

Government to Government Report
Oregon Commission on Children and Families
2005-2006 Fiscal Year

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) is the largest umbrella advocacy group for children and families in Oregon. Created by legislation in 1993, and further defined by SB555 in 1999, OCCF promotes positive outcomes for children and families through a process driven by local decision-making.

The Commission provides no direct services, but is responsible for statewide planning, standards setting and policy development, and provides communities with research-based best practices on which to base local programs for children and families.

OCCF is intentional in working with the tribes through its partnerships with state tribal liaisons and tribal representatives on issues that better the lives of Oregon's children and families. Respect of tribal ways and sovereignty is OCCF's highest concern when working with the Oregon Native American community.

The Cultural Competency and Gender Specific Committee, Title IV-B (2), Healthy Start, Juvenile Crime Prevention, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are among several programs and initiatives that OCCF works directly with Oregon tribal communities.

**Partners for Children and Families
Cultural Competency and Gender Specific Committee**

During the last fiscal year, the OCCF, in partnership with other state agencies, has supported the Partners for Children and Families Cultural Competency and Gender Specific Services Committee which serves as an advisory body on issues relating to minority children, youth and families.

The Cultural Competency Coordinator's position is jointly funded by the OCCF, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Department of Housing and Community Development, and Oregon Youth Authority. This position provides support and coordination to the Cultural Competency and Gender Specific Services Committee and serves as a liaison between the Committee and other interagency and advocacy groups. This includes representing the Committee at the Tribal/APACSA Prevention and SB770 Health Services Cluster Quarterly meetings.

Current members within the Cultural Competency and Gender Specific Services Committee also serve as tribal liaison within their own agencies. They include Caroline Cruz, Richard Acevedo (both with DHS) and Jack Lawson (OYA).

Upon receiving a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Committee developed a training curriculum and selected a cadre of trainers to participate in the Cultural Competency Training of Trainers (CCTOT) held on February 27- March 3, 2006, at the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indian Reservation. The focus of the CCTOT is the reduction of the Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System. Native American cultural heritage and current issues were part of the training curriculum. As a result of the CCTOT project, 97 cultural competency trainings will have been provided by the CCTOT Cadre in 22 counties; 1 Confederated Tribe, 10 statewide conferences and training sessions, 1 out-of-state training, and 1 internationally. The total number of participants in attendance was 3,056. Total training hours – 348. Tribal members were invited to attend and participated in locally requested and provided trainings.

Committee members have actively participated in the organization of the Governor's Summit on Minority Overrepresentation in the Juvenile Justice System (November 2006), Violence Prevention Summer Institute (July 2005 and 2006), and Healthy Kids Learn Better Summer Institute (August 2006).

Title IV-B (2) Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act approved by Congress, amends title IV (B) to add additional components for time-limited family reunification services along with adoption promotion and support provisions. The amendment increased funding and also changes the name from Family Preservation and Support to Promoting Safe and Stable Families. The 1997 Act was reauthorized in 2001 for a period of five years and again increased funding.

The Oregon Commission on Children & Families allocated a total of \$8,600 to each of the nine tribes who have elected to participate in the grant program for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Participating tribes submitted plans to OCCF for funding. Tribal plans included methods and services: to support families at risk of children being placed in foster care; to assist families in the process of reuniting with children who have been in foster care; and families who have adopted, or plan to adopt, children out of foster care. This funding has been a key piece for tribes to continue family preservation and support programs that meet the cultural needs of their members.

Healthy Start

Healthy Start Family Support is a voluntary home visitation/family support program offering services to all new families during the prenatal period and/or at the time of birth. OCCF supports local Healthy Start programs as they implement best practice standards. In 2006, Healthy Start continued working towards becoming credentialed by Healthy Families America, a best practice home visiting program model. One of the essential elements of the Healthy Families model is cultural competency.

Each local Healthy Start program is required to develop an annual Cultural Competency Review that examines all aspects of service delivery with the goal of ensuring that the

program is culturally competent. The Cultural Competency Review is approved by the local Healthy Start Advisory Board, which recommends steps to address any issues discovered through the review.

