

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE AND NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS



2015

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT

Pursuant to Title 74, Chapter 35A, Section 1207. Item E.11, "...make an annual report on the interaction between the state and state agencies and tribal governments and shall submit the report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate."

Chris Bengé
Secretary of State
and
Native American Affairs



Mary Fallin
Governor

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Since being appointed the Native American Liaison for Governor Fallin in February of 2015, I have had the privilege to meet with most tribal leaders from around the state. It has been a great experience to be warmly received in their jurisdictions and treated as a special guest.

The leaders we have met with have expressed a desire to improve the lives of tribal citizens, by addressing education, healthcare, reintegration programs, child welfare, and job creation, as well as cultural preservation. They are very focused on a long term outlook, and providing sustainable, consistent programs that allow prosperity and independence.

The office of Secretary of State participated in a total of 147 events in which tribal business or interests were discussed. The events consisted of large conferences, consultations, small group meetings, and face to face meetings with tribal leaders where we had many conversations about how the state and tribes can work together. We also had the honor of celebrating notable events like state of the nation speeches, stomp dances, inaugurations, and formal commemorations that included financial commitments to educational entities, and a new veterans' memorial.

The Secretary of State's office also recorded 10 agreements in 2015 between the tribes and the state or other governmental entities such as municipalities and universities. This would bring to 162 the total of agreements and compacts executed during the Fallin Administration.

According to a recent report from the Meinders School of Business, the total economic output by tribes is \$6.9 billion. It is also noteworthy that entertainment facilities received more than 14.6 million out-of-state visitors, bringing out-of-state dollars to Oklahoma. Many communities around this state that have struggled economically over the past several years have greatly benefited from investment and job development from tribal operations.

It was also encouraging to see the longstanding commitment to the protection of the United States by Native Americans from this state. The importance of the warrior history, based on a legacy of bravery and courage is alive and well throughout tribal culture. I have been able to witness many examples where governments honor their veterans through various programs and recognitions by monument or displays, and shown prominently at various tribal facilities.

Tribes in this state have a very rich culture and heritage. There is tremendous talent throughout with vivid examples of art by paintings, sculptures, blankets, and dance. It is my hope more Oklahomans can take the opportunity to experience a cultural display by one of the tribes.

A spirit of partnership exists in different forms between the State of Oklahoma and tribal governments. As we meet together and discuss our common challenges that we see throughout the state, more opportunities will arise that will allow our governments to work together for the good of all of our citizens.

I would like to thank the members of our Native American Liaison team for providing advice on how our state can work better with the tribes. These individuals come from different agencies of state government, and are truly committed to the betterment of Native Americans throughout the state.

As we look to 2016, I firmly believe the state and the tribal nations will strengthen their relationships and see new opportunities to work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Bengé". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Chris Bengé
Secretary of State and Native American Affairs



CHRIS BENGÉ

*Oklahoma Secretary of State and
Native American Affairs*

In 2013, Governor Mary Fallin appointed Chris Bengé to serve as Secretary of State. In addition to overseeing the Secretary of State's office, he serves also as a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

On February 9, 2015, Governor Fallin appointed Secretary Bengé (Cherokee) to fill the position of Native American Liaison. In addition to his duties as Secretary of State, he will work directly with the Tribal Nations of the State of Oklahoma. He will work to further the relationship between the State of Oklahoma and tribal leadership and build on the momentum the State and Tribal Nations have developed over the last few years.

At the time of his appointment Bengé said, "Whether it's creating jobs, improving health care services or boosting education, Oklahoma has an extremely valuable partnership with the tribes."

"The relationship between the tribes and the state has developed momentum over the last few years. I'm looking forward to continuing to facilitate a good relationship between the state and the tribes."



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I. Recognition of Tribal Sovereignty

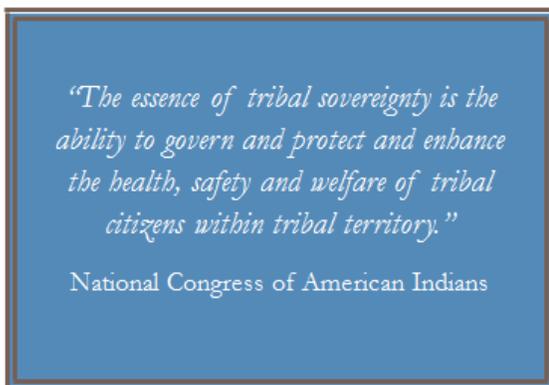
The American Indian/Alaskan Native people residing in the State of Oklahoma are citizens of the state and, as such, possess all the rights and privileges afforded by Oklahoma to its citizens. They are also citizens of tribal Nations. The State of Oklahoma recognizes that each tribal nation has inalienable self-governance power over their citizens and territories and possess unique culture, beliefs, values systems and history as sovereign nations.

