



**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
  
**PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN CONFERENCE**

## Agenda

All times listed in Pacific Time

<b><u>Monday April 4, 2022</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday April 5, 2022</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday April 6, 2022</u></b>
<p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening General Session</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 a.m.–Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workshops A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workshops B</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Membership Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7:30 a.m.–8:15 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Day of Prayer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Session</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 a.m.–Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workshops C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workshops D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Session</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing General Session and Champion for Native Children Award</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 a.m.–Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workshops E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workshops F</p>

Monday, April 4, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. PT

### **Homecoming: Our Journeys and Experience**

Homecoming, or coming back to our place of origin, implies connecting to our past in appreciation of where we've come from, the people whose hard work and perseverance made this community life possible, and gratitude to the Creator for our existence and daily experience. Three panelists will share their homecoming journey and reflect on what this year's conference theme means to them.

Tuesday, April 5, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. PT

This plenary session consists of two panels.

### **Homecoming: 40 Years of Connecting for Our Children**

First hosted by the University of Oklahoma, the Protecting Our Children Conference was gifted to the National Indian Child Welfare Association to steward and grow. 2022 represents the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference, a home for those who serve our children and families to gather for four decades. Presenters will share the rich history of this gathering and celebrate our advocacy for and service to Native children, families, and communities.

### **Trauma-Informed Work with Children**

*Sesame Street in Communities* builds on Sesame Street's almost 50-year commitment to addressing kids' developmental, physical, and emotional needs. It supports parents and community providers, part of the "circle of care" that surrounds the families and kids who need it most. It supports uniting communities, fostering families' and kids' resilience, nurturing their physical and mental health, and providing critical early learning opportunities. Hundreds of bilingual multi-media tools to help kids and families enrich and expand their knowledge during the early years of birth through age six, a critical window for brain development, are available online. These resources engage kids and adults in everyday moments and daily routines. In the last several years, NICWA has served as an advisor to Sesame Street in Communities. Panelists will discuss trauma-informed approaches to working with children and families and preview a variety of resources on topics like foster care, parental addiction, racial justice, and the Clutes Family, a traditional Mohawk family.

Tuesday, April 5, 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. PT

### **Child and Family Policy Update**

Presenters will share updates about policy that affects Native children and families. Litigation, legislation, and administrative policy and priorities will be addressed. Updates about *Brackeen v. Haaland* will also highlight communications strategies and how you can play a role in growing the network of support to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Wednesday, April 6, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. PT

### **Indian Boarding Schools: Working Together for Meaningful Change**

An essential part of the colonization process, separating Indigenous children from their families through boarding schools and then the public child welfare system, is a sordid history that the U.S. shares with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other nations. Several organizations, dozens of communities, and federal government bodies are working to create opportunities for truth-telling and individual, family, and community healing from the century of Indian boarding school policies implemented in the U.S. Speakers

will address their efforts to compile records; identify boarding school sites and human remains; collect testimony from survivors, tribes, and subject matter experts; make recommendations for legislation and administrative actions to address the impacts of Federal Indian Boarding School Policies; and facilitate healing.

### **Child Welfare, Foster Care, and Adoption Services**

Session	Title	Presenter(s)
A	Partnering to Actualize ICWA in North Dakota	Harmony Bercier Jessi Leneagh
A	Indigenous Evaluation of an “Indigenous Grown” Program	Katrina Domnick, Rose Domnick, Anda Saylor
A	The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s Resources and Assistance for Indigenous Communities	Joy Paluska, Mark Pooley
A	Breaking Barriers: Tribal Child Welfare and ODHS Child Welfare Collaboration	Lisa Ruiz, Aryel Harrington, Maurita Johnson
A	California ICWA Statewide Plan: Connecting with Tribes and Counties to Inform and Improve ICWA Policy and Practice	Stephanie Weldon
A	Working with Substance-Abusing Families	Terry Cross
A	State of the American Indian/Alaska Native Child	Puneet Sahota, Amanda Cross-Hemmer
B	Raising the Bar on Active Efforts in North Dakota	Carenlee Barkdull, Avery Davies, Jennifer Russell
B	Therapeutic Parenting Strategies to Promote Attunement, Attachment and Felt Safety	Edna Brown, Lisa Maynard
B	Tools and Resources for Caseworkers on the Tribal Information Exchange	Jackie Crow Shoe
B	Strengthening Our Families to Care for Our Children: Foster Parent Education Programs	Misty Flowers, Chiara Couroyer, Elizabeth Lovejoy-Brown
B	Research Findings: First Nations Adoptees	Ashley Landers, Sandy White-Hawk
B	Child Maltreatment and Prevention Data: A Collaborative Discussion Group on Tribal Needs and Barriers	Sarah Kastelic, Alexis Contreras

