

Oregon Department of Human Services

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# LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES REPORT

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## 2020

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## Introduction

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This year, 2020 has been a tumultuous year filled with stories of stress and loss as well as gratitude and hope. The global pandemic devastated many countries across the world with Oregon feeling the brunt as well. In 2020 Oregon recorded its largest wildfire in history that destroyed homes, towns and lives. These large-scale events tested the response and resolve of state agencies including the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS).

In this year's Legislative Commission on Indian Services Report, pulled together by the ODHS Tribal Affairs Unit, speaks to these unprecedented times. With the partnership of ODHS programs, this report accounts the actions, challenges and learnings from this turbulent year. The Oregon Department of Human Services is now stronger and more the wise for experiencing all that was thrown at the agency. We hope you'll glean from our report how we may have failed at times, but met the expectations on fulfilling our government to government relationship. Enjoy reading!



# Leadership and Partners



The ODHS executive leadership team is responsible for communicating and implementing the agency's policies and programming that serve the goals of ODHS. Each leader is committed to engaging and partnering with Oregon's Tribal Nations to foster tribal sovereignty, understanding, and collaboration while promoting and improving government to government relations between ODHS and tribal nations.

Oregon Department of Human Services  
Director  
**Fariborz Pakseresht**

Child Welfare Director  
**Rebecca Jones Gaston**

Aging and People with Disabilities  
Director  
**Mike McCormick (Interim)**

Office of Developmental Disabilities  
Services Director  
**Lilia Teninty**

Office of Equity and Multicultural  
Services Director  
**Dion Jordan**

Self-Sufficiency Programs Director  
**Dan Haun**

Chief Administrative Officer  
**Don Erickson**

Tribal Affairs Director  
**Adam Becenti**

Vocational Rehabilitation Director  
**Keith Ozols**

## ODHS Vision

Safety, health and independence  
for all Oregonians

## ODHS Mission

To help Oregonians in their own  
communities achieve well-being  
and independence through  
opportunities that protect,  
empower, respect choice and  
preserve dignity.

## ODHS Values

Integrity, innovation, respect,  
service equity, responsibility,  
stewardship, professionalism

# ODHS Director's Message



When our Tribal Affairs Unit sought inspiration from Tribal basketry to organize its efforts into five baskets of work, the honored tradition also became the inspiration for our collaboration with Oregon Tribal Nations. We approach our tribal partnerships as though we are weaving a basket together, using the knowledge, skills and resources around us to form the vehicles that carry critical services to tribal members.

Although 2020 filled our basket with a series of crises, we learned our basket is strong enough to hold the burden. And, we were reminded that our basket is never too heavy to carry when we carry it together.

Through the pandemic, wildfires and racial justice movements, we worked together to meet the needs of tribal members. In some Tribal Nations, the Oregon Department of Human Services made supply drops. In others, we sent staff to connect members with our services.

At the same time, we did not lose sight of the long-term goals we established together. The 2020 Legislative Commission on Indian Services Report documents the good progress we made on those goals despite the crises of the past year. We were pleased to join Oregon Tribal Nations in celebrating the approval of the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act and are ready to work alongside Oregon's Tribes to address disproportionalities as the Act takes effect in 2021.

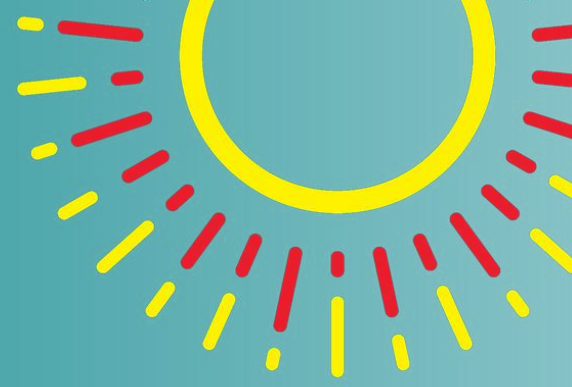
With each passing year, the basket we are creating together grows large and sturdy. We look forward to weaving together more of our efforts to improve the safety and well-being of Native American children, families and elders.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fariborz Pakseresht".

Fariborz Pakseresht  
Director, Oregon Department of Human Services





## Who We Are

The Tribal Affairs Unit within the ODHS Director's Office is a team committed to all tribal communities in Oregon including Oregon's Nine Tribal Nations thriving mentally, physically, spiritually and emotionally. Tribal Affairs partners with the five ODHS programs to create and provide tribally appropriate programming, services, policies and support. Through tribal consultation with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes, ODHS ensures programming, services and policies meet the needs of Oregon tribal children, families and elders.



### Tribal Affairs Vision

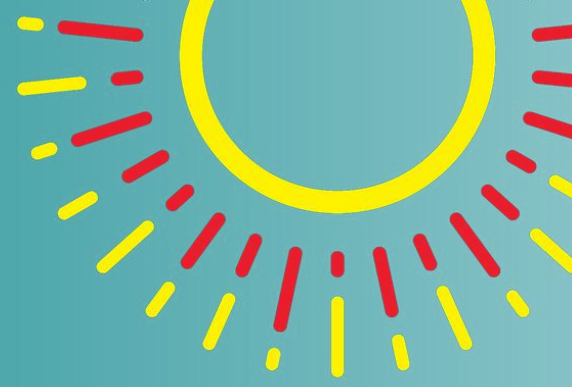
Raising the level of health and wellness of all Oregon tribal children, families and elders through elevating tribal voice, sovereignty and culture.

### Tribal Affairs Mission

- Collaborate and partner with tribal communities.
- Offer and develop tribally appropriate training, practice, and policy.
- Respect, build and maintain relationships that uphold tribal sovereignty
- Inform and provide awareness on how to support and prioritize tribal affairs.
- Mediate and resolve challenges through consultation and a strengths-based approach.

### Tribal Affairs Values

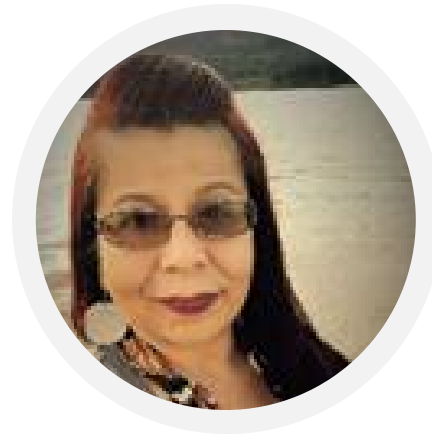
Relationships, accountability, tribally responsive practice, inclusion, transparency, trust, integrity, service oriented and community.



## Staff



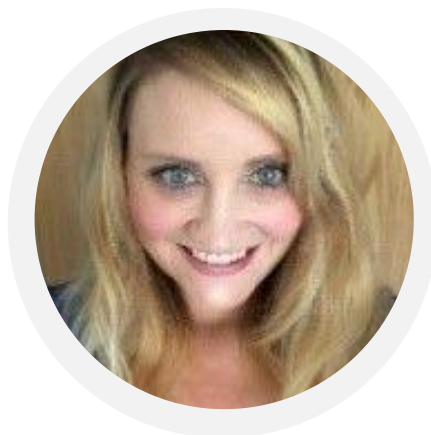
**Adam Becenti (Diné)**  
Tribal Affairs Director



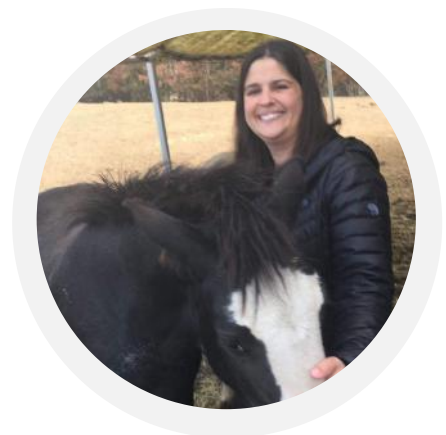
**Kristen Potts (Pitt River)**  
Executive Support



**Ashley Harding (Navajo/Diné)**  
Senior ICWA Manager

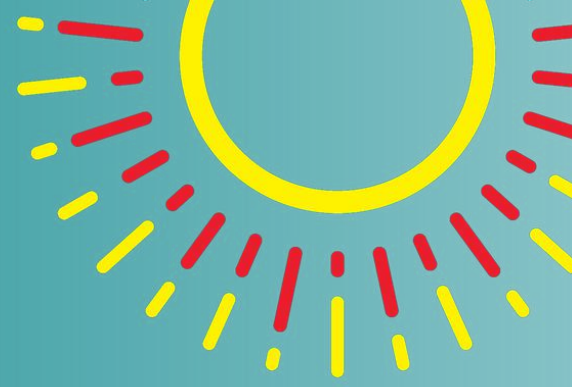


**Emily Hawkins**  
ICWA Consultant



**Christine Kamps (Muscogee Creek)**  
ICWA Consultant





## Staff



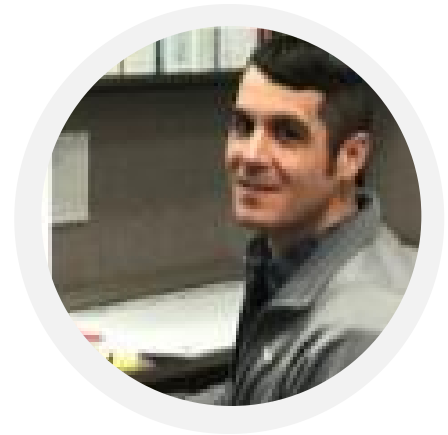
**Nicomi Levine (Grand Ronde)**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 2 (Multnomah  
County)



**Miranda Wagner**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 14 (Grant, Harney,  
and Malheur Counties)



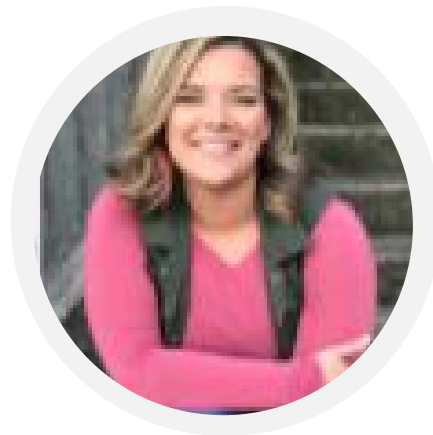
**Matt Mannion (Warm Springs)**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 10 (Crook,  
Deschutes, Jefferson  
Counties)



**Victoria "Tori" Mackey**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 5 (Lane County)

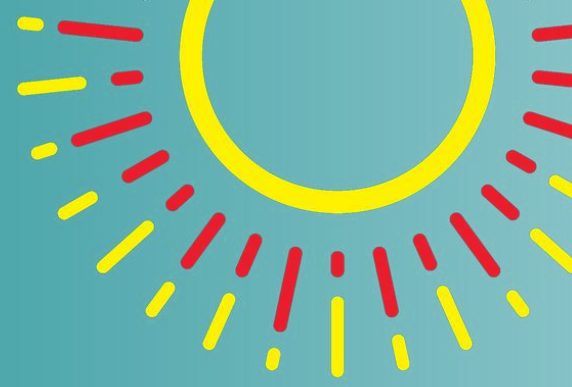


**Kayla Templeton**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 4 (Lincoln, Benton,  
and Linn Counties)





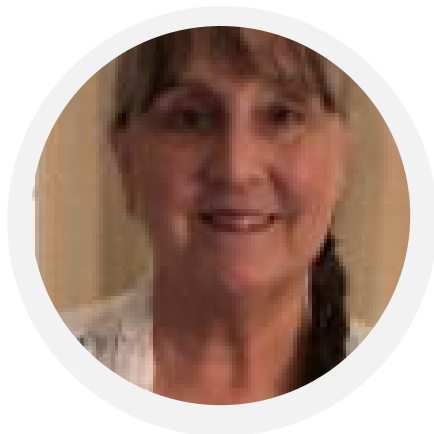


## Staff



**Marty Schroeder**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 11 (Klamath and  
Lake Counties)



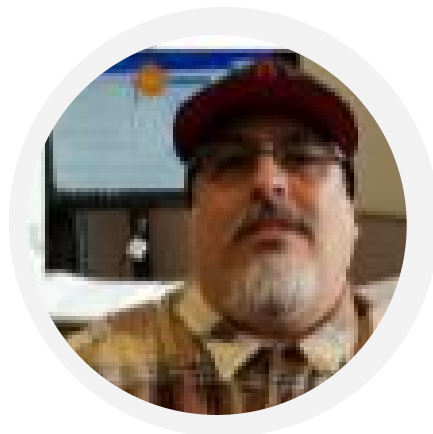
**Dorothy "Dottie" Rundles**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 3 (Marion, Polk, and  
Yamhill Counties)



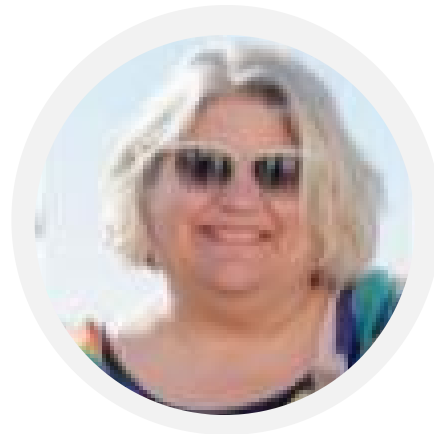
**Marie Allman (Nez Perce)**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 12 (Umatilla and  
Morrow Counties)