“The essence of tribal sovereignty is the ability to govern and to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of tribal citizens within tribal territory. Tribal governments maintain the power to determine their own governance structures and enforce laws through police departments and tribal courts. The governments exercise these inherent rights through the development of their distinct forms of government, determining citizenship; establishing civil and criminal laws for their nations.” (Source: *National Congress of American Indians*)

In addition, tribal governments are responsible for a broad range of governmental activities on tribal lands, including education, law enforcement, judicial systems, health care, environmental protection, natural resource management, and the development and maintenance of basic infrastructure such as housing, roads, bridges, sewers, public buildings, telecommunications, broadband and electrical services.

II. Brief Overview of Oklahoma Tribal Nations

American Indian Population – United States



According to U.S. Census Bureau 2014 estimates, there were roughly 5.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives living in the U.S., representing approximately 1.7% of the U.S. total population. Of this total, about 49 percent will be American Indian and Alaska Native only, and about 51 percent will be American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races. (Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010-2014 5 Year Estimates*).

The projected population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, alone or in combination, by 2060 is 11.2 million representing 2.7 of the total population.

(Source: *Population projections*)

American Indian Population - Oklahoma

There are 39 tribal nations within Oklahoma of which 38 are federally recognized whose jurisdictions cover three fourths of the state formerly known as Indian Territory. (Source: Bureau of Indian Affairs)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the estimates of American Indian and Alaska Natives (reported as one race or in combination with one or more other races) living in Oklahoma is 506,728 representing nearly 13.3% of the statewide population in 2014. Their activities are based substantially in rural areas in a state providing much needed jobs for rural Oklahomans and services for tribal citizens. Neighboring communities have developed growing partnerships with tribal nations that benefit everyone. (Source: American Community Survey 2010-2014, 5 Year Estimates.)

Economic Impact of Oklahoma Tribal Nations

According to a report entitled “*The Statewide Impacts of Oklahoma Tribes*,” developed by the Steven C. Agee Economic Research and Policy Institute at Oklahoma City University in 2010, tribal operations within the state consist of primarily government provision of services, including health, education, youth and senior services, operations of tribal-owned gaming centers, provision of professional services, and operations of retail centers.

The Economic Research and Policy Institute reviewed the expenditures and revenues of seven tribes and the current production structure of the state economy to estimate the total contribution of all tribal activities to the state. Two findings of the report are:

- The Tribes made direct payments of \$79 million to Oklahoma entities in pursuit of medical care access, educational advancement, social services and economic development opportunities for tribal citizens.
- Tribal operations in Oklahoma including gaming, professional services and other retail generated approximately \$5.6 billion in revenues – a significant source of direct economic output with the state.

FEDERAL RECOGNITION

There are seven criteria to become a federally recognized tribe, all of which must be met to receive federal recognition.

1. The tribe has been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900.

2. A predominant portion of the tribe comprises a distinct community and has existed as a community from historical times until the present.

3. The tribe has maintained political influence or authority over its members as an autonomous entity from historical times until the present.

4. The tribe must provide a copy of the group's present governing document, including its membership criteria. In the absence of a written document, the petitioner must provide a statement fully describing its membership criteria and current governing procedures.

5. The tribe's membership consists of individuals who descend from a historical Indian tribe or tribes, which combined and functioned as a single autonomous political entity.

6. The membership of the tribe is composed principally of persons who are not members of any acknowledged North American Indian Tribe.

7. Neither the tribe nor its members are the subject of congressional legislation that has expressly terminated or forbidden recognition.

III. Secretary of State and Native American Affairs Focus and Activities

Statutory Authority

O.S. § Title 74, Chapter 35A, Section 1207: Oklahoma Native American Liaison outlines the duties and responsibilities of the position of Oklahoma Native American Liaison who shall be appointed by the Governor. The Oklahoma Native American Liaison may also serve as the Secretary of Native American Affairs or a successor cabinet position and shall have jurisdictional areas of responsibility related to Native American issues and state and tribal relations.

Any person appointed to the position of Oklahoma Native American Liaison shall be a member or citizen of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or nation that has its primary tribal headquarters located in Oklahoma and shall have valid proof of membership or citizenship.

Oklahoma Native American Liaison to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the position and shall:

1. Have the powers and duties over Native American issues and state and tribal relation areas designated to the position by the Governor;
2. Monitor all compacts, including gaming, tobacco, and motor vehicle fuel compacts, entered into by the state and political subdivisions with federally recognized Indian tribal governments within this state;
3. Coordinate with the Office of Tribal Relations within the Oklahoma Historical Society on the gathering, preserving and maintaining of all compacts and agreements between federally recognized Indian tribal governments and the state and political subdivisions and all related records, documents and materials;
4. Monitor state agency consultation policies with tribal governments;
5. Monitor the interactions of state agencies with tribal governments;
6. Provide coordination between tribes and state agencies for any activities of the state agency that will directly affect tribal governments or their property;
7. Inform tribes about ongoing or proposed state programs that will affect tribal governments or their property;
8. Coordinate with tribal governments to determine priorities of interest for possible cooperation between the various agencies and the tribal governments;
9. Inform tribes on funding opportunities through partnerships with state agencies to address locally determined priorities of interest agreed to by both the state and tribal governments;
10. Ensure continuing outreach to tribes and shall establish and maintain relationships with tribes and tribal organizations; and
11. Make an annual report on the interaction between the state and state agencies and tribal governments and shall submit the report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Native American Affairs Liaison Focus

During his eleven month tenure, Secretary Benge engaged in a concerted effort to make personal visits with tribal leaders, elders and communities all across the State of Oklahoma. In addition to face to face visits, Secretary Benge accepted invitations to numerous tribal festivals, participated in parades, swearing in ceremonies, inter-tribal council meetings and ground breaking events. During these visits, issues have been brought to his attention, and important information has been shared. As a result, Secretary Benge has established two areas of focus for his administration: **Respect and Collaboration**.

