

# **Legislative Commission**

## **on Indian Services Report**

**December 2023**

**Prepared by the Office of Tribal Affairs**

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Acknowledgments .....	2
ODHS Leadership.....	3
Tribal Affairs Staff .....	4
Regional ICWA Case Specialists .....	5
Oregon Tribal Partners .....	6
Tribal Affairs Baskets of Work.....	7
ICWA/ORICWA Overview.....	15
2023 Senior ICWA and Regional ICWA Specialist Report.....	16
Indian Child Welfare Act Consultants .....	42
ODHS Programs	
Aging and People with Disabilities .....	57
Child Welfare Division.....	75
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services .....	88
Office of Resilience and Emergency Management .....	95
Self-Sufficiency Programs .....	97
Vocational Rehabilitation .....	125
Conclusion.....	132

# Introduction

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is excited to release the 2023 Legislative Commission on Indian Services Report. Over the last four years, the Office of Tribal Affairs has worked with ODHS Programs to develop a report detailing how the agency has served the Nine Tribes of Oregon and Tribal communities across the state. This year's report shows the progress and commitment the agency has made in serving Tribal children, adults, elders, and families. The privilege to serve Tribes and uphold government to government relationships continues to be prioritized among agency efforts. One of the biggest accomplishments this year is the approval of a joint Tribal consultation policy with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The agency now has a formal mechanism for Tribal consultation with the sovereign nations of Oregon. Through this policy, ODHS anticipates stronger government-to-government relations, improved programming for Tribal families, as well as an increase in well-being amongst the Nine Tribes and Tribal communities. We look forward to continued feedback as we uphold our responsibility in serving Tribes.



# Acknowledgments

On behalf of the Office of Tribal Affairs I want to recognize and thank the Nine Tribes of Oregon for their continued partnership to serve Tribal children, adults, elders, and families. The ODHS agency appreciates the honesty, flexibility, and patience in working with us. The state greatly values tribal perspective and wisdom as it helps inform human services and how we strengthen relationships with Tribes.

I appreciate the Office of Tribal Affairs staff for their commitment to serving the Nine Tribes of Oregon and Tribal communities across the state. It is through your work serving Tribal children, adults, elders, and families we can fulfill our vision and mission.

Finally, the Office of Tribal Affairs is grateful for all ODHS program directors and staff for their partnership on this year's LCIS report. The coordination to work on this report together strengthens our relationship and hones strategy in how we serve the Nine Tribes of Oregon and Tribal communities. Tribal Affairs also appreciates Director Fariborz Pakseresht who continues to center Tribal voices, sovereignty, and culture. Through our agency's leadership, advocacy, and commitment we continue to see progress in serving Tribes and strength in our government-to-government relationships.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Becenti', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Adam Becenti, Navajo/Dine**

Tribal Affairs Director

# ODHS Leadership

The ODHS executive leadership team is responsible for communicating and implementing the agency's priorities, policies, and programming that serve children, adults, elders, and families. Each program leader is committed to engaging and partnering with the Nine Tribes of Oregon to uphold Tribal sovereignty, elevate Tribal voice, and uplift Tribal culture while promoting and improving government-to-government relations.

**Fariborz Pakseresht**

Oregon Department of Human Services Director

**Liesl Wendt**

Oregon Department of Human Services  
Deputy Director

**Seth Lyon**

Chief Operations Officer

**Rob Kodiriy**

Chief Financial Officer

**Aprille Flint-Gerner**

Child Welfare Director

**Claire Seguin**

Self-Sufficiency Programs Director

**Nakeshia Knight-Coyle**

Office of Aging and People with  
Disabilities Director

**Anna Lansky**

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services  
Interim Director

**Keith Ozols**

Vocational Rehabilitation Director

**Dion Jordan**

Office of Equity and Multicultural  
Services Director

**Adam Becenti, Navajo/Dine**

Tribal Affairs Director

# Tribal Affairs Staff

Tribal Affairs works with all five ODHS programs to create and provide tribally appropriate programming, services, policies and support. Through tribal consultation with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon, ODHS ensures programming, services and policies meet the needs of Oregon Tribal communities.



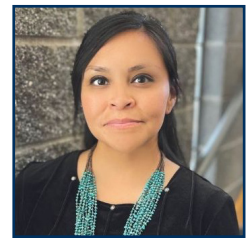
**Adam Becenti, Navajo/Dine**

Tribal Affairs Director



**Leona Enright, Umatilla**

Strategic Dir. of Tribal Initiatives



**Ashley Harding, Navajo/Diné**

Senior ICWA Manager



**Emily Hawkins-Quinton**

ICWA Consultant



**Christine Kamps,**

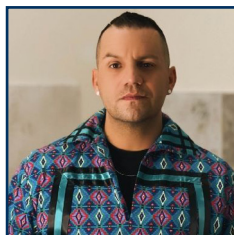
**Muscogee (Creek)**

ICWA Consultant



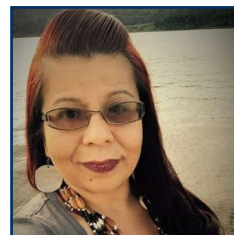
**Soren Metzger**

Tribal Consultation &  
Operations Manager



**Tony Aaron Fuller, Colville**

Tribal Affairs  
Communication Specialist

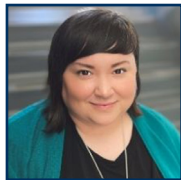


**Kristen Potts, Pitt River**

Tribal Affairs  
Executive Support



# Regional ICWA Case Specialists



**Monica Smith, Rosebud Sioux**

District 2: Multnomah County



**Tyler Pope**

District 6: Douglas County



**Marty Schroeder**

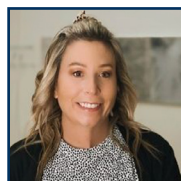
District 11: Klamath and  
Lake Counties



**Joanna Gutierrez, North Fork**

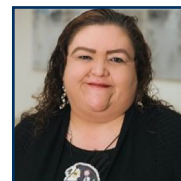
**Rancheria of Mono Indians**

District 3: Marion, Polk and  
Yamhill Counties



**Stacy Farm**

District 7: Coos and Curry Counties



**Marie Allman, Nez Perce**

District 12: Morrow and  
Umatilla Counties



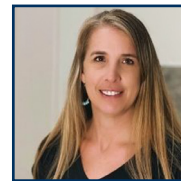
**Kayla Templeton**

District 4: Lincoln, Benton and  
Linn Counties



**Melissa Katsikis**

District 8: Jackson and  
Josephine Counties



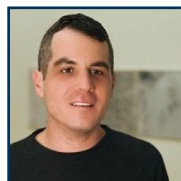
**Miranda Wagner**

District 14: Grant, Harney and  
Malheur Counties



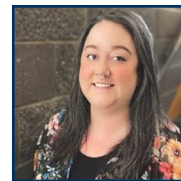
**Chris Carlson, Tlingit and  
Haida Tribe**

District 5: Lane County



**Matt Manion, Warm Springs**

District 10: Crook, Deschutes and  
Jefferson Counties

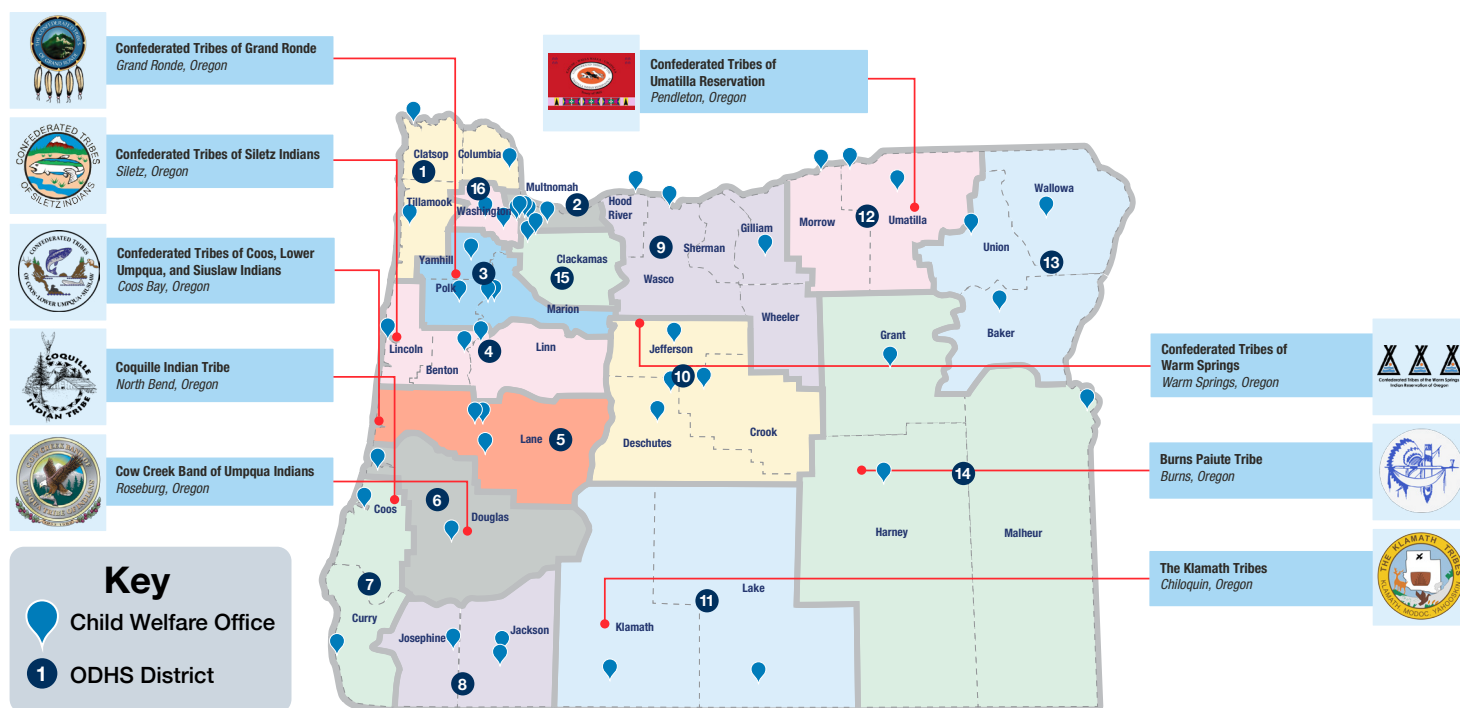


**KC Cleveland**

District 15 and 16: Washington and  
Clackamas Counties

# Oregon Tribal Partners

## Nine Tribes of Oregon and ODHS District Map





# Tribal Affairs Baskets of Work

## Office of Tribal Affairs Report – Baskets of Work

The Office of Tribal Affairs continues to evolve and expand its reach across the agency to ensure we are working more efficiently and effectively when serving Tribes. The identity and function of the Office of Tribal Affairs is distinct within ODHS. With this distinction, Tribal Affairs frames its work through the lens and perspective of Tribal culture. Within Tribal culture, baskets are symbolic where they carry stories and traditions of the Tribe and have great utility. In the Office of Tribal Affairs, baskets are utilized to help organize and structure projects, initiatives, resources, and policies. In the next section, the report goes into depth on the specific 2023 projects within each basket.

### Strategic Communications Basket

Through culturally responsive and Tribal specific messaging, communications among the Nine Tribes of Oregon, Tribal communities, and collaborating partners within ODHS will be strategic, inclusive, and equitable.

### Tribal Consultation, Engagement, and Partnership Basket

Through intentional Tribal consultation and early engagement with The Nine Tribes of Oregon, ODHS works in partnership to ensure Tribes are heard and their voices are elevated to inform how Tribal children, adults, elders, and families are served in the ODHS system. Internal partnership includes close coordination with

each of the five ODHS programs and Office of Equity and Multicultural Services.

### Program, Practice and Policy Basket

An effective service delivery system is comprised of culturally informed practice with sound policy working together to produce healthy outcomes.

Tribal Affairs works alongside programs to spur policy or practice improvement, redesign, or development to better serve Tribes.

### Training and Capacity Building Basket

Enhancing training and capacity building is essential in delivering effective services. This transfer of learning can include exchanging skills, tools, guidance along with information on

Tribal history. Tribal Affairs is equipped to support each program in building capacity to meet the needs of Tribal children, adults, elders, and families.

### **Tribal Consultation Policy Development and Implementation - Tribal Consultation, Engagement, and Partnership Basket**

In 2022, ODHS started the development process of a Tribal consultation policy with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon. At the request of Tribal governmental officials for a single ODHS and OHA Tribal consultation policy, ODHS convened both internal and external workgroups to compile the necessary changes to effectively incorporate into the existing OHA Tribal Consultation and Urban Indian Health Program Confer Policy adopted in 2018.

The internal workgroup was comprised of ODHS Program Leaders or their designees, with representatives from each of the five major programs, the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services, the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management, the Oregon Eligibility Partnership, the Special Projects Office, the Office of Reporting, Research, Analytics and Implementation, and generally from Shared and Central Services. This group met twice a month and occasionally split into sub-groups for more technical discussions, for example on rulemaking.

Trainings and presentations were provided to build awareness on Tribal history and historical trauma, sovereignty, political and legal status of Tribes, governmental structure comparisons and awareness, trust responsibility, history, state and federal requirements for consultation, and general awareness of the existing components of the OHA policy. With foundational understanding this workgroup then identified changes needed specific to their program areas and to align with federal requirements for consultation. The work of this group greatly benefited from the experience of the Aging and People with Disabilities Program and Office of Developmental Disabilities Services work with OHA on Tribal consultation as required by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

The external workgroup was comprised of Tribal governmental officials, who were designated by their leaders to engage in this work. Meetings with this group occurred far less often and evolved into one-on-one conversations with Tribal representatives or general updates during the quarterly ODHS Directors/ Oregon Tribes Convenings and ODHS update portion of SB 770 Health and Human Services Cluster Meetings. The feedback received from this work was largely based on Tribal governmental officials' experience with existing consultation policies.

As the necessary policy changes and external feedback were compiled, the ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs worked closely with the OHA Office of Tribal Affairs in drafting a joint policy for consideration by the Nine Tribes of Oregon. The draft joint policy was initially presented to the Nine Tribes of Oregon during the April 2023 SB 770 Health & Human Services Cluster Meeting. During that meeting an overview of all proposed changes was provided. Ahead of the July 2023 SB 770 Health & Human Services Cluster Meeting an official “Dear Tribal Leader Letter” notice was sent to Tribal governmental officials as required in the policy and additional discussion was offered during the ODHS updates portion of the agenda. Formal consultation was not requested on the proposed joint policy and during the October 2023 SB 770 Health & Human Services Cluster Meeting approval for policy adoption began and was received by all Nine Tribes of Oregon later that week. Upon confirmation from the Nine Tribes of Oregon, ODHS

Director Fariborz Pakseresht and OHA Interim Director Dave Baden the OHA/ODHS Tribal Consultation and Urban Indian Health Program Confer Policy was adopted October 6, 2023.

In preparation for the January 1, 2024 policy operational date, ODHS began implementation planning. ODHS Program Leaders or their designees were reconvened to create the Tribal Consultation Implementation Team and will continue to meet monthly through March 2024. Activities of this team are informed by implementation science, an evidenced based practice with stage appropriate implementation activities. The stages of implementation don’t clearly end as the next stage begins, and full implementation takes two to four years to complete. An overview of the ODHS stages for implementation of the OHA/ODHS Tribal Consultation and Urban Indian Health Program Confer Policy are below:



As a part of the exploration stage, the implementation team began to identify themes that would need further consideration from ODHS subject matter experts resulting in sub-groups. Sub-groups are guided by the implementation charter, are required to make recommendations to the full implementation team and are specifically focused in the following subject areas communications and materials, rules, and reporting, OHA/ODHS coordination, technical administration, and program support.

Sub-groups and the Implementation Team have successfully provided recommendations and informed communication support for the installation stage of implementation which includes tools and resources, guidance and ODHS specific policy interpretation, and change management activities. A list of current resources on the internal staff intranet Tribal Consultation page include:

### **Tools and Resources**

- All Staff Tribal Consultation Policy Informational Webinar Presentation November 30, 2023
- All Staff Tribal Consultation Policy Informational Webinar Video November 30, 2023
- Understanding Consultation vs Engagement Tool
- Dear Tribal Leader Letter template
- Tribal Consultation Fact Sheet
- Tribal Consultation Frequently Asked Questions

- Tribal Consultation Glossary of Terms
- Understanding Governmental Structures Tool
- Nine Tribes of Oregon and ODHS Districts Map
- ODHS Program contacts

The Office of Tribal Affairs is partnering with the Human Resources – Organizational Professional Development Unit in the development of a series of trainings for ODHS Leaders and staff available in 2024. Trainings will build Tribal foundational knowledge including history and sovereignty, then discuss consultation requirements, and provide tools for effective Tribal engagement. Until trainings are widely available the Office of Tribal Affairs is partnering with designated Tribal program staff and the existing Office of Equity and Multicultural Services – Service Equity Manager structure to provide support and presentations on consultation to agency leaders and staff at various levels throughout the agency.

Ahead of the ODHS operational date, programs have expressed great interest in improved communications and government-to-government relations with the Nine Tribes of Oregon, and a genuine desire to uphold sovereignty and improve outcomes for American Indians and Alaska Natives seeking ODHS supports and services. Understanding Tribal consultation is a tool to make progress in those areas, ODHS programs are communicating and developing their system

specific processes to ensure Tribes are offered formal consultation at the earliest possible point in the process of program development, implementation planning or policy changes with a specific, significant or disproportionate impact to Tribes. The Office of Tribal Affairs is also intentionally engaging Tribal governmental officials in implementation planning, which has led to discussions on contacting the appropriate Tribal governmental officials on consultation requests, streamlining communications, and opportunities for relationship building and cultivation ahead of formal requests.