Healthy Start has a tribal member on its statewide Advisory Committee. This group provides direction for program planning and implementation throughout the state, and reviews the cultural sensitivity analyses of local programs, making suggestions for improvement. Each local program has an Advisory Board, made up of diverse community members. Some local Boards include tribal members.

Strategies for outreach to engage tribal communities in Healthy Start include:

- Hiring tribal home visitors and assigning them to Native American families whenever possible.
- Staff training on tribal cultures is required. Through enhanced knowledge of tribal people, staff are enabled to effectively engage and retain Native American families.
- Outreach to tribal leaders for participation in program planning and implementation, including membership in local advisory bodies.
- Encouraging tribal participation in special events sponsored by the program.
- Shared training with staff of tribal organizations, related to common areas of interest and practice.
- Encouraging Healthy Start staff to participate in tribal coalitions with other service providers.

Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Initiative

The Commission on Children and Families administers state and federal money dedicated to reducing juvenile delinquency and improving the juvenile justice system.

State Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Funding:

Each of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon receives a \$50,000 JCP grant award for the 2005-2007 biennium. The grants help to pay for activities identified in the tribes' juvenile crime prevention plans. Please see the below table for JCP funded activities.

Tribal JCP plans are reviewed and approved by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC). State law requires the plans to focus on youth who are at high-risk of becoming involved, or further involved, in the juvenile justice system. Dave Fullerton is a tribal representative, appointed by Governor Kulongoski to sit on the JCPAC.

Tribe	JCP Activities, 2005-2007
Burns Paiute	Mental health services, mentoring and tutoring. <i>Beneficiaries: 10-20 youth per year</i>
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw	Monthly prevention activities, Snow Camp, Family Camp, and Camp Myrtlewood. <i>Beneficiaries: 10 youth served per year.</i>
Coquille Indian Tribe	Mentoring, teen group, after school program, cultural activities, Snow Camp, Camp Ta Nae, referrals for drug and alcohol assessments and treatment. <i>Beneficiaries: 10-20 youth per year</i>
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians	Contract with provider for Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) services to families of high risk youth. <i>Beneficiaries: 6 families per year</i>
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Alcohol and drug intervention, after school activities, parent classes, mentoring, tutoring and leadership skills. <i>Beneficiaries: 40 youth per year</i>
Klamath Tribes	Alcohol and drug treatment, mental health services and mentoring. <i>Beneficiaries: 10-20 youth per year</i>
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Mental health and individual skill building and support <i>Beneficiaries: 20 youth in two year period</i>
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	Alcohol, drug, mental health treatment; mentoring and after-school activities for youth in tribal charter school. <i>Beneficiaries: 20 youth per year</i>
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Mental health therapist for high risk youth. <i>Beneficiaries: 20 youth per year</i>

State-administered Federal Funding:

Oregon receives annual grants of federal Title II Formula Grant and Title V Delinquency Prevention Grant funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Grant amounts are based on the state's youth population and Congressional budget approval.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) and OCCF distribute funds for local projects to eligible applicants, including tribal governments, on a competitive basis.

In 2006, state-administered Formula Grants helped to pay for two tribal projects. The below table describes the project activities.

Formula Grant Recipient	2006 Project Activities
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Grant amount: \$ 84,370	Lions – Quest “Skills for Action” program delivered to students in grades 9-12 at the Nixyáawii Community Charter School; paid for youth mentor at the school; provided positive after-school, weekend and summer activities; coordinated a one-day “Tribal Summit on Evidence-based Practices” on April 6 th .
Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA), Inc. (Portland) Grant amount: \$ 7,418	Provided culturally appropriate Mentoring and After-School Program for high-risk Indian youth, including the Daughters of Tradition talking circle for female youth and culture day events at the Donald E. Long Detention Center. Project funds also paid for a Native American Intervention Specialist and a Tribal Youth Juvenile Justice Summit on April 5 th .

Tribal Liaison:

Oregon also uses federal Formula Grant funds to pay for a Native American Liaison to work with the Commission on Children and Families, its advisory committees, the tribes, and other state agencies that provide resources for youth prevention programs.