Common themes of interest to Oklahoma Tribal Nations are beginning to emerge-namely: Economic Development; Education; Health Systems; Indian Child Welfare Act implementation and the Criminal Justice System including victim assistance, cross deputization, domestic violence awareness and treatment services.

Quarterly Meetings with State Agency Tribal Liaisons

Shortly after his appointment as Secretary of Native American Affairs, Secretary Bengé initiated meetings with all state agency tribal liaisons. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity to learn about the various activities of state agencies with local tribal governments and to provide state agency liaisons with any consultation or support they may need to conduct their duties. Meetings were conducted in March, June, September and December with representatives from the following agencies in attendance:

- District Attorneys Council
- Office of Juvenile Affairs
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation
- Oklahoma Health Care Authority
- Oklahoma State Department of Education
- Oklahoma State Department of Health

Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs



In June 2015, Secretary Bengé appointed Mr. Brian Hendrix, BA, Muscogee (Creek), as his Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs. He brings a great deal of experience in working with Oklahoma tribes and federal grants to his position as Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs.

He previously served as the State Tribal Crime Victim Liaison for the District Attorney Council, Executive Director for the Payne County Drug Court Program and as a member on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

"WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST IN MY EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH THE TRIBES IS THE HIGH LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE AND VALUE THEY PLACE ON THEIR FAITH, THEIR COMMUNITY, THEIR ELDERS AND THEIR YOUNG."

**DEPUTY ASSISTANT OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS
BRIAN HENDRIX**

During his tenure at the Payne County Drug Court, Mr. Hendrix served as a faculty member for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Tribal Training Initiative and the Native American Alliance Foundation. His role as a faculty member afforded him the opportunity to interact with tribal leaders from Oklahoma and other states across the nation while assisting them in the development and implementation of Healing to Wellness Courts. Prior to his work in Payne County, Mr. Hendrix served as a Child Protection Worker and then as the Indian Child Welfare Coordinator for Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Secretary of Native American Affairs 2015 Activities

Secretary Benge and Deputy Assistant Hendrix have pursued ambitious travel schedules assuring face to face contact with most all Oklahoma Tribal Nations during calendar year 2015. In addition, they met with key stakeholders at the tribal and state level including Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and Native American Veterans Affairs, Attorney General's Office, Oklahoma Gaming Compliance, Oklahoma Department of Human Services Region V Tribal State Work Group, and several state agencies.

Secretary Benge and Deputy Assistant Hendrix were invited to attend and/or give presentations at numerous meetings or events such as:

- Third Annual Southern Plains Veterans Training Summit
- American Indian Chamber of Commerce Business Summit
- Indian Country Business Summit
- Indian Expo in Anadarko
- Inter-Tribal Council of Northeastern Oklahoma
- Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes
- Native American Cultural and Education Authority
- Oklahoma Health Care Authority Strategic Planning Conference
- Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association Conference
- Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association Annual Meeting
- Oklahoma Municipal League
- Oklahoma Native American Juvenile Justice Task Force
- Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
- Oklahoma Tribal Sovereignty Symposium
- Oklahoma Victims Assistance Academy
- Southern Plains Child Protection Team Conference
- United Indian Nations in Oklahoma
- USDA Federal Tribal Consultation
- VA Mental Health Symposium

Numerous other organizations and agencies have also visited with Secretary Benge and Deputy Assistant Hendrix throughout the year. These have been informative and enlightening meetings that bring new insights to the strengths and assets of Oklahoma Tribal Nations and the potential for even greater partnerships in the future. More importantly, contacts with tribal leaders revealed the impact of less publicized local partnerships that the Tribal Nations are engaged in at the community level that positively affect areas such as emergency service delivery, health systems, infrastructure, offender reintegration, and rural economic development. Find below four such examples of collaborative partnerships:

- 1) Pawnee Nation received a Federal Highway Administration Tribal Transportation Program Safety grant. The Nation used the award to provide 320 digital radios in support of 24 different law enforcement, fire and emergency management departments including Pawnee Nation Police, Pawnee Nation Fire & Rescue, Pawnee Nation Rangers, City of Pawnee Fire & EMS, City of Pawnee Police, Skedee Fire, Maramec Fire, Blackburn Fire, Ralston Fire, Lone Chimney Fire, Yale Fire, Yale Police, Pawnee County Sheriff, and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.
- 2) Oklahoma's Indian Nations are leading the way with innovative solutions to ease the non-violent offender prison population through nationally recognized offender reintegration programs. Chickasaw Nation developed a unique approach to put former offenders back to work with an "On the Job Training Program" (OTJT phase) made possible through partnerships with local employers. After approximately 60 days in the program, case managers begin looking at job placement opportunities within the tribe or external businesses. Placement is based on skill sets participants might have. The program pays the salary of the participant for 30 days of on-the-job training and allows businesses to evaluate the participants' work habits. If all involved see it is working out, the business begins the hiring process. If not, the Chickasaw Nation staff will look for other hiring opportunities. It is a way businesses give a person a chance with less risk to them.
- 3) The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program provides multiple services for clients including, but not limited to, housing, food, clothing, life skills and legal advocacy. Because once they've exited the justice system, the issues ex-offenders face are myriad: including, the need to re-establish custody and visitation rights with children to deal with child support arrears which have continued to accrue during incarceration, to manage repressive criminal debt and seek the avoidance of or the recall of failure-to-pay costs/fines bench warrants, and for counsel on all civil matters. By way of an innovative compact between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc., the Reintegration Program (RiP) has engaged an imbedded staff attorney advocating exclusively on behalf of RiP clients; one of the few reentry programs in the nation offering such services. Establishing stability through advocacy provides another tool in the Program's obligation to reduce recidivism.
- 4) The Sac & Fox Nation Economic Development Department is pursuing an aero-space business prospect to be located in the City of Stroud. The collaborative business proposal involves the Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma Commerce Department, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, City of Stroud, City of Shawnee and an out-of-state private business partner.

IV. State Agency Tribal Liaison Reports

District Attorneys Council

State Agency Leadership Name:

Suzanne McClain Atwood
Executive Coordinator

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

Suzanne Breedlove, Director of Victims Services
421 N.W. 13th Street, Suite 290
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Office: (800) 745-6098
Email: Suzanne.Breedlove@dac.state.ok.us
Website: <https://www.ok.gov/dac>

**Overview:**

In 2011, the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC), Victim Services Division received a grant award from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) for the Oklahoma State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison Demonstration Program. This project, funded by Grant No. 2011-VF-GX-K023 awarded through the OVC National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Grants was developed to provide outreach to American Indian crime victims in Oklahoma.

The Victims Services Division of the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council used program resources to develop and implement an outreach plan. The goal of the outreach plan was to improve tribal victim assistance, grant opportunity outreach services, and victims' compensation outreach to American Indian crime victims across the State.

Brian Hendrix was hired as the State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison with the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council and began working at DAC in October 2011. An enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Brian came to the District Attorneys Council with a great deal of experience in working with Oklahoma tribes and federal grants. He held the position at DAC until May of 2015 when he resigned to join Secretary of State & Native American Affairs Chris Benge as Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs.

2015 Highlights:

- The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison reported 12,885 contacts: 9,496 face-to-face; 2,554 e-mails; and 835 by phone
- The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison presented at 65 outreach activities, both in-state and national
- The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison co-facilitated 42 roundtables across Oklahoma
- Roundtables included participation from 740 attendees
- The State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison hosted two grant writing workshops
- Seventy-five service providers attended the grant writing workshops
- In 2015, 15 tribes applied for Victims of Crime Act assistance

Overall, the efforts of the State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison with tribal crime victim's service programs staff, tribal law enforcement, and tribal court personnel resulted in increased awareness of and access to victim's compensation, VOCA funding, and crime victim's rights among Oklahoma's American Indian citizens. In addition, the State-Tribal Victims Services roundtables became essential means for communication to and from service providers in Indian Country not only regarding VOCA funding opportunities but also regarding victim related training topics such as the Law Enforcement Lethality Assessment Protocol Implementation. In order to continue these roundtable discussions, the liaison met with the Victim Witness Specialists in each of the three U.S. Attorneys' Offices in the state. Each of the Victim Specialists agreed to continue to hold the meetings twice a year with planning and coordination transitioning to the USAO's after June 1, 2015.

Suzanne Breedlove, State Director of Victims Services, became the point of contact for the tribes after Hendrix's departure. However, rather than fill the State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison position, DAC is pursuing a cost-saving interagency cooperative agreement with the Secretary of State & Native American Affairs to enable Deputy Assistant Hendrix to dedicate a portion of his time to victims services issues.

Office of Juvenile Affairs

State Agency Leadership Name:

Janelle Bretten
Interim Executive Director

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

Anna Kelly, Deputy Division Director
Community-based Youth Services Division
3812 North Santa Fe
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
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Website: www.ok.gov/oja/oja.gov
Website: www.ok.gov/okyouth



Overview:

The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) tribal liaison office exists to ensure every youth and family in contact with the Oklahoma juvenile justice system has equal and fair treatment regardless of race and ethnicity.