The first request for consultation using the newly adopted policy was sent December 22, 2023, and is related to implementation of House Bill 3409 (2023), Section 86 where \$2 million has been set aside for Tribes to increase resiliency to natural or man-made disasters that may impact Tribal governments, Tribal members, and or Tribal communities. The ODHS Office of Resilience and Emergency Management is offering consultation on the development of the Resilience Hub & Networks Grant Program including funding formulas for fund distribution and the development of Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA). Per the requirements of the policy, the Nine Tribes of Oregon have until January 22, 2024 to request formal consultation.

## **Oregon Tribes/Oregon Department of Human Services Directors Convening - Tribal Consultation, Engagement, and Partnership Basket**

The Office of Tribal Affairs convenes quarterly meetings with the Nine Tribes leadership within human and social services and Oregon Department of Human Services Program Directors. The purpose is to streamline communication and coordination between Tribes and ODHS to address issues involving access to services, program practice, or other Tribal needs. This year Strategic Director of Tribal Initiatives Leona Enright took the reign of planning each convening.

At the start of this year ODHS did not host a Directors Convening because of post-holiday transition and unavailability of participants. In April 2023 Leona lead and facilitated her first Convening at Three River Casino in Florence, OR. Topics including discussing agency strategic planning, the recent ICWA Supreme Court Case, Survivor Investment Partnership, American Rescue Plan funds, and April Native Caring Conference.

In July 2023 the Directors Convening was held at Chinook Winds in Lincoln City, OR. Topics covered at the July meeting included the ONE System implementation updates, Oregon Buys system,

update on SNAP income rule, Child Welfare equity and workforce development, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs getting federally funded.

The last convening of the year was held in October 2023 on the Warm Springs Reservation. During the October convening, Program Directors and staff were given a tour of the reservation and Tribal facilities. In the afternoon the discussion topics included how to best to communicate funding opportunities from ODHS, the September Vocational Rehabilitation Directors Meeting in Seaside, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services structural shifts/upcoming changes, Child Welfare's System of Care Funding, and Self-Sufficiency's Road Map, the TANF- Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funding, and introducing new Aging and People with Disability Director Regulatory Deputy Director Introduction- Corissa Neufeldt.

The next Directors Convening will be in January 2024 in Portland, OR.

### **Senate Bill 770 Meetings**

To comply with Senate Bill 770 (2001), ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs partners with the OHA Office of Tribal Affairs to host quarterly Health and Human Services Cluster Meetings for the Nine Tribes of Oregon. This brings together Tribal leaders and state agencies within health and human services to build

relationships, increase communication/transparency, and share updates on state services. Highlights from meetings this year include ODHS program director participation during the July meeting in Lincoln City. The ODHS program directors who attended provided updates. At the October meeting in Warm Springs there was a final discussion of the proposed changes to the Tribal consultation policy.

### **ICWA Advisory Council**

The Office of Tribal Affairs hosts a quarterly convening with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Advisory Council comprised of Tribal staff and leadership from the Nine Tribes of Oregon who serve Tribal children and families. The meetings also include Child Welfare Division leadership and staff. ICWA Advisory Council serves to guide and advise on matters of the Indian Child Welfare Act/Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA/ORICWA), over representation of Tribal children in the Child Welfare system, or new Child Welfare program initiatives.

The first meeting of the year was held in February in Salem, OR. The focus was on ICWA case practice and how to improve and provide consistency across the state.

The May 2023 ICWA Advisory Council meeting was held in Coos Bay, OR. Though the environment was



contentious, there was a needed discussion on restoring and strengthening relationships with Tribes and building trust and transparency. During that meeting ICWA Advisory Council had specific asks of Child Welfare and Tribal Affairs that would be followed up at the August meeting.

The August 2023 meeting was held in Lincoln City, OR. The entire meeting was dedicated to follow up on what was requested during the previous meeting. Child Welfare provided information on funding opportunities, updates on roles and responsibilities, details on Soul Focus solidarity workshops, the ODHS Equity Framework, and the plan for Tribal representation within Continuous Quality Improvement efforts. Tribal Affairs provided a team organizational chart.

The November 2023 topics centered on how to reformat the structure of the ICWA Advisory Council meetings to move the work forward.

Looking forward, in 2024 Tribal Affairs will send out monthly emails to Tribes sharing Child Welfare updates and setting up monthly meetings with the ICWA Advisory Council. The next ICWA Advisory Council Meeting is in February of 2024.

## **Office of Equity and Multicultural Services Supporting Tribes of Oregon**

This year the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services (OEMS) awarded funds through the Equitable Communities Grant Fund to Tribes of Oregon and an organization serving Tribal families. The grant offers resources to organizations or Tribes that provide services for the following areas:

- Outreach, education, and engagement activities for ODHS programs and services
- ODHS program service navigation
- Leadership development and skills training
- Capacity building workshops and technical assistance

The grant also fostered conversations between the Tribes and ODHS leadership in laying the foundation for development of meaningful partnerships between ODHS and the people it serves. These conversations ensured a collaborative approach to service delivery. The Tribal recipients and community-based nonprofit recipient are:

- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde: Supports continued outreach, education, and leadership development for Tribal staff, community, and ODHS partners with a focus on how racism within the child welfare system impacts Tribal families/communities.

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation: Facilitates activities that promote leadership development among Umatilla children and youth. Activities include participating in Tribal leadership gatherings where youth learn about performing various governmental functions or cultural teaching of Tribal elders that have been performed since time immemorial.
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs: Provides community housing assistance for Tribal homeowners
- Klamath Tribes: Supports youth initiative programs housed within the education and employment department.
- Next Door Inc.: Support culturally specific events emphasizing traditional Native American culture, as well as outreach events directly impacting Native communities when building trust and connections with service providers in the area.

# ICWA/ORICWA Overview

In 2023, the Senior ICWA manager and Regional ICWA Specialist team maneuvered through a multitude of dynamics in Child Welfare which allowed for opportunities of brave space, growth, and continued dedication to serving Tribes, Tribal communities, children, and families.

Three areas to highlight from 2023 that display the collaboration, partnership, and dedication are:

- The Klamath Tribes and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians flag raising ceremony. District 11 - Klamath and Lake Counties and District 6 - Douglas County collaborated with The Klamath Tribes and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to raise Tribal flags next to the State of Oregon and United States flag in front of each respective Oregon Department of Human Services building. The significance of the flag raising honors and acknowledges sovereignty, visibility of Tribal members, and dedication and commitment to the Nine Tribes of Oregon.
- The Regional Indian Child Welfare Act Specialist team became fully staffed at 12 employees each highly qualified and dedicated. The team also held a Regional ICWA Specialist position in rotation for the first time in partnership with District 3. The rotation maintained the continuity of ICWA practice

in the district and allowed an ODHS employee to build their skillset in the field of Indian Child Welfare with the Office of Tribal Affairs.

- Throughout this year, the Regional ICWA Specialist team along with other staff from the Office of Tribal Affairs leaned into many brave and courageous spaces with Tribes and Child Welfare staff. These opportunities reminded the team of understanding the intricate balance of relationship, ensuring accountability to ICWA/ORICWA practice, and Tribal sovereignty. This allowed for opportunities to enhance skill sets of Child Welfare staff statewide through one-on-one coaching and training.

The Regional ICWA Specialist team continues to develop professionally and remain flexible to the ever changing and shifts with Child Welfare. One thing is certain, they always ensure the spirit and law of ICWA/ORICWA are at the forefront of how they approach staff and partners across the state.

# 2023 Senior ICWA and Regional ICWA Specialist Report

## District 2: Multnomah County

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** All Oregon Tribes

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Monica Smith

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

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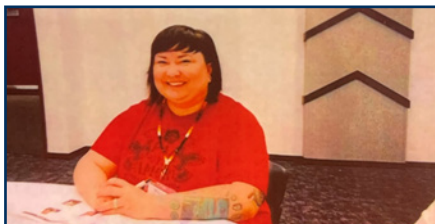
From

08/01/2023 to

11/06/2023

- **Case Staffings**
  - Initial Assessment/Active Efforts Staffings
  - Placement Preference and Good Cause Staffings
  - ODHS Agency Wide Case Staffings with Tribes
  - Other District/Branch Level case staffings

- **Engagement with Tribes** – Attending Oregon Tribes trainings and events with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Burns Paiute Tribe, North/South Dakota Tribes' collaboration and training in July 2023. Regularly attending events in the community at NAYA (Native



Monica Smith at the North Dakota Indian Child Welfare Conference.

American Youth Association), NARA (Native American Rehabilitation Association), Barbie's Village, local and in-state powwows (NAYA, Delta Park, Southern Oregon University powwow, culture night during ICWA conference with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

- **One-on-One Coaching** – 1270 check-ins with search specialists, reviewing data/regular virtual check-ins and support, weekly staffing as needed with branches and workers that require more support.

\*10

**one on one discussions with workers since 08/01/2023**



State of Oregon employees and tribal partners at the plank house in ceremony with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

- **Active Efforts** – One on one discussions with workers on how to enhance active efforts with workers. Participated in-



**Motivational interviewing training and tour/history with Jim St. Martin at the Burns Paiute Reservation.**

field with workers, offered resources to parents, provided in-kind and immediate

### **Regional ICWA Bi-annuals –meetings to support the spirit of ICWA/ORICWA**

- Native American & Alaska Native Heritage Event 11/9 with speaker series re: ICWA

### **ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)**

- ORICWA Child custody proceedings 11/21 and 12/12
- 1270 training Tillamook, Astoria, Saint Helens (District 1)
- Annual Oregon ICWA Conference

### **Workgroups/Committees Participation**

- WAHONE (We are here Oregon Native Employees) – serve on leadership team as one of the cultural celebration coordinators.
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People's Day subcommittee.
- Day of Truth & Reconciliation subcommittee.
- ICWA Docket D2

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives**

- WAHONE
- Collaboration with EIC, RAIN, and Mi Gente

### **District Highlight(s):**

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

Monthly staffings with The Klamath Tribes, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. Beginning to explore establishing a monthly Cowlitz staffing with ICWA consultants and Tribes.

Collaboration with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; went in the field with their tribal caseworker, we collaborated on meeting a teens immediate need while the DHS caseworker was out of the office.

Assisted in-state Tribes with field work when they have no workers available, ensuring child safety and collaborating with the tribe. Have also assisted caseworkers for ODHS in the field on ICWA cases.

Attended a Human Solidarity training sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Oregon Department of Human Services. The training was two-day and required vulnerability when discussing difficult traumas and topics; it strengthened our relationship. This was followed-up by a Power Summit also presented at Grand Ronde by the Soul Focused Group.

Initial staffings with in state and out-of-state Tribes on new CPS assessments where the ICWA applies; Tribes have been appreciative of the early contact that comes from our agency when we include them at initial contact.

Attended the ICWA conference in North Dakota this summer and connect/collaborate with many of the Tribes in that area including Standing Rock Sioux, Rosebud Sioux, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara (three affiliated tribes).



Monica Smith (far right) at powwow and Indigenous Peoples' Day event at Barbie's Village. Actress and writer Jana Schmieding presented as key-note speaker (center). Adam Becenti was also in attendance along with several public figures and community partners from the Portland area Native community.

## Success Stories

Notes from an initial staffing with Catawba Nation of South Carolina. *"Tribe appreciates that the agency reached out so quickly. It is not uncommon for families to change their reporting of association due to poor relationships with the Tribe. Tribe will contact the mother and assist with enrollment of the children."*

Notes from initial staffing with Potawatomi Nation of OK. *"Tribe is familiar with Oregon and appreciates participating in case staffings for Tribal families."*



From Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde regarding a mutual case.

*"I just wanted to take a moment to say Hayu Masi (Many Thanks) for your willingness to go out on our mutual assessment when CPS worker was unavailable. We are grateful that we could collaborate and not have to do 2 different assessments, so much easier for the youth in this case.*

*I also wanted to send our appreciation on being able to provide supports/resource immediately. We know that every assessment is different, with different needs, however just wanted to make sure you knew that we appreciated your efforts yesterday!! Thank you"*



Districts 2, 15,  
and 16 Metro area  
Native Heritage  
Celebration.



## District 3: Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Joanna Gutierrez, Theresa Goodwin (Rotation)

Six months of 2023, District 3 and the Office of Tribal Affairs had an individual in rotation. This was the first rotation of its kind for the Office of Tribal Affairs and District 3.

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

- Case Staffings
- Initial Assessment/Active Efforts Staffings
- Placement Preference and Good Cause Staffings
- ODHS Agency Wide Case Staffings with Tribes
- Other District/Branch Level case staffings
- Engagement with Tribes
- One-on-One Coaching
- Active Efforts

**68** initial staffings

**35** internal staffings/perm case staffings

**4** Good Cause Staffings

**10** monthly CTGR Staffings w/ Yamhill

### Regional ICWA Biannual' s

- 12/6/2022
- 6/7/2023
- (Upcoming- 11/29/2023)

### ICWA Specific Events

#### Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- CASA presentations
- D3 launched their ICWA CPS Initial Staffing Protocol Guide
- Marion PS: Brackeen V Haaland
- Marion Perm: Brackeen V Haaland
- Yamhill New Worker Huddle ICWA Presentation x3
- Provided overview training of D3 ICWA CPS Initial Staffing Protocol Guide Training to CPS Supervisors at all 3 branches
- Provided overview training of D3 ICWA CPS Initial Staffing Protocol Guide Training to CPS Workers at all 3 branches
- Provided General ICWA presentations at all branches' All Staffs
- Ongoing ICWA Search Meetings with Marion Branch
- Attends and presents updates, ICWA data to D3's monthly Executive Leadership Team

**10**

**one on one  
coaching with  
CPS workers**

## Workgroups/Committees Participation

- Yamhill certification with CTGR
- SSP with CTGR
- 4 CQI planning groups
- Completed CFSR's
- Participated in CTSI's PCT Meetings x3
- Participates in WAHONE
- Collaboration between Regional ICWA Specialist and Indigenous Now

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- Nine Tribes of Oregon map in each office presentation
- ICWA Resource Bulletin Boards in all D3 CW and SSP offices
- Participates in D3 Equity and Inclusion Committee and presented at Brave space in October



ODHS staff at 2023 Tribal-State ICWA Conference in Grand Ronde

## District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

- 1 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples event, 2 Powwows
- The Klamath Tribes/Klamath/D3 two-day training.
- Native Languages in offices
- Native American Art in offices
- Attended Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) History and Culture training.
- CTGR invited District 3 to participate in Human Solidarity Training hosted by CTGR/Soul Focused Group
- D3 Quarterly ICWA Leadership Meetings
- D3/Grand Ronde Connections meeting
- Connected CTGR with Central Office Team for their internal CANS process.
- Connected CTGR with D3 Champion for efforts towards recruitment of Tribal Resource Homes

## Success Stories

Permanency ICWA Caseworker in Yamhill County was able to consistently provide active efforts to a youth in care and the agency was able to send this youth to their Indian reservation in Idaho multiple times in a year. The youth was able to bond and build a relationship with their tribe and family and this helped secure permanency for the youth. The Tribe eventually took jurisdiction and the youth relocated to Idaho to be with their family, as he requested and wanted.

09/2022- 20/2023, there has been 2 ICWA removals and 7 case closures- Total of 13 ICWA Eligible/Enrolled children in foster care in D3

Cydney Nestor and D3 team approved a six-month job rotation for the Regional ICWA Specialist position when the RIS went out on leave.

One ICWA Warrior from District 3: Tony Nehren



## District 4: Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Kayla Templeton

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**129** Initial Assessment/  
Active Efforts Staffings

**3** Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffings

**9** ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes

**468** Other District/Branch Level  
case staffings

**53** Engagement with Tribes

**469** One-on-One Coaching

**52** Active Efforts

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- Western Region Biannual June 2023
- Western Region Biannual November 2023

### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- D1 ICWA training
- Search Specialist Protocol Walkthrough
- District 4 ICWA Cohort

### Workgroups/Committees Participation

- District 4 ICWA resource group
- RAFT/NTDC
- OTA/PSU 1270 video partnership
- Motivational Interviewing Summit
- D4 CQI

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- District 4 plans to create and maintain a healthy relationship with our tribal partners. This is going to enhance our scope over ICWA eligible cases while also creating the best outcome for our ICWA eligible families.

## District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

District 4 has initiated quarterly relationship building lunches with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Started providing cross agency training and relationship building opportunities. Came together to create a plan that will give a starting point in our collaboration working with families who are touched by our CW and SS programs.



Western ICWA Biannual with representation from Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, District 4 CW/SSP staff and District 3 CW/SSP staff.

## Success Stories

This year Lincoln Co. was able to support a child enrolled with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians in exiting care. This youth has been in care for many years and ended agency involvement while living independently in the Community Outreach Inc. supported by family and community.

Received communication from a representative of the Chickasaw Nation stating, *"We are all impressed and appreciative of the way Oregon handles ICWA. I have worked for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and The Chickasaw Nation and at both tribes, Oregon has been discussed as having some of the best state ICWA policies."*



## District 5: Lane County

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Christopher Carlson

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**23**

**Initial Assessment/  
Active Efforts Staffings**

**1**

**Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffings**

**1**

**ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes**

### ICWA/ORICWA requirements

#### Field support

- Active Efforts
- Rent assistance
- Vital records assistance
- Gas cards
- Transporting for visits

#### Regional ICWA Biannual' s – meetings to support spirit of ICWA/ORICWA

- 11/29/23

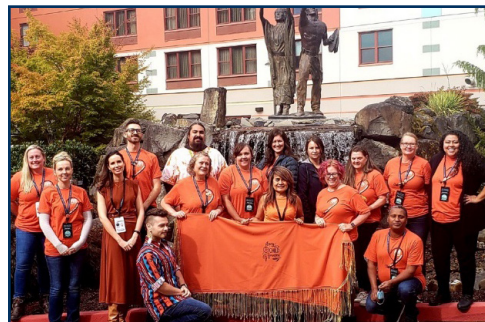
#### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- D5 Regional ICWA Specialist has been in touch with Sealaska which is one of the 13 Alaskan Native corporations and has agreed to come speak to staff to educate them on what a Alaskan Native cooperation is and why it is used to help identify ICWA cases.