**Christopher Espinosa**

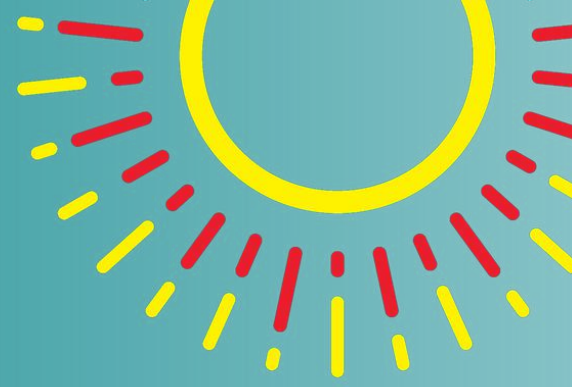
Active Efforts Specialist  
District 15/16 (Clackamas and  
Washington Counties)



**Melissa Katsikis**

Active Efforts Specialist  
District 6/8 (Douglas,  
Jackson, and Josephine  
Counties)





## Oregon Tribal Partners

### Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes

**Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation**

**Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians**

**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**

**Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**

**Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians**

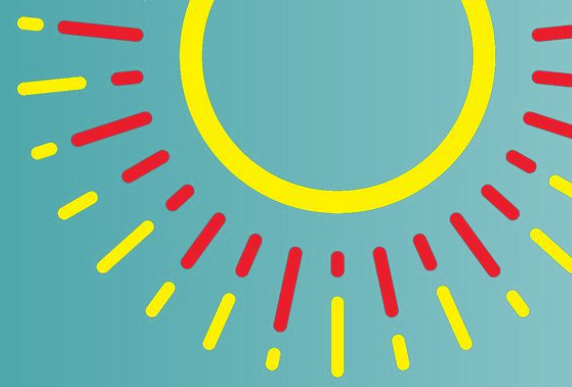
**Burns Paiute Tribe**

**Coquille Indian Tribe**

**Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians**

**The Klamath Tribes**





### 2020 Indian Child Welfare Act Advisory Council Members



**James St. Martin**, ICWA Case Worker, Burns Paiute Tribe

**George Lopez**, General Manager, Klamath Tribes

**Lisa Ruiz**, Children and Family Services Program Manager, Klamath Tribes

**Aryel Harrington**, Social Services Director, Klamath Tribes

**Michele Moore**, Social Services Director, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians

**Yvonne Livingstone**, Family Support Director, Coquille Tribes

**Roni Jackson**, Family Support Advocate, Coquille Tribes

**Shayne Platz**, Lead Case Manager/ICWA Specialist, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

**Dana Ainam**, Children and Family Services Program Director, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

**Kristi Petite**, Children and Family Services Program Manager, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

\*ICWA Advisory Council Co-Chair

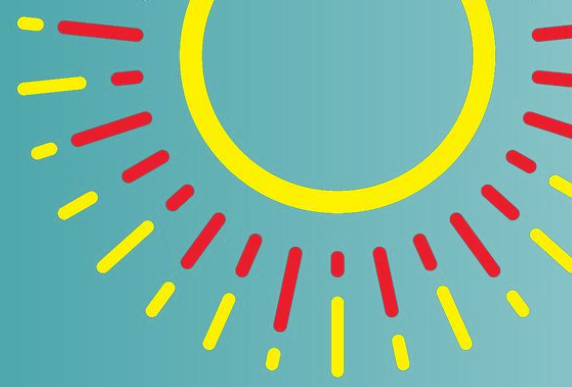
**Anita Bailor**, Programs Manager, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

**Cheryl Duprau**, ICW Program Administrator, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

**Cecelia Collins**, Director of Child Protective Services, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

**Julie Taylor**, Department of Children and Family Services Director, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation





## Baskets of Work

In 2019, Tribal Affairs introduced the Baskets of Work to the ODHS Agency. Baskets are symbolic in tribal culture where they carry the stories and traditions of the tribe along with having much utility. Within Tribal Affairs, baskets are utilized to help organize and structure projects and events. To the right, you will see basket themes and the description of the work associated. In the next section, the report will go into depth on the specific projects within each basket.



### **Tribal Consultations and Partnership**

Through intentional tribal consultation and early engagement with tribal nations, ODHS can work to create or redesign a system that best serves tribal children, families and elders.

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### **Program, Practice and Policy Development**

An effective service delivery system is comprised of many pieces that work together in concert to produce a healthy outcome. Ongoing development and evolution in these areas are pivotal to the success of ODHS.

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### **Training and Capacity Building**

Enhancing training and capacity building is essential in learning how to deliver effective services within a tribal context. With the appropriate skills and tools, ODHS can meet the needs of tribal children, families and elders.

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### **Resource Management**

Through managing and leveraging resources Tribal Affairs can support internal and external partnerships.

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### **Research and Data**

Research and data offers guidance on the course of action and informs decision making to improve the lives of tribal children families, and elders.



## Baskets of Work - Tribal Consultation and Partnership

### COVID-19 Impact

On March 16th, 2020 Tribal Affairs began working from home to keep staff safe in preparation of the coronavirus spread. Before the pandemic hit, Tribal Affairs had yet to establish emergency management procedures or protocols when it came to serving Oregon Tribal Partners. Once the pandemic spread to Oregon, Tribal Affairs began coordinating efforts with each ODHS program to ensure Oregon Tribal Partners were getting their needs met. Throughout this time of physical distancing and quarantine, Tribal Affairs has learned from this experience and is adapting to meet future emergency events.

### Pandemic Lessons:

- Working remotely and maintaining team cohesiveness through the virtual world.
- Without face-to-face meetings with Tribal Partners, Tribal Affairs began integrating many forms of online communication.
- Tribal Affairs realized the need to connect with the larger emergency response network outside of ODHS to better coordinate and plan to meet tribal needs.
- Emergency response protocols needed to be established for the Tribal Affairs Unit – detailing how Tribal Affairs coordinates internally and responds to external partners.



### Response to Pandemic:

- Tribal Affairs began communicating through telephone, text messages and the virtual platforms to maintain relationships.
- Tribal Affairs partnered with Child Welfare to ensure messaging and protocols were not in conflict with tribal ordinances/codes and if they were, staff would work on consensus or fully respecting tribal ordinance/code.
- Tribal Affairs communicated updates from each ODHS program to Oregon tribal partners such Self-Sufficiency Programs updates around benefits and how to apply during the pandemic.
- Setup a spreadsheet to track tribal needs and responses to tribes.
- Begin working with community partners and District 15 ODHS Branch to support aid for tribal people living along the Columbia River Gorge.
- Began attending COVID-19 update calls every Friday with Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Tribal leaders, and Governor Kate Brown



## Baskets of Work - Tribal Consultation and Partnership

### Wildfire Response:

In September 2020 every state agency including ODHS Tribal Affairs tracked the spread of the Oregon wildfires. Below details the actions and response from Tribal Affairs.



- For Tribes impacted, Tribal Affairs worked with each ODHS program to communicate updates on temporary housing and Self-Sufficiency Program supports.
- Tribal Affairs maintained consistent communication with Oregon Tribal Partners assessing ongoing needs.
- Tribal Affairs worked with Emergency Management and ODHS leadership to create a Tribal Emergency Coordinator Position that is currently in the hiring process. This full-time position reports to the ODHS Emergency Manager, Ed Flick, and will collaborate with the Tribal Affairs Unit to serve Oregon Tribal Partners in emergency planning and response.

### Oregon Tribal Partner Meetings

ODHS Tribal Affairs continues to maintain and respect Oregon's government to government relationship with Oregon Tribal Nations. There are two ongoing meetings that bring together ODHS leadership and Oregon Tribal representatives and leaders.



- The **ODHS Directors/Oregon Tribes Convening** brings together all five ODHS Directors and the Oregon Nine Tribes on a quarterly basis.. Majority of this year's meetings were tailored to discuss pandemic and Oregon wildfire response and needs. These meetings gave an opportunity for ODHS leadership to hear the experiences of Oregon Tribal Partners and create strategies to provide support.
- The **ICWA Advisory Council Meeting** brings together Oregon Tribal Child Welfare leadership and staff with ODHS Child Welfare leadership. This year the new Child Welfare Director, Rebecca Jones Gaston, joined these gatherings. This year Tribal Affairs worked diligently to whittle down the agendas to focus on particular areas of practice and better track progress. Since the last meeting in November, we ended the year with renewed focus and an anticipation for the 2021 schedule.



## Baskets of Work - Tribal Consultation and Partnership

### ICWA Quarterly Meetings

The Regional ICWA Quarterly meetings bring together Child Welfare staff and the Nine Tribes of Oregon. These meetings allow for ODHS staff, Oregon Tribes and partners to relationship build, connect and learn. It is also a space which offers opportunities to grow in partnership, service to tribal communities and learning about how to strengthen the commitment to ICWA practice. Historically these meetings have been in-person, however, with the pandemic, they were moved to a virtual platform. Although there were challenges of losing the in-person connection, there were many benefits shifting to virtual. The virtual space allowed workers from all areas of Oregon to come together to learn and grow. Guest speakers had more availability to participate and present during these sessions. The Western ICWA Quarterly and the Metro ICWA Quarterly were both held virtually in 2020 and reached over 220 attendees collectively. The topics focused on the spirit of ICWA, enhancing knowledge in working with Tribes and providing discussion regarding the Oregon ICWA (ORICWA) going into effect January 1, 2021.



### Supporting Government to Government Relationships

The Office of Equity and Multicultural Services (OEMS) and Tribal Affairs have begun aligning common missions and goals of achieving equity across the agency and for Oregon Tribal Partners. First, Tribal Affairs is partnering closely with each ODHS Program Service Equity Manager to ensure service delivery addresses Tribal needs and produces equitable outcomes. This collaboration has increased through joint team meetings, consultation and attending tribal specific convenings. By working together OEMS and Tribal Affairs can enhance the quality of life for tribal children, families and elders while also creating an equitable work environment.





## Baskets of Work - Tribal Consultation and Partnership



### Family First Prevention Service Act Tribal Engagement

In partnership with Child Welfare, Tribal Affairs setup meetings during the last six months to discuss how Oregon Tribes can be reflected in the Family First Prevention Plan. The purpose of the Family First Act is to avoid out of home placement and involvement in the foster care system. The Act stresses in home services that are culturally responsive. Understanding the statewide impact of Family First, Tribal Affairs has partnered with Child Welfare to ensure Oregon Tribes are well engaged in the process. Below actions Tribal Affairs has taken to ensure tribal involvement.

- Set up individual meetings with four of the nine Oregon Tribes to discuss and plan how to collaborate and partner in the rollout of Family First.
- Met with Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council to discuss the implications of Family First and collect their input on how they would like to proceed collaborating on the implementation of the Family First Plan.







## Baskets of Work - Program, Practice and Policy Development



### Passage of the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act

The State of Oregon made history in June 2020 when the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ORICWA) passed in the Oregon State Legislature. The passage of ORICWA, was the state's response to the national attack on the Indian Child Welfare Act and solidified Oregon's support for the needs of tribal children and families. Championed by Representative Tawna Sanchez, ORICWA passed unanimously further embedding the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act into Oregon State Law. This will strengthen Indian Child Welfare practice and provide additional guidance to the field. ORICWA will go into effect January 1, 2021. Tribal Affairs caught up with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on how they felt about the passing of ORICWA.

*“Together, we celebrate the important progress made. Our hope is that by clarifying and strengthening the requirements for handling cases involving Native children in ORICWA, Oregon will better comply with federal law and ultimately improve the outcomes of Native while ensuring continued ties to community and culture.” – Umatilla Tribe*

### Launch of Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act

The launch of ORICWA is an exciting opportunity for The Oregon Department of Human Services. Tribal Affairs is taking a multi-faceted approach to set up Child Welfare staff and supervisors for success as they will learn how to correctly apply the requirements of ORICWA. The launch of ORICWA will encompass a three-phased approach geared toward an overall systemic change in how services are delivered and how tribal families are engaged throughout Oregon. The focus is on creating content experts and resources to ensure field staff are applying ORICWA correctly. The first scheduled training is in December for caseworkers who are currently carrying active ICWA cases. Starting in January 2021, Tribal Affairs in partnership with Child Welfare will begin training the bulk of Child Welfare staff such as Child Protective Service workers and Permanency workers. By May, Tribal Affairs hopes to complete the ORICWA Implementation Plan that also includes communications and ongoing discussions on applying the new ORICWA State Law.





## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building



### Statewide ICWA Search Protocol

The search protocol involves the ICWA search inquiry process to ensure tribal membership eligibility searches are being conducted accurately and timely. After Tribal Affairs noted inconsistent practice across the state, Tribal Affairs began pulling a team together to revise the process. The goal of the Statewide ICWA Search Protocol is to streamline and standardize tribal membership/enrollment inquiries across the state; expedite and increase eligibility determinations from tribal partners; insure eligibility responses are accurately documented in the OR-Kids system; and improve relations with the Nine Tribes of Oregon and Federally Recognized Tribes across the United States.

The protocol will begin a six month pilot in three areas -District 3 (Marion), District 4 (Linn) and District 12 (Umatilla). A dashboard is being created that will track tribal responses and effectiveness of the protocol. If this protocol is successful then it will be rolled out to the rest of the state.



### Training of Foster Care Certifier Team

This year the Tribal Affairs Unit and the Foster Care Program partnered to provide virtual ICWA trainings designed specifically for Certifiers, Certification Supervisors and other staff working in Certification Units. This was the first time an ICWA training was offered to Certification. The training provided an in-depth explanation regarding expectations for Child Welfare Certifiers when working with Tribal families and ICWA cases. Tribal Affairs underscored why ICWA exists, how to correctly apply ICWA during Child Welfare Certification assessment processes and how to partner with tribes both in Oregon and outside of Oregon.