2015 Highlights:

The OJA worked with State Legislators Rep. Seneca Scott and Sen. A.J. Griffith, through the Native American Juvenile Justice Task Force developed and passed H.B. 1834 into state law requiring notification of Native Sovereign Nations when their young citizens come into contact with the system. This allows for a collaborative effort to develop protective factors which reduce a youth's potential to re-offend. This also allows the opportunity for treatment of delinquency risk factors to occur within the community in a culturally relevant setting.

In partnership with all Oklahoma's Native Nations, a Tribal Directory of Juvenile Justice Contact Persons was developed and distributed statewide, containing contact points for each Nation. The OJA Affairs also established a Native Liaison for each of our eight (8) geographically located Juvenile Services Districts.

The OJA has established a protocol to obtain consultation from Native Nations via an annual Juvenile Justice Liaison Networking meeting. A listening session regarding Tribal juvenile justice issues will be held annually with an audience comprised of OJA decision makers. All Nations are invited to participate. Round table discussions will also be held annually with all OJA District Native Liaisons and all Nations Juvenile Justice Contact persons invited to attend. Information gathered in these settings will determine and inform all ongoing collaborative efforts regarding treatment of Native youth within the state's juvenile justice system.

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Agency Leadership Name:

Ed Lake, MSW
Director

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

Jacque Secondine-Hensley, Indian Affairs Liaison
Executive Division
Tulsa Skyline Building
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Tulsa, OK 74135
Office: (918) 794-7539
Email: Jacque.hensley@okdhs.org
Website: www.okdhs.org



Overview:

- Improve communication between Department of Human Services (DHS) and Tribal Nations.
- Collaborate on case review, training, and child welfare programs serving Indian children and families.
- Collaborate to efficiently utilize Title IV-E and other federal sources of funding for social services related to Indian children and families.
- Negotiate and maintain current Tribal-State agreements.

2015 Highlights:

Prior to 2015, each division within DHS was responsible for its own interface with the tribes, typically based on shared programs or populations. In October 2015, the department created a Liaison for Indian Affairs position intended to represent the agency as a whole and named Jacque Secondine-Hensley as the first Indian Affairs Liaison.

Specifically, Child Welfare Services (CWS) made significant changes to its tribal work over the past 2 years, creating a team of tribal coordinators responsible for facilitation and training associated with tribal child welfare and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The team was placed directly under the leadership of the Deputy Director of Child Welfare Community Partnerships in July 2015. This move was seen as a positive way to elevate tribal concerns to the Child Welfare executive leadership team.

CWS and Tribes have interfaced in a quarterly Tribal/State collaborative since 2006; however, over the past year regional Tribal/State workgroups were created. Each workgroup has identified focus areas, including foster home recruiting (assisted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation), ICWA compliance and knowledge, and improvements in cultural understanding.

CWS and Tribes have collaborated with Casey Family Programs on a large ICWA case review involving over 400 cases in Region 4 (the southeast portion of the state). This review, The Casey Snapshot Report details the ICWA actions of DHS, Tribes, and the courts in those cases for a time period in 2012. The report is the largest of its kind in the nation. While CWS has already taken steps to improve ICWA compliance, this report will assist in identifying both the strengths and areas for improvement.

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

State Agency Leadership Name:

Terri White, MSW

Commissioner

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

LeAndrea Nez, Tribal Liaison

1200 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City, 73117

Office: (405) 522-1728

Email: leandrea.nez@odmhsas.org



Website: http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/Additional_Information/Tribal_State_Relations/index.html

Overview:

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) mission is to promote healthy communities and provide the highest quality care to enhance the well-being of all Oklahomans. The Department acknowledges and affirms common goals with Oklahoma's Tribal Governments to:

- Eliminate health and human service disparities faced by American Indian (AI) populations
- Maximize access to mental health and substance abuse services and
- Achieve healthy equity for all American Indian people and communities

ODMHSAS supports a holistic framework that reinforces the belief that mind, body, and spirit are all connected to health and that tribes know best how to address their needs through prevention activities, community partnership, and collaborating with other agencies in prevention and treatment efforts.

2015 Highlights:

The 2016 Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment (OPNA) Survey is a statewide survey administered by the ODMHSAS to students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades during the spring semester. The survey measures risk behavior and protective factors pertaining to alcohol, drug use, tobacco and violence. Consistent Tribal involvement included planning, communication, coordination, and implementation with the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe, Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board, Comanche Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes regarding the dissemination of the 2016 OPNA Survey.

The Service Exchange between Chickasaw Nation and the ODMHSAS regarding the “Zero Suicide Initiative” includes suicide prevention training and technical assistance to reduce suicide rates in Oklahoma. Suicide prevention services will be extended into Chickasaw Nation that include suicide prevention training and technical assistance to reduce suicide rates in Oklahoma.

The Peer Recovery Support Specialist American Indian Curriculum Development is currently in the planning stages for curriculum revision to be American Indian culturally appropriate with Comanche Nation “IAMNDN” Program.

The Oklahoma Tribal State Behavioral Health Coalition met twice this year to discuss Tribal State efforts to promoting American Indian Behavioral Health Services. Coalition members are comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing various tribal, state, local, and private sectors to address access and service utilization issues affecting tribal Communities.