### Engagement with Tribes

D5 continues to partner and engage with local Tribes, a recent ICWA unit Luncheon was held with representatives from Confederated Tribes of Coos Lower Umpqua Siuslaw and Confederated Tribes of Siletz where Lane County ICWA unit staff were able to talk to Tribal representatives and continue to build relationships.

D5 staff and leadership recently attended and presented at the 1st Annual Crime Victims Summit put on by the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.



**D5 staff at 2023  
State ICWA  
conference.**

## Workgroups/Committees Participation

- Relief Nursery Native American Advisory
- Continuous Quality Improvement

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- D5 has recently started their own ICWA quarterly meetings to present different topics to staff and present import data regarding PS and ongoing cases.
- Attended Native American Heritage celebration hosted by D6.

### District Highlight(s):

#### **Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

D5 has formed specialized ICWA units for Protective services and ongoing case work. These ICWA units are supervised by one supervisor so when cases become legally involved there is a warm handoff to ongoing because supervisors are already familiar with case history.

D5 Regional ICWA specialist and CPS staff recently attended the National Tribal Opioid Summit hosted by Tulalip Tribes in Washington. This summit emphasized a call to actions for all Tribal Nations to address the opioid crisis in tribal communities. This summit

showcased keynote speakers from Northwest Portland area Indian health board, health care authority, office of national drug control policy, congressmen, and governors. Breakout sessions discusses how to use culture as healing and what local Tribes were doing in their community's.

District 5 currently has 12 kids in sub care who are identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native, this number has been as high as 26 but has seen a steady decrease with no new removals. Out of these 12 children 5 of them are currently in-home cases. D5 as has had a total of 263 inquires with Tribal Nations on enrolment/ membership that were identified from the 1270 form and roughly 40 open assessments that have confirmed ICWA/ORICWA status or waiting responses from Tribal Nations.

### Success Stories

D5 staff received 3 ICWA warrior awards in 2023 and was the only district to be nominated by a client they were serving.



**Culture night  
hosted by Tulalip  
Tribes**

## District 6: Douglas County

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribes of Indians

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Tyler Pope

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**52**

**Initial Assessment/  
Active Efforts Staffings**

**2**

**ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes**

**157**

**Other District/Branch Level  
case staffings**

### Engagement with Tribes

- Oregon
  - Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
  - Coquille Indian Tribe
  - Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community
  - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
  - Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Washington
  - Cowlitz Indian Tribe
  - Upper Skagit Tribe
- California
  - Resighini Tribe of Yurok People
  - Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- Oklahoma
  - Cherokee Nation
  - The Choctaw Nation
  - Delaware Nation
  - Quapaw Nation
  - The Chickasaw Nation
  - Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Michigan
  - Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- North Dakota
  - Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
- South Dakota
  - Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
- Alaska
  - Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes
  - Native Village of Unalakleet
- One-on-One Coaching
  - Active Efforts Intake/Ongoing
  - 1270 Assistance
  - ICWA/ORICWA
  - Explanation of Reason to Know
- ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)
  - 10/12/23 CPS 1270 Training

## Workgroups/Committees Participation

- 09/19/23 Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians Crime Victims Summit
- 10/18/23 Continuous Quality Improvement
- 11/02/23 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Power Summit

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- 11/09/23 Native American Heritage Celebration

### District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

- 11/09/23 Native American Celebration held at Roseburg ODHS Office
- 11/09/23 Coordinated with Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to fly their Nation's flag to demonstrate our ongoing partnership and collaboration.

## Success Stories

District 6 was approved to have a Regional Indian Child Welfare Act Specialist to provide training to caseworkers, bolster relationships with Tribes, and reinforce the adherence to the spirit of ICWA.

District 6 started 2023 with 11 American Indian/Alaskan Native children in care. As of November 2023, there are 7 American Indian/Alaskan Native children in care in this District.



**Cow Creek Flag Raising Ceremony  
at Roseburg ODHS Office**

## District 7: Coos and Curry Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Stacy Farm

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

61

Initial Assessment/  
Active Efforts Staffings

1

ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes

8

Engagement with Tribes

6

One-on-One Coaching

13

Active Efforts

### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- D6/D8 Relationship Building Event
- District 7 1270 trainings (May & October)
- Tribal Guardianships & Tribal Customary Adoption (September)
- Placement Preference (August)

### Workgroups/Committees Participation

- Coos County Homeless Coalition
- District 7 Resource Home Retention Group
- District 7 Mandatory Reporter Trainings

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- South Coast Diversity Conference Presenter
- District 7 Pride Month tie-dye event
- Tribal Engagement Meeting

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- D6/D7/D8 Roseburg, OR
- Western Region Biannual

## District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

- CTCLUSI & Coquille Medicine Box Partnership
- Coquille Tribal Health Fair
- D6/D7 Coquille Tribe Meet and Greet
- Child Abuse Prevention Month Pinwheel Design with Coquille Tribe
- South Coast Equity Coalition and Coquille Tribal Presentation
- CTCLUSI Domestic Violence Summit

## Success Stories

In the fall of 2023, District 7 collaborated with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians and the Coquille Indian Tribe to provide locked medication boxes to Tribal families along with information about resources in the area and safe medication storage practices. Nationwide, the CDC reports approximately 35,000 emergency department visits each year because of unintentional medication overdoses among children under the age of 5 and one out of every 250 two-year-old treated in an emergency department are for unintentional medication overdose. Of those 35,000 emergency department visits, over 90% involve children who

get into medicine on their own without caregiver oversight. Safe medication storage is a proven barrier to unintentional overdose, but caregivers are often unaware of the importance of safe storage practices or do not have a safe place to store medications.

District 7 Program Manager Gabe Dawson and Regional Indian Child Welfare Act Specialist Stacy Farm delivered medication boxes to the CTCLUSI Tribal Police and family services department during the First Annual CTCLUSI Crime Victims Summit held in Florence, Oregon, at the Three Rivers Hotel and Casino. District 7 Certification workers James Nix and Patrice Stefanelli attended the Coquille Tribe Health Fair, themed, “Heroes of Health and Safety” to distribute locked medication boxes to families in attendance. To date, more than 75 locked medication boxes have been distributed to Tribal families in Coos and Curry counties.



## District 8: Jackson and Josephine Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** All Oregon Tribes

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Melissa Katsikis

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**61** Initial Assessment  
**159** Active Efforts

**17** Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffing

**8** ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes

### District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership-** Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.

- District attendance to the NICWA and Oregon ICWA Conferences.
- District participation in the Creating Human Solidarity in collaboration with The Klamath Tribes.

### Success Stories

- Dedicated ICWA supervisor that is managing ICWA case in Perm and CPS to ensure ICWA is followed to fidelity.
- Adjusting 1270 and search inquiry process to ensure accuracy and adherence to the laws.

**135** Engagement with Tribes

**175** One-on-One Coaching

**40** Active Efforts

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- D6/D7/D8 Roseburg, OR
- Western Region Biannual

## District 10: Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Matt Manion

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**95**

**Initial Assessment/  
Active Efforts Staffings**

**7**

**Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffings**

**11**

**ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes**

**2**

**Engagement with Tribes**

**4**

**One-on-One Coaching**

**27**

**Active Efforts**

### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- Twice monthly training on ICWA topics for D10 ICWA Unit
- Provided ICWA trainings to the D10 New Worker Cohort throughout the year

### Workgroups/Committees Participation

- D10 Equity & Inclusion Committee
- Monthly Staffing with Warm Springs CPS
- Quarterly meetings with D10 Certification and Warm Springs CPS Certification

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- Removed two paintings from ODHS conference room that were the source of multiple complaints. Working with local high school art program to replace them.

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- 03/09/2023 - Madras
- 10/27/2023 - La Grande

## District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

- Hosted an informal/no agenda lunch with Jefferson County CW staff and Warm Springs CPS.
- District 10 Certification Supervisors, ICWA Certifier, Placement Desk worker, Christine Kamps and I met with Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs CPS for an informal lunch to build relationships since we share resource homes.
- Assisted WS CPS by connecting them with Christine who got ICWA specific workers in Oklahoma involved and progress on the case.

## Success Stories

D10 created an ICWA Unit in 2023. All ICWA cases in D10 now go through the Jefferson County branch. There was a learning curve, but we connected with other ICWA Units around Oregon to learn how to best implement an ICWA Unit. The team has been highly adaptable and open to new ways of doing things and are stepping up to provide Active Efforts in La Pine, Bend, Redmond, Sisters, Prineville, Madras and Crooked River Ranch.

## District 11: Klamath and Lake Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** The Klamath Tribes

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Marty Schroeder

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**76**

Initial Assessment

**98**

Active Efforts

**12**

Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffing

**6**

ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes

**56**

Engagement with Tribes

**100**

One-on-One Coaching

**149**

Active Efforts

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- 3/15/2023 Southern Regional Biannual

### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- ICWA Training D11
- Raising of The Klamath Tribes Flag
- Klamath Tribes-State Gathering

### Workgroups/Committees Participation

- Klamath County Circuit Court

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- Galaxy Defenders

### District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

- First Oregon ICWA Court to celebrate one-year anniversary in 12/2023.
- Reduced Tribal children in foster care by nearly 30% from 2022.
- Tribal representation displayed throughout D11 building.
- Ongoing partnership with The Klamath Tribes and ODHS Programs to better serve Tribal Nations and families.

Collaboration with The Klamath Tribes in presenting on a State and National level regarding the initiatives that are being utilized in D11 to provide better quality services to Tribal Nations and families.

Collaboration with The Klamath Tribes in ODHS workforce training and development.

### **Success Stories**

Through D11 program initiatives in partnership with The Klamath Tribes, D11 witnessed a reduction of nearly 30% of Native American/Alaskan Native children in the foster care system in Klamath and Lake Counties. This was accomplished through a continuum of care between Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency Programs to make a true impact to the Tribal Nations and families we serve.



## District 12: Umatilla and Morrow Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Marie Allman

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

53

Initial Assessment

13

Active Efforts

0

Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffing

5

ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes

30

Engagement with Tribes

63

One-on-One Coaching

0

Active Efforts

### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- CF1270 Trainings
- Placement Preference, Good Cause, Notice, and Notification
- Tamastslikt Cultural Institute

### Workgroups/Committees Participation

- D12 Advisory Committee
- D12 Event Planning Workgroups

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- D12 Equity and Inclusion Committee Chairman

### District Highlight(s):

- New Program Manager, CPS Supervisor, and Permanency Supervisor who embrace ICWA/ORICWA

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

- The CTUIR and District 12 worked collaboratively in monthly staffing, site visits, and collaboration with ICWA/ORICWA for new workers within CTUIR and ODHS – CW.

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- Eastern (D-10) Biannual – March 2023
- Eastern (D-13) CF1270 Training – October 2023

## Success Stories

The collaboration with ODHS - CPS and CTUIR has been effective in not removing children from their homes.

## District 14: Malheur, Grant, and Harney Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** Burns Paiute Tribe

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** Miranda Wagner

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**40**

**Initial Assessment/  
Active Efforts Staffings**

**3**

**Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffings**

**6**

**ODHS Agency Wide Case  
Staffings with Tribes**

**20**

**Other District/Branch Level  
case staffings**

**100**

**One-on-One Coaching**

**40**

**Active Efforts**

### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- 1270 Training-District 14
- 1270 Training -District 13
- Tribal State ICWA Conference presentation
- ICWA/ORICWA Summit

### Workgroups/Committees Participation

- LICWAC-Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee
- Horse Medicine Training with CTUIR
- ICWA Conference planning meetings
- OTA Team Connection & ICWA/ORICWA Training

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- 2023 D-14 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference-Intergenerational Trauma
- Meeting, collaboration, and planning sessions

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- March 9, 2023, Hybrid meeting
- October 25, 2023, Hybrid-D-13

## District Highlight(s):

**Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

District 14 managers were invited to and attended the Burns Paiute Tribe's Prevention Camp. The district has been working on becoming better partners to Burns Paiute Tribe and have regularly scheduled meetings between the social services director and the program and district managers.

Local management worked with Burns Paiute Tribe to secure additional COVID funding to help support Tribal families impacted by COVID.

One of the Harney County CPS workers attending a national conference with the Burns Paiute Tribe Social Services director to present a shared presentation around Tribal collaboration and partnership in serving Tribal families.

## Success Stories

The Harney County Child Welfare branch continues to support Burns Paiute Tribe and their Child Protective Services program through a Tribal State Agreement wherein the local office covers CPS and ongoing cases. Through this collaboration the agencies have been able to return children previously in foster care to their parents and currently have no children in the physical custody of the State.

## District 15/16: Washington and Clackamas Counties

**Oregon Tribe(s) Served:** All Oregon Tribes

**Regional ICWA Specialist:** KC Cleveland

### ICWA/ORICWA Practice/Policy

**30** Initial Assessments

**15** Active Efforts Staffings

**3** Placement Preference and  
Good Cause Staffings

**3** Other District/Branch Level  
case staffings

**5** Engagement with Tribes

**20** One-on-One Coaching

**65** Active Efforts

### Regional ICWA Biannual's

- 11/9: Native American/Alaskan Native Heritage Month Celebration Event

### ICWA Specific Events Delivered (Trainings, etc.)

- ICWA/1270 Training in Tillamook
- ICWA/1270 Training in Astoria
- ICWA/1270 Training in St. Helens
- ICWA "Intro Course" for 2 new workers in D15

### Workgroups/Committees Participation

- WAHONE Native American/Alaskan Native Heritage Month Celebration planning subcommittee
- Tribal/State ICWA Conference Planning meetings

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- Working to establish presence of RIS in districts and consultation with workers, improve compliance
- Attending Motivational Interviewing training with Burns Paiute Tribe
- Attending the Human Solidarity workshop with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Attending the Power Summit with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde



## District Highlight(s):

### **Tribal/State Partnership- Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes' outside the state of Oregon.**

Areas where we have partnered and worked collaboratively with the local Oregon Tribe and/or Tribes outside the state of Oregon: Most exciting example is on a difficult case in which mother is enrolled with Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, we had weekly meetings to partner on next steps, ensure active efforts, brainstorm resources, etc. When we, unfortunately, could no longer manage safety in the home, we partnered with Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to find familial placement & ODHS got the children there, the family certified, and ODHS is supporting this relative in keeping the children in his care.

Since starting this role and really getting into it fully in September 2023, there has been more success in workers identifying Tribes sooner and either reaching out directly to those Tribes for collaboration and including me or asking me to reach out and loop the Tribes in for staffings and conversations. This improvement specifically is noticeable with workers who are not ICWA-focused/identified workers and are not used to handling ICWA cases.

## Success Stories

Case in Clackamas County in which the child is eligible for enrollment with Seneca-Cayuga Nation. We were able to facilitate an in-home plan with mother and her parents as father (Tribal member) was incarcerated. Mother was unexpectedly arrested on charges from approximately a year ago, which were quite serious. Through engagement in services and working with the criminal system, mother was able to plead to allow entry into inpatient treatment and probation, rather than prison. We immediately returned child to her care and supported through graduation of treatment and mom returning to her own home with support. Father has had contact with his child regularly while in prison and was very involved in case- to the level which he wanted. Case is just about to close successfully as reunification has been completed and monitored for safety!

# Indian Child Welfare Act Consultants

## Christine Kamps

ICWA consultant, Christine Kamps, assists the Oregon Department of Human Services with ICWA compliance and provides ongoing technical support to the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon. Her primary focus includes oversight of the Statewide ICWA Search Protocol and support to the ICWA Search Specialists across the state of Oregon; oversight of the Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) process and support to the ODHS districts in identifying a QEW when a Tribe is unable to provide a QEW and is requesting assistance from the Office of Tribal Affairs to identify a QEW; technical support to qualified expert witnesses interfacing with ODHS Child Welfare; partnership and engagement with service providers along the Columbia River Gorge who serve the Tribal members residing along the Columbia River George. Christine is also involved in monthly meetings with the Northwest Regional Bureau of Indian Affairs representatives to problem solve child welfare inquiries and provide assistance; monthly State ICWA Manager calls with Nationwide ICWA Managers, representative from the Child Welfare League of America and the National Indian Child Welfare Association. Most recently,

Christine has been identified to assist the other program areas with ODHS in connecting with ODHS child welfare or identified issues impacting Tribal members interfacing with the ODHS system.

### Geographic services area

- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- The Klamath Tribes

### Policy and procedure

- ORICWA

### Addressing complaints

During 2022, the Governor's Advocacy Office contacted the Office of Tribal Affairs ICWA Consultant regarding a few different situations involving the ICWA/ORICWA and service to Tribal members.

ICWA Consultant, Christine Kamps, has been working with the Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, Department of Justice, ODHS Directors Office and local ODHS office to assist in planning for a young Tribal member involved in child welfare. Relative

connections and Tribal placement preference are the primary focus. The Office of Tribal Affairs, ICWA Consultant, ensured the Tribal Nation was involved with all planning and had all needed documentation to assist the Tribe in identifying placement preference under the Oglala Sioux Tribe's placement preferences. The Governor's Advocacy Office continues to work with the Office of Tribal Affairs to ensure ORICWA/ICWA is being followed.

The Governor's Advocacy Office contacted the Office of Tribal Affairs on a second issue relating to relative placement with family and current caretaker law. After reviewing the situation, it was determined that the ORICWA/ICWA did not apply. However, the ICWA Consultant and Governor's Advocacy Office continued to advocate for relative placement and relative engagement.

The Office of Tribal Affairs, ICWA Consultant provided guidance and consultation on complaints outside of the Governor's Advocacy Office.

Lummi Nation of the state of Washington, contacted ODHS Central Office Child Welfare and the Office of Tribal Affairs to review a case being served by a local ODHS office. Noncompliance of the ICWA and ORICWA was examined including active efforts. A written report was provided to the ODHS Child Welfare leadership on issues of non-compliance of the ICWA and ORICWA.

Resident of Oregon contacted the Office of Tribal Affairs raising concerns of policy that was affecting her family in receiving benefits. This ICWA Consultant assisted with navigating the complaint and providing her with direction and resources on how to contact the Federal Government as the issues raised were not State related.

Representative from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe of the state of Washington contacted ICWA Consultant with Office of Tribal Affairs to raise concerns of ICWA/ORICWA non-compliance involving ODHS child welfare branch. ICWA Consultant held meetings with the branch and Tribal representatives to address the concerns.

