

Nevada Indian Commission
Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV
January 20, 2015

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Sherry Ely-Mendes, Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Chairwoman; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional for Indian Education, Department of Education; Lori Schoen, Developmental Specialist IV, Nevada Early Intervention Services; San San Tin, Education Department Manager, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Kurt Gee, Office of Child Care, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Zannetta Hanks, Social Worker for the Duck Valley Reservation; Mike Tinsley, Program Manager, Child Care Development Fund Program, Inter-Tribal Council (ITCN); Cruz Bohnsack, Senior Program Assistant, Child Care Development Fund, ITCN; and Doreen McNichols, Senior Technical Assistance Specialist for the National Center on Tribal Child Care Implementation and Innovation (NTC)

- I. Invocation
 - A. The invocation was given by Sherry Rupert.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Sherry Rupert called the meeting to order at 1:09pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- III. Initial Public Comment
 - A. There were no public comments made at the meeting.
- IV. Approval of November 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Mike made a motion to approve the November 18, 2104 meeting minutes, seconded by Lori Schoen. Motion carried.
- V. Approval of Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) Appointment of Representative Forms
 - A. One Appointment of Representative form was submitted for approval at this meeting: Theresa Rowe, Head Start Education Manager, Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada.
 - B. Fredina made a motion to approve the Appointment of Representative form, seconded by San San Tin. Motion carried.
- VI. Approval of Template for Tribal Child Care Minimum Quality Standards
 - A. San San feels the template is a great tool. Sherry Ely stated that it is more succinct and is a nice, updated document for the health and safety of the children. Lori believes that the document aligns nicely with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards. Kurt commented that it is a great document for programs that don't already have their own standards. Zannetta mentioned that she asked her childcare worker to review it and feels that it is a good document. Sherry E. says the hope is to raise standards for quality child care.
 - B. Lori made a motion to approve the Template for Tribal Child Care Minimum Quality Standards, seconded by Sherry E. Motion approved.

VII. Discussion and Planning for the TECAC Track at the 2015 Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit – March 15-17, 2015 at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)

- A. Four sessions of one hour and 15 minutes are planned for the Early Childhood Track. The first session will be an introduction of the TECAC’s Childcare Quality Standards Template as well as a discussion of the Nevada Silver Star Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) assessment.

The second session will discuss how childcare centers can promote acceptance and diversity in the classroom to include all cultures. The evaluator could discuss how they evaluate and the coach could talk about how to improve scores. Sherry E. stated that by using the Childcare Quality Standards Template, they can adopt the document as their licensing regulations to qualify for the QRIS programs.

The third session is titled, “Language through Storytelling” and will begin with a brief introduction to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California’s language immersion class and newly published storytelling books. Theresa commented that Lisa Enos will discuss how she went from translating curriculum to writing and publishing the books. Theresa also said that there will be a hands-on demonstration for the students on how to create their own book to take with them.

The fourth session is titled, “School Improvement Plan /Kindergarten Entry Data Systems.” This session will discuss the history and progress update to kids. Tammy Williams will be able to give this presentation as long as there are guidelines to follow. She can speak about kindergarten entry assessments and Cindy Johnson said she would provide class attendees with a success story. Fredina commented that the speakers will be able to attend at a discounted price and she will send a presenter form to members of the Committee. Each of the presenter forms with descriptions will need to be submitted no later than February 27, 2015.

Fredina made a motion to approve these TECAC Track sessions to be included at the Summit and Stephanie seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry R. thanked the members of the group that came to the Legislative Forum that was held on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at the former Stewart Indian School campus. It was an opportunity to bring former legislators and introduce them to tribal leaders on how best to advocate for their communities.
- B. Later that evening, during his State of the State address, the Governor acknowledged tribal leaders as well as mentioned his support of developing a cultural heritage destination at the Stewart Indian School.
- C. Sherry mentioned that the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day will be on February 10, 2015 at Legislative Building in Carson City. She suggested that the group participate and bring the youth. Sherry commented that it will be a good educational opportunity for students to see how the legislative process works.
- D. Kurt mentioned that his office will be starting tribal consultations soon, the first one being on February 26, 2015 in Washington, D.C. They are planning for six tribal consultation sessions to be held throughout the year. Lori asked Kurt to send a link with these dates to the TECAC listserv and he said that he would.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. An update of the TECAC Track sessions for the Summit will be given.

- B. Sherry R. suggested that the group work on using the curriculum that Fredina and her team worked on and adapt it to early childhood. She asked the group if that would be something that would interest them. Sherry E. replied that she feels that a general template for all to use would be beneficial. Mike said the University of Utah is working on a project like this for children ages 0-4 and feels they should give a presentation at next year's Summit. He feels that the TECAC should work on funding to produce a template of its own.
- C. Mike commented that at the end of the project, the students that had taken part in it should be celebrated. The children that are now going to school in Salt Lake were products of the ITCN's Early Childhood Education, Head Start and after-school programs.
- D. Theresa stated that the group will be looking into collaborating with the University of Utah on their curriculum.
- E. Sherry R. suggested that the group take the Early Childhood video that was made and get it out to the tribal councils and speak to them more about Early Childhood Education and Sherry E. said the TECAC needs to be re-introduced to the tribes using the video and the brochures, as soon as they are completed.
- F. Fredina commented that the Early Childhood Education video should be presented at the Summit. Lori also suggested putting the link out on the Registry website as well.
- G. Sherry E. stated that the Goshute Tribe was included in the Native Storytellers program, "Catching Dreams." The story that was showcased was the Legend of the Mountain Man.

X. Scheduling and Location of Next Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting

- A. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the Nevada Indian Commission office.

XI. Final Public Comment

- A. There were no final public comments given at the meeting.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Fredina made a motion to adjourn and Mike seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.