John D. Spence, Ph.D., CDS III contracts with OCCF as the tribal Liaison. John Spence provides assistance to the tribes in juvenile justice planning efforts, meeting grant program requirements, and evidence based practices related to juvenile crime prevention. He also serves on the steering committee to implement Senate Bill 267 – the 2003 legislation that requires that state-supported services be evidence-based and cost effective.

Other JCP Work in 2006

1. OCCF staff participated in Quarterly Tribal Prevention meetings, held across the state. These meetings are intended to assist tribal prevention coordinators with technical assistance, report writing, and an opportunity for each tribe to share current activities and successes. The quarterly meetings are also used for state prevention personnel to communicate new rules, guidelines, and provide training opportunities.
2. OCCF contracts with Juliette Mackin, Ph.D, and Jerod Tarte, MA of NPC Research to assist tribes with data collection, evaluation efforts, and reports on outcomes for youth.
3. Cultural Competency Training of Trainers – The Commission on Children and Families used Formula Grant funds to support a five-day training, from February 27- March 3, 2006, at the Kah-Nee-Ta conference facility on the Warm Springs reservation. A total of 29 newly recruited trainers and 8 previously trained individuals attended the training. They will each provide three trainings at no charge to communities and groups throughout the state.

4. Warm Springs Juvenile Detention – In September, Lana Holman, the agency's Juvenile Justice Specialist and Billy Wasson, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, met with Warm Springs representatives who are looking for help to provide secure detention for accused delinquents on the reservation.

The tribal justice facility has not held any juveniles since 2004 because it cannot meet federal requirements for separation of juveniles from adult offenders. The tribe currently sends all youth needing detention services to Northern Oregon Regional detention facility (NORCOR) in The Dalles. Mr. Wasson, who works part-time as the Oregon Department of Corrections facility inspector, prepared a review and analysis of the current Warm Springs facility with recommendations for facility and program changes that will be necessary for juvenile detention. The tribe may request additional technical assistance from the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Federal and state laws mandate that the court shall appoint a CASA for every abused and neglected child involved in a dependency case. In 1987, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted what is now ORS 419A.170, mandating appointment of a CASA for each of these children.

A CASA is a trained citizen volunteer, subject to the direction of the court. A CASA volunteer's primary responsibility is to represent the best interest of the child and work to assure that each child safely returns to or finds a safe and permanent family as soon as possible.

CASA volunteers connect children with their tribes throughout Oregon and across North America. During 2005 in Oregon, 8.1% of the victims of child abuse and neglect and 13.2% of children in foster care were Native American* with some of them assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. In each case, the CASA endeavors to determine if the child is a member of a tribe and to engage that tribe in determining the child's best interest. To provide culturally appropriate advocacy for Native American children, all CASA volunteers are required to complete training in cultural competency and training specific to the Indian Child Welfare Act. In addition, each program has been supplied with a copy of *The Indian Child Welfare Act Handbook, A Legal Guide to the Custody and Adoption of Native American Children*, by B.B. Jones, American Bar Association 1995 and other training materials.

Cultural competency and diversity in CASA volunteers, program staff and governing boards is both integrated into each major standard of the National Standards for Local CASA Programs 2006 and, for the first time, comprises an additional major standard. The design and language of this standard was influenced by the recommendations of the Oregon Cultural Competency Committee working in concert with the OCCF CASA State Coordinator, a member of the NCASAA Standards Committee.

CASA of Coos County exemplifies CASA's ongoing efforts to link with tribes in Oregon. Coos County CASA works closely with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. The Tribes have representatives helping train volunteers and on the Friends of CASA Advisory Committee which helps recruit volunteers, publicize events and support fundraisers.

The CASA of Central Oregon program serves Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties and is renewing its partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Currently it remains one of the few merged state and tribal court CASA programs in the nation. The goal is for CASA volunteers that are appointed to children in either court stay with the child even if jurisdiction changes.

Oregon also has representation on the National CASA Association Tribal Court Advisory Committee and the Hispanic/Latino Advisory Committee via the membership of the Polk County CASA Director.

* *The Status of Children 2005*, Oregon Department of Human Services