## **Resources**

- Developed new QEW form, CF1269c to notify the Tribe when a QEW has been identified and intent to utilize the identified QEW.

## **Trainings**

- Child Protective Services Quarterly- invited to attend and train on ORICWA/ICWA as needed.
- Supervisor Pre-Service Training- provides ORICWA/ICWA Training for new child welfare supervisors.
- Statewide ICWA/ORICWA Search Specialist Quarterly, occurs the first Wednesday of every three months. Attendees include ODHS ICWA

Search Specialists and their managers.

- ICWA/ORICWA Focus: New Worker Training Academy
- March 14th, 2023; April 11th, 2023; May 9th, 2023; July 11, 2023; October 3rd, 2023; and November 7th, 2023-Well-Being Learning Circles, Native American Identity for new ODHS child welfare employees. Training is held throughout the year for new ODHS employees. ICWA Consultant, Christine Kamps speaks toward her experience as an ICWA Consultant and serving the Nine Tribes of Oregon. Discussion of identity development included.
- April 12th, 2023- Effectively Serving Tribal Children and Families, Looking Glass. Nonprofit organization who serves Tribal youth. Shayne Platz from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians and representatives from District 5, Lane County, co-presented.
- June 2nd, 2023- Tribal Customary Adoption Training for CASA representatives included Attorney In Charge, ICWA Unit Supervisor, and Tribal representative for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- September 19th, 2023- Indian Child Welfare, Building Your Understanding, Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians Summit. Regional ICWA Specialist for District 7; representatives from District 5, Lane County; and lead case manager

with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians co-presented.

- November 14th, 2023- Working with American Indian and Alaska Native Families, Parenting with Intent. Nonprofit organization who serves Tribal members in Portland Metro area, including Clackamas, Beaverton, and Hillsboro.

## **Terms and Definitions**

- **Case Staffings** - are called when ODHS child welfare would like to staff their case with representatives from Central Office including, safety consultants, permanency consultants, ICWA consultants, and representatives from Tribal Nations.
- **Active Efforts Staffings** - we now call these an initial case staffing. It is an opportunity for CPS to meet with the ICWA Consultants, Regional ICWA Specialist. Permanency/CPS Consultants, and Tribal representatives to discuss active efforts and ways to support the family prior to initial contact
- **Good Cause Staffings** - A good cause finding is required for any placement or environment that is outside of Tribal or ORICWA placement preferences. A good cause finding is required for all placement moves that do not comply with Tribal or ORICWA placement preferences. The staffing and good cause finding must be approved prior to each placement move. Good Cause

Staffing: Foster Care- staffing should include RIS, Caseworker, Supervisor, and Tribal representative.

- Agency vs District Staffings - listed above
- **1270 Form** - Verification of American Indian/ Alaska Native Membership or Enrollment
- **Active Efforts** - means affirmative, active, proactive, thorough, and timely efforts intended primarily to maintain or reunite an Indian child with their family. Active efforts must involve assisting the parent or parents or Indian custodian through the steps of a case plan and with accessing or developing the resources necessary to satisfy the case plan.

### **Technical Assistance**

ICWA Consultant provides ongoing consultation with Tribes on support services within child welfare. She is available to answer the Tribal representatives' questions as needed and becomes involved in staffings when areas of noncompliance with the ICWA/ ORICWA are identified or needing to be explored. The ICWA Consultant also provides support in navigating Child Welfare services and making connections when needed with ODHS staff.

ICWA Consultant has also been involved in updating Oregon Tribal State ICWA Agreement.

### **Tribal Attendance**

- ORICWA Executive Sponsor Meetings- Every two weeks in 2023 with Child Welfare Executive Leadership and the Office of Tribal Affairs Child Welfare Leadership
- ICWA Advisory quarterly meetings
- Tribal Affairs Unit and ChAS ORICWA Resource Group Bi-Monthly meeting
- Family Treatment Court Statewide Advisory Committee- Occurs the fourth Wednesday of every two months. Participants in this meeting include representatives from the Governor's Advocacy Office, Central Office Child Welfare, Oregon Judicial Department, Oregon nonprofit organizations, and CASA.
- Permanency Advisory Committee- Occurs the second Wednesday of every month. Representatives from child welfare branch offices and central office permanency consultants discuss permanency considerations for children involved in ODHS child welfare.
- Policy Council- Occurs the first Thursday of every month to review policy changes that may have a direct impact on Tribal Nations and their program areas.
- TL Prevention Staffing- discuss youth involved in temporary lodging and barriers to placement and ways to overcome barriers.



- Oregon JCAMP Implementation- representatives from Oregon Judicial Department; CASA; Central Office leadership; Juvenile Court Improvement Project to discuss opportunities for court improvement opportunities.
- JCIP Advisory Committee Meeting- Occurs the second Monday of every three months. Includes representatives from JCIP, Oregon Tribes, OJD, and GAO to offer guidance and advise JCIP upcoming initiatives.
- Participation in the Gorge Native American (GNAC) monthly meetings and supported back to school event at Celilo village in August 2023.
- Meet and Greet with ODHS District 10 certification and The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs CPS Tribal representatives for relationship building- October 9, 2023.
- Collaboration and consultation on Senate Bill 865 involving current caretaker and effect on Native American families not covered by the ICWA/ ORICWA.

### **Team Coordination**

The Office of Tribal Affairs, ICWA Consultants meet with the RIS and Senior ICWA Manager every third Thursday of each month. Included in this meeting is an opportunity to meet with the Attorney's in Charge that have been chosen help support ORICWA and questions that arise. In addition to the monthly

meetings, the Senior ICWA Manager, RIS and ICWA Consultants meet every two weeks for morning huddles. The huddles are an opportunity for the team to meet and update each other on what has been happening throughout the week and upcoming events. The RIS have an open relationship with the ICWA Consultants and reach out as needed for additional support when working within ODHS branch offices.

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### **Emily Hawkins-Quinton**

As the ICWA Consultant/PA4, Emily Hawkins-Quinton provides leadership and direction in ensuring that ODHS adheres to the intent of federal law regulating services to Indian children and families, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act and diversity matters related to American Indian/ Alaska Native people. This position monitors agency policies and procedures to remove barriers to goals and spirit of ICWA; investigates complaints of non-compliance from Tribes and Tribal communities; works closely with administration and with District Managers, supervisors, caseworkers, parents and family to develop and monitor implementation and outcomes to strengthen compliance with ICWA; writes and distributes materials on ICWA; and designs and provides ICWA training.

This position works closely with District and Program Managers to identify concrete steps to strengthen

local relationships with Tribes and advance local strategies relating to strategic planning. As the ICWA Consultant, this position strengthens personal relationships with agency Central Office Child Welfare as well District and Program Managers by:

- 1) connecting individually as a resource to Central Office as well as District and Program Managers;
- 2) participating in District and Program Manager meetings; and
- 3) approaching the work of the agency from a strengths-based perspective – mentoring, guiding and empowering agency managers and staff to improve their work.

Provides technical assistance to Oregon Tribes on support services and child welfare agreements.

Administrative responsibility of contracts.

Recommends administrative controls, organizational structures, and program standards to the Tribes to improve operations or maintain compliance with established policies, objectives, and regulations.

Research and make available for others the best current knowledge of successful projects which have been completed in similar situations.

Investigates concerns and complaints of non-compliance regarding access to services from Tribes and communities, providing leadership and direction in ensuring that ODHS adheres to the intent of federal law regulating services to Indian children

and families (ICWA) and the state Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act law. This position facilitates the meaningful engagement of Tribes in the statewide effort to reduce disparities for Native American children and families. This position must be familiar with and be able to interpret the federal laws, and administrative rules related to ICWA/ORICWA. Must possess the ability to synthesize information, goals, and resources into a statewide, interagency plan. Requires good interpersonal skills, training skills, and the ability to provide leadership to decision makers in the implementation and coordination of program activities.

### **Geographic services area**

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

### **Policy and procedure**

Throughout 2023 Emily reviewed and provided input on numerous Child Welfare policies and rules through my seat on the Peer Advisory Review Committee. This committee meets once a month to review all initial changes to CW forms, rules, policies, and procedures. In 2023 Emily analyzed each form, rule, policy, and

procedure to ensure compliance with ICWA/ORICWA requirements, remind about the importance of Tribal sovereignty and requirements for partnership and collaboration. During engagements with the Oregon Tribes Emily reviewed draft forms, policies, rules, and procedures for any additional feedback for Tribes she works with.

After PARC reviews the forms, rules, policies, and procedures all feedback is captured by the author and additional meetings were set to ensure compliance with ICWA/ORICWA. Once PARC has reviewed and all changes are made these same documents then go to Policy Council for another review.

Office of Tribal Affairs in relation to ICWA/ORICWA did not write any rules or policies of their own over 2023 and we did not update the ICWA OAR rule set.

### **Addressing complaints**

Complaints will come from either a Tribal representative about a family being served by a Child Welfare Office; these can be from an in state Tribal representative or an out-of-state Tribal representative. After Emily spoke with the Tribe regarding the nature of the concern Emily researches OR-Kids to become familiar with the case. After researching Emily schedules a meeting with the primary worker and supervisor (the RIS is included should the district have one) and a staffing will occur to review the

call of complaint as well as gather any additional information. Direct feedback is provided to the worker and supervisor regarding any concerns from the Tribe and/or any issues or concerns related to compliance with ICWA/ORICWA. An action plan is created with detailed dates to follow-up on. These staffings are also an opportunity to provide microlearning opportunities depending on the compliant. Emily will take time to explain to the worker and supervisor what is outlined within ICWA/ORICWA and what their requirements under the federal and state laws are. Depending on the situation and level of compliance issues, the Program Manager and District Manager will be brought into the conversation to ensure they are aware of the situation and to ensure any necessary follow-up. Most complaints are resolved at this level and are usually resolved after a meeting facilitated by me between the Tribe and local office

Once the compliant has an action plan/resolution Emily will continue to monitor the case by regular check-ins with the Tribal representative and by regular check-ins with the caseworker and supervisor. Emily offers support for caseworkers and Tribes but setting up regular check-ins for three-six months following a complaint to ensure progress is being made and to ensure correct application of ICWA/ORICWA.

If the situation/complaint has serious concerns or issues, or the Tribe is struggling with their relationship and follow through from the office, Emily will wrap in the CW Safety Manager or Permanency Manager and the Tribal Affairs Director are brought into the case to become aware of the situation. Even if the Safety and Permanency manager does not need to provide any support or oversight, they are made aware of the case issue to ensure good partnership between OTA and CW. If the situation is unable to resolved between managers or there are consistent practice themes/ Tribal relational issues, then CW leadership is brought into the case staffing.

If an office has consistent themes or issues related to compliance or Tribal complaints, Emily will work with the management to schedule educational opportunities to overcome practice issues related to the complaints.

## **Resources**

- Monthly ORICWA Bulletin provided to Child Welfare staff via email. The bulletin provides practice tips for ensuring correct application of ICWA/ORICWA, micro-training and discussion opportunities, upcoming Tribal events and so much more. The bulletin celebrates all the good work and any pilot projects that are contributing to enhancing service to Tribal families. These go out month usually on the third Thursday.

- D1 Initial Case Staffing Guide, D1 Ongoing Staffing Guide & Protocol, D1 1270 Submission Protocol collaboration with Senior ICWA Manager.
  - Currently working on re-creating these same resources for D8 in collaboration with work taking place with the Senior ICWA Manager and Regional ICWA Specialists.
- D3 Initial Staffing Guide & Initial Staffing Protocol collaboration with Senior ICWA Manager and Regional ICWA Specialist.
- 1270 Resource Guide for Child Welfare Workers
- 1270 Training Engagement Activities with local districts in collaboration with Senior ICWA Manager and Regional ICWA Specialist.
- Good Cause Staffing Process Map, GC Staffing Guide, GC Staffing Request, Placement Preference & Good Cause Summary
- ICWA Flag Quick Reference Guide – for Oregon Child Abuse Hotline
- Assisted with updates to the Statewide ICWA Search Protocol & updating the ICWA Inquiry Letters
- Assisted in the drafting for 2024 ORICWA Report

## **Trainings**

- 01/09, 05/08, 09/11 (virtual) Supervisor Pre-service training – all new supervisors from across the state with Ashley Harding, Senior ICWA Manager and Christine Kamps, ICWA Consultant

- 01/10, 02/07, 03/28, 04/25, 05/23, 08/11, 08/29, 10/03, 11/28 (virtual) Preparing & Presenting for Success in Court – all new CW caseworkers from across the state
- 01/24, 01/25, 01/27 (virtual) – CPS Winter Quarterly – all CPS Consultants and CPS staff; Oregon Tribes invited (due to how large these are unsure which Tribes were able to attend)
- 02/14, 05/09, 07/11 (in person) – Training all new Screeners at ORCAH regarding ICWA/ORICWA
- 02/28 (virtual), 07/17 – Why ICWA/ORICWA Matters – training for resource parents
- 03/01 (virtual) – Linn County CASA training – understanding ORICWA
- 03/07, 08/22 – Building Your Understanding of ICWA/ORICWA – training for resource parents
- 04/03 – Presented with Tony Aaron (OTA Communications Specialist) and Adam Becenti (Tribal Affairs Director) at the National NICWA Conference regarding the creation of ORICWA and all other initiatives Oregon has created to ensure compliance with ICWA/ORICWA
- 04/12 & 04/13 (4 presentations in total) – South Coast Equity Conference Presentation on the importance of ICWA/ORICWA – presented with Stacy Farm (D7 RIS), Tony Aaron (OTA Communications Specialist) and Roni Jackson from Coquille Indian Tribe.
- 04/18 – Why Culture Matters & Cultural Continuity Agreements – training for resource parents -offered with Tony Aaron, Shayne Platz, Roni Jackson, Julie Taylor, Dionne Bronson, Amber Zimbrick, Nicomi Levine
- 04/18 – ICWA Presentation with Background Check unit – explanation of what ICWA/ORICWA is
- 05/25 - Understanding Tribal Cultural Practices and Customs – virtual training for service provider in Lane County – presented with: Amber Zimbrick, Tony Aaron, Madeline Hutchinson (Klamath)
- 05/10, 05/12, 05/13 (virtual) – CPS Summer Quarterly – all CPS Consultants and CPS staff; Oregon Tribes invited (due to how large these are unsure which Tribes were able to attend)
- 08/24 – 1270 Training for Polk County CPS Team

### **Terms and Definitions**

- **Case Staffings** – A case staffing is an internal mechanism that can be completed between a worker and supervisor or a worker, supervisor and RIS/OTA ICWA consultants or the Sr. ICWA Manager to review efforts made on a case where we know or have reason to know that ICWA/ORICWA applies. These staffings allow for a review of the efforts and application/compliance with ICWA/ORICWA. A case staffing could also involve the Indian child's Tribe to review efforts, compliance, and any recommendations from the Tribe.



A case staffing could also involve DOJ (with or without the Tribe) to review all requirements under ICWA/ORICWA and to work through any case specific concerns.

- **Active Efforts Staffings** – also known as Initial Case Staffings - In the fall of 2020, the Child Safety Program and Tribal Affairs partnered to develop the Active Efforts Staffing Guide. This guide was presented at the December 2020 CPS quarterlies with the goal of utilizing the guide statewide beginning January 2021. This staffing guide is designed to assist caseworkers in proactive, thorough, and timely efforts to engage Tribal partners and to better understand the family's history, culture, and risk factors. The staffing framework reflects ODHS's ongoing commitment to look to Tribal partners as the experts on their culture, families, and community and to promote early engagement and partnering. There is not a rule or policy that requires offices to complete these staffings; they are heavily encouraged. All cases where we know or have reason to know that ICWA/ORICWA applies should have a staffing prior to (or immediately following) initial contact.
- **Good Cause Staffings** - Placement preferences apply during foster care, guardianship, and adoption planning unless there has been a good cause finding to deviate from placement

preferences. It has been determined that a placement with a Tribal child's extended family or Tribal community will serve the child's best interest in most cases. However, a court may deviate from these preferences when good cause exists. A Good Cause finding is a written order made by the judge during a hearing. This good cause finding means that deviation may occur from the ORICWA placement preferences and any tribal placement preferences. A staffing must occur prior to requesting a Good Cause finding in court.

- **Foster care** – Emily, Christine or Ashley may approve a Good Cause if the Tribe is in support. If the Tribe is not in support, we would need to seek direction/approval from Adam, Kim Keller and/or Lacey.
- **Concurrent Plans** – an initial staffing happens with myself, Christine or Ashley to review all active and diligent efforts to comply, prior to scheduling a meeting with Adam and Kim (who are the final approvers), the office must complete all recommendations/actions from the initial staffing. A GC may ONLY be requested if Adam, Kim have both approved.

- **Agency vs District Staffings** – The only difference is you can have an office staffing with a specific CW Office about a specific case or you can have a district staffing where you talk about general themes/issues and concerns regarding the district's ICWA/ORICWA practices.
- **CF1270: Verification of American Indian/Alaska Native Membership or Enrollment** – form used to collect information about a parent and child's Tribal membership or eligibility for membership. The information collected assists the agency in providing ICWA/ORICWA inquiry to any federally recognized Tribes.
- **Active Efforts** - means affirmative, active, proactive, thorough, and timely efforts intended primarily to maintain or reunite an Indian child with their family. Active efforts must involve assisting the parent or parents or Indian custodian through the steps of a case plan and with accessing or developing the resources necessary to satisfy the case plan.
- **Reason to Know** - “Reason to Know” that the Child is an Indian Child: In legal proceedings, only the court may determine whether there is reason to know that the child is an Indian child. The court's determination is based on evidence presented to the court by the parties and others present at court, including responses from tribes to ODHS' inquiry. If the evidence does not support

a finding that the child is an Indian child or that there is “reason to know,” all parties and the court have a continuing obligation to inquire as to the child's status.