As a result, Certifiers developed an understanding on the purpose of ICWA; history behind ICWA; an overview of Federal Policies affecting Native American people/Tribes; Federal ICWA components and Oregon ICWA rule. This training opportunity helped establish a relationship between Tribal Affairs and Certifiers across Oregon as well as training needs for foster parents surrounding ICWA and revisions needs for Rules and Procedure.





## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building



### **Tribal Affairs Trainings for New Child Welfare Supervisors**

Training for new Child Welfare supervisors transitioned from in-person interactions to a virtual platform. This new platform caused challenges to how Tribal Affairs engages with new supervisors and also limits the overall training time allotted for supervision around ICWA cases. This past year Tribal Affairs worked with the Child Welfare training team to suggest alterations to the curriculum and add intentional work designed to ensure new supervisors were getting the foundational training they needed to ensure their workers were correctly applying ICWA. Tribal Affairs learned that more work is needed to better equip new supervisors with the knowledge and resources needed for the correct application of ORICWA.

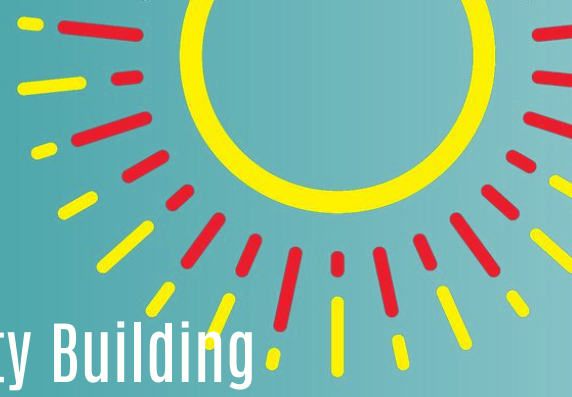


### **Trainings by Active Efforts Specialists**

The Tribal Affairs Unit fulfills its mission through convening meetings, facilitating trainings, offering technical assistance, and hosting specialty events. When COVID-19 landed in early 2020 this significantly impacted the workforce and the staff's ability to effectively provide meetings, trainings, and technical assistance to the Oregon DHS field and with tribal partners. However, the shift to virtual platforms allowed for a broader connection to Oregon DHS field staff and tribal partners who otherwise may not have been able to reach.

The following pages are an overview of the virtual trainings, technical assistance, and meetings provided by Active Efforts Specialists (AES).





## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

Active Efforts Specialists Trainings	Number of Trainings	Total Attendees Reached
<p>Nicomi Levine- District 2 (Multnomah County)</p> <p><b>Internal Oregon DHS Training(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1/9/2020- New Employee Training (D2 Academy)- ICWA 101, History and Policy, 1270</li> <li>▪ 3/5/2020- New Employee Training (D2 Academy)- ICWA 101, History and Policy, 1270</li> <li>▪ 8/16/2020- New Employee Training (D2 Academy)- ICWA 101, History and Policy, 1270</li> <li>▪ 9/2/2020 - New Employee Training (D2 Academy)- ICWA 101, History and Policy, 1270</li> </ul> <p><b>Metro ICWA Quarterly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 01/23/2020- District 2 and Tribal Affairs Unit updates, ICWA foster father panel and ICWA/Protective Action Plans</li> <li>▪ 11/20/2020- District 2 and Tribal Affairs Unit updates, Alaska villages/tribes and ORICWA</li> </ul> <p><b>2020 Oregon DHS Tribal/State Virtual ICWA Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10/21/2020- Basics of ICWA workshop</li> </ul> <p><b>2020 Oregon DHS Virtual Native American Heritage Month Celebration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 11/20/2020- NAHM Celebration was Oregon DHS statewide and held in partnership with Tribes and community partners. The topics focused around healing and resiliency and celebrating Native culture. This was planned by D2 staff and partners.</li> </ul> <p><b>External Trainings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Model Court Summit</li> <li>▪ 8/4/2020- Majority of attendees were LAS staff throughout Oregon. D2 Active Efforts Specialists was a panel member sharing how to keep children connected to their Tribe and culture.</li> </ul> <p><b>Morrison Child and Family Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9/23/2020- Parent Mentors. Intro to ICWA- History, Active Efforts and engagement with families- working with caseworkers on ICWA cases.</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>30</p> <p>30</p> <p>30</p> <p>30</p> <p>50+</p> <p>68</p> <p>38</p> <p>190</p> <p>450</p> <p>40</p>



## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

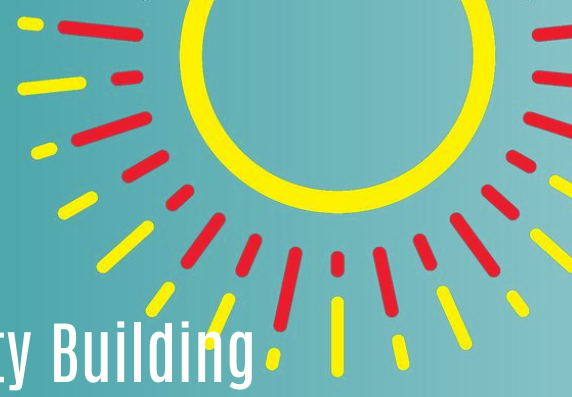
<b>Dorothy "Dottie" Rundles- District 3 (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties)</b>		
<i>Note: COVID 19 has made the large in person trainings impossible so more one-on-one individual trainings/tutorials were used as needed.</i>		
<b>Western Quarterly</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3/5/2020- Grand Ronde Training on Permanency (only training done in-person in 2020)</li> </ul>	1	75
	1	80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9/3/2020 Virtual on Culture</li> </ul>	1	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ICWA 101 for the Equity &amp; Inclusion Committee</li> </ul>		
<b>Oregon Tribes/ODHS ICWA conference</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural presentation</li> </ul>	1	80
<b>ICWA Specific Trainings/Meetings</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CPS worker Training for Polk Co. on ICWA</li> </ul>	1	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All Staff Meetings- ICWA mini briefings                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly meetings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	9	70
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Service Specialist Training                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cultural considerations for visits and family engagement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	9	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assisted with Tribal Parenting classes                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ offered by CTCLUSI &amp; Siletz. (2 X a day, weekly for 6wks)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	12	25
<b>Other</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training Emails to all Staff ("alternative training")                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cultural info</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	96	330
	72	
	8	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing in individual caseworker "training" related to ICWA Search, Active Efforts, Contact with Tribes, etc.</li> </ul>	16	20



## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

<p><b>Kayla Templeton- District 4 (Lincoln, Benton, and Linn Counties)</b></p> <p><b>Western Quarterly</b> 3/5/2020- Grand Ronde Training on CPS (only training done in-person in 2020)</p> <p><b>State ICWA Conference</b> 10/21/2020- ICWA Basics Virtual Training</p> <p><b>ICWA Specific Trainings/Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New worker Training for Linn County on ICWA</li> <li>▪ Perm worker Training for Linn County on ICWA/Active Efforts</li> <li>▪ All Staff Meetings- ICWA mini briefings             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly meetings</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Service Specialist Training             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cultural considerations for visits and family engagement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training Emails to all Staff ("alternative training")</li> <li>▪ Cultural info</li> <li>▪ Sovereignty</li> <li>▪ Caseworker development</li> <li>▪ Ongoing in individual caseworker "training" related to ICWA Search, Active Efforts, Contact with Tribes, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>6</p> <p>24</p> <p>50</p> <p>100</p>	<p>50</p> <p>70</p> <p>12</p> <p>20</p> <p>70+</p> <p>10+</p> <p>175</p> <p>40+</p>
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## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

<p><b>Marie Allman- District 12 (Umatilla and Morrow Counties)</b></p> <p><b>ICWA Trainings for new ODHS Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New staff training on ICWA (1270's) and discussed the importance of contacts with the Tribes.</li> <li>▪ Individual case <del>staffings</del> <sup>staffings</sup>- Staff were involved through working a case and needing answers and supports during case involvements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Eastern Oregon ICWA Quarterly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summer 2017- The Eastern ICWA Quarterly focused on historical trauma and the reasons for ICWA, Active Efforts and what that means to Child Welfare work, and the CTUIR had a round table discussion of what active efforts mean to them.</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <p>12</p> <p>1</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12</p> <p>9</p>
<p><b>Matt Mannion- District 10 (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson Counties)</b></p> <p><i>Note: The in-person trainings planned this year had to be canceled, including the Quarterly for District 10.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information was sent out via email regarding updates, policy changes, etc. and presented during virtual district-wide meetings twice.</li> <li>▪ Sent out 15 "training" emails</li> <li>▪ Presentation on ICWA support on cases and policy</li> </ul> <p>2020 Oregon DHS Virtual Tribal/State ICWA Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ORICWA Focus Group- Permanency Session</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <p>15</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>130</p> <p>58</p>





## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

<p><b>Melissa Katsikis- District 6/8 (Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties)</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>New worker ICWA Intro. Training</b></li> </ul>	3	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Notification V. Legal Notice Trainings</b> (5/22/20, 6/30/20)</li> </ul>	3	37
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>2020 Oregon DHS Tribal/State Virtual ICWA Conference</b> 10/21/2020- Basics of ICWA workshop</li> </ul>	1	38
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>1:1 Mentoring/Training through Specific Case staffings</b> (by County) <b>Jackson (104), Josephine (71), Douglas (78)-Aug</b></li> </ul>	253	290
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Planning meetings with PM's</b> Jackson (2/6; 3/21; 4/6; 4/20; 5/4; 5/27; 6/9; 6/18; 7/6;) Douglas (3/30; 5/20; 6/12; 6/23; 8/4; 9/18;)</li> </ul>	1	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Meetings with Department of Justice</b> (re: ICWA petitions &amp; hearings)</li> </ul>	13	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participated in ICWA Hearings</li> </ul>	21 times	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Cow Creek/ODHS Child Welfare Staffings</b> (1/23; 3/26; 5/14; 7/22; 8/27;)</li> </ul>	5 meetings	
<p><b>Southern Region ICWA Quarterly</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This was scheduled for 3/11/2020 but cancelled per the Klamath Tribes request (COVID). Another quarterly has not been scheduled as Klamath has voiced preference that the quarterly be in person to foster State/Tribal relationships.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Other ICWA Work by AE:</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tribal Contacts (Blackfeet Tribe; Bois Forte Band; Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma; Choctaw Nation; Confederated Tribes Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw; Coquille Tribe; Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua; Grand Ronde; Keweenaw Bay Community; Karuk; Klamath Tribes; Pedro Bay Village; Pitt River; Puyallup Tribe; Round Valley Tribe; Salish &amp; Kootenai; Siletz; Tlingit &amp; Haida; Tolowa Dee-Ni; Yakama; Yurok)</li> </ul>	20 Tribes (Sept)	105 individual conversations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Family/Team Meetings- educations &amp; recommendations on ICWA</li> </ul>	20	Appx. 100 people



# Tribal Affairs

## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

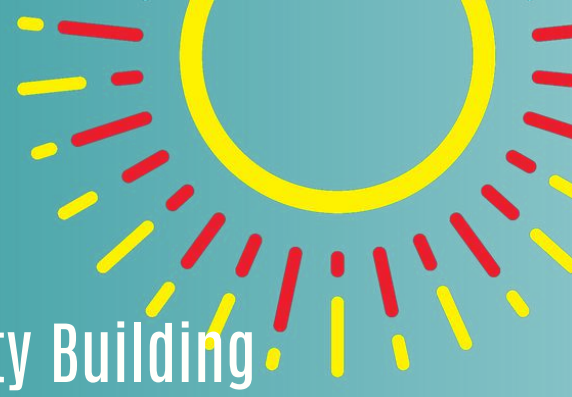
<b>Victoria "Tori" Mackey- District 5 (Lane County)</b> <i>Note: COVID-19 has made the large in-person trainings <u>impossible</u> so more one-on-one individual trainings/tutorials were used as needed.</i>		
<b>2020 Oregon DHS Tribal/State Virtual ICWA Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/21/2020- Basics of ICWA workshop</li> </ul>	1	38
<b>Western Quarterly</b> 3/5/2020 – Grand Ronde Training on Permanency (only training done in-person in 2020) 9/3/2020 – Virtual on Culture	1  1	
<b>ICWA Specific Trainings/Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5/17/2020 - D5 Unit Meeting to discuss 1270s and designated ICWA agent</li> <li>5/18/2020 - D5 Unit Meeting to discuss 1270s and designated ICWA agent</li> <li>4/16/2020 – D5 ICWA Meeting – Updates on ICWA</li> <li>6/25/2020 – D5 ICWA Meeting – Updates on ICWA</li> <li>7/16/2020 – D5 Academy Unit Meeting to discuss 1270s and designated ICWA agent</li> <li>7/18/2020 - D5 Unit Meeting to discuss 1270s and designated ICWA agent</li> <li>08/20/2020 – D5 ICWA Meeting – ICWA Updates</li> </ul>	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	7 6 30 30 12 5 20
<b>Other</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5/26/2020 – Present information from NICWA session to ICWA Unit</li> <li>5/27/2020 – Present information from NICWA session to ICWA Unit</li> <li>5/28/2020 – Present information from NICWA session to ICWA Unit</li> <li>5/29/2020 – Present information from NICWA session to ICWA Unit</li> <li>5/29/2020 – Assist with ICWA Academy Zoom</li> <li>Assist with Co-Sponsored Tribal Parenting Class with CTCLUSI and CTSI (2x a day for 6 weeks)</li> <li>Ongoing one-on-one trainings with caseworkers on an as needed basis</li> <li>Monthly case staffing with workers and their supervisor regarding ICWA cases</li> <li>Attending ICWA pre-petition <del>staffings</del></li> <li>Meetings with out of state partners to understand ICWA Courts</li> <li>Review case notes monthly for all permanency ICWA cases to add feedback on active efforts and tribal contacts</li> <li>Attend all Prep Meetings, Agreement Meetings and Family Engagement Meetings for ICWA Cases (around 5 new cases)</li> </ul>	1 1 1 1 1       ~10 2  ~5 months	4 4 4 4 20 Varied each week (~15)  5 3-5



## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

<p><b>Miranda Wagner- District 14 (Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties)</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New worker ICWA training</li> </ul>	1	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One-on-one Protective Action Plan Training</li> </ul>	1	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One-on-one (small group) 1270 updates to new workers.</li> </ul>	1	--
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical Assistance- The local Harney County branch assisted the Burns Paiute Tribe with covering their Social Service Department through and Tribal State Agreement as they attempted to recruit a new social service director. This has meant facilitating meetings to help the implementation of ODHS CW policy through multiple meetings with interim Social Service Director, BIA law enforcement as well as workers and on call supervisors.</li> </ul>	--	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICWA Quarterlies</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Co-facilitated the Eastern ICWA Quarterly with Marie Allman, District 12 Active Efforts Specialist. The topics included the new 1270 coming out, historical trauma and touched base with CTUIR in regard to active efforts.</li> </ul>	1	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One additional quarterly was held in the spring of 2018. We invited Burns Paiute Archeologist to discuss Burns Paiute Tribe Reservation history, other local lands the Tribe has deeded for local use, and historical practices not currently be observed by DHS and or younger tribal generations.</li> </ul>	1	12





## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

<p><b>Marty Schroeder- District 11 (Klamath and Lake Counties)</b></p> <p><i>Note: No in-person training provided since December 2019 due to COVID Pandemic.</i></p> <p><b>Southern Region ICWA Quarterly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This was scheduled for 3/11/2020 but canceled per the Klamath Tribes request. Another quarterly has not been scheduled as Klamath has voiced preference that the quarterly be in person to foster State/Tribal relationships.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10/21/2020 – ICWA Conference (Virtual) Panel: What are Active Efforts.</li> <li>▪ 8 monthly presentations at D11’s mandatory district all staffs (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month) regarding current ICWA matters and/or areas of improvement (i.e. 1270s, PA’s, Q&amp;A etc.)</li> <li>▪ Data collection and on the spot training to workers regarding cases/areas needing improvement</li> <li>▪ Guardianship Tracking and on the spot training to workers regarding cases/areas needing improvement</li> <li>▪ Attend Permanency and PS <del>staffings</del> and present on current ICWA matters and/or training</li> <li>▪ CFSR for ICWA x3 May, September &amp; October</li> <li>▪ Participate telephonically in the training and case mapping sub-committees</li> <li>▪ <u>60 day</u> state-wide Klamath Tribes staffing (with the exclusion of Multnomah as they facilitate their own staffing).</li> </ul>	<p>--</p> <p>1</p> <p>8</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>3</p> <p>--</p>	<p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>110</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>110</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p>
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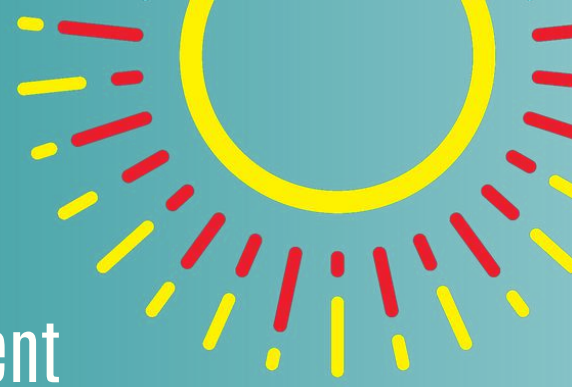




## Baskets of Work - Training And Capacity Building

<p><b>Christopher Espinosa- District 15/16 (Clackamas and Washington Counties)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training: SSAs and ICWA training</li> <li>▪ Consultants meeting (historical trauma)</li> <li>▪ New worker training X2 (Why ICWA)</li> <li>▪ CPS ICWA training X2 (requirements and practice for CPS workers)</li> <li>▪ Model court summit (Active Efforts, Parent Engagement &amp; Placement Considerations)</li> <li>▪ Clackamas Dependency meeting (Active Efforts and impact on data)</li> <li>▪ Oregon ICWA conference- The Importance of Understanding One's Culture (support)- Presenters Robert Kennta and Jesse Beers</li> </ul> <p>Metro ICWA Quarterly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CPS and ICWA- Protective Action Plans, Safety Plans and Cooperative plans, ICWA Father's panel, updates</li> <li>▪ Alaska Villages/Tribes, ORICWA discussion, updates</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>--</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>15</p> <p>30</p> <p>20</p> <p>30</p> <p>65</p> <p>50</p> <p>--</p> <p>--</p> <p>50+</p> <p>68</p>
<p><b>TOTAL</b></p>	<p><b>842*</b></p> <p><i>*Approximate number of trainings, meetings technical assistance provided</i></p>	<p><b>3738*</b></p> <p><i>*Approximate number of attendees reached</i></p>





## Baskets of Work - Resource Management



### **Hiring of Senior ICWA Manager**

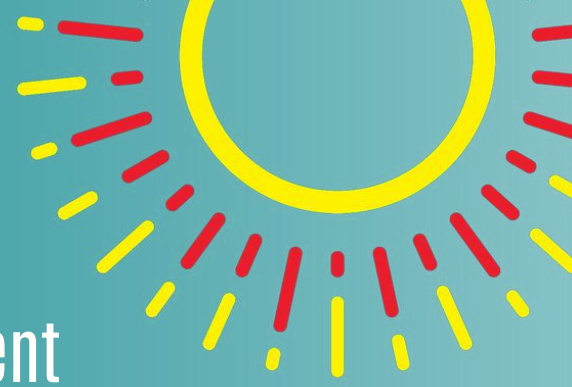
In August 2020 ODHS Tribal Affairs hired Ashley Harding (Navajo/Dine) as Senior ICWA Manager. The Senior ICWA Manager supervises 11 Active Efforts Specialists who are located across the state. The Senior ICWA Manager along with the Active Efforts Specialists work to address child welfare disproportionality among tribal families by strengthening partnerships with ODHS branch offices and ICWA practice.



### **Expansion of Tribal Affairs Team – Transition of Active Efforts Specialists to Tribal Affairs**

This year Tribal Affairs accomplished something that has not been done before at ODHS – expanded the unit to 15 people. In August 2020, the hiring of the Senior Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Manager started the process of expanding Tribal Affairs. In September 2020, Tribal Affairs began working with Child Welfare to transition all 11 Active Efforts Specialists (AES), who are positioned across the State of Oregon, to Tribal Affairs. This transition will keep the Active Efforts Specialists in their branch offices but report to the Senior ICWA Manager in Tribal Affairs. The anticipation is to complete the full transition process in early 2021. With this move, Tribal Affairs has increased capacity and reach in standardizing/strengthening ICWA practice; strengthening partnership/collaboration with Oregon Tribes, ODHS, and stakeholders; addressing disproportionality; and working towards systems change.





## Baskets of Work - Resource Management

### 2020 Virtual Tribal/State ICWA Conference

This year Tribal Affairs hosted its first ever Virtual Tribal/State ICWA Conference. The virtual conference's theme was "ICWA is a first thought not an afterthought." The conference was designed to support Child Welfare staff strengthen their understanding of Oregon Tribal history and how to ensure ICWA is the priority throughout serving Tribal children and families. The virtual platform had its challenges however, it allowed for no capacity restraints on the number of attendees. It further offered the capability to record the sessions for Child Welfare staff and external partners to access once the conference ended. The virtual conference allowed for well-known and national speakers to re-energize Child Welfare staff in how we engage and serve Tribal families. The conference also served as an initial launching for Child Welfare to learn why ORICWA was much needed for Oregon, the process of how ORICWA was developed and an initial high-level overview of the changes to come in 2021. This virtual opportunity opened the door for more Child Welfare staff to have access to expanding their knowledge on ICWA, Tribal partnerships and Oregon Tribes.



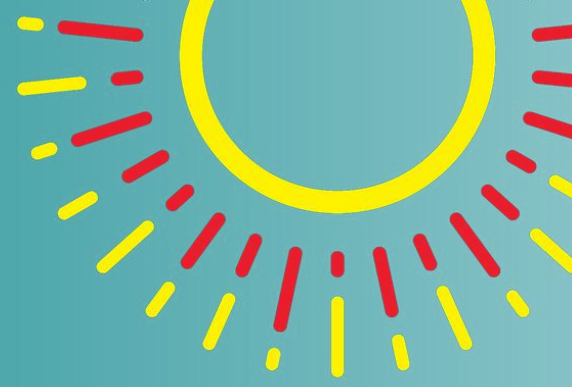
### Employee Resource Group - Office of Equity and Multicultural Services

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) are defined as "an officially chartered group organized around shared cultural identity (IES) to support historically underrepresented ODHS employees and/or undeserved client populations. The resource groups are voluntary, employee driven committees that support each other as well as the Oregon Department of Human Services' overall mission and vision.



We Are Here Oregon's Native Employees (WAHONE) is the Native ERG established in 2019. In response to COVID-19, WAHONE worked with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to identify specific needs and worked with ODHS programs to acquire donations which were then delivered to tribal communities. WAHONE also is working with Columbia River Tribes and the Celilo Indian Village to acquire donations and support their tribal communities.





## Baskets of Work - Research and Data

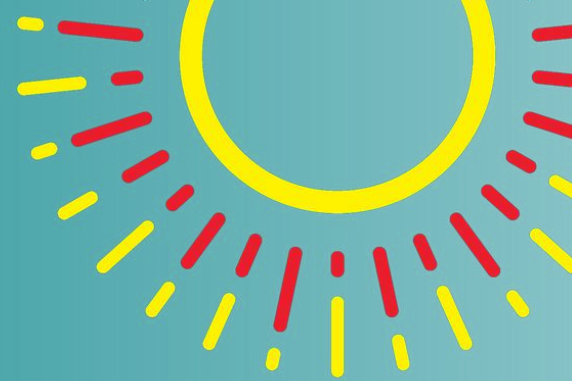


### Foster Care and Recruitment

The Tribal Affairs Unit and ODHS Child Welfare recognize culturally specific and familial placements are needed for tribal children involved in ODHS Child Welfare program. Initiatives are being explored and implemented to maintain and increase familial and culturally specific homes. Tribal Affairs is partnering with Multnomah County ICWA Recruitment and Retention group and the KEEP program on these initiatives. The current Multnomah County team is comprised of Permanency Workers, Supervisors, Foster Parent Trainers, Program Consultants and local Retention and Recruitment Champions. The KEEP program is an evidence-based support and skill-enhancement program for foster parents and relative caregivers. The program recently began partnering with Native American Youth and Family Association (NAYA) to provide culturally specific training to foster parents providing care to Native American, Alaskan Native and Tribal youth. Tribal Affairs looks forward to more developments in tracking Native homes for foster children and increasing the number of Native homes for tribal foster children.



## Baskets of Work - Research and Data



Tribal Affairs continues to partner with the Office of Research, Reporting, Analytics and Implementation on providing tribal partners with information that is clear and consumable. Below is how Tribal Affairs has reported Child Welfare data to Oregon Tribal Partners. Moving into 2021, Tribal Affairs will continue to enrich how data is displayed and consumed.

**A Glance at ICWA Eligible Children Served in Foster Care**

Description	Qtr End Dec 2019	Qtr End Mar 2020	Qtr End Jun 2020	Qtr End Sep 2020	Desired Direction of Change	Change Between First Qtr and Last Qtr
<b>Total Number of Children in Foster Care (as of the Last day of the Quarter)</b>	6,980	6,784	6,585	6,355	↓	IMPROVED ↓
Number of ICWA Eligible Children in Foster Care	353	337	331	310	↓	IMPROVED ↓
Percent of Total	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%	4.9%		
<b>Total Number of Children Served in Foster Care (Spent at least 1 day in Foster Care)</b>	7,921	7,701	7,422	7,206	↓	IMPROVED ↓
Total Number of ICWA Eligible Children Served in Foster Care	396	380	370	367	↓	IMPROVED ↓
Percent of Total	5.0%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%		
<b>Median Length of Stay for All Children in Foster Care in Months</b>	17.0	16.8	17.3	17.9	↓	NOT IMPROVED ↑
Median Length of Stay For ICWA Eligible Children In Foster Care in Months	19.9	20.2	21.2	23.1	↓	NOT IMPROVED ↑
Foster Care Entries for ICWA Eligible Children (Total in Quarter)	21	26	32	27	↓	NOT IMPROVED ↑
Foster Care Exits for ICWA Eligible Children (Total in Quarter)	38	41	35	54	↑	IMPROVED ↑
Median Length of Stay at Exit for ICWA Eligible Children that Discharged to Reunification	17.5	18.1	12.8	11.4	↓	IMPROVED ↓
Number of ICWA Eligible Children with Successful Trial Home Visit (Discharged after THV)	16	23	15	26	↑	IMPROVED ↑
CPS Reports Received on ICWA Eligible Children (Total in Quarter)	709	792	619	692	↓	IMPROVED ↓
ICWA Eligible Children in DHS Placements on last day of Quarter Associated with Oregon Tribes	120	121	129	110	↓	IMPROVED ↓
Disproportionality Index for Children in Foster Care who self-identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native (primary race) on Last Day of quarter	3.0	4.7	3.1	3.1	↓	NOT IMPROVED ↑

Grey = Statewide, Blue = ICWA Eligible for comparison to Statewide

Source: ROM and Administrative Data, pulled 11/9/2020



# Aging and People with Disabilities

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) program assists older adults and people with disabilities of all ages to achieve well-being through opportunities for community living, employment, family support and services that promote independence, choice and dignity. The APD program and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) employees throughout Oregon are responsible for providing direct client services through a network of local offices and the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). Employees also determine eligibility for medical programs (aged & disability) provided through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and income security programs. Programs administered include:

- Older Americans Act
- Oregon Project Independence
- Direct financial support (Medicare Premium and co-payment assistance, Oregon Health Plan, General Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs)
- Disability Determination Services
- Long-term services and supports, including oversight of in-home services, community-based facilities, nursing facilities and referral agents
- Aging and Disability Resource Connection

## Older Americans Act

This is a federal program administered through APD. It provides federal funding for locally developed support programs for individuals ages 60 and older. Aging and People with Disabilities distributes funds to local Area Agencies on: Aging (AAAs) for service delivery directly or through subcontractors. About 227,000 Oregonians currently access these services. AAAs develop services that meet the needs and preferences unique to individuals in their local area. Federal law mandates require services target those with the most significant economic and social need, to minorities and those residing in rural areas. There are no income or asset requirements to receive services except those related to the Older Worker Employment Program.