The ODMHSAS has 17 Regional Prevention Coordinator offices implementing the strategic plan framework. The Cherokee Nation has been awarded as a Regional Prevention Coordinator and is collaborating with ODMHSAS.

In April 2015, the newly hired ODMHSAS Tribal Liaison made active efforts to work with tribal communities and leaders throughout the state to discuss collaborative partnerships and American Indian Behavioral Health service needs.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, and Comanche Nation were visited by the Tribal Liaison for individual consultation. Tribal Serving Entities that were consulted regarding potential partnership and service needs included the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa, the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, and the Indian Health Service Oklahoma City Area Office.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation

State Agency Leadership Name:

Mike Patterson
Director

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

Rhonda S. Fair, Director of Tribal Coordination
200 NE 21st Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
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Website: <http://ok.gov/odot/>



Overview:

The primary goal of this office is to facilitate tribal participation in Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) mission: to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce, and communities of Oklahoma. Two core principles guide tribal coordination at ODOT: cooperation and consultation.

In terms of cooperation, ODOT has partnered with Oklahoma's tribes on transportation projects ranging from replacing small structurally deficient bridges to improving large interstate interchanges. To date, Oklahoma's tribes have invested over \$107 million in improving our state's transportation network.

Tribal coordination efforts also include consultation with tribes regarding ODOT projects. ODOT consults with tribes on Federal-aid undertakings that have the potential to affect places of traditional religious and cultural significance to tribes. ODOT strives to avoid or minimize the effects transportation projects may have on these important places. Typically, the department consults with tribes on an average of 200 projects each year.

2015 Highlights:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is hailing the successful passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act provides five years of federal funding and important policy reforms. Tribal transportation programs across the country are praising the FAST Act and its implications for their work.

1. Funding levels will increase from \$450 million (current) to \$505 million (FY 2020).
2. Administrative overhead decreases from 6% to 5%.
3. Set aside for tribal nations' high priority bridge projects increases from 2% to 3%.
4. Tribal transit programs are authorized up to \$30 million annually.
5. The self-governance provisions in Section 1121 allow tribes to receive all of their US DOT funds under a single agreement, which will streamline management and administration of their programs.

In 2016, ODOT will present its first ever annual publication that highlights tribal coordination and the contributions of the state's tribes to transportation.

ODOT has partnered with tribes on various transportation projects across the state. For example, the Delaware Nation provided financial assistance for the improvements to US-281 in Caddo County.

ODOT has directly addressed various safety concerns presented to us by tribes. Recently, ODOT approved the lowering of the speed limit on US-69A in front of tribal buildings in Miami in response to a request presented by the Intertribal Council. In partnership with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the department is working to establish a school zone on US-81 for the Darlington School in Canadian County.

ODOT tribal consultation efforts take a variety of forms. ODOT includes tribal input into the planning process, most recently with the department's Long Range Transportation Plan. ODOT assembled a Tribal Transportation Advisory Committee to review the plan and provide input. As the result of feedback from tribal partners, ODOT is making information on tribal coordination more accessible through a new annual publication.

The Department meets with tribes regularly to discuss construction projects of tribal interest. Tribal interest can range from providing better roads for tribal communities to protecting sacred tribal areas. In terms of improving infrastructure, ODOT coordinates efforts early in the planning process to maximize the benefits of partnership and to reduce project costs. Additionally, early coordination allows the department to work with tribes to identify areas of traditional religious and cultural significance to tribes and to plan accordingly.

ODOT also has a Tribal Advisory Board (TAB). TAB was formed in 1999 by O.S. §69-302.2 and acts in an advisory capacity to the Department. The Board reviews ODOT's policies and procedures that affect tribal governments and meets on a quarterly basis.

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

State Agency Leadership Name:

Nico Gomez
Chief Executive Officer

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

Dana Miller, Director, Tribal Government Relations
4345 N. Lincoln
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Overview:

The goal of the OHCA Tribal Government Relations team is to improve SoonerCare services to American Indian SoonerCare members, Indian Health care providers and sovereign tribal governments through effective, meaningful communication and maximizing partnerships. This is achieved by ongoing and transparent tribal consultation, integration of participation by tribal stakeholders into the decision-making process, and tribal community outreach. Active and informed participation by both OHCA and tribal partners creates optimal collaboration that allows for a positive collective impact on the health care of Oklahomans.

2015 Highlights:

On October 20, 2015 OHCA, in partnership with the Oklahoma City Area Inter Tribal Health Board, held its 9th Annual Tribal Consultation meeting in Catoosa, OK. The annual meeting is intended for OHCA staff and tribal leaders to have an open forum discussion. There were several elected tribal leaders and designees in attendance representing 17 tribal governments. Several topics were highlighted during this year's meeting, including health care needs in rural tribal communities, care of tribal elders, the importance of preventive care and mental health. In early 2016, OHCA along with key tribal stakeholders will convene a tribal partnership planning session to develop an annual action plan to address the topics from the annual meeting.