- **Cultural continuity agreements** - a written agreement developed between the Tribal child's Tribe and proposed guardians in guardianship proceedings or proposed adoptive placements in adoption proceedings, with the Department's assistance, that ensures ongoing cultural connections between the Tribal child and the Tribal child's Tribe and describes how the Indian child's cultural needs, including the value to the Indian child of establishing, developing or maintaining a political, cultural, social and spiritual relationship with the Indian child's Tribe, Tribal community and extended family, will be met on an ongoing basis.

### **Technical Assistance**

Numerous staffings with CTGR, CTSI, CTUIR, BPT, Coquille regarding specific cases involving their families. These occur via telephone, in person and via Zoom/TEAMS. Emily scheduled times each month to connect with each Oregon Tribe in my coverage area however, she also engaged with each of the Oregon Tribes she is assigned. When Christine is out of the office, Emily covers for the Oregon Tribes she is assigned and offers any help or support regarding case issues.

Outside of navigating any case concerns or issues, Emily assists with support in navigating the OR-Kids system, connecting with upcoming trainings through ODHS or the PSU Training Partnership, engage in relationship building conversations and offer support/help/guidance in the development of any tribal tools or resources as it relates to ICWA/ORICWA.

Over the course of 2023, there have been numerous conversations with each Oregon Tribe regarding their Tribal-State ICWA Agreement. Progress is underway to update the current outdated agreements (some agreements expired due to COVID issues and needing to focus on the pandemic and others lapsed due to the work of ORICWA and the SCOTUS: Brackeen v Haaland case).

Over 2023, many conversations have occurred with Burns Paiute Tribe regarding their current executed agreement, since 2020 BPT has entered into a special agreement waiving their exclusive jurisdiction rights due to internal Tribal changes. No issues or concerns have been raised or needed changes; the agreement does expire in 2024 and work is currently underway with the contract request process to ensure an updated agreement is in place prior to the expiration date.

## **Relationships**

- Throughout 2023 Emily had many conversations with DMs, PMs and supervisors related to ICWA/ORICWA practice and application. These conversations have led to the creation of specific district protocols as well as educational and training opportunities.

## **Tribal Attendance**

- D1 ICWA Connection – connection between DM, PM, Senior ICWA Manager, ICWA Consultant, Management, and ICWA Liaisons (bi-weekly throughout entire year; virtual)
- 01/20, 02/23, 10/26, 12/28 - OTA/ChAS ORICWA Resource Group – regular meetings between OTA and DOJ regarding ICWA/ORICWA practice
- 02/03, 03/03 – Connection with Lacey and OTA
- 02/03 (virtual) – Meeting between ICWA Consultants, PSU Training Partnership regarding updating training content related to the 1270
- 02/13 – Connection with D16 Coaching and Training Specialists to establish training and connection for front line staff
- 02/15, 04/10 – Case Mapping with Managers/Consultants regarding ICWA/ORICWA and services to families.
- 03/02, 05/04 – Connection with PSU Training Partnership regarding ORICWA training content

- 03/13, 04/07, 04/10, 04/17, 04/20, 04/24 – Guardianship Workgroup Meeting – connection with CW team on requirements of ICWA/ORICWA throughout guardianship planning; feedback on updating forms, policy, and procedure
- 03/16, 04/20, 09/21 – Training Advisory Board
- 05/05 – Protective Custody Report revisions with CW Safety team to capture ORICWA requirements
- 05/24 – Great Circle Recovery Meeting with DOJ, leadership of D3, CTGR – meeting to discuss enhancing partnerships and collaborations when serving Tribal parents.
- 05/25 – In person meeting with Jennifer Ricks and CTGR to review collaboration and CQI metrics for CTGR.
- 08/23 – Training meeting between PSU Training Partnership and CTGR – reviewing and discussion training needs
- Monthly ICWA Case Staffings w/ D1 – collaboratively created their permanency case staffing protocol and staffing guide. Assist with all staffings throughout D1 to ensure compliance with ICWA/ORICWA
  - Working with D8 to create the same process – work has just begun
- Monthly throughout the entire year – Peer Advisory Review Committee – analyzation, review, and feedback for all ODHS CW policies, rules to ensure correct application of ICWA/ORICWA and Tribal sovereignty
- Monthly throughout entire year – Program Manager Huddles and meetings
- Monthly throughout entire year – Coquille Consultant connection
- Monthly throughout entire year – Connection with CTUIR
- Bi-weekly throughout entire year – D3 CPS/CTGR connection and staffing
- Monthly throughout year – person management meetings to update screens to better reflect Tribal membership and affiliation
- Engaged and attended CQI meetings across the state and with different districts to advocate for ICWA/ORICWA
- ORICWA/ICWA QA Tool connection – OTA worked with Jennifer Ricks and CQI team to create a QA tool related to ICWA/ORICWA cases
- Monthly connection with ORCAH throughout year regarding policy/rules changes to ensure compliance with ORICWA
- Connection with Engagement of Father's subcommittee – connected Eddie McDonald with multiple Oregon Tribal representatives and Tribal fathers for engagement in recommendations. Also provided recommendations related to engagement of fathers per ICWA/ORICWA (multiple meetings

between August and October)

- This group met with WA Fatherhood council on 10/19 and with WA TAU; this meeting also had Oregon Tribal fathers participate
- 2023 Tribal-State ICWA Conference – 365 Tribal and State partners; co-hosted with CTGR
- 10/05 – connection with Certification Consultant to create desk guide for certifiers on Tribal certification processes and best practices
- 10/12 – SB865 procedure connection with CW permanency team; reviewed and updated CW procedure to ensure correct application of ICWA/ORICWA under the new SB865 requirements
- 10/30 – 1st meeting with CW Policy Team to review and discuss enhanced partnerships and capturing of ICWA/ORICWA as policy/rules are updated. Christine participated and these meetings will occur once a month to ensure solid relationships
- ORCAH SDM – once a quarter throughout 2023
- 10/16 – D1 ICWA Search protocol conversation, support, and assistance
- Children and Family Service Reviews – reviewed several ICWA cases throughout the year to ensure compliance with federal reporting measures and ICWA/ORICWA
- Numerous staffings with CTGR, CTSI, CTUIR, BPT, Coquille regarding specific cases involving their families

## **Team Coordination**

- 02/10 (virtual) 1270 pre-training with D12 supervisors and RIS.
- 02/14, 02/12 – Relationship building with D14, RIS and Ashley
- 02/24 – D4 planning meeting for meeting with CTGR, CTSI
- 02/27 – Relationship Building Event with CTGR, CTSI, D4 (in person at CTGR)
- 03/09 – Eastern ICWA Bi-annual
- 03/15 – Southern ICWA Biannual & D6/8 Relationship building event
- 04/25 – ICWA/ORICWA Summit
- 04/27, 07/27, 11/29 – Quarterly ICWA Leadership Meetings with CTGR, CTSI, District 3 CW Leadership, Joanna
- 05/10 – The Basics of ICWA Training with D1, Ashley, Kayla, Matt, and Marie assisted – all D1 participated – covered the history of ICWA, why ORICWA and understanding active efforts
- 06/07 – Western ICWA Biannual
- 06/22 – 1270 Training for D12 Child Welfare (in Person)
- 08/11 – meeting with D3, CTGR for enhanced connections and relationships
- 08/14-08/15 – Professional Development Training for the RIS

- 10/16-10/17 – offered 1270 Training for D14 CW staff and supervisors.
  - Created follow-up activities and talking guides for RIS to connect with each unit to ensure transfer of learning
  - Also connecting with their supervisors on 12/01 to follow-up on training, review role of supervisors and work to improve compliance
- Connected with Marie, Miranda, and Matt to set them up for success with D13 1270 training that they were offering on their own. Created slide deck, all activities and talking points
- 10/25-10/26 – District 1 1270 Training with D1 ICWA Liaisons, Monica, and KC
- 11/09 – WAHONE Native Heritage Celebration Event in Roseburg
- 11/28 – Yamhill 1270 Training with Joanna
- 11/29 – Western ICWA Biannual with CTGR and CTSI
- Well over 150 case staffings with the RIS across Oregon
- Numerous good cause staffings for foster care and concurrent plans.
- Monthly CW Team Meetings with the RIS regarding case practices and enhancement for ICWA/ORICWA application.
- Numerous opportunities for telephone calls and TEAMS calls around ICWA/ORICWA practice and questions with the RIS



# **Aging and People with Disabilities**

## **Program Area Goals**

The Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) strives to improve service equity for The Nine Tribes of Oregon and Tribal communities within its organizational structure, specific programs, intensive collaboration, and adaptable services and supports for Tribes and Tribal communities. APD understands and values the unique relationship that the state has with the sovereign nations of each of Oregon's Tribes. This report highlights both recent work and describes future efforts to make the APD system more accessible, equitable and responsive to Tribal elders and people with disabilities. The work APD has embarked upon includes specific programs and activities are intended to consistently move us toward a more equitable and collaborative approach to serving Tribal communities.

## Organizational Structure

APD's vision focuses on the ODHS Equity North Star and includes a specific focus on equity and improving services for all residents of Oregon. Changes within the organizational structure intended to realize this vision include:

- The hiring of an Equity Strategist who serves on APD's executive leadership team and sets the direction for integrating service equity into everything APD does.
- The hiring of a dedicated Tribal Affairs consultant who serves as a liaison between Oregon Tribes and APD.
- A requirement for each of its district offices and central office units to develop and maintain service equity plans some of which promote collaboration with Tribal governments.
- Providing opportunities throughout APD for staff to learn more about Oregon's history with Tribal communities.
- Dedicating staff resources to support biannual statewide Meet and Greet and smaller regional events where Tribal leaders and members can develop closer working relationships with APD's staff.

## Increasing APD Organizational Support for Tribal Relationships

### Tribal Affairs Consultant

APD's Tribal Affairs Consultant, who is part of the APD Equity Strategy Unit, serves as a primary liaison between APD and the Oregon Tribes. The consultant facilitates the Tribal Navigator Program, sits on the Gorge Native American Community Partner Collaboration, and partners with Celilo Village. The Tribal Affairs consultant chairs the Equity Review Team and is part of the State Plan on Aging Committee. This position also sits on the Rule Advisory Committee Equity Committee, Governor's Commission for Senior Services, and the Oregon Disability Commission, and the APD LGBTQIA+ Action Plan Workgroup.

APD intends to continue and strengthen our partnerships and the work we have undertaken to support the Nine Tribes of Oregon and Tribal members through on ongoing commitment to these organizational structures, educational efforts, and ongoing collaborations.

In September of 2023, APD's Tribal Affairs Consultant attended the 24th Conference of the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) Conference in Cherokee, NC. This year's theme was "A Trail of Determination: Our Culture, Our History and Our Future." This conference shapes the policies and laws that will affect Native elders for the next decade. There was a focus on the

2024 Presidential Election, the 2025 Reauthorization for the Older Americans Act and the 2025 White House Conference on Aging. NICOA holds these conferences every two years.

## **Coordination with Tribes of Oregon on Tribal Specific Programs and Coordination**

### **Tribal Navigator Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding**

APD's formal agreements with The Nine Tribes of Oregon provide accountability for promises as well as show a sign of respect and understanding that The Nine Tribes of Oregon are sovereign governments. These formal intergovernmental agreements support the Tribal Navigator Program. Initiated by discussions with the Tribes in 2018, the Tribal Navigator Program is intended to support Tribal members in accessing the full array of services with the APD system.

The agreements provide critical funding to the participating Tribes, Urban Indian Health Centers (UIHC) and agreed upon not-for-profits. Through these funds, Tribes, UIHC and the not-for-profit organization hire and oversee a Navigator to assist Tribal elders and people with disabilities access services and resources provided by APD and local delivery partners, known as Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). The navigators receive training, partner closely with APD and the AAAs and become experts in helping Tribal

elders and people with disabilities.

The state system can be difficult, overwhelming, and confusing for elders and caretakers to navigate on their own. It is also true that historic mistrust of the government continues to discourage Tribal elders and Tribal members who experience disabilities from seeking assistance from the state. Navigators, who work for the Tribes, can help overcome these barriers because they are from the communities where they serve. As such, they know the cultural norms, struggles, and needs of the people they serve. They also hold the trust within their communities.

In addition to the funding, the State and the local AAAs have agreed to specific actions to support the Tribal Navigators through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). These MOUs include promises such as work to ensure equitable access to services, designating a key contact in each local office and meeting regularly to problem solve and address concerns. The MOUs demonstrate APD's commitment to working to break down barriers and truly support Tribes, UIHC, Tribal members and others.

Since the start of the Tribal Navigator Program in 2019, APD has worked to build trusting relationships with each of The Nine Tribes of Oregon. The formal partnerships that have formed as part of the program

have helped to identify gaps in APD's service delivery.

One such gap was the identification that individuals living along the Columbia River Gorge were not being served by a Tribal Navigator. At the request of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, in 2022 ODHS, including APD, began discussions on how best to serve Tribal Elders living in the Columbia Gorge and the historical lands not in the specific service area of any of the Tribes. Through those discussions, the joint decision was made to contract with The Next Door Inc. The Next Door Inc. agreed to take on the Tribal Navigator role for all Tribal elders and people with disabilities in the Celilo Village and surrounding areas.

The Tribal Navigator Program executed contracts with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in 2022. In all, APD has contracts with six Oregon Tribes, one Urban Indian Health Center and one not-for-profit. These include:

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

- Native American Rehabilitation Association
- Next Door Inc.

It is APD's hope to continue to grow this program and establish formal partnerships with all Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon.

### **State Unit on Aging and Title VI Coordination**

As part of APD's responsibility as the State Unit on Aging (SUA), APD is expected by federal law to partner with the Title VI Tribal Programs. Title VI and the SUA terms relate to the specific programs authorized under the Older Americans Act (OAA). APD has partnered with the Tribes' programs to host statewide and regional Meet and Greets to bring together the Tribes, AAAs, and APD staff and leadership from both the local and central offices. In October 2023, APD hosted a Title VI Statewide Meet and Greet Conference in The Dalles, in partnership with The Next Door Inc. and Celilo Indian Village. On the first day of the event, 87 state workers, AAA employees and Tribal members joined. This gave everyone the unique opportunity to meet face to face, network, build strong and trusting relationships, and talk about ways to coordinate in serving Tribal elders. As part of the Meet and Greets, there is dedicated time to support the Tribal Navigators and for Tribal leaders to speak directly to APD and ODHS leadership.



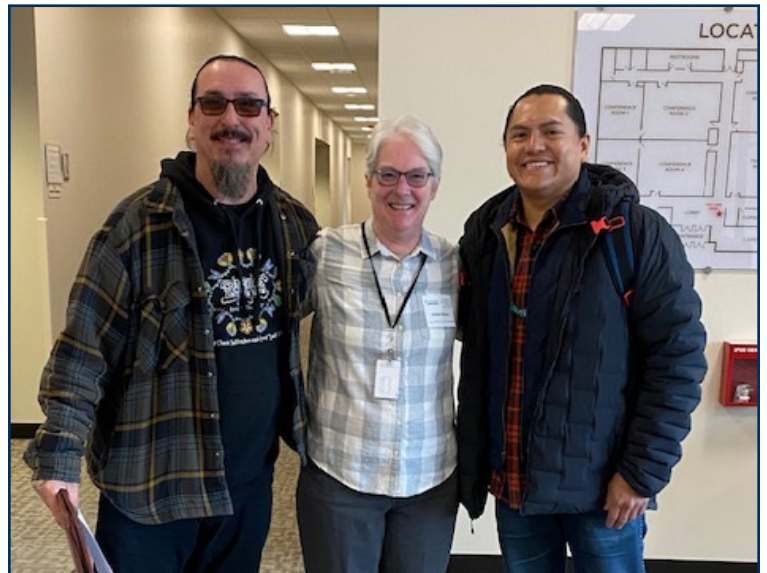
**Pictured Left to Right: Thursday Charboneau, Laura Hunker, Chris Martin, Rosetta Minthorn, Barbara Black, RoseMary Alarcon, Lori Austin, Adam Becenti, Danielle Broncheau, Sarah Bense, Dawn LeMieux**

Following the Statewide Meet and Greet Conference, participants journeyed to the Celilo Village Longhouse to share a traditional meal with the community. The goals of the conference were to show the resiliency and future of Celilo Village.

Regional Meet and Greet events are also part of the program. These provide an opportunity for additional communication, relationship building and problem solving. A Regional Meet and Greet was held in the Portland metro area on March 14 and was attended by 50 participants from Tribal communities, APD, AAAs and community organizations. More than 15 Tribes were represented.

The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation held a Regional Meet and Greet on April 12, 2023. The Tribe met with APD and local AAA staff in their area.

Another Regional Meet and Greet was held in Southern Oregon Region on July 25, 2023, in Coos Bay. The meeting was attended by 20 Tribal Navigators, Title VI, APD and AAA staff with Coquille, Cow Creek, CTCLUSI, the Klamath Tribes, Warm Springs and Grand Ronde represented. It included a virtual and in-person option. APD will continue to assist in planning these Regional Meet and Greets.



**Chris Martin, Tribal Navigator for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Deb McCuin from APD CSSU Unit, Adam Becenti, Director of Tribal Affairs at the March Regional Meet and Greet in Portland, OR.**



## **Serving caregivers - Native Caring Conference**

A fourteen-year Tribal tradition started in 2005 by introducing the Native Caring Conference (NCC) to acknowledge Caregivers of the Native American culture by temporarily relieving them of their caregiving tasks while refreshing their body, mind, and spirit. The successful ritual of giving honor and thanks to the Tribal caregivers was supported by the community at various Tribal locations. In 2020, the pandemic paused the Native Caring Conference for two years.

In late 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cleared the state to resume in-person activities and the Native Caring Conference Planning Committee renewed its commitment to Native Caregivers. The NCC was quickly set for April 18-19, 2023, at the Seven Feathers Casino Resort with the consistent theme of Native Caring: A Conference to Learn, Connect, and Share.



This year's conference was hosted by The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians in partnership with all Oregon Tribes and supported by the ODHS, APD and AARP.