C	Foster Care Recruitment and Retention	Stephanie Benally
C	Healing and Joy: Tools to Address Burnout and Increase Wellness in Tribal Child Welfare	Jackie Crow Shoe
C	Geography and Institutional Drivers of American Indian/Alaska Native Inequality Across States	Frank Edwards, Theresa Rocha Beardall
C	Culturally-Responsive and Trauma-Informed Multidisciplinary Teams	Laura Guay, Lisa Stark, Kimee Wind-Hummingbird
C	Comprehensive Guide to Active Efforts	Robert Ludgate
C	Family First: Access by Tribal Nations	Jack Trope, Peter Pecora
C	Lessons Learned about Virtual Program Delivery	Terry Cross, Amanda Cross-Hemmer
D	Weaving a Resilient Basket of Hope	Suzie Kuerschner
D	FBI Background Checks: Necessary and Required	Kristi Naternicola
D	Indigenous Restorative Practice	Doreen Mollenbeck-Dushnitsky, Don Smoke
D	Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework in British Columbia	Monica Sheridan, Rhonda Ducharme, Maurice Squires
D	Exploring Three Essential Elements of a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Agency	Kimee Wind-Hummingbird, Laura Guay, Lisa Stark
D	Supporting Kinship Care and Grandfamilies	Sarah Kastelic, Ana Beltran, Terry Cross
E	Data-Driven Support Resources for Families: Using Data to Plan and Evaluate Your Support Services	Britt Cloudsdale, Kendra Lowden
E	Strengthening ICWA Compliance Through Coalition Development	LaToya Benally, Jill Holt, Katherine "Kitty" Washburn
E	Minnesota ICWA Warriors	Crystal Hedemann, SommerDey Rosette, Clarissa Stenstrom
E	Emerging Tribal Child Welfare Practice Paths through the Heart, Head, Ways and Tools	Valerie Blackdeer, Courtney Bolt, Dallas Pettigrew
E	Ethics and Best Practices for Indigenous Community-Led Research	Koren Lightning-Earle, Hadley Friedland

E	Tribal Family Wellness Plans: Lessons and Implementation Strategies	Suzanne Garcia, Teri Kook, Someh Lewis
E	Child Welfare Redesign Perspectives in Indian Country	David Simmons
F	Process Evaluation: Implementation of a Nationally Developed, Tribally Adapted Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Curriculum	Angelique Day, Norma Hernandez, Becky Main
F	Don't Become Part of the Game	Trish Martinez
F	The Family Wellness Warriors Nu'iju Reentry Model: We Return Together	Chet Adkins, LuAnne Haukaas
F	Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services Promising Practices, Local Child and Family Service Committees	Doreen Moellenbeck-Dushnitsky, Don Smoke
F	Overcoming Bias When Working with Returning Families	LaDonna Shadlow
F	Good Child Welfare Governance is Essential	David Simmons