OHCA's vision is for Oklahomans to be healthy and to have access to quality health care services regardless of ability to pay. In an effort to better address the needs of SoonerCare members, OHCA participated in the sixth annual Riverside dental event with Indian Health Services (IHS), the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board (OCAITHB), the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Little Axe Health Center, Colgate-Palmolive Company, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma (BCBSOK). On the day of the event, 440 students received dental evaluations and oral hygiene tools to achieve and maintain optimal dental health. Each student will receive follow up care at the Anadarko Indian Health Service clinic.

OHCA convenes bi-monthly tribal consultation meetings on the first Tuesday of every odd numbered month. In an effort to maximize attendance and participation for these meetings, OHCA utilizes online and teleconference technology, which enables tribal partners to conveniently participate without having to travel from their community. In SFY 2015 twelve meetings were convened with an average of 11 tribes/organizations represented and 21 attendees per meeting. In addition, tribal stakeholders can make comments regarding policy and program changes online at the OHCA tribal consultation webpage.

Oklahoma State Department of Health

State Agency Leadership Name:

Terry L. Cline, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Health
Secretary of Health and Human Services

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

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Tribal Liaison
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Website: www.ok.gov/health/triballiaison



Overview:

The mission of the Office of the Tribal Liaison (OTL) is to demonstrate respect for sovereignty and advocate for tribal nations by fostering inclusive partnerships using sound public health practices.

The OTL recognizes that Oklahoma tribal nations possess inherent self-governance powers over their citizens and lands. Furthermore, tribal and state collaboration yields greater impact for healthier American Indian people and Oklahoma.

2015 Highlights:

The OTL is organizationally located within Partnerships for Health Improvement Division of the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). During 2015, the OSDH entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Choctaw Nation to increase the number of people living in the Choctaw Nation jurisdiction area who receive the seasonal flu vaccine. Every year the flu is known to increase hospitalizations, increase workforce absenteeism and often causes school closures, all of which are costly to the State of Oklahoma in increased medical care costs and work productivity. This exciting collaboration has resulted in 17,524 vaccines being administered from August to December 2015. The OSDH is grateful to the Choctaw Nation for making this remarkable and impressive project possible.

The OSDH established the Tribal Public Health Advisory Committee (TPHAC) and conducted quarterly meetings. The TPHAC is comprised of ten tribal members and developed a charter this calendar year with the purpose of seeking consensus, exchanging views, sharing information, eliciting advice and/or recommendations; and to facilitate any collaborative interaction related to the administration of public health programs. This purpose is accomplished through forums, meetings and conversations between OSDH executive leadership and tribal nations.

The OSDH established the American Indian Data Community of Practice (AID CoP). The AID CoP is a voluntary and evolutionary ACTION-oriented forum engaging data experts and stakeholders in peer learning, collaboration, and innovation in American Indian data to inspire data-driven decisions that can advance health and well-being in Oklahoma.

American Indian people in Oklahoma continue to die at higher rates than other Americans in many categories, including diabetes mellitus, unintentional injuries, intentional self-harm/suicide, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. State and Tribal health care leaders, experts, decision makers are looking at many factors that impact the health of American Indian people, including the adequacy of data available to inform public health efforts around the State of Oklahoma. Currently, there are over 60 AID CoP members comprised of data experts and analysts, directors, planners and other stakeholders representing local, tribal, state, federal, academia, and non-profit entities. It is hoped the AID CoP will help promote better understanding of health and well-being disparities and how to best address the unmet needs of American Indian people living in our state.

The OSDH Tribal Consultation Policy requires staff to seek consultation from Tribal Nations before implementing any policy changes that significantly impact Oklahoma Tribal Nations or American Indian people. Tribal consultation is conducted utilizing various methods including but not limited to formal tribal consultation, talking circles/listening sessions, key informant interviews, surveys and written input to key documents, state plan, and program ideas. The OTL incorporates proactive processes to ensure effective and meaningful communication between the OSDH and Oklahoma Tribal Nations. Successful consultation results in better and longer lasting agreements and is a step towards building collaborative governance, where government to government engagement is consensus oriented and decision making is the premise.

During 2015 OSDH conducted tribal consultation sessions independently and in collaboration with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Five consultation sessions were conducted with tribal nations regarding the development of a proposal to enhance the Insure Oklahoma program. Three other tribal consultation sessions were conducted to seek input in the development of commercial tobacco prevention programs that are targeted for implementation during State Fiscal Year 2016.

State Department of Education

State Agency Leadership:

Joy Hofmeister
Superintendent of Public Instruction

State Agency Tribal Liaison:

Dwight Pickering
Director of American Indian Education
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Website: <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/indian-education>



Overview:

The Director of American Indian Education works to develop a viable partnership between the Tribal Nations and the Oklahoma Department of Education while:

- Directing the planning and development of statewide technical assistance programs and professional development programs;
- Providing appropriate staff development reflecting teaching strategies that ensure full inclusion of the American Indian child in the learning environment;
- Improving and furthering the educational opportunities of American Indian students enrolled in Oklahoma public schools, and
- Promoting good relationships between the Tribes and the local school districts in their Tribal jurisdiction.