More than 85 people attended to resume this annual two-day event to provide training and appreciation to Caregivers. Soon after the event, the Native Caring Conference Planning Committee began discussing next year's 16th Annual Native Caring Conference.

## **Expanding the Impact of the Tribal Navigator Program**

As the Tribal Navigator Program expands externally, it's also increasing its impact within APD, APD advocacy groups and other ODHS programs.

The Equity Strategy Unit hosted, the "APD Tribal Engagement Toolkit" in partnership with the Tribal Affairs office for the APD community. We had 89 members of the APD community participate in this training. Tribal Navigator Program representatives are helping recruit more Native representatives for the Governor's Commission on Senior Services and APD's Tribal Affairs Consultant attends monthly commission meetings to continue to liaise between APD and the Tribes.



Finally, the ODHS Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) has met with APD and the Tribal Affairs Consultant to discuss coordination and collaboration with the Tribal Navigator Program. To date, two forums have been held to discuss how this collaboration would come to together, funding sources, sustainability of the program and logistics. The Tribal Affairs Consultant and ODDS's Service Equity and Inclusion Manager continue to meet.

## **APD Services Available to Oregon Tribal Members**

APD serves Tribal members through a variety of programs including Older Americans Act, Oregon Project Independence, Aging and Disability Resource Connection, Medicaid, cash assistance benefits, and Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports. The following highlights key services and benefits to Tribal members.

### **Older Americans Act**

The Older Americans Act (OAA) is a federal program administered through APD. OAA provides funding for services and supports for individuals ages 60 and older. There are no income or asset requirements to receive most OAA services.

Funding for most OAA services begins with federal appropriations to Oregon based on the number of older individuals living in the state. Most Tribes receive OAA Title VI funding directly from the federal Administration on Community Living.

For funding sent to the state, APD distributes funds received to local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) via a funding formula. AAAs develop coordinated, community-based networks to provide programs and services to help meet the needs and preferences unique to individuals in their local areas. OAA programs and services include:

- Supportive services
- Nutrition (through congregate and home-delivered meal programs)
- Family caregiver supports
- Evidence-based wellness and health promotion activities
- Legal services and elder abuse prevention services, among others.

Each AAA is further required to address needs and develop goals and objectives in their Area Plan on Aging to serve older adults, including older Native Americans, in their region. The AAAs are required to coordinate with Tribal organizations serving older Native Americans. In Oregon, APD has also required the AAAs to develop Service Equity plans as part of

their contract with the state. Many of these plans address the needs of Tribal elders and/or coordination with Tribal organizations.

APD is also mandated by federal law (OAA specific) to periodically develop a State Plan on Aging. Development of the State Plan on Aging is led by a steering workgroup comprised of a Title VI (Tribal) representative, APD's Tribal Affairs Consultant and the Tribal Affairs Director. This group advised and informed the development of Oregon's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging, including strategies to continue to coordinate across APD, AAAs and Tribal Title VI grantees.

The services most frequently used by Tribal elders include:

- Information and referral;
- Home-delivered meals;
- Congregate meals;
- Case management;
- Health promotion;
- Regular friendly telephone calls and/or visits;
- Outreach; and
- Nutrition education.

In fiscal year 2023, approximately 71,300 Oregonians accessed OAA services. Emergency funding provided during the pandemic increased service delivery to support more consumers in need by providing

additional flexibility. As the federal Public Health Emergency has wound down, fewer consumers have requested services. The exhaustion of emergency funding and programs' return to traditional eligibility criteria have also contributed to the decrease in Oregonians receiving services.

American Indian/Alaska Native Consumers Served	
2022	919
2023	951

	2022	2023
Case Management	213	191
Congregate Meals	434	460
Health Promotion	174	192
Home Delivered Meals	551	548
Nutrition Education	87	106
Outreach	82	71
Reassurance	70	72

Note: Data is based on self-reported information and is not required. Data for 2023 is for the period Jan. 1 – Sept. 30, 2023.

## Oregon Project Independence

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is a state-funded program delivered through AAAs that offer 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. There is an OPI pilot project that allows OPI funds to be used for younger people with disabilities. In-home services available through OPI include personal care, housekeeping and chore assistance, transportation, adult day services, respite care, case management, registered nursing services and home-delivered meals. Case management is provided for free for people receiving OPI. Direct services are provided to people on a sliding scale for individuals whose income is over the federal poverty level. Due to limited state funding, the number of people served is capped by each AAA.

As of October 2023, APD was continuing discussions with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) around the terms of agreement for an 1115 demonstration waiver. If approved, this waiver would provide expanded services called Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid. The proposal to CMS includes eliminating estate recovery as well as increased income and resource limits. These changes could help support additional Tribal members who need daily assistance to meet their needs. APD will

train Tribal Navigators once final permission is given by CMS.

The chart at the bottom of this page provides a breakdown of Tribal members served from 2019-2023.

### OPI Consumers

Year	Total OPI consumers	Native American/ Alaska Native	Percent Native American/ Alaska Native receiving OPI
2019	2,264	26	1.15%
2020	2,217	24	1.10%
2021	2,331	29	1.25%
2022	2,578	33	1.28%
2023	2,539	28	1.10%

Note: Data is based on self-reported information and is not required. Data for 2023 is for the period Jan. 1 – Sept. 30, 2023.

## **Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon (ADRC)**

The Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) provides free information and referral and options counseling services to connect people to the government and community services they need. The following data shows how many people were served by the ADRC in 2023 (Jan. – Sept.):

- Approximately 450 American Indian/Alaska Natives contacted the Oregon ADRC in 2023 for Information and Referral Assistance (I&R) totaling just over 700 contacts.
- Nine American Indian/Alaska Natives received Options Counseling (OC) in 2023.

## **Direct Financial Support**

Tribal members who are recipients of Oregon Supplemental Income Program Medical (OSIPM) benefits continue to have the opportunity to access special needs payments, as stipulated by the regulations. These special needs payments serve as vital assistance to cover a wide range of expenses, making it easier for community members to meet their diverse needs. These payments are designed to address various costs, including but not limited to:

- **Special Diet Allowance Payment:** The Special Diet Allowance payment plays a crucial role in improving the lives of individuals. This allowance aims to address the unique dietary needs of

our community members, ensuring that they have access to the foods and nutritional items necessary for their well-being. This is particularly vital for those with medical conditions that require specialized diets.

- **Personal Incidental Fund Payment (PIF):** Available for individuals residing in nursing facilities with limited income to purchase personal items. This payment helps cover essential personal expenses, enhancing their quality of life within these facilities.
- **In-home Supplement Payment:** Available for individuals receiving Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI) as their only source of countable income and receiving home and community-based care in-home services or State Plan Personal Care Services. Individuals receive a \$22 monthly payment. This supplement serves as support for those who require in-home care, further enhancing their quality of life and well-being.

The Integrated ONE system operates efficiently automatically disbursing the Personal Incidental Fund (PIF) and the in-home supplement payments. This streamlined process guarantees that every eligible individual receives their rightful payment without any necessary barriers. Furthermore, a heightened emphasis on providing training to all ODHS and AAA eligibility staff, as well as our broader network of community partners, opens expanded avenues for

Oregon residents to access direct financial support payments. This, in turn, empowers Oregonians to maintain their independence and dignity within a safe environment of their choosing.

Through the provision of special needs payments, Oregon aims to address the diverse needs of Tribal members comprehensively, ensuring their health, financial stability, and overall prosperity.

### **General Assistance**

The General Assistance (GA) program serves Oregonians with severe disabilities who are houseless or at imminent risk of houselessness, who do not have children living with them, who are not yet receiving Social Security disability or Supplemental Security (SSI) benefits, and who meet the Oregon Supplemental Income Program Medical (OSIPM) financial criteria. GA consumers are provided with assistance with their Social Security applications and appeals, along with a small cash grant and monetary support for housing and utilities.

As part of APD's efforts to ensure Tribal members are aware of this program, a manager works with the ODHS Tribal Affairs Director to present information on GA to the Tribes. Ongoing outreach through community action agencies as well as medical facilities is integral to continued Tribal involvement.

### **Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports**

Oregon assists qualified older adults and people with disabilities with long-term services and supports.

These services primarily focus on providing assistance with personal care needs such as bathing, meal preparation, cleaning homes, moving around inside the home, and accessing the community. These services are designed to:

- Promote a person's well-being while helping them reach their life goals;
- Meet a person's cultural needs and preferences; and
- Be adapted as a person's needs and preferences change over time.

Services can be provided in the individual's or family's home, in adult foster homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, memory care or nursing facilities. The individual gets to choose which services and where services are received.

A benefit of receiving services in the individual's own home is that an individual can choose to hire individuals from their own community, including their family members, to provide care.

Additionally, APD can assist individuals with accessing emergency response systems that allow the individual to call someone for assistance; assistance with changes to their home to make it more accessible; adult day providers; and technology that supports more independent living and home delivered meals, among other options.

The following chart provides data on individuals served through these programs.

	All Consumers Served	American Indian and /Alaskan Native Total	American Indian and Alaskan Native Percentage
Total Consumers	38,810	661	1.7%
In Home	22,261	442	2.0%
Community-Based Care	12,438	158	1.3%
Nursing Facility	4,111	61	1.5%

### Adult Protective Services

The intent of Oregon’s Adult Protective Services program is to provide prevention, protection, and intervention to adults who are unable to protect themselves from abuse and self-neglect because of age or physical disability. APS services and service delivery is consistent across all demographic groups. APS workers are trained to implement the Relational World View while modeling equity, respect, honesty, and integrity during all interactions.

Approximately 240 APS investigators in APD and Area Agency on Aging (AAA) local offices across Oregon received and responded to over 51,000 reports of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect in their local areas between July 2022 and June 2023. Approximately half of those reports are assigned for APS investigation; the rest are referred to other agencies for investigation or to other available resources for assistance.

APS staff work cooperatively with all Nine Tribes in Oregon to ensure collaboration and provide interventions that embrace traditional Tribal values. APS workers are trained to recognize the diversity in The Nine Tribes of Oregon and each Tribal member for a person-centered approach. This exemplifies the duty of APS to respectfully connect with Tribal resources, honoring cultural beliefs, convictions, and heritage while providing services.

When APS investigators determine a report of abuse involves a Tribal Member, or a non-member living on Tribal land, they are expected to make every effort to work cooperatively with Tribal resources, law enforcement and Tribal government. Other resources included in the coordinated response are social services, mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, spiritual leaders, and Tribal naturopathic healers. The goal is always to integrate APS and Tribal services to meet the person’s needs while also honoring



traditional Tribal approaches for interacting and providing assistance.

APS staff work regularly to strengthen relationships with Tribal members and leaders. Since 2018, APS workers have attended and spoken at Tribal Gathering Centers for annual resource/community introductions. During these events, workers describe APS practices and how Tribal law enforcement and ODHS can work together to keep Tribal members healthy, safe, and independent. In most areas, formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been developed to outline the working relationship between Tribal authorities and APS. These are reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Interaction with the Tribes of Oregon and all additional Tribal affiliations served is recorded in the APS Centralized Abuse Management (CAM) data system. This system also documents any language barriers, cultural or social factors, and physical challenges addressed throughout the APS process. APS documents any challenges by asking questions, including the REAL D framework, and by consulting with community partners.

In August 2023, APD wrote a Letter of Commitment supporting the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's application for a Tribal Elder Justice Innovation Grant. If awarded the grant, APD is committed to partnering

with the Grand Ronde Community Health Department and Tribe over the course of the grant period to provide programmatic assistance in the execution of its proposed deliverables and expertise on elder empowerment and protection.

The Southern OR Elder Abuse Prevention Summit was held in Medford on June 15, 2023. The Summit was sponsored by Rogue Valley Council of Governments in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and focused on elder abuse prevention for Tribal elders and LGBTQIA2S+ older adults. Presenters included Wilson Wewa from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon speaking on "The Invisible Dilemma: Elder Abuse of Indigenous populations." The Summit attracted about 100 participants.

## **APD Commissions and Councils**

### **Oregon Home Care Commission**

In 2000, the citizens of Oregon voted to amend the State Constitution to create the Oregon Home Care Commission (OHCC). OHCC is focused on ensuring that the homecare services funded by the state for older adults and people with disabilities are of high-quality, equitable, and inclusive.

In conducting its mission OHCC:

- Defines the qualifications of homecare workers, personal support workers, and personal care attendants (providers)
- Offers training opportunities for Providers and Consumers
- Provides a statewide Registry
- Serves as the “employer of Record” for collective bargaining purposes

OHCC consists of nine commissioners appointed by the Governor for up to three (three-year) terms. Five are consumers of homecare services. The other four represent the Oregon Department of Human Services/ Aging and People with Disabilities, the Governor’s Commission on Senior Services, the Oregon Disabilities Commission, and the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities.

### **OHCC Workforce Collaborative**

The primary focus of the OHCC Workforce Collaborative is to address the statewide provider workforce shortage. OHCC has invited all the Nine Tribes of Oregon to participate ensure Tribal voices are present in the Workforce Collaborative. OHCC desires to have a space that is inclusive, encourages rich discussions about the specific needs of communities and out of the box thinking.

Through this participation, they have contributed to a workforce development toolkit for local communities

### **Employer Resource Connection (ERC)**

The Employer Resource Connection is a program available to individuals receiving in-home services. The program utilizes OHCC contracted consultants to provide individuals with the tools and resources they need to be successful employers of homecare workers, personal support workers, and personal care attendants. A goal of OHCC is to reach out to the Nine Tribes of Oregon to develop culturally- appropriate resources for their communities and recruit Tribal members as ERC consultants to increase Tribal usage of the program.

OHCC Partnership with the Nine Tribes of Oregon: The Oregon Home Care Commission has participated as vendor and presenter during past Native Caregiving Conferences. OHCC partnered in workforce development activities recruiting Tribal members as homecare workers to serve Tribal elders.

### **Governor’s Commission on Senior Services**

The Governor’s Commission on Senior Services (GCSS) is an official state commission made up of volunteers appointed by the Governor and two Legislators. The GCSS is dedicated to enhancing and protecting the quality of life for all older Oregonians. Through cooperation with other organizations and

advocacy, we work to ensure that seniors have access to services that provide choice, independence, and dignity. The commission is authorized to study programs and budgets of all state agencies, recommend development of a comprehensive plan for delivery of services to older adults, and promote responsible statewide advocacy for older adults.

As of 2023, GCSS did not have any Tribal representation. APD's Tribal Affairs Consultant attends GCSS meetings to inform and to gather information to share with Tribes.

A bill (SB 99) was passed during the 2023 Legislative Session which created the LGBTQIA2S+ Subcommittee of the GCSS. Recruitment for this subcommittee began in late 2023 and included outreach to the Tribes, providing information and seeking representation from the Nine Tribes of Oregon.

### **Oregon Disabilities Commission**

The Oregon Disabilities Commission (ODC) secures economic, social, legal, and political justice for individuals with disabilities through systems change. To carry out its mission, the commission identifies and hears the concerns of individuals with disabilities and uses the information to prioritize public policy issues which should be addressed; publicizes the needs and

concerns of individuals with disabilities as they relate to the full achievement of economic, social, legal and political equity; and educates and advises ODHS, the Governor, the Legislative Assembly and appropriate state agency administrators on how public policy can be improved to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

There is a Commissioner who identifies as a Tribal member currently serving on ODC. ODC will continue to recruit individuals from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from the Nine Tribes of Oregon.

### **Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Program and Advisory Committee**

The Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHHS) program employees:

- Partner with public agencies in Oregon to improve service and program equity, inclusion, and accessibility for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing people.
- Provide training, consultation, and guidance on workplace accessibility for state services and programs.
- Respond to inquiries from members of the public and public employees.

- Support the work of the ODHHS Advisory Committee.
- Coordinate American Sign Language interpreting and CART (real-time captioning) services for public entities. Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, ODHHS coordinated 883 services requests.

The Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHHS) Advisory Committee:

- Represents individuals who identify as Deaf, deaf, deaf-blind/Deaf Blind, Hard of Hearing, late-deafened, and hearing allies.
- Assists the ODHS in identifying the needs and concerns of individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing.
- Makes recommendations to ODHS related to the full achievement of economic, social, legal, and political equity for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing communities.
- Advises ODHS on improving state services, programs for, and outreach to, individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing.

There are currently no identified Tribal members serving on ODHHS Advisory Committee.

APD is recruiting a Diversity Consultant for the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, Oregon Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Advisory Committee and the Oregon Disabilities Commission to

assist in recruitment and building relationships with all communities of color. That work is in progress and will continue into next year.

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### **Program Summary**

The Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) is committed to our ongoing collaboration with Tribes in Oregon to better serve elders and members with disabilities. As we work to strengthen our partnership, we are exploring ways to both remove barriers for people who are seeking services and to make services and supports more culturally specific.

Among the initiatives that are either underway or proposed for 2023 are:

- Expansion of the APD Tribal Navigator Program including the recent addition of an agreement with Next Door to serve Tribal members living along the Columbia River and with Grand Ronde to serve individuals in the Willamette Valley. We want to expand this program to all Tribes in Oregon to ensure access and equitable delivery of services

- Proposed investment in Tribal Title VI programs so that there is additional funding to support Older Americans Act programs serving Tribal members
- Improved access to services for individuals who have faced systemic oppression and who do not trust government
- Proposed funding for the AAAs to increase culturally appropriate and responsive meals
- Equitable emergency planning and management to meet the unique needs of older adults and people with disabilities; and
- Expanded ability to access the Money Management Program for individuals who need assistance with managing their finances.

We also are continuing to work with CMS on receiving approval for the expansion of the Oregon Project Independence program through an 1115 demonstration waiver. If successful, Tribal members could receive long-term services and supports, including supports for their family or unpaid caregivers, without their families being subjected to estate recovery after they die.

Further, APD is working towards expanding service options all throughout Oregon by inviting potential providers to consider delivering services through the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program. This is an all-inclusive program that delivers medical and long-term services and supports from a single provider.