### **Children's Mental Health**

Session	Title	Presenter(s)
A	Family Preservation Models: Lessons Learned	Dan Aune
A	Supporting Child Crime Victims of the Addiction Crisis: Integrating Indigenous Trauma-Informed Healing for Children	Shirley Cain, Mary Hayes
B	Resilience: The Power of the Bounce-Back	Kenston Henderson
C	Whole Community Healing: Benefitting Our Children	Valerie Chadwick, Barbara Bell, Cathie Clements
C	Resilience: The Calricaraq Approach	Rose Domnick
D	Wapítat Ttáwaxt (Community in Service to Community): Community Stakeholder Engagement from the Development of a Tribally Adapted Interdependent Life Skills Curriculum for Indigenous Teens	Angelique Day, Nocona Abrams, Cynthia Pearson
E	Deconstructing Mental Health for Child Wellness	Maredyth Cheromiah Salazar, Tina Lincourt

F	Spreading HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences)	Dina Burstein, Robert Sege, Allison Stephens
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### **Judicial and Legal Affairs**

Session	Title	Presenter(s)
A	Use of ICWA Tribal Attorneys and Reunification Rates	Alex Cleghorn, Kimberly Cluff
A	Juvenile Justice in Indian Country: Building a Community of Practice	Colleen Medicine, Shannon O'Loughlin
B	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Children and Parents	Monica Charles
B	Brackeen v. Haaland Update	Erin Dougherty Lynch
C	Coming Home From Incarceration	Carma Corcoran
C	Ashlyne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018	Valerie Bribiescas, Tyesha Wood
C	Learning the Basics of the Indian Child Welfare Act	David Simmons
D	It's Matter of Justice: Understanding and Addressing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders	Maya Tester
D	Home is Where the Heart of ICWA is: Exploring Common Placement Issues in a California Dependency Case	Emily Harlan, Mica Llerandi, Evangelina Woo
E	Child Welfare and Criminal Legal Systems from a Child's Perspective: Supporting Child Victims and Witnesses	Kathryn Ford
E	Exercising Jurisdiction Over Tribal Child and Family Services	Darin Keewatin
F	Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Accreditation, but Were Afraid to Ask: Lessons from the Field	Jennifer Flowers
F	Collaborative Efforts: Best Practices in Child Welfare and ICWA Courts	Larissa Littlewolf, Bobbi Jo Potter, Sally Tarnowski

## Youth and Family Involvement

Session	Title	Presenter(s)
A	Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Native Children Through a Strengths-Focused, Culturally Grounded, Family-Based Program	Katie Edwards, Ramona Herrington, Leon Leader Charge
A	Indigenous Storytelling: Cultural Political Performance	Yvonne Peterson, Morgan Harper, Veronica Harris
B	A River of Culture	Gary Peterson, Phoenix Dorsey-Billy, Elk Schinsky
B	Participatory Approaches to Engaging Indigenous Youth in Culturally Centered Domestic Violence Education, Campaigns and Prevention	Morgan Love, Arianna Antone-Ramirez
B	Indian Boarding School Truth, Justice, and Healing	Christine Diindiisi McCleave
B	Safe Infant Sleep for American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Healthy Native Babies Project	Kendra King-Bowes
C	Chehalis Basketry as a Healing Art	Yvonne Peterson, Addy Norton, James Delacruz
C	Implementing Mentoring for an Innovative Partnership: Alaska Child Advocacy Studies	LaVerne Demientieff, Dana Klar
D	Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence Within Tribal Communities	Frank Canizales, Stephanie Beaver-Guzman, Angie Hyde
D	Creating Change Through Youth-Led Social Marketing	Jeanine Gaines
D	Breaking Through Silos: An Example From a Rural Reservation	Tracey McMahon, Melissa Huff
E	We R Native, Paths (Re)membered and Healthy Native Youth: Promoting Inclusivity in Adolescent Health and Wellbeing	Michelle Singer, Jane Manthei, Thomas Lee Ghost Dog, Jr.
E	The Incredible Power of Peer-Parent Mentorship and it's Potential for Tribal Child Welfare Courts	Heather Cantamessa, Shana King, Teresa Nord
E	Delivery of Positive Indian Parenting in a One-on-One Setting	Alexis Contreras, Terry Cross

F	Qaruyun: Medicine For the Heart, Mind, and Spirit	Ida Charlie, Lucy Mochin, Father Michael Nicolai
F	Find Your Light	Faith Turner