# Aging and People with Disabilities

The APD program distributes federal funds to the AAAs using a federally approved intra-state funding formula based on the demographics and square mileage of each area. The AAAs can prioritize the services that they provide based on a local needs assessment and an area plan. Programs might include: family caregiver supports, medication management, nutrition through congregate and home-delivered meal programs, senior employment, legal services or elder abuse prevention services. They may also provide aid to senior centers and sponsor and promote evidence-based wellness and chronic health condition management activities.

**Key Contact for Older Americans Act: Ann McQueen 503-930-7293**

## Oregon Project Independence

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is a purely state-funded program offering in-home services and related supports to individuals 60 years of age and older or people under 60 years of age who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia disorder. The OPI consumers must not be eligible for Medicaid and must meet the requirements of the long-term care Service Priority Rule. There is also a small pilot that allows OPI funds to be used for young people with disabilities. In-home services available through OPI for both populations include personal care, homemaker and chore assistance, transportation, adult day care, respite care, case management, registered nursing services and home-delivered meals. Case management is provided for free, while other services are provided on a sliding scale and are free to families below the federal poverty level. Services are provided through local AAAs.

**Key Contact for OPI: Ann McQueen 503-930-7293**



# Aging and People with Disabilities

## Aging and Disability Resource Connection

The ADRC is the first contact to make to find information and services to address aging or disability needs. The Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon helps individuals learn about public and privately paid services in your local community. The ADRC has professionally trained staff who can help individuals with immediate needs and planning for the future.

The ADRC of Oregon is a statewide resource for everyone, regardless of income level, and can be reached by calling a toll free number, visiting a website or by contacting a local ADRC office.

[www.ADRCofofOregon.org](http://www.ADRCofofOregon.org) 1-855-673-2372 1-855-ORE-ADRC



**Key Contact for ADRC: Ann McQueen 503-930-7293**

## Direct Financial Support

Programs are designed to meet a variety of special circumstances for certain low-income populations.

### Cash payments – special needs

The APD program is required to meet maintenance of effort (MOE) payments for low-income aged and disabled Oregonians who receive federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. These payments allow clients to retain independence and mobility in a safe environment. Examples of Special Needs Payments include; help for non-medical transportation, repairs of broken appliances such as a furnace, or for such things as adapting a home's stairs into a ramp.

### Employed Persons with Disabilities Program (EPD)

This program allows people with a disability to work to their full extent and not lose Medicaid coverage. To be eligible, a person must be deemed disabled by Social Security Administration (SSA) criteria, be employed and have adjusted income of less than 250% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Eligible individuals pay a monthly participation fee and are eligible for the full range of Medicaid benefits and services.



# Aging and People with Disabilities

## Other benefits

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires ODHS to coordinate with Medicare in many areas and clients need help accessing other programs for which they are eligible. Aging and People with Disabilities program determines client eligibility and submits client data to CMS for two Medicare-related programs: Medicare buy-in and Medicare Part D low-income subsidy. The APD program served more than 130,000 clients in these two programs over one year. These programs help low-income beneficiaries with their cost sharing requirements. Securing this coverage also ensures Medicare remains in a “first payor” status, ultimately saving the State’s Medicaid program significant money.

**Key Contact for Direct Financial Support: Erika Miller at 503-373-0756**

## General Assistance

The General Assistance (GA) program serves Oregonians with severe disabilities who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, who do not have children living with them, and who are not yet receiving Social Security disability benefits. GA consumers are provided with free assistance with their Social Security applications and appeals, along with a small amount of cash and some support for housing and utilities.

This current version of the GA program started on July 1, 2016. The manager worked with the ODHS Tribal Affairs Director to present information on GA to the Tribes prior to the launch of the program.

**Key contact for General Assistance: Christopher Ellis at 503-373-2305**

## Disability Determination Services

People with disabilities may qualify for one of two federal disability programs: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These programs are governed by the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) but the medical decision is provided by the Oregon Department of Human Services as outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). While these two programs are different in many ways,

# Aging and People with Disabilities

both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria may qualify for benefits under either program.

Social Security Disability Insurance pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. Supplemental Security Income pays benefits based on financial need.

**Key Contact for Disability Determination Services: Jay Minten 503-986-4803**

## Long Term Services and Supports

Oregon assists qualified low-income older adults, people with disabilities and other adults covered under traditional Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act expansion with long-term services and supports. Individuals must meet specific eligibility criteria around limitations in specific Activities of Daily Living. (ADLs). Assistance is provided to eligible individuals with their ADLs and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs).

Activities of Daily Living are those personal functional activities required by all of us for continued well-being, which are essential for health and safety. Activities include tasks such as:

- Bathing
- Cleaning your body
- Decision-making
- Emotional and mental health
- Dressing
- Caring for your body
- Eating
- Using the toilet
- Moving from place to place
- Getting out of a chair or bed
- 
- IADLs include tasks such as:
- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Meal Preparation
- Taking your medication at the right time and in the correct amount
- Shopping
- Transportation

# Aging and People with Disabilities

## **In-Home Services**

In-home services are the cornerstone of Oregon's long term services and supports system. For seniors and people with physical disabilities, the ability to live in their own homes is compromised by the need for support in regular daily living activities. For more than 40 years, Oregon has created options to meet people's needs in their own homes. Services include in-home support through individual Home Care Workers, in-home agencies, emergency response systems, home modifications and home delivered meal providers.

## **Community-Based Care**

These include a variety of licensed 24-hour care settings and services to provide an alternative to nursing facilities. Services include assistance with activities of daily living, medication oversight and social activities. Services can include nursing and behavioral supports to meet complex needs. State and federal guidelines related to health and safety of these facilities have to be met. Facilities are licensed and overseen by APD. Community based care providers (CBC) include adult foster homes, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities and memory care facilities.

## **Nursing Facilities**

Institutional services for seniors and people with physical disabilities are provided in nursing facilities licensed and regulated by APD. Nursing facilities provide individuals with skilled nursing services, housing, related services and ongoing assistance with activities of daily living.

**Key Contact for Long Term Services and Supports: Jane-ellen Weidanz 503 945-5977**

## **Formal Agreements**

Since 2016 the APD program has invested staff and financial resources into developing government to government relationships with Oregon's nine federally-recognized tribes and the Urban Indian Health Center in Portland. We can see the steady increase of those who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native access and enroll in APD Medicaid services.

# Aging and People with Disabilities

There was a decline in Older Americans Act services which may be a result of COVID-19. Meal sites were closed and in-person events were canceled. It was in many of these places that demographic data was collected. These numbers are solely that of the Area Agencies on Aging. During COVID-19 many Tribal governments provided direct services to members.

<b>American Indian/Alaskan Natives Served Through Older Americans Act Services</b>	
2016	212
2017	217
2018	229
2019	456
<b>2020</b>	<b>391</b>

<b>APD Consumers served through Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports</b>			
<b>Total of all APD Consumers Receiving Long Term Services</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic Native American/ Alaska Native receiving LTSS</b>	<b>Percent Receiving Long Term Services by Race/Ethnicity</b>
<b>32,027</b>	2016	<b>451</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>31,801</b>	2017	<b>446</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>31,966</b>	2018	<b>454</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>32,795</b>	2019	<b>497</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>33,061</b>	2020	<b>535</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

While 2020 has brought numerous challenges to our entire state, formal agreements with the Oregon’s Tribal Nations and NARA have ensured the continuation of services for tribal members. The Tribal Navigator Program (TNP), established in 2019, saw an increase in the number of formal contracts and the number of Navigators hired by each tribe and NARA. There are currently five Navigators with one position in the hiring process.



# Aging and People with Disabilities

The TNP uses a combination of Medicaid Administration funds and state General Funds for each tribe who enters into an agreement. The funds allow each entity to hire and oversee a position that assists tribal members in understanding the APD process and assist them with enrolling in services. The Navigators are Tribal members giving them an understanding of cultural tradition and are trained by state staff. Each agreement has a not to exceed annual amount of \$100,000 and expires on December 31, 2024.

The APD program benefits from hearing the concerns and needs of Tribal members on a monthly basis, from both virtual meetings and training sessions and quarterly written reports from each Navigator. An early identified issue was Estate Recovery. The Navigators have had a Q&A session with the Estate Recovery Unit. In addition, Navigators and Tribal members no longer must traverse a complicated system. There are designated single points of contact in each local APD office that assists the Navigator with their consumers.

This all became invaluable during COVID-19 and the wildfires. Both APD and the tribal entities were able to stay connected and learn from one another. In one local office, where hospitals had restrictions on the number of individuals allowed in one room, the Navigator would visit the tribal member and complete the assessment with the Case Manager via Zoom. This increased discharge planning and decreased the stress of the Tribal member. Often, just knowing that the tribe was not alone in facing COVID-19 boosted morale.

## **2020 challenges, Lessons Learned, or Opportunities Partnering with Oregon Tribes**

With the above-mentioned challenges APD was unable to host a Meet and Greet event during 2020. The Meet and Greets began in the Spring 2018 to bring together Oregon's Tribes, NARA, State and Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff. As part of the Older Americans Act, each AAA area plan on aging and the state plan on aging are mandated to seek out and serve tribal elders. With two separate federal programs, one for the state and one for the tribal governments, coordination and relationships are essential.

These events allowed all who serve tribal elders to develop the collaborations necessary to successfully achieve that goal. Plans are in the works to host a virtual event in January 2021.





# Aging and People with Disabilities

Coming out of the Meet and Greets, APD's Community Services and Supports has started hosting regional coordination meetings to strengthen partnerships and service delivery. Since 2018, seven regional meetings have occurred.

The Native Caring Conference, an annual event where APD partners with the Tribes to provide training and respite for Native caregivers was canceled this year due to COVID-19. The planning team did meet several times to discuss alternatives, however there was not the capacity available to make it happen.

With more Tribes signing onto the Navigator Program it will be vital for APD to develop more staff to have meaningful relationships with the tribal staff. Improvements in AAA, local office and Tribal Title VI programs collaboration will be necessary to meet the mandates of the Older Americans Act. Increased communication and understanding of the Navigator Program by APD local office and AAA staff is needed to support the Navigators in successfully supporting Tribal members.

## Program Summary

The Aging and People with Disabilities program appreciates our relationship with Oregon's tribes and is committed to enhancing our relationship to better serve Oregon's tribal members.

One particularly important initiative underway involves the expansion of Oregon Project Independence through an 1115 demonstration waiver. If successful, tribal members could receive long term services and supports without being subject to estate recovery, a common complaint among tribal members.

Most APD programs have institutionalized tribal review of significant policy changes and initiatives. This commitment remains and will improve over time. As tribes' expertise in APD programs grow, the quality of the feedback offered to APD will grow. The APD program views this relationship as a journey that requires trust, education, understanding and respect. The Aging and People with Disabilities program is committed to achieving these goals.

## Key Contact: Mike McCormick, Interim Director

503-945-6229 [Mike.r.mccormick@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:Mike.r.mccormick@dhsoha.state.or.us)

## Program Overview

Despite all the challenges from 2020, ODHS Child Welfare (CW) finalized their Vision for Transformation, which emphasizes the dedication Child Welfare has to our Tribal nations and children. With a focus to continue to build stronger ties, Child Welfare had to pivot many times to ensure collaboration continued through the pandemic. For example, remote connection has allowed an opportunity to safely connect. Due to state staff mostly teleworking and the virtual delivery of the statewide ICWA Conference and Native American Heritage Celebration in 2020, more people were able to attend. Additionally, virtual training, meetings, support groups and foster parent certification processes have increased accessibility for recruitment, training and support of staff, families and partners across the board. In addition, the Child Welfare Director and the Tribal Affairs Director met with a consistent rhythm, allowing connection to flourish.

In February 2020, at the request of the Burns Paiute Tribe, ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs met with the Burns Paiute Tribe and Department of Justice to develop an inter-governmental agreement between ODHS and the Burns Paiute Tribe to allow ODHS to conduct child welfare assessments and file juvenile dependency petitions in state court following reports of child abuse and/or neglect on the Tribe's land. To assist the Tribe during an emergency period in which the Tribe lacked social services staff, ODHS assisted in the development of a Letter of Intent to ensure the safety of Burns Paiute children until an agreement could be fully implemented. The Letter of Intent was executed by Burns Paiute and ODHS on February 27, 2020. The final inter-governmental agreement was implemented on April 9, 2020.

Further, as a testament to Oregon's commitment to Indian children and Tribal communities, HB 4212 passed which further enhances our engagement with our Tribal children and families. The Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI) is collaboratively partnering with the Child Welfare Project Management Office (PMO) and the Tribal Affairs Office to support the implementation of the 2020 Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ORICWA) House Bill requirements.



