

Session Descriptions

Presentation and Panel Discussion: Historical Trauma and Indian Child Welfare – Tribal child welfare workers see the impact of historical trauma on Native communities every day. This presentation and panel discussion will explore personal experiences with historical trauma as well as approaches to addressing this important issue in child welfare work.

Talking Circle: Personal Reflection and Processing on Historical Trauma – The afternoon following the panel and individual presentations on historical trauma will be an opportunity for Summer Institute participants to reflect on the information and share their personal stories in a guided, healing environment. Larry Jourdain, Executive Director of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation, will facilitate the discussion.

Courtroom Case Skills for Tribal Child Welfare Workers – This session will assist tribal child welfare workers in the important process of preparing for, and participating in tribal and district child protection court. With proper information and training, workers will be better equipped to guide families through the sometimes confusing and often intimidating court process. This full-day training will review some introductory content from last year's three day session as well as provide new, more in-depth information on issues such as family drug court, and the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative.

Developmental Process for Title IV-E Services– Two Bands in Minnesota assumed control of child welfare services as a result of the state American Indian child welfare initiative. Presenters will discuss the process and challenges of taking on IV-E service provision with specific discussion on recruiting, training and retaining a workforce in a time of tremendous transition.

Models for Integration of Tribal Services –

With shrinking budgets and complex child welfare needs, human services agencies need to be prepared to offer a holistic, well-integrated approach to service provision. Models for effective communication between agencies and providers will be the focus of this presentation.

Indigenous Child Welfare Practice Models: Lakota Oyate Wakanyeja Owicakiyapi (LOWO) and Weechi-it-te-win Family Services – The core of these tribal programs is traditional tribal culture and values. Find out how these programs built service delivery models that are relevant to the tribal communities they serve. The morning session will include presentations by staff from the two agencies and the afternoon session will involve small group discussions facilitated by agency staff and focused on practice and administrative issues.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – In utero exposure to alcohol can have serious developmental consequences for children and creates significant challenges for families and their communities. FASD has emerged as a significant issue facing tribal communities and this training will help tribal child welfare workers learn about FASD, and how to respond to families affected by it.

Community Collaborations and Child Abuse Prevention

The community is the stronghold for future generations and a present refuge in which to practice our cultural ways. This presentation will focus on the community's role in child welfare and prevention. Participants will have the opportunity to preview a culturally based prevention design that provides for education and identification of protective factors already at work in the cultural context and strategies to enhance those protective factors.

Domestic Violence in American Indian communities –

Domestic violence impacts the lives of countless families involved in child protection. The presentation will explore community interventions for preventing and responding to domestic violence that draw on cultural strength and keep women and children safe.

Tribally-Centered Guardian ad Litem and Social Work Practice –

Guardians ad litem and social workers play an integral role in the child protection process and their ability to understand ICWA and provide effective representation and advocacy for their Tribe or Band is essential. This training will help participants better understand their role in the court process and will assist them in making decisions that account for the complex cultural needs of tribes and tribal children.

Leadership and Child Welfare -

This presentation will focus on effective leadership in American Indian child welfare. Terry Cross of NICWA will discuss identifying staff and community members with leadership potential, and skills and strategies necessary for effective leadership.

Title IV-E Update –

Tribal access to federal Title IV-E dollars has been legislated and programs have begun exploring the implications of this funding shift. Terry Cross, Executive Director of NICWA, will bring participants up to date on this process, discuss ways in which programs can build the capacity necessary to receive these funds and provide his perspective on this historic change.

Creating Healthy Work Environments – Working in an emotionally and spiritually healthy work environment is important for everyone, but especially for those involved in the difficult work of tribal child welfare practice. Terry Cross, Executive Director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, will discuss ways supervisors, managers, and staff can create and maintain an open and supportive workplace.

Evening Activities

Sweat Lodge – A teaching lodge will be available to workshop participants. Those interested should meet in the lobby at 5:30pm on Monday. All are welcome. Men should wear swimming trunks and women should wear a dress.