2015 Highlights:

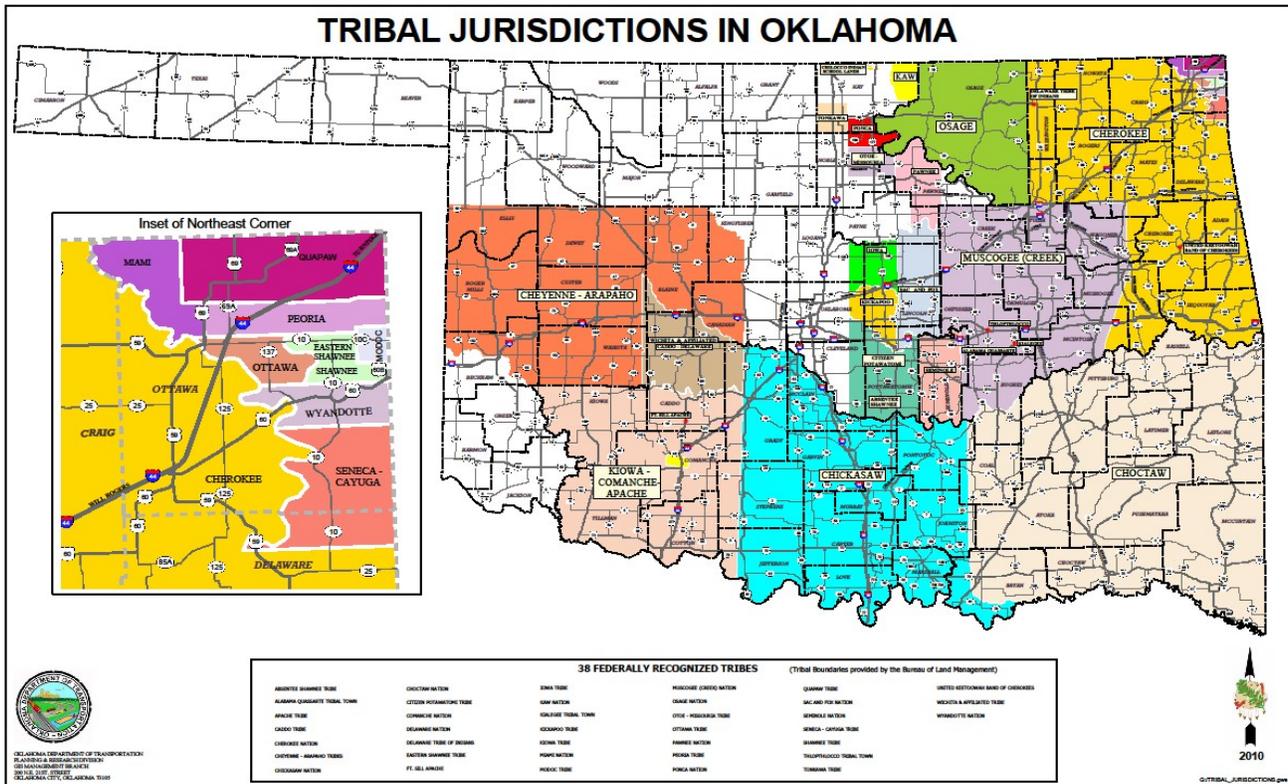
State Tribal Education Partnerships: STEP grant, a Tribal partnerships in Education between the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Chickasaw Nation, the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and the local schools districts in the Tribal jurisdiction. Represent the Oklahoma State Department of Education in consultation with the Tribal Education Departments, and Administration to help create partnerships that will enhance the knowledge and understanding of not only the cultural, traditions, and history of the Tribal Nation, but also give the Tribes an opportunity to experience the knowledge, and understanding of the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

OIER Oklahoma Indian Education Resource: While consulting with the 39 tribal Nations and the help of 75 educators, a resource site that provides not only Oklahoma classroom teachers with valuable resources about our 39 Tribal Nations, but also a resource for all Oklahomans. Located at the Oklahoma State Department of Education the website will continue to grow as Tribal Nations share their cultural traditions and history.

Indian Education Summit: This is an annual education conference for not only Indian educators but for all educators at all levels and areas from early childhood to K-12 to higher education. The summit was created to develop the whole Indian Child through education, health, and wellness. Partnering with Oklahoma Tribal Nations, Oklahoma State agencies, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Service, the Indian Education Summit has revitalized a great Education Exposition that once met the needs of Indian educators and students.

Native American Language: We have been working with Desa Dawson, World Language Director at the Oklahoma State Department of Education and have developed partnerships with our state Tribal Nations giving guidance on their Tribal language initiatives. Now there is an alternative certification pathway in place and 9 Tribes have taken advantage of the alternative means to certification with the ability to teach their languages in public schools. In addition, there is one Tribal immersion program at the present time.

V. Appendix – Tribal Jurisdiction Map



For an electronic copy of this map visit:

<http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/Maps/tribal/index.htm>