The scope of this effort includes planning and coordination of project activities for all aspects of the House Bill statewide including communications, change management, IT system updates, training and organization of updates for Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR). These efforts are currently anticipated to be completed by November 2021 and CW is actively in planning sessions with multiple partners across the ODHS. The Office of Tribal Affairs is also pursuing appropriate communications for ODHS partners, impacted Tribes and Tribal Families through the next calendar year to ensure appropriate knowledge of incoming changes related to ORICWA.

Below are updates and highlights from the various programs:

- Equity, Training and Workforce Development Capacity Building
- Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- Training Provided by Federal Policy and Resources
- COVID-19 and Wildfires Lessons Learned

## **Equity, Training and Workforce Development Capacity Building**

In alignment with our Child Welfare Vision for Transformation and the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services' (OEMS) Equity North Star, CW is building out infrastructure, staffing and strategic planning around integrated equity efforts with the following areas of focus:

- Using data and metrics to better understand where decision-making, documentation and practice are contributing to racial disproportionality and disparity
- Establishing clear metrics for measuring the success of our equity enhancement efforts and use of data in decision-making
- Increasing engagement of staff, foster parents, central office and field leadership, the Office of Tribal Affairs, as well as our Tribal and system partners in collaborative support around implementation of ORICWA
- Planning related to a research agenda that is grounded in Tribal priorities for child welfare services and supports to Native American and ICWA eligible children and families
- Increasing engagement with Tribes and Tribal partners and exploring with our ODHS partners the need to establish MOUs, consultation policies and other sustainable practices that honor the sovereignty of Tribes in Government to Government relations

- focusing on a clear commitment to becoming a prevention and stabilization system as opposed to a surveillance and crisis response system;
- ensuring that equity and equity-related expectations are called out in our contracting practices.

Specifically related to training and workforce development, the Equity, Training and Workforce Development Unit is building capacity to focus on the following:

### **Recruitment and Retention**

We must retain our diverse workforce, foster parents and providers while building recruitment strategies focused on clarifying that equity is central to our work in our position descriptions and expectations of all staff at all levels.

We are taking a robust look at training curriculum, learning objectives and competencies to reinforce the spirit of ICWA and embed attention to Active Efforts with every training delivered by CW and Portland State training partners.

We are also doing a robust scan of existing policy, rule and procedure and asking key questions about why we are getting unintended and poor outcomes for certain communities. As we make policy and practice shifts, we will ask critical questions about whether these changes will lead to further marginalization of staff or communities.

We are committed to offering learning opportunities throughout the career span of all staff and foster families so that we do not rely solely on traditional training as the only space and place to learn and grow. This will require the development and use of technology, tools and coaching approaches that effectively transfer learning into skill development, rather than one and done inspirational training events.



We are building muscle and stamina to soften the soil around really hard conversations about racism and oppression in our work. No one has a right to comfort in our efforts to right system wrongs and promote justice. We are not expecting staff to be experts in these conversations. We are expecting staff to be willing to grow in empathy, grow in commitment to the heart of social work practice that is rooted in social justice and develop a clear understanding of why race, ethnicity, or nationality should never be a predeterminant to socially significant outcomes for our staff or the families we serve. That will also require us to have hard conversations about how historic trauma has impacted Native Americans and other over represented communities and how it continues to present barriers to serving those communities.

### **Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program**

The new Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program (CFPRP) began operating under the Child Welfare Director’s Office in February 2020. This program leads the (CIRT) Critical Incident Review Team process as well as the development of prevention strategies and recommendations resulting from analysis of data gathered through cases involving child fatalities. The CFPRP has prioritized racial equity guiding principles in all work that comes out of this program. We are committed to building a strong partnership with Oregon’s Tribes where we can consult and collaborate on child maltreatment and fatality prevention opportunities. Our goal is to listen and learn from the experts, those with lived experience, to ensure the hopes, dreams and voices of our Native families are ever-present in decisions.

Since its inception, this program has led the following prevention strategies: Safe Sleep, Suicide Prevention and responding to Chronic Neglect. CFPRP has had the opportunity to share and gather feedback from Oregon Tribes on the development of the department’s Safe Sleep Self-Study training module released in April 2020 for casework professionals and more recently for the department’s caregiver training. This program will soon develop a new child fatality procedure and we are committed to partnering with Oregon Tribes at the onset of this important guidance for the department.



# Oregon Child Abuse Hotline

## Program Area

The Oregon Child Abuse Hotline, also known as ORCAH, serves as one of the first points of contact for children in Oregon at risk for or experiencing abuse and neglect. The 24-hour hotline receives and screens reports of child abuse and neglect statewide and provides guidance and subject matter expertise to callers and partners to ensure child safety. The hotline also assigns reports for Child Protective Services (CPS) assessments when allegations of abuse meet criteria for assignment and to ensure child safety. Additionally, the hotline serves Oregonians through cross-reporting to local law enforcement, completes required notifications with multiple community partners and coordinates emergency services when appropriate.

The screening program within the Child Welfare program develops and delivers initial and advanced training and ongoing coaching using decision-making and data-informed tools. A formalized Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program, based on national research and models, has been implemented to inform internal and external stakeholders of ORCAH's performance, ensure quality improvement and create a workplace culture that encourages ongoing learning and development with a goal of increased consistency and reduced bias in screening decisions.

## Program Delivery

Oregon Child Abuse Hotline and Oregon Tribes have agreed methods of communication and designated ICWA liaison Sabra Darcy provides consultation and support to screening staff. The establishment of an ICWA liaison has proved effective at increasing communication for Oregon Tribes and our Tribal Affairs partners when issues arise.

ICWA Consultants; Ms. Darcy; and Screening Program Consultant, Kym Lindberg partnered to develop a screening specific ICWA training for all ORCAH staff that was delivered in June 2020. This collaboration continues as we seek to ensure that training, coaching and practice guidance for all ORCAH staff is consistent and strengthens the processes that we have with our tribal partners. Ongoing efforts to support learning continued through the summer as new staff participated in Screening Training Academy and Business Support Training Academy in which Tribal Affairs presented. ORCAH seeks to continue to engage regularly in ICWA Advisory, ICWA Conferences, and through case staffing on screening reports.

# Oregon Child Abuse Hotline

## Program Summary by Oregon Child Abuse Hotline Director

The Oregon Child Abuse Hotline and screening program leadership work collaboratively with the Tribal Affairs Unit to evaluate data and ensure ongoing development of screening staff knowledge and skills. The Continuous Quality Improvement program within ORCAH reviews both documented screening reports and live calls to evaluate compliance with law, rules and procedures (Chapter 2, Screening) related to ICWA. For example, ORCAH quarterly report for 2020 third quarter was released on 10/30/2020. In the Quality Assurance (QA) documentation (307A) reviews, there was evidence that the screener asked and searched for whether Native Heritage existed in 70 percent of reports. Of important note, the expectations on the QA changed in July from whether the screener asked and searched (two criteria) to whether the screener asked, searched and documented correctly (three criteria). The hotline increased the practice standard to assure Tribal heritage inquiry met both ICWA standards and ORCAH values of service equity.

### Quality Assurance: Live-Call Review

The ORCAH Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Unit and Supervision Team conducted Live Call Reviews of 150 calls in October of 2020.



### Quality Assurance: Screening Report Review

The ORCAH Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Unit conducted Quality Assurance Reviews of 248 screening reports in October of 2020. The data collected from these reviews is represented in the chart below regarding the quality of the technical aspects and data entry.



# Oregon Child Abuse Hotline

This past year many updates were made to the mandatory reporting community education program as well as screening procedure. ICWA consultants provided feedback and advice, collaboratively developing a new section of screening procedure specific to ICWA compliance and inquiry of Native Heritage. Prior versions of procedure provided very little explanation or direction to screening staff. The mandatory reporting documents were reviewed and edited by the Tribal Affairs team to ensure accurate representation, language, and an equity lens.

## **2020 Challenges, Lessons Learned, or Opportunities Partnering with Oregon Tribes**

Oregon Child Abuse Hotline's ability to serve Oregonians was unchanged when 95 percent of our workforce transitioned to remote work in late March 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These staff will remain telecommuting until spring-summer of 2021. While calls initially decreased at the onset of the pandemic, call volume has stabilized through the summer and fall reporting numbers are consistent with 2019. ORCAH faced some challenges this year in our communication with the Oregon Tribes. The hotline implemented a new notification process with the intent to verify receipt of report notification to the Tribes. Unfortunately, ORCAH did not communicate with the Oregon Tribes about the new notification process prior to implementation, which resulted in an additional workload to the Oregon Tribes. The timing of the new process was especially impactful to the Oregon Tribes as it was during the Oregon wildfires. The Oregon Tribes communicated their concerns about this process to ORCAH, and modifications were made based on the Oregon Tribes input. This was a good learning opportunity for ORCAH about the importance of collaboration with our Tribal partners prior to making any changes to processes that may impact them. The Tribal Affairs Unit provided ongoing updates to ORCAH about Oregon Tribal needs, availability during the wildfires and changes to notification processes, which was extremely helpful to ORCAH staff. The Oregon Child Abuse Hotline continues to be grateful for our partnership with the Tribal Affairs Unit.





## **Family First Prevention Services Act**

Beginning in June 2020, the ODHS Child Welfare and Tribes have had direct dialogue in bi-weekly meetings to identify and discuss the requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act. These meetings helped to identify the culturally specific needs of tribal communities as well as the needs of the tribal children and families who can benefit from prevention services.

Five of Oregon's Tribes have active title IV-E state plan agreements with ODHS Child Welfare. These Tribes are the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Klamath Tribes. Oregon has worked with each of these Tribes to determine candidacy for their tribal members, identify target populations and discuss service array. These are ongoing consultations with each Tribe in determining these specific areas and future meetings will result in updated title IV-E state plan agreements.

## **SSBG, Title XX Agreements**

Through the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) Agreement, funds are authorized to the tribes to support their work providing effective, culturally relevant child welfare services to Indian children and their families.

The objective of this agreement is to provide SSBG funding to the tribes directly to meet the needs of individuals enrolled or affiliated with the tribe. Services may include, but are not restricted to: daycare for children, protective services for children, special services to persons with disabilities, adoption, case management, health-related services, transportation, foster care for children or adults, substance abuse, housing, home-delivered meals, independent/transitional living, employment services or any other social services found necessary by the Tribe for its population.

All nine of the federally recognized tribes of Oregon receive SSBG funds. The source of these funds is Title XX of the Social Security Act and must therefore meet program requirements for Title XX and stay within the parameters outlined in Oregon's Title XX state plan.



## Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) Funding

Tribe	SSBG Funding Received	Clients Served
The Burns Paiute Tribe	\$2,559.00	**
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians	\$7,659.00	38
Coquille Indian Tribe	\$8,131.00	59
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians	\$14,574.00	**
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$28,949.00	350
The Klamath Tribes	\$28,187.00	132
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz	\$30,782.00	157
The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	\$19,457.00	28
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$34,702.00	**

\*\* The department is still waiting for final reports therefore clients served is not available.

### System of Care

Oregon's System of Care (SOC) child welfare model is the result of a collaborative agreement between the Oregon Department of Human Services, the Juvenile Rights Project (JRP), and the National Center for Youth Law. The agreement addresses the individual needs of children in the foster care system. In addition, the agreement includes provisions for the use of flexible funds to meet the individual needs of children and their families in order to promote safety, permanency and well-being, and to employ a strength/needs-based philosophy and practice relative to child welfare.

All nine of the federally recognized tribes of Oregon receive SOC funds. These funds are state General Fund dollars, with no federal requirements. There is an agreement between the state and the Tribes to outline the requirements of how SOC funds are to be used and how the expenditures are to be reported.

## System of Care (SOC) Funding

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>SOC Funding Received</b>	<b>Clients Served in 2019</b>
<b>The Burns Paiute Tribe</b>	\$ 11,077	**
<b>Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua &amp; Siuslaw Indians</b>	\$ 17,390	28
<b>Coquille Indian Tribe</b>	\$ 18,124	18
<b>Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians</b>	\$ 28,018	81
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde</b>	\$ 47,101	21
<b>The Klamath Tribes</b>	\$ 47,689	4
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Siletz</b>	\$ 57,230	25
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla</b>	\$ 55,410	19
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs</b>	\$ 61,575	128

\*\* *The department is still waiting for final reports therefore clients served is not available.*

### Title IV-E Agreements

Title IV-E provides federal reimbursement for the costs of eligible children in foster care, adoption assistance and guardianship assistance. It covers food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, reasonable travel for visitation and related administrative costs, but does not cover the costs of treatment services. All Title IV-E eligible children are to receive medical coverage under Title XIX (Medicaid). The Oregon Department of Human Services pays the non-federal share of the Title IV-E payment. For example, the match payment from the state's General Fund at approximately 27% of the child's monthly cost of care.

Title IV-E is an open-ended federal entitlement program, governed by the Social Security Act and monitored by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Region X office.

ODHS currently has agreements with seven Oregon tribes for Title IV-E funding:

Tribe	Title IV-E Funding Received	Clients Served
The Burns Paiute Tribe	*	
Coquille Indian Tribe	*	
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$297,412	16
The Klamath Tribes	\$158,048	38
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz	\$39,778	33
The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	\$231,154	33
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$332,945	165

\* Burns Paiute and Coquille Indian Tribe do not have any children in the care and custody. Therefore, no Title IV-E funds have been claimed on behalf of these Tribes.

## Title IV-B Part 2

Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Title IV-B, Subpart 2, of the Social Security Act The primary goals of Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) are to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. States are to spend most of the funding for services that address family support, family preservation, time-limited family reunification and adoption promotion and support.