	All Consumers Served	American Indian and / Alaskan Native Total	American Indian and Alaskan Native Percentage
Total Consumers	38,810	661	1.7%
Community-Based Care	12,438	158	1.3%
In Home	22,261	442	2.0%
Nursing Facility	4,111	61	1.5%

In addition, we are working to serve more people through the Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon and our Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program. Finally, APD programs are reviewing significant policy changes and initiatives to ensure they are equitable for Tribal members.

APD deeply values its relationships with the Nine Tribes of Oregon and is committed continuing to engage and build trust, understanding and respect.

**Key contact for Aging and People with Disabilities:**

Nakeshia Knight-Coyle, Director

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# Child Welfare Division

## Program Area Goals

Making sure children are safe and families have the resources they need is central to our work at the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). We believe that children do best growing up with their family. We are working with partners and Tribes across Oregon to transform the child welfare system with a focus on keeping children at home and in their communities.

The Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division (CW) continues the work of aligning all that we do with the Vision for Transformation. The Vision for Transformation includes specific guiding principles, strategies and measurable outcomes that center equity and diversity in all that we do. It recognizes that the child welfare system has done significant harm to communities of color, Tribes, and other marginalized communities, and is committed to transforming in ways that help communities heal and helps child welfare end harmful practices.

Child Welfare is responsible for ensuring continual implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), passed in 1978, and the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ORICWA), passed in 2020. Successful implementation is directly correlated to the partnerships and collaboration with each of the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon. Effective implementation of ORICWA also requires an informed understanding of the unique culture, location, and resources of each Tribe in Oregon.

We hope the updates included in this report serve to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to partnering with and serving Tribal communities and families.

## Family Preservation

Staff from each of the Nine Tribes of Oregon have participated in the culturally informed Motivational Interviewing (MI) training designed and provided through the National American Indian & Alaska Native Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (NAIAN MHTTC) at the University of Iowa. In the next year, the work of implementation of this evidence-based practice will continue as Tribal staff increase knowledge and skill in the use of MI. The National Center for American Indian/Alaskan Native Behavioral Health (Formerly the NAIAN MHTCC) will manage the work of supporting implementation in Tribal programs. A total of over 160 staff in the Nine Tribes of Oregon have attended this training.

Tribes in Oregon who have current Title IV-E programs have, or are developing, prevention plans in alignment with the federal Family First Prevention Services FFPSA requirements. These plans, as they are developed, receive the approval of the Tribal Council/ Board of Directors of each Tribe.

In October 2022, Tribes in Oregon received, collectively \$1,500,000 in System of Care Advisory Committee funding to support in-home services for families. These funds are being utilized to support families while keeping Tribal children in their family homes and providing resources for Tribes to support infrastructure as well as utilize Tribal best practices (TBS) in their prevention services and child welfare programs.

Tribe	SOCAC Funding Received	Clients Served in 2022
The Burns Paiute Tribe	\$24,155	*
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians	\$71,337	*
Coquille Indian Tribe	\$70,209	25
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	\$136,554	7
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$241,546	*
The Klamath Tribes	\$236,393	*
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz	\$244,928	*
The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	\$166,184	360
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$308,696	*

\*No report of clients served received at the time of this report creation.

In September 2023, staff members from seven of the Nine Tribes of Oregon attended a week-long Family Spirit home visiting training, which is a culturally tailored, evidence-based home visiting program for families with children 0-3 supported by Johns Hopkins University. It is anticipated that by 2024 several of the Tribes in Oregon will become Family Spirit Affiliates

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

The Equity, Training and Workforce Development (ETWD) team has two staff providing administrative support to Tribes. This involves the creation of a designated sub-affiliation, identifying and assigning Tribal partners to this affiliation. The ETWD Instructional Technologist is working closely with Tribal Affairs to identify these individuals, begin a communication loop, and inquire about supports needed when accessing trainings in Workday.

The Child Welfare Race and Equity Leadership Team has started to create a Core Team to support the workforce. This includes partnership with the Tribes of Oregon as part of that Core Team. Tribal Affairs is brought this request to the nine Tribes in November.

### **Foster Care Program**

The Foster Care Program worked with Tribes across Oregon to increase accessibility of respite care services for Tribal children and young adults in care. The legislature allocated general funds to ODHS

Child Welfare to support the implementation of a new respite care service that supports:

- Respite services for resource (foster) parents (relative and non-related)
- Respite services for in-home cases (Family Preservation or open cases where the child has returned home)
- Respite services for parents/caregivers at risk due to stress factors present in the home (Prevention cases)
- Tangible needs to support respite care for a child such as safety items, beds, food, or other tangible supports.
- Travel costs
- Training for respite care providers

Each Tribe determines the appropriateness of the respite care provider and facilitates criminal background checks and child abuse checks. Procedures have been developed to establish parameters for use of these funds, including business processes for how Tribes submit invoices to ODHS for reimbursement.

The Foster Care Program is currently writing procedure to streamline the acceptance of Tribal certifications. ODHS Child Welfare can accept the certificate (or license) issued by a federally recognized Tribal Nation for placement of a child in the care and custody of ODHS Child Welfare. This has been

a long-standing process. However, it is an area of improvement as there is not a written procedure for our workforce, resulting at times in unnecessary delays for placement.

### **Continuous Quality Improvement Program**

In 2023, the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program onboarded the Tribal Relations CQI Analyst. This position was a result of a recommendation made by the Tribal representative on the CQI Workgroup. The Tribal Relations CQI Analyst and the CQI Program Manager have been traveling to have in-person meetings with Tribes in Oregon to review the CQI program and to discuss how the program and the Tribal Relations CQI Analyst position can best meet their needs. To date, four of these meetings have taken place, and valuable information and feedback has been gathered which will be used in further CQI program development.

The CQI Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly with Tribal representatives present. There is a Tribal Representative from a Tribe in Oregon, a member from The Office of Tribal Affairs, and a representative from NAYA in Portland. The CQI Advisory committee reviews specifically for equity considerations in all CQI Action plans which are created by local branch office sites.

In 2023, the CQI program increased the amount of specific ICWA/ORICWA data included in the Service Delivery Data Report (SDDR) which is presented to all CQI sites during the CQI Kickoff meetings which include Tribal representatives, community partners, persons with lived Child Welfare experience, and Child Welfare staff. The SDDR also includes disproportionality and disparity data about American Indian/Alaska Native over-representation in the Child Welfare system in Oregon. This data drives discussions about institutional and systemic oppression and how Oregon Child Welfare is working to equitably improve outcomes for Tribal children and families.

### **Cultural Continuity Agreements**

The Permanency Program has developed contracts with four providers who provide mediation services to develop cultural continuity agreements between Tribes and adoptive/guardianship caregivers of Indian children. This service is an important requirement of ORICWA. It supports ongoing caregivers' ability to celebrate and explore a child or young adult's cultural identity which is essential to their resiliency and sense of pride.

## ICWA/ORICWA and Tribal Notification

Early identification of an Indian child is crucial to applying ICWA/ORICWA. The Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH) collaborated with Tribes throughout 2023 to establish communication agreements that enhance the early identification of Indian children and ensure Tribal notification. An ICWA Liaison assigned to ORCAH provides consultation to screeners and coordinates communication between ORCAH, Tribes, and the Office of Tribal Affairs. Business support staff at ORCAH complete additional analysis to ensure the appropriate Tribe is notified of any child abuse reports.

Determining if ICWA applies begins with a screener inquiring about American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) membership or enrollment and then clearly and accurately documenting the reporter's knowledge of the child or parents AI/AN ancestry. The ORCAH Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Unit and supervision team conducted quarterly<sup>1</sup> live call reviews of 1,340 contacts. Live call reviews found:

- 2023 Quarter 1, inquiry occurred in 87 percent of calls reviewed.
- 2023 Quarter 2, inquiry occurred in 90 percent of calls reviewed.
- 2023 Quarter 3, inquiry occurred in 85 percent of calls reviewed.

*(2023 Quarter 4 was not complete at the time of drafting this report)*

## ORCAH Continuous Quality Improvement

In 2023 ORCAH Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Unit conducted Quality Assurance (QA) reviews of 2,584 screening reports. The quality assurance reviews of screening reports include a review of whether there is sufficient documentation of information gathered from reporters and reviewed in OR-Kids regarding whether Native heritage exists and/or if the family identifies as Native. As of 2023, it also includes whether Tribes were notified when one was named. These align with the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act. On average across all three quarters, 79 percent of reports included documentation of heritage (Q1: 84 percent, Q2: 74 percent, and Q3: 79 percent).

## District Highlights

In 2023, ODHS District 2 (Multnomah) hired CW/SSP Tribal Family Coach positions. As part of a new pilot project, Tribal Family Coaches reach out to Tribal families after a hotline call is “closed at screening” to offer enhanced support with the goal of increasing family stability and preventing future Child Welfare involvement.

Throughout 2023, ODHS District 3 (Marion/Polk/Yamhill) leadership and staff focused efforts on improving communication with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The district created ICWA

implementation commitments to describe how ODHS commits to increasing engagement with Tribes. In August 2023, the district finalized an ICWA Strategic Plan with specific quarterly objectives. This work was shared at a Quarterly Leadership meeting with leaders of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to receive feedback and ensure efforts are progressing. The district is committed to an intentional focus on decreasing disproportionality using data-informed strategy.

ODHS District 11 (Klamath/Lake) will celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Klamath Falls ICWA Court on December 18, 2023. This is the only court in Oregon and one of only 21 in the entire country. ICWA Courts are based on the “gold standard of child welfare” which includes Judicial leadership, ICWA data collection, ICWA Training, Tribal stakeholder collaboration, and Gold Standard lawyering and social work principles. The Klamath Falls ICWA Court is an ongoing collaboration between the Klamath Tribes, the local Model Court, Citizen’s Review Board, and the Klamath County Circuit Court. In companion to the ICWA court, there is an ICWA Citizen’s Review Board which hears all ICWA Court cases in Klamath Falls. Additional information about ICWA courts can be found here: <https://www.ncjfcj.org/child-welfare-and-juvenile-law/icwa-courts/>

ODHS District 11 (Klamath/Lake) co-authored a grant with the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) for a 5-year State-Tribal Partnership between OJD, ODHS, and The Klamath Tribes. The grant award is \$2,499,999.64 to support the development of an Oregon State-Tribal Partnership. The objective of the grant is to focus on reducing disproportionality and enhancing compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Guidelines and Regulations.

Throughout 2023, the District 11 (Klamath/Lake) Tribal Resource Home Certifier collaborated with the Klamath Tribal community to recruit culturally appropriate placement resources for children in foster care. In addition to being out stationed in the Klamath Tribes’ administrative offices, the tribal resource home certifier attends community events, including the Restoration Pow Wow, to build relationships and provide information. To date, three Klamath Tribal families have completed the certification process.



Child Safety

Throughout 2023, a Safety Program Coordinator collaborated with the Violence Services Program Manager, Public Safety Dept. of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and other batterers intervention program providers on the development of non-court involved considerations for families experiencing domestic violence. This work included training information specifically on engaging abusive partners.

The Child Safety Program and ODHS Tribal Affairs partnered with Tribes to identify ODHS points of contact to engage with the newly established DV Coalition of the Nine Tribes of Oregon.

Of the children *served by CPS when a report of abuse is accepted for assessment*, the percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native children has remained steady.

Month/Year	Total Children	% Children Identified as American Indian or Alaska Native
September 2020	46,617	4.07% were American Indian or Alaska Native (11,045 children with no race identified)
September 2021	45,210	3.85% were American Indian or Alaska Native (12,706 children with no race identified)
September 2022	44,024	3.73% were American Indian or Alaska Native (16,378 children with no race identified)
September 2023	40,176	4.03% were American Indian or Alaska Native (17,545 children with no race identified)

Of the children *identified by CPS workers as victims of abuse*, data did not show a marked change in the number of American Indian or Alaska Native children identified between January and September of 2023.

Month/Year	Total Children	% Children Identified as American Indian or Alaska Native
September 2020	9,845	4.47% were American Indian or Alaska Native (1,897 children with no race identified)
September 2021	9,494	4.59% were American Indian or Alaska Native (2,284 children with no race identified)
September 2022	7,312	3.84% were American Indian or Alaska Native (2,446 children with no race identified)
September 2023	7,026	3.94% were American Indian or Alaska Native (2,658 children with no race identified)

Of the *children who entered foster care* between January and September 2023, Child Welfare continues to see a decline in the number of American Indian/Alaska Native children.

Month/Year	Total Children	% Children Identified as American Indian or Alaska Native
September 2020	2,683	5.93% were American Indian or Alaska Native (107 children with no race identified)
September 2021	2,282	5.35% were American Indian or Alaska Native (118 children with no race identified)
September 2022	2,097	4.77% were American Indian or Alaska Native (232 children with no race identified)
September 2023	2,060	3.67% were American Indian or Alaska Native (307 children with no race identified)

Federal Policy and Resources' (FPR) mission is to maximize federal reimbursement for the operations of child welfare programs, including Tribal child welfare programs. FPR has several inter-governmental grant agreements (IGA) to pass federal and state funds through to Tribes (see table below). The purpose of these IGAs is to provide additional support to Tribes that operate child welfare programs, including family preservation programs. The purpose of these IGAs is to provide additional support to Tribes that operate child welfare programs, including family preservation programs. FPR provides training and technical assistance to Tribal employees, including but not limited to directors, caseworkers, and fiscal/administrative staff. In 2023 the Tribes requested that in-person trainings begin again. FPR had the opportunity to provide training in-person to the five Oregon Tribes with Title IV-E agreements. The value of in-person meetings allows for better collaboration with all the employees of Tribes' Child Welfare programs, in addition to the Finance Departments to address questions and resolve discrepancies in the funding balances.

In 2022 ODHS continued the inter-governmental grant agreements for Title IV-B federal funds directed toward the goal of keeping families together and to provide family support and family preservation services to Tribal members. The objectives of this

inter-governmental grant agreement are to promote a more coordinated, but flexible system built on and linked to existing Tribal services and supports. The grant amount for each Tribe is provided in the table below.

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. It does not cover the cost of direct treatment or support services. ODHS pays the non-federal share of the Title IV-E foster care payment for Tribal children eligible for Title IV-E foster 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 10 office. For federal fiscal year 2022, there was a total of \$769,406 payments made by ODHS for children in the care and custody of the Tribes. Of that total \$260,962 was general fund.

ODHS currently has Title IV-E inter-governmental agreements with five of the Nine Tribes in Oregon (listed in the table on the following page).

Tribe	Title IV-B Funding Received	Clients Served in 2022
The Burns Paiute Tribe	\$13,379	*
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians	\$28,240	258
Coquille Indian Tribe	\$32,149	32
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	\$50,483	692
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$88,571	*
The Klamath Tribes	\$86,784	*
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz	\$99,855	*
The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	\$89,856	*
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$110,693	*

\*No report of clients served received at the time of this report creation.

Tribe	Title IV-E Funding Received	Clients Served in 2022
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$188,666	12
The Klamath Tribes	\$17,455	36
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz	\$34,637	32
The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	\$84,598	31
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$233,307	55

## **Tribal Representatives Providing Service Guidance**

In August 2023, the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline began hosting weekly Culture Workgroups in which a Tribal representative participates. The workgroup's purpose is to develop training for screeners and supervisors on how to skillfully gather unique characteristics of a family, including information about their culture from reporters.

ODHS District 3 (Marion/Polk/Yamhill) facilitates Quarterly Leadership meetings with leaders of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

ODHS District 2 (Multnomah) Child Welfare leadership and staff meet monthly with representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. These meetings provide opportunities for case reviews and ongoing State-Tribal collaboration.

## **Provided Trainings**

Child Welfare and the Office of Tribal Affairs coordinate training to new ORCAH employees on a quarterly basis during Screening Training Academy.

In early 2023 Tribal Affairs and ORCAH collaborated to develop the ICWA Screening Practice Guide. It is an infographic that provides quick reference to screening requirements related to inquiry, research in OR-Kids

and documentation of American Indian/Alaska Native heritage. Frequently asked questions are addressed as well as examples to highlight best practices in documentation.

In fall 2023, Tribal Affairs developed an ICWA Flag Notification Guide designed to support screening analysis of heritage and assignment notification email subject line distinctions. In response to Regional ICWA Specialist feedback and Tribal Affairs direction, differentiation between when a family may have American Indian/Alaska Native ancestry and when a specific Tribe is named was needed. The distinction on assigned reports allows for the Child Protective Services worker to be alerted, pause, and review the information collected at screening.

The Safety Program and the Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) collaborated through 2023 to develop training opportunities at each CPS quarterly meeting.

- January 2023 – OTA presented on best practices for ICWA/active efforts staffings and Tribal collaboration.
- April 2023 – OTA presented on ORICWA requirements.
- July 2023 – Safety Program and OTA presented on culturally responsive safety planning with Tribal families and children.

In March 2023, a Safety Program Coordinator provided fentanyl training to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

## **Policy & Legislation**

At the request of Tribal governmental leaders for a single ODHS and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Tribal Consultation Policy and in coordination with OHA, the OHA-ODHS Tribal Consultation and Urban Indian Health Program Confer Policy has been adopted and will be operationalized for ODHS January 1, 2024. Child Welfare has taken a direct role in implementation of this policy within the agency due to its significant alignment with the existing Child Welfare Division's Vision for Transformation's commitment to honoring the diversity and lived experiences of our families, Oregon Tribal Nations, community and stakeholders, to will build meaningful, authentic and community-centered relationships that builds our collective knowledge, expertise, and education

on child safety and support. Through the Child Welfare Division's Vision for Transformation and this policy, Child Welfare leadership continues its commitment to upholding and honoring Tribal sovereignty, strengthening the ODHS government-to-government relationship with Tribal Governments, and promoting effective communication with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon through consultation.

Child Welfares commitment to Tribal Consultation involves intentionally engaging Tribal leadership in the exchange of information, developing mutual understanding, ensuring informed decision-making occurs in program development/changes, implementation planning that impacts Oregon Tribal members at the earliest point possible in the process.

