts from
February 1, to June 28, 1999*

Annual, continued

Staff Report: Terry Cross reported the following: NICWA has expanded its services by one-third, and there is now a faculty of consultants and trainers who help provide those services. Thirty-six of the 43 original faculty have been put into the field in the past six months.

In 1998, there were 105 events of training or technical assistance and approximately 6,500 people trained by NICWA during 1300 contact hours. The training took place in 25 states in the U.S. and two provinces in Canada. This averages one training every three days. Other activities included the publication of *Pathways* and *NICWA News*, the maintenance of a resource library and giving information over the telephone and via NICWA's Website: www.nicwa.org.

There is a new contract with Pacer for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Other projects include: Tulalip, University of Iowa, University of Southern Maine, NCCAN, The Casey Family Program, Indian Health Service, and Children's Mental Health Services.

NICWA has taken on the publication of *Pathways*, since the BIA contract ended. It will become a subscription publication by the September issue.

Regarding legislation: a tribal IV-E bill is expected to be introduced in Congress through bi-partisan efforts and support. NICWA is monitoring attacks on the ICWA. It has been quiet this year, except for the "existing Indian family" issue in four states. Jim Knapp and David Simmons will be going to Washington, D.C. on April 15 to give testimony during the appropriations process. NICWA is working on a Title IV-E conference to be held in Albuquerque in June.

It was announced that the annual conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona next year, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Title, continued

A second focus of the conference was to examine direct access to the program through legislative amendments in Congress that would allow tribal governments to seek reimbursement without having to have an agreement with the state. The conference provided updates on current legislative efforts, including tribal Title IV-E amendments that are being proposed (not officially introduced yet).

Many of the tribal representatives expressed their desire to get direct access, especially in areas where agreements with states were not available or were not providing full access to the federal program. Nevertheless, all of the participants seem to agree that without more access to foster care and adoption assistance resources, Indian tribes could not be expected to meet the federal government's goal of increasing permanent placements for Indian children.

Audio cassette tapes of the conference are available from NICWA. The set will sell for \$170 plus shipping and handling and will include tapings of all general sessions and workshops. Also included will be a copy of the conference agenda. To receive an order form for the cassette tapes, fax your request to Larry Douglas at NICWA at (503) 222-4007.

NICWA News

NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION
3611 S.W. HOOD STREET, SUITE 201
PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

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CALENDAR

“Jazz Up Your Spirit”—Mid-West Region Training Conference

Child Welfare League of America
September 15-17, Kansas City, MO
Contact: Tammy Blackard, (312) 424-6825

Residential Child Care Worker—Training of Trainers

NRC Youth Services, University of Oklahoma
September 15-17, Orlando, FL
Contact: NRC Youth Services, (405) 537-6870

Indian Child Welfare Training Institute

Workshop on “Developing Child-Placing Agencies”
National Indian Child Welfare Association
October 11-15, Anchorage, AK
Contact: Kim Just, (503) 222-4044

Indian Child Welfare Training Institute

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

Managing Aggressive Behavior—Training of Trainers

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

Circles of Care Grantees Gather in D.C. Area

Circles of Care grantees gathered recently in Arlington, Virginia for their third technical assistance meeting this year. Project staff and family/community representatives attended the meeting June 7-9. The meeting provided an opportunity for grantees to come together to learn about what each is doing with projects in their communities and to participate in sessions designed to support their planning, collaboration and evaluation efforts.

Circles of Care grants are for planning, designing and assessing the feasibility of implementing a culturally appropriate, child-centered, community-based, and family focused mental health service model for American Indian/Alaska Native children with serious emotional disturbance or disorders. Program-related technical assistance is being provided by NICWA. Evaluation-related technical assistance is provided through the National Center on American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research (NCAIANMHR). Planning for the technical assistance meetings is a collaborative effort involving NICWA, NCAIANMHR, Indian Health Service, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Grantees have the opportunity to receive technical assistance at these grantee meetings, as well as during on-site visits and via telephone support.

See Circles, page 7.