The services are designed to help state child welfare agencies and eligible Indian tribes establish and operate combined, preventive family preservation services and community-based family support services for families at risk. Funds go directly to child welfare agencies and eligible Indian tribes to be used in accordance with their five-year plans.



# Child Welfare



All Nine of the Federally-Recognized Oregon Tribes receive Title IV-B Part 2 funds.

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Title IV-B Part 2 Funding Received</b>	<b>Clients Served in 2019</b>
<b>The Burns Paiute Tribe</b>	\$8,600	**
<b>Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua &amp; Siuslaw Indians</b>	\$8,600	203
<b>Coquille Indian Tribe</b>	\$8,600	50
<b>Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians</b>	\$8,600	55
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde</b>	\$8,600	0
<b>The Klamath Tribes</b>	\$8,600	0
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Siletz</b>	\$8,600	0
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla</b>	\$8,600	68
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs</b>	\$8,600	**

*\*\* The department is still waiting for final reports therefore clients served is not available.*



## Title IV-B Part 1 – Prevention – Disaster Relief

Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services: Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Social Security Act

This is a one-time funding allocation. Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare had the opportunity to receive Supplemental Disaster Relief Funding for disasters that affected certain counties in Oregon during 2018. Oregon Department of Human Services considered various options and concluded that the amount provided will better serve children and families by targeting the funds rather than distributing them over a wide range of programs and geographical areas affected. Therefore, ODHS chose to distribute the Oregon allocation to five of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon who were impacted by the wildfires as a result of their geographical locations. The five Tribes that received the Supplemental Disaster Relief Funding are:

- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe Indians

The other four Tribes received additional allocation of Title IV-B funds from the State's allocation because the focus of these funds would be used to assist tribal communities in building local capacity for:

- Prevention services; preventing the neglect and abuse of children.
- Supporting families to have children safely remain in home or to assist in the return home in a timely manner.



## Title IV-B Part 1 – Prevention – Disaster Relief Funding

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Title IV-B Part 1 Funding Received</b>	<b>Clients Served</b>
<b>The Burns Paiute Tribe</b>	\$9,698	
<b>Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua &amp; Siuslaw Indians</b>	\$15,084	
<b>Coquille Indian Tribe</b>	\$16,144	
<b>Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians</b>	\$23,573	
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde</b>	\$37,796	
<b>The Klamath Tribes</b>	\$37,793	
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Siletz</b>	\$40,802	
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla</b>	\$29,940	
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs</b>	\$49,042	

*\* Reporting is not due until 2021.*

### Training Provided by Federal Policy and Resources

The department provides ongoing training for SSBG, SOC, Title IV-E and Title IV-B part 2 funding sources on-site with individual tribes or group training for tribes. The trainings are focused on providing technical assistance to tribes with Title IV-E agreements but have been expanded to all Oregon Tribes depending on the topic. The trainings are intended to shorten the response time for questions from the tribes and allow more frequent discussion between the State and the tribes while providing an opportunity to follow-up on training related to federal funds.

There was a substantial reduction in the number of in-person trainings and technical assistance visits with Tribes this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. FPR was able to conduct two with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Spring this year, one early in the year prior to the shut-down and another in the summer. Like other parts of Child Welfare practice, the trainings became virtual and FPR was able to conduct training for new staff for The Klamath Tribes and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. The goals of the trainings for new and existing staff are to provide increased knowledge of reporting and documentation requirements. As mentioned previously, bi-weekly virtual meetings have been held beginning June 2020 between ODHS and each tribe to implement Family First Prevention Services Act.

ODHS also completed reviews of the Tribes' foster care provider records to ensure compliance with safety checks, certification and home study completion within the required time frames. Ensure all documentation is uploaded to the Child Welfare system to support title IV-E reimbursement.

## **COVID-19 and Wildfires Lessons Learned**

COVID-19 has further exposed the need for CW and other ODHS divisions and programs to increase the engagement of Oregon Tribes and communities that are historically overrepresented in our systems. With disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on rural and tribal communities, there has been an increasing need to create a more robust partnership model, consultation framework and agreements as we strive to better serve Oregon Tribal and urban tribal communities.

Child Welfare has partnered with the Office of Tribal Affairs and Oregon Tribal partners in the development of on-going field and visitation guidance for children and parents through a continuing workgroup that also seeks to develop guidance for staff, resource families and partners around testing, availability of PPE and basic resources for families, educational supports in virtual environments, case practice and more.

In the days and months to come, CW will continue to work with the larger ODHS and OHA system to support the needs of Tribal families and communities and continue to seek input, guidance and direction on how we can best meet the safety, permanency and wellbeing needs of Native American children and families experiencing foster care in Oregon.

Due to the devastating impacts of the wildfires on Oregonians this year, CW developed new ways to ensure that children, families, staff and resource families impacted or displaced were tracked daily. In working with tribal communities, we learned that it would be helpful to have a process and/or contact agreement with tribes to ensure CW is aware of the location of any ICWA eligible child in care who may have been impacted and to increase our Active Efforts to determine needs and provide support. A clear communication protocol between CW and tribes, particularly during disaster response, would also improve collaboration to keep ICWA eligible children connected to their families and communities for trauma and emotional support that is critical to their wellbeing.



# Child Welfare

## Key Contacts for the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH)

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# Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) program strives to support the choices of individuals with I/DD and their families within communities by promoting and providing services that are person-centered, self-directed, flexible, community inclusive, and supportive of the discovery and development of each individual's unique gifts, talents and abilities.

We are committed to work toward service options to ensure that people with I/DD have fulfilling and meaningful lives, allowing them to contribute to and enjoy their communities. We currently help more than 30,000 children, adults and their families have the best quality of life possible at all stages of life. Many individuals with I/DD are eligible for Medicaid-funded, home- and community-based services.

Home- and community-based services ensure that individuals receive services in settings that are integrated in and support full access to the greater community. This includes opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive and integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community, to the same degree as people who do not have disabilities.

## **Examples of home-and community-based settings include:**

- In-home supports, where a person lives on their own or with family, and is supported in everyday activities, like bathing, dressing, making meals and help with behavior or communication challenges.
- Twenty-four-hour settings, when persons are unable to stay at home on their own or with their family and gets supported in everyday activities. These settings are either group homes or foster homes.
- Community living supports to help promote integration, independence, and participation in the community.

## **We seek to achieve the following outcomes and goals:**

- Provide an array of services that are equitable and culturally competent.
- Be responsive to emerging demands for individualized, self-directed services and provide sufficient service choices.
- Ensure the health and safety of individuals served.
- Promote maximum independence and engagement in homes and communities.
- Leverage use of available federal funding options.



# Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

An individual’s eligibility for I/DD services is determined by a Community Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP), typically run by a county. Adults who receive services in-home may receive case management by either a CDDP or a Support Services Brokerage. Individuals receiving services in a residential setting are served through the CDDP.

The state also operates the Stabilization and Crisis Unit, providing 24-hour residential care and supervision to adults and children with I/DD who have complex support needs.

Below is the table listing individuals self-identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native enrolled and receiving I/DD services in 2020 (data pulled in November 2020):

<b>American Indian or Alaskan Native</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Adult</b>
Case Management	171	329
Employment		70
Foster Care	28	75
Group Home	5	37
In Home Supports	97	164
Supported Living		16
Transportation		25
<b>Unduplicated Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>330</b>

In operating its programs, ODDS consults with the Oregon tribes to promote inclusive decision making around any program or policy change and as required by federal and state laws. Tribal consultation is conducted in accordance with Tribal Consultation and Urban Indian Health Program Confer Policy:

[https://www.oregon.gov/oha/documents/Tribal\\_Consultation\\_and\\_UIHP\\_Confer\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/documents/Tribal_Consultation_and_UIHP_Confer_Policy.pdf)

# Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

During 2020, ODDS worked with tribes through the tribal consultation process on changes to Medicaid authorities that support and fund I/DD services and supports.

Below is the high-level list of consultations conducted in 2020 in accordance with Policy:

- Tribal consultation in January–February, 2020 on changes to 1915c Waivers to add Direct Nursing Service in 24-hour residential group home and to make adjustments to the job coaching rate methodology effective January 2020.
- Letter to Tribal Leaders on changes to the K Plan that included allowing individuals with certain needs to be supported during hospitalizations, making it easier to access electronic backup systems, allowing 2 home delivered meals per day and other changes to be effective March 2021.
- Tribal consultation on the renewal of the Medically Involved Waiver Revising language regarding employees who complete the nursing facility Level of Care assessment making it more specific to the qualifications and not job title.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic OHA adopted a modified tribal consultation process which included notification to tribal leaders of the changes in response to the public health emergency. These CMS submissions that impact ODDS operations included requests for flexibilities and resources to respond to the pandemic under the following authorities:

- Disaster relief K State Plan Amendment
- Appendix K for 1915c Waivers
- 1115 demonstration waiver

ODDS is also working on improving the outreach to tribal leaders and communities. ODDS created a Service Equity Coordinator role within the Program and has worked with Office of Equity and Multicultural Services (OEMS) to hire a Service Equity Manager for I/DD program to assist with those efforts.

As part of its strategic effort, and in concert with ODHS direction, ODDS continues to work with stakeholders on developing Service Equity plan for the I/DD service delivery system. One service equity priority is to better collaborate with local communities and community organizations which includes a focus on engaging with tribal nations across Oregon.

# Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

ODDS wants to honor lived experiences and perspectives to improve service delivery and access, as well as repair the distrust and harm created in our shared past between tribal partners and government agencies, including ODDS.

## 2020 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

COVID-19 became a challenge and an opportunity to offer support to Oregon's tribal nations. The system made multiple changes in a short period of time to offer flexible and efficient support to individuals and families across the state. Significant changes in policy and processes that directly impacted the community and families were shared in a weekly newsletter to tribal partners through ongoing communications between ODDS and Tribal Affairs.

Office Developmental Disability Services, Office of Equity and Multicultural Services and Tribal Affairs also began meeting to develop strategy to improve and expand tribal relations between ODDS, contracted case management entities, providers and our tribal partners. Part of this came as a result of working with the Grand Ronde tribal partners during a transfer from one Community Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP) to another. Through ongoing collaboration and communication between the tribal partner, ODDS, OEMS and the CDDP program manager, it was learned that there is a need to better understand how all can better work together. The tribal partner shared the need for a foundational understanding about intellectual and developmental disabilities services and supports. The CDDP program director shared that I/DD service coordinators and personal agents (case managers for I/DD services) need to better understand how to provide culturally appropriate case management.

Presentations to Case Management Entities (CMEs) Program Directors and to CME Service Equity Partners groups occurred to better understand the harm that has been caused throughout our history from government agencies to tribal nations and begin conversations of how to have more local contacts to begin connecting relationships with tribal partners in the future. The plan is to continue building on this collaboration to further relationships between tribal nations across Oregon, ODDS and CDDPs and Brokerages, that are working directly with communities and people with I/DD.

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# Self-Sufficiency Programs



Self-Sufficiency Programs offers assistance for low-income families, to promote family stability and support families' path out of poverty. The principal benefit areas include: Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS), Family Support and Connections (FS&C), Employment Related Day Care (ERDC), Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS), Refugee Program, Youth Services and Program Delivery and Design.

Self-Sufficiency Programs provides direct services through a network of local offices in every county across Oregon. The list of local offices and contact information can be found [here](#).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, is a national program that offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families, and provides economic benefits to communities. This program is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net and helps bridge the gap for people who need help meeting their basic nutrition needs.

## **SNAP program components:**

- Food benefits
- Employment and training programs to help participants quickly enter the workforce
- Outreach through local community organizations to improve participation
- Nutrition education in every county through classes, demonstrations and informational materials

## **Oregon Fast Facts about SNAP:**

1 in 7 Oregonians participate in SNAP

33% of participants are children

48% of households include children or seniors

52% of participants are between the ages of 18 and 59

Seniors are the fastest growing category of participants

SNAP-Ed direct education reached approximately 12,113 unique individuals. COVID-related issues have prevented direct contact for SNAP-Ed at the same levels as previous years. The SNAP-Ed program has been adapting to these restrictions and has implemented more web-based programming; we anticipate reaching many more individuals in the coming year.

Over 1.4 million visits to Food Hero social marketing displays and events

# Self-Sufficiency Programs



## **The Emergency Food Assistance Program**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program which is intended to provide lower-income households with food for household consumption and congregate meal use at no cost. Oregon Department of Human Services provides USDA commodities, as well as a portion of administrative funds, to Oregon Food Bank (OFB) as the sub-grantee. The food bank works with a cooperative network of regional food banks, partner agencies, and programs as the sub-contracts who distribute food to eligible individuals and families. In addition, OFB delivers programming to address the root causes of hunger through public policy, outreach and education.

## **SNAP Employment & Training**

SNAP Employment & Training program consists of two programs in Oregon: SNAP Training and Employment Program (STEP), nationally called the SNAP 50/50 program.

**Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD)**, is currently waived for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 but may be required in our next (FFY). The counties that must participate are determined annually based on Federal guidelines and unemployment rates.

SNAP Training and Employment Program has grown from two providers in 2013 to over 30 providers with multiple subcontractors in 2021. Oregon Employment Department (OED) offers STEP in all 37 Work Source offices around the state and all 17 community colleges offer STEP services under the Community College Consortium. The statewide expansion of STEP has provided an increased number of participants with robust components and opportunities, including education, vocational training, work experience, job search training and support services.

## **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is a federally funded cash assistance and employment program. Its purpose is to help families with children living in poverty pay for basic needs such as shelter, utilities and daily necessities. This program also provides services to help participants find and maintain employment through the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program.



# Self-Sufficiency Programs



The JOBS program also includes support services such as help paying for child care and transportation while individuals participate in job preparation programs or search for employment. The TANF offers a variety of other services that include providing help with applying for Supplemental Security Income or grants to escape domestic violence to help families stabilize their lives, so they can find and sustain employment, and end their need for assistance.

Eligibility and income requirements must be met to receive TANF services. Applicants must generally have incomes below 36 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to qualify. A family of three qualifies for up to \$506 per month in cash assistance approximately 28 percent of FPL.

## **Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS)**

The Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program for TANF participants offers an array of services that includes job search preparation, life skills, supported and regular work experience and subsidized employment through JOBS Plus worksites. Each service is designed to help participants build employment-related skills, stabilize families, and look for work while meeting participants where they are at in their lives. Oregon is expanding the continuum of services so that TANF-leavers more easily transition to the STEP program and other community resources for continued wraparound services and support. JOBS can include support services to pay for child care, transportation and other payments needed to engage in services.

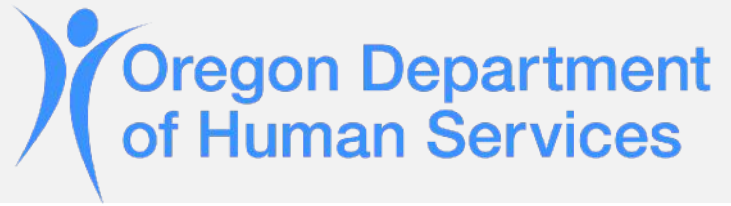
## **Family Support and Connections**

Family Support and Connections programs provided through TANF are intended to prevent the need for future child welfare services and to assist participants in moving towards holistic family stabilization using a comprehensive array of life skills, parenting training and support services. The primary service delivery utilizes a “home visiting” model, however if families prefer they can meet at a mutually agreed location.

Oregon contracts with local providers in all 16 Self-Sufficiency Program districts across the state to provide services to families through the Family Support and Connections program. While the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds are one of the funding sources for these services, the purpose for the program is determined by these federal criteria.



# Self-Sufficiency Programs



## Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)

Employment Related Day Care helps low-income, working families pay for quality child care. The program provides families with low income the same opportunity for reliable, quality child care as other families with higher incomes.

Employment Related Day Care helps families make ends meet by assisting with the consistent, stable child care caretakers need to maintain employment. It also contributes to the school readiness of children and supports children with special needs, as well as offering resources to support providers who come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Child care providers are required to meet a set of health and safety standards, provider requirements, and pass required background and fingerprint checks before they can become ODHS providers and receive payment.

In recognition that tribally licensed child care facilities meet the same health and safety standards ODHS ensures the same payment rates as facilities licensed through the Oregon Department of Education’s Office of Child Care.

The ERDC program is one of many self-sufficiency programs designed to support low-income families. ERDC provides subsidized child care for families who are working or are working and are going to school. The program's subsidy helps pay for child care services by a ODHS-approved provider. Providers could include a child care center or a registered or certified family child care home. Providers may also be a friend or relative or could be more than one provider. Each family eligible for child care assistance pays its provider a portion of the child care cost, called the copayment. It is based on the family’s size and income. The family must also pay for child care costs above the ODHS maximum rate.

Direct services are accessible through statewide local offices. Oregonians do not need to come to an ODHS office to apply. ODHS can mail applications and call to set up interviews. Services can also be applied for using the online ONE Eligibility system. The list of local offices and contact information can be found here.



## **Temporary Assistance to Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS)**

Temporary Assistance to Domestic Violence Survivors is a TANF-funded program intended to provide temporary financial assistance and support to families affected by domestic violence during crisis or emergent situations when other resources are not available. This program is used to help the family address their safety concerns and stabilize their living situation, reducing the likelihood of the survivor returning to the abuser. The most common need for TA-DVS is when the domestic violence survivor flees the abuser.

The TA-DVS program is enhanced by contracts that partner with local domestic violence organizations to provide confidential advocacy services in all SSP and Child Welfare offices. The advocacy services give enhanced supports to survivors working with ODHS. The advocates, that are co-located in ODHS offices, provide advocacy services to survivors either by referral or by self-referral.

## **The Refugee Program**

The Refugee Program assists refugees and individuals with qualifying immigration statuses such as Refugees, Special Immigrant Visas (from Iraq and Afghanistan), Certified Foreign-born Victims of Human Trafficking, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, certain Amerasians, and Asylees. The program is primarily funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) with TANF funds being used for TANF eligible refugees. General funds were authorized during the present biennium. The program partners with local Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRAs), the Refugee Immigrant Community Organization (IRCO), and other community partners to provide services. Statewide coordination to services and resources is provided by the program staff.

Cash and medical assistance are provided to eligible single and childless couples that are in their first eight months of arrival in the U.S. or from the date in which an eligible immigration status is granted. Refugees that arrive in the U.S. with dependent children receive TANF. Additional services are acculturation, case management, employment services, school impact, youth mentoring, and senior services. These additional services are available to refugees within 60 months of their U.S. arrival date.

# Self-Sufficiency Programs



## Tribal Agreements

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and The Klamath Tribes operate their own Tribal TANF programs within Oregon. These programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Program administration for these programs use tribal processes and methodology for tracking data on program participants.

The Oregon Department of Human Services has agreements with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and The Klamath Tribes to provide quarterly disbursements to each tribe for the purpose of financially assisting the tribe in the operation of their tribal TANF program. Per the agreements with these two tribes, ODHS also provides additional services to members receiving Tribal TANF assistance. The additional services include employment and training, work experience and family supports. The tribes submit quarterly invoices for the additional services that are then paid with state funds. Both the quarterly disbursements and the invoiced amounts are counted toward Oregon’s TANF maintenance of effort requirement. Included in the agreements with the tribes is a requirement for the tribes to submit data related to the number of folks served through the agreements.

- The Klamath Tribes: Receive quarterly disbursements each year of no more than \$205,256. The maximum not-to-exceed amount, including both quarterly disbursements and invoiced amounts, is \$455,813 per year.
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians: Receive quarterly disbursements each year of no more than \$244,752. The maximum not-to-exceed amount, including both quarterly disbursements and invoiced amounts, is \$489,054 per year.
- The Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation also operates a TANF program in Oregon but there is no formal agreement or funding exchanged between the tribe and Oregon DHS.

Historically, ODHS has attended various tribal meetings and gatherings to facilitate program updates and solicit feedback. These meetings include the previous iteration of the 770 Government to Government joint OHA/ODHS meetings, Tribal Prevention Quarterly meetings and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) conferences.



# Self-Sufficiency Programs



Most recently, ODHS has begun a separate Senate Bill 770 – Government to Government meeting to address specific human service programs with tribal attendees. The department hosts additional meetings as needed on specific topics. When ODHS makes decisions on policy that directly affect tribes and their members this is communicated to the tribes and an offer to have formal consultation or meetings upon request or when there is a need for additional shared communication.

## **2020 Challenges, Lessons Learned, or Opportunities Partnering with Oregon Tribes**

During the COVID-19 state of emergency a number of changes have been implemented to continue to provide services while following social distancing requirements. The changes allow more families to qualify for benefits and allow staff to work/gather information from customers differently. Oregon Department of Human Services Self-Sufficiency Programs has also implemented new services that provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to ensure information reached all partners, including Oregon Tribes, SSP increased the frequency of partner calls and invited all Oregon Tribes to participate. Oregon Tribes were also invited to participate in the Poverty Relief Task Force which SSP coordinates as the backbone agency.

## **Program Summary by ODHS Program Director**

Self-Sufficiency Programs is moving equity work forward and our goal is that this effort will result in new opportunities and improved services for Oregon Tribes. As SSP makes improvements, such as improving the application for services, Oregon Tribes will be invited to provide input. ODHS Child Care Program staff will be working with the Tribal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) administrators to designate ODHS point-of-contacts for each Tribal Nation to help Tribal Members navigate the ODHS system, including families seeking child care subsidy and providers seeking to be listed as ODHS providers.

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# Vocational Rehabilitation



Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) provides disability specific employment services to Oregonians and tribal members with the goal of achieving competitive integrated employment for clients working with the program. Tribal VR and other tribal employment services and state VR programs can concurrently provide vocational services necessary to achieve a successful employment outcome. The Tribal VR programs provide culturally responsive services and the State VR program typically provides additional rehabilitation and job development services concurrently with co-case managed clients. Additionally, the Tribal VR Programs add cultural awareness to improve the professional skills among state VR staff.

The state VR program continues to collaborate with the Tribal governments that currently deliver Tribal VR Program services as funded under section 121 of the federal Rehabilitation Act reauthorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Those 121 tribal programs are operated by: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Klamath Falls, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. One program lost its funding in 2019, but the Oregon VR program is working with that Tribal Government to assist in the continuation of VR services to their members. In all cases these services are delivered consistent with tribal members’ interests, strengths, abilities, concerns and informed choice, so tribal members may prepare for and engage in gainful employment, including self-employment or business ownership.

## Funding

Federal funding is made available to the governing bodies of tribes located on reservations or in federally recognized service areas to pay 90 percent of the costs of vocational rehabilitation services for American Indians living with disabilities residing in counties as specified within their five-year block grant. The non-federal share of 10 percent may be an in-kind or cash contribution as written into the grant submission. Oregon VR has and will continue to support the Tribal VR Programs when they need to apply for new grants for their 121 VR programs. Of the five programs in Oregon that have historically provided 121 VR Services, one lost funding, three had their funding reauthorized in 2018. Two programs planned on applying for funding in 2020 but the Rehabilitation Services Administration postponed the application process as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and now that application will open in 2021.



## Cooperative Agreements

Oregon General VR has updated the cooperative agreements with each of the Tribal VR programs, which currently consist of these four Tribal programs: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Klamath Tribes.

## Collaborative Activities

The Oregon VR Program in consultation with all nine federally recognized tribes, developed the mandatory memorandum of agreement with the Department of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation. This agreement outlines collaborative efforts between the entities to deliver culturally relevant services to tribal members within the Oregon public school system. The Oregon VR Program continues to distribute The PASSAGES Curriculum. This curriculum enhances culturally-relevant youth school-to-work transition activities for 9th-12th grade tribal members. The PASSAGES curriculum emphasizes the importance of family and the tribal community. The Oregon VR Program has been collaborating with Northwest Indian College and Western Washington University to develop a specialized university program dedicated to developing tribal vocational rehabilitation directors and counselors (Tribal VR Institute). The program consists of seven courses focused upon delivering rehabilitation services within the tribal setting. Now in its fourth year, this graduate-level training (given as a tribal cohort model) has proven highly successful in advancing the counseling and rehabilitation techniques available to professional tribal staff.

A strong partnership between the Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs and Oregon VR has resulted in a tribal rehabilitation program dedicated to providing services to any federally-recognized tribal member in conjunction with the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA) in Portland. This allows access to Tribal VR as part of an outpatient recovery program. A mental health supported employment program was launched in 2018 to provide rapid job search and long-term accommodation supports.

In August 2020 Oregon VR and tribal VR representatives held cross-agency collaboration training at the annual VR Inservice. This was the first year that the Inservice was held virtually and this gave greater access to participants to participate in the training. The Confederated Tribes of the Klamath Falls provided a Tribal Invocation virtual from their tribal lands taking advantage of the abilities of the virtual nature of the conference.

## **Tribal Representation at the State Rehabilitation Council and on the VR Service Equity Council**

The tribal representative on the State Rehabilitation Council is Susie Calhoun, Tribal Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. This council meets quarterly to provide overarching program guidance to the state VR program. This council meets quarterly to provide guidance on the State Plan for the Independent Living Programs. In 2020 VR collaborated with the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services to develop a Service Equity Council for the program to develop a charter to further develop equitable services for all Oregonians. The VR Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has agreed to serve on this council to give voice to tribal members who may seek VR services.

## **Partnership**

At the outset of 2020 Oregon VR was optimistically planning a celebration of the national VR program's 100-year anniversary and our very own Youth Transition Program was also celebrating a 30-year birthday. Additionally, we were celebrating other notable anniversaries of our partners with the Americans with Disabilities Act that was turning 30 years old. These were important milestones that we were preparing to honor and celebrate.

Unfortunately, 2020 would unfold itself in unforeseen ways that changed our plans. The COVID-19 pandemic devastated our economy, disrupted our communities and changed the daily lives of nearly every Oregonian. Oregon experienced the most active fire season on record with over one million acres of land burned, hundreds of homes and businesses destroyed and nearly 5,000 Oregonians displaced by this natural disaster. These external factors have had huge implications for VR staff, our Tribal partners, vendors, employers, WIOA partners, and ultimately for our clients.

Early in 2020 before the Governor's Stay Home Save Lives Executive Order that restricted in-person access to schools a state VR Pre-ETS Team worked with Chemawa Indian School in Salem to provide pre-employment transition services. Additionally, VR was working with the Siletz Valley School to provide training in self-advocacy and career exploration activities to their tribal student who experience disabilities. Oregon VR looks forward to foster collaboration with all Tribal Governments.

## **Key contact: Keith Ozols, VR Director**

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## Conclusion

In times of great struggle tribal culture teaches us to always be grounded in optimism with the confidence that the next step forward is opportunity. Although this year was marred by so many emotions and life changing events, Oregon agencies, organizations, communities, and families pulled together unlike before. Whether it was standing in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters, ensuring Oregonian elders were cared for during COVID-19 or delivering supplies to tribal communities while fires raged on, the Oregon Department of Human Services did its best to serve all Oregonians. Much has been learned and now that the callouses have hardened, ODHS can march forward with the confidence and wisdom to continue delivering services that meet the needs of our families and Oregon Tribal Nations. We are excited about the possibilities of 2021 and what the turn of the new year will bring.

Ahéhee', Thank you!

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