## **Formal program services agreements with Oregon Tribal Partners or Tribal organizations**

The 2022-2024 Intergovernmental Agreement between the Burns Paiute Tribe and the ODHS, Child Welfare Division continues. In accordance with this agreement, ODHS delivers and administers child protective services, foster care, residential care, and adoption services that protect and promote the best interest of Tribal Children.

The 2017 Intergovernmental Agreement between The Klamath Tribes and ODHS, Child Welfare Division continues to protect and further the best interest of The Klamath Tribes children and their family.

IV-E agreements have existed for many years. Details related to those agreements are covered in the funding section above.

The Family Preservation Program is working with Tribes to establish IV-E prevention agreements to enhance the preservation services that many Tribes



already provide to Tribal families. More information regarding these agreements is provided in the program delivery section above.

## Conclusion

Honoring Tribal sovereignty and deepening our engagement with the Nine Tribes of Oregon is of paramount importance to living out the spirit and intent of the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act. Looking ahead to 2024, Child Welfare looks forward to consulting with Tribes in the design of enhanced ORICWA training, implementation supports and resources for staff and partners at all levels within the child safety system.

We appreciate this opportunity to reflect and report on Tribal partnerships and the development of culturally responsive initiatives during 2023.

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## Key Contacts for Child Welfare:

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# Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

## Program Area Goals

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) supports the choices of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families within their communities. ODDS promotes and provides services that are person-centered, self-directed, flexible, inclusive, and supportive of the discovery and development of each person's unique gifts, talents, and abilities. ODDS works to ensure that services are culturally responsive for native people who experience I/DD. ODDS respects each person's history, Tribal citizenship, affiliation, and Tribal community and strives to strengthen partnership with Oregon Tribes.

## Program delivery

ODDS currently serves more than 34,000 people and their families. Many people with I/DD are eligible for Medicaid-funded home and community-based services. Our services cover all stages of life. We are committed to service options that ensure people with I/DD have fulfilling and meaningful lives. We strive to empower people to celebrate their culture and contribute to their communities.

This table lists Oregonians self-identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, Indigenous Mexican, Central American, or South American enrolled and receiving I/DD services in November 2023:

## American Indian or Alaska Native Services Utilized in 2023

American Indian Or Alaska Native*	Child	Adult
Case Management	246	387
Employment	0	49
Foster Care	18	59
Group Home	4	59
In Home Supports	132	194
Supported Living	0	20
Transportation	1	140
Unduplicated Total	246	387

\*AI/AN includes: Alaska Native, American Indian, and Indigenous Mexican, Central American or South American

Home and community-based services help people be independent, work towards achieving their goals and have full access to their communities. This includes opportunities to seek employment, work in jobs that pay at least minimum wage, participate in activities, control personal resources, and receive services all to the same degree as people who do not have disabilities.

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

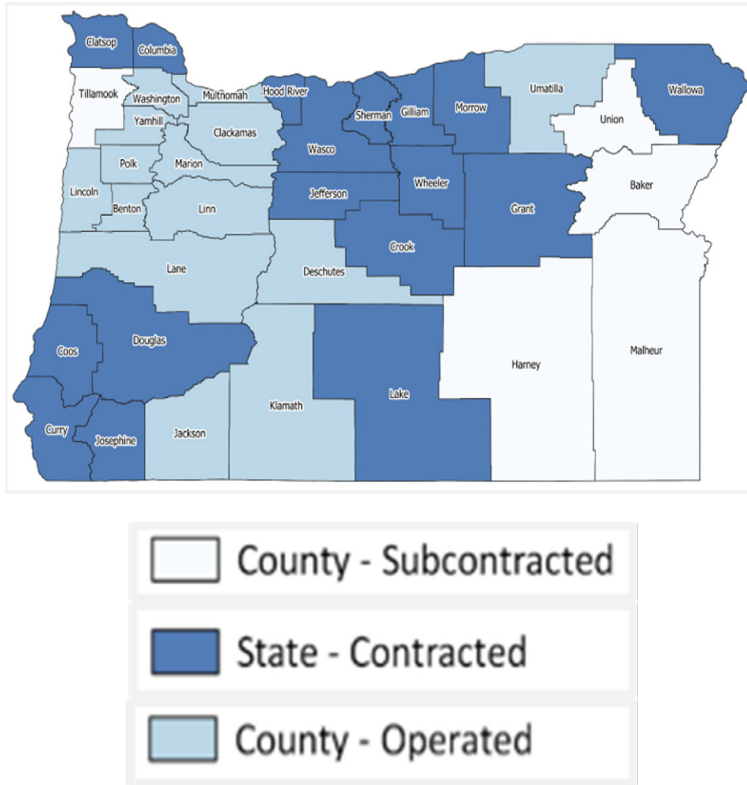
- In-home settings — A person lives on their own or with family. They receive support with everyday activities like bathing, dressing, and making meals. This includes help with communication or behavior challenges.
- 24-hour settings — When a person and their guardian identify a need for more support with everyday activities, they can choose to live in group or foster homes with 24-hour support.
- Supported Living — This service supports adults to be as independent as possible in their community. They may live on their own or in their family's home and may have roommates. Their home may be rented by a community landlord, owned by the adult, or rented from or with help of a provider agency.

ODDS contracts two types of case management entities (CMEs) to deliver I/DD case management services.

- Community developmental disabilities programs (CDDPs), typically operated by a county, determine a person's eligibility for I/DD services. CDDPs also license, review, and certify foster homes. CDDPs are responsible for adult protective services. CDDPs offer case management services to people of all ages who receive services in their own home, their family home, foster home or in a 24-hour setting.
- Support services brokerages offer case management to adults who receive services in their own or family homes.

ODDS directly provides case management services to children with significant medical and behavioral needs who live in their own or family home and to children living in 24-hour residential settings. ODDS also operates the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU), which provides 24-hour residential services to adults and children with I/DD who are in crisis and have very complex support needs.

This map of Oregon breaks down CDDP's locations and whether they are county operated, county subcontracted, or state contracted.



You can contact the CDDP in your area by scanning the following QR code with your smartphone's camera. Open the link that hovers below the code. Find the county closest to your home and open the drop-down menu to see the phone number.



## Service equity partnership with case management entities

In 2022, as part of their contractual requirements, CMEs completed service equity assessments that reviewed their current organizational strengths and areas of improvement across seven priority areas:

- Systemic racism
- Language access
- Community engagement
- Workforce development
- Data analysis and collection
- Service access
- Identification and development of staff skills, awareness and practices using an equity lens when providing services

In 2023, each CME developed an action plan based on their assessment's findings. Several CMEs identified a need for increased outreach efforts in Tribal communities. Examples of initiatives within action plans included:

- Klamath CDDP
  - "Reparative work being done at the county level to restore connections and collaboration with Tribes"
- Umatilla CDDP
  - "Partner with community groups and Tribes for training"

- “Development of a symposium for Tribal and community agencies to understand our services and access them for families”
- “Furthering our relationships in the community with Tribal government”
- Integrated Supports Network (support services brokerage)
- “Build collaborative partnership within Tribal communities”
- Linn County
- “Engage with community partners including Tribal partners and communities of color to improve outreach efforts to the broader community. “

To further meet CMEs’ requests to learn more about Tribal sovereignty, expand knowledge about how to start efforts to partner and work with Tribes, and recognize the historical trauma experienced in government systems and how this may impact relationships between CMEs and Tribal Nations, ODHS Tribal Affairs Director Adam Becenti presented at ODDS’ statewide Case Management Conference. This was an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and reflect on improving service delivery to Tribal communities.

Some feedback from conference participants includes:

- “My favorite session of the entire conference. Adam provided such amazing commentary and

education toward the difficulties that Tribes face. I learned a lot of information and piqued my interest toward educating myself further in the struggles of communication between the state systems and Tribes.”

- “I believe I got more out of this session than any other session I attended.”
- Other conference participants shared their desire to have the session be longer for and include time for more question-and-answer opportunities.

ODDS hopes to expand continuous learning opportunities for CMEs from Tribes and Tribal partners.

### **Tribal Consultation Policy implementation**

ODDS staff, including the interim director, rules coordinator, waiver specialist, and equity and inclusion manager, participated in the joint ODHS workgroup created to support ODHS in fully adopting the existing OHA Tribal Consultation Policy. ODDS continued to meet with the workgroup and with the project lead, Soren Metzger, to ensure a full understanding of timelines and expectations and to make necessary adjustments to our internal processes. ODDS is prepared to implement the policy, support training and implementation strategies and looks forward to additional opportunities to work with Tribes. We are grateful for the continued invitation to participate in the workgroup and subcommittees.

## **Tribal consultation work in 2023**

To ensure continuous alignment of Medicaid authorities with programmatic and policy changes, ODDS submitted the following Medicaid amendments in 2023:

- March 23, 2023 — Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) amendment to the Medically Fragile Waiver to increase the unduplicated participant count by 10 to address exceeding the previously approved amount.
- May 30, 2023 — DTLL renewals to the Children's and Adult waivers. ODDS updated performance measures based on CMS feedback and updated the utilization and participant projections for the next five years.
- June 23, 2023 — DTLL renewal to the 1915 (b) (4) waiver. The changes ODDS requested were administrative in nature and included an update to the number of contracted case management entities as well as utilization projections for the next five years.
- June 30, 2023 — DTLL amendment to all ODDS waivers to implement new rates effective July 1, 2023, that the Oregon Legislature approved for the 2023–25 budget. ODDS also amended the 1915 (c) #0375 Adult Waiver to implement a 32% rate increase for direct nursing services. This rate is established by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

- October 17, 2023 — DTLL to introduce the new ODDS Children's Extraordinary Needs Waiver with a proposed effective date of July 1, 2024.

For all questions or to contact someone within ODDS please e-mail: [odds.questions@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:odds.questions@odhsoha.oregon.gov)



## **2023 challenges, lessons learned and opportunities for partnering with Tribes**

ODDS continues to work on providing accurate and accessible information on services and supports available through Oregon's I/DD system and how to access it. ODDS has developed a document of frequently asked questions about the relationship between Tribal Social Services and case management entities that serve people with I/DD. The document's content is complete and in partnership with the ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs have contracted with an Indigenous graphic designer, who is experienced in developing inclusive and culturally responsive graphic designs, to complete the project. The project is estimated to be completed by the end of 2023, and we look forward to sharing it.

Over the past year, ODDS has continued organizational efforts to prepare to launch a Tribal Navigator program. In partnership with the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD), we have continued to meet with the established Tribal Navigators. ODDS had the opportunity to attend the Title VI Director and Tribal Navigator meeting to continue to build relationships and learn from Tribal elders and community. ODDS looks forward to meeting with Tribes who are interested in expanding the program in the coming year.

## **Program summary by ODHS program director**

ODDS is excited about ongoing work and progress that has been made over the course of 2023 in working with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon. ODDS leadership reaffirms our ongoing commitment to ensure ODDS is making intentional steps to build stronger collaborative relationships with Tribal partners and communities while exploring new ways to better support Tribal members and their communities who access services in Oregon's I/DD system and their families.

There have been several areas of focus including:

- Ongoing work to implement the ODHS Tribal Consultation Policy that takes effect Jan. 1, 2024. This work will expand opportunities for ongoing engagement and meaningful input from Tribes regarding changes to Medicaid authorities and policy changes.
- Increasing awareness of ODDS' funded services and supports within Tribal communities and improving access to user-friendly information.
- Ongoing work on development of an ODDS Tribal Navigator program to better support service access for individuals and families who are

members of the Tribes. This program will support Tribal provider capacity development and system navigation in a culturally informed way, and more.

In 2024, our goal is to fully implement the ODHS Tribal Consultation Policy and to develop closer partnerships with Tribes by establishing contracts that will support Tribal Navigator capacity and reinforce it through coordination and collaboration with state and local case management entities. ODDS will seek permanent funding to support these ongoing efforts in the next biennium.

We look forward to new opportunities. We will continue to listen to and learn from Tribes about the needs of their communities and how we can work together to better meet those needs.

**Key Contact for ODDS:**

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# Office of Resilience and Emergency Management

## Highlights

House Bill 3409- The Office of Resilience & Emergency Management, (OREM) has been awarded 10 million dollars. These funds are intended to help support community resilience efforts and to build resilient networks regarding response and recovery to natural, technical, and human caused disasters that cause disruptions in services, critical to individuals and communities.

Of the 10 million dollars, 2 million has been set-aside for the 9 federally recognized tribes. Currently, OREM is utilizing the new ODHS consultation policy to be informed by tribal leaders, how to equitably distribute these dollars to each tribe. Last week, OREM sent out the agencies first dear tribal leaders' letter, initiating consultation for the first time since the policy was implemented.

Further information and next steps will be communicated soon. OREM is in the process of developing a grant website, application process and Oregon Administrative Rules to inform and support the roll-out of HB 3409 funds.

## Mobile Air Conditioners and Air Scrubbers

In partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, OREM worked hard again this spring and summer to help distribute both air scrubbers and portable air conditioners to each of the 9 tribes. Both units are in effort to provide a resource for vulnerable populations within each community. Each tribe was offered the same number of units but determining proper distribution was up to individual preference per tribe

## Other Highlights

- Drinking Water: Water support for drinking water in response to multiple incidents.
- Exercise Participation in a full-scale evacuation and sheltering exercise with The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
- Coalition: Participated in and cofacilitated the Oregon Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coalition. This is a monthly meeting, comprised of all 9 tribal emergency managers, and tribal liaisons from most State and Federal agencies. At least once a year we host an in-person meeting, this year the in-person meeting was graciously hosted by The Coquille Indian Tribe at the Mill Casino and Resort. This year the coalition advocated for

change regarding multiple State grants intended to support emergency management efforts and were successful in doing so. The changes allow the tribes more opportunity and flexibility to both access and spend grant dollars.

## **Moving Forward**

OREM plans to continue partnership in exercises with tribes. We are currently awaiting supplies and approval to start looking at “emergency assembly points” throughout the different parts of Oregon. These locations will be informed by data that rank hazards by severity to each community. We intend to partner with any tribe interested in these efforts. Initial engagement has already been made with tribal emergency managers on this topic and will continue.

Another interest of OREM is sharing data with tribal emergency managers. This would include sharing GIS data with tribes, to assist in efforts such as evacuation during emergencies, reunification of family members and recovery efforts. OREM plans to explore permissions and paths forward related to these efforts, prior to next fire season.

### **Key Contact for OREM:**

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# Self-Sufficiency Programs

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP) administers an array of programs to Oregon individuals and families experiencing low or no income. These benefits and services are aimed at helping individuals and families move out of poverty into economic stability. SSP's scope of work can be divided into five main categories: food supports, cash assistance, career supports, childcare and family stabilization. SSP provides direct services through a network of 16 district offices that serve every county across Oregon.

## Highlights

Below are updates and highlights from the following programs, with examples of the work from many of SSP's local offices around the state:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)- program closure
  - SNAP-Ed
  - SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Local Food Purchasing Agreement with Agricultural Marketing Service
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS)
- Family Support and Connections (FS&C)
- Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)
- Domestic Violence Survivor Programs
  - Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS)
  - Co-located Domestic Violence Advocates Program
  - Survivor Investment Partnership (SIP)
- Refugee Program
- Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP)

Statewide Caseloads

	Tribal Families		All Families	
Program	Count of Cases	Count of Individuals	Count of Cases	Count of Individuals
CASH	995	1,893	29,480	75,222
ERDC	229	355	16,126	27,853
TA-DVS	103	161	4,684	12,817
Medical	12,864	17,768	960,640	1,553,347
SNAP	4,417	6,763	288,879	488,585
SNAP Expedited	4,407	6,199	203,660	335,661

\*This data was pulled for the dates 3/1/23 through 8/31/23 and included all individuals/cases that reported being a tribal member. AI/AN includes: Alaska Native, American Indian, and Indigenous Mexican, Central American or South American.

SSP is working toward a future where its services and resources are centered around whole-person well-being. This represents a fundamental shift from SSP’s previous system-centered approach in which services and resources are primarily shaped by federal programs and funding sources like TANF and SNAP. By moving the person or family to the center of the SSP’s work, the division can better address the complexity of needs that must be met if individuals and families are to thrive in our economic and social climate – including stable housing, affordable childcare and adequate cash resources. Without these basic supports, individuals and families cannot be expected to exit poverty.

SSP also recognizes the structural racism and oppression embedded within our programs and is committed to addressing historic and current harms while working with impacted communities to transform these systems. With this transformation, individuals and families can not only reach stability but also have access to asset-building tools, generational wealth, and equal economic and social mobility opportunities.

SSP has continued to move toward a more seamless model in providing services to individuals and families, collaborating across programs, and partnering with ODHS Child Welfare to share a common vision and



knowledge base to better serve families. We hope this report reflects how the work in motion has deepened relationships with the Nine Tribes of Oregon and highlights the division's many opportunities for future growth and learning in this area.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, is a national program that offers nutrition assistance to eligible individuals and families experiencing low income 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.

It should be noted that if an individual participates in a Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), they are not eligible for SNAP benefits in the same month they accessed FDPIR, as FDPIR is intended to provide food access options to individuals living on reservations or who are Tribal members and may not have direct or easy access to an ODHS office or grocery store that accepts Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to utilize SNAP fully.

### **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

### **Key Contact for SNAP**

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### **Pandemic EBT – Federal program closure effective Fall 2023**

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) was part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provided food benefits to families with children missing free or reduced-price meals due to school and childcare closures. P-EBT is a program in partnership with ODHS and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

For 2023, Oregon was approved to provide retroactive food benefits to children for the 2022-23 school year and eligible students for the summer of 2023. For the school year, more than \$42 million in food benefits

was issued to 98,564 children. For Summer 2023, more than \$41 million has been issued to 343,642 children.

This program was federally ended as part of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding. Final allocations and issuances were made in Fall 2023.

More detailed information can be found on the [ODHS P-EBT website](#).

### **SNAP-Ed**

SNAP-Ed provides education on food safety, nutrition and physical activity for people who are receiving or may be eligible for SNAP benefits. SNAP-Ed also addresses food insecurity, with a focus on improving nutrition to prevent and reduce diet-related chronic disease and improve physical health outcomes among SNAP-eligible individuals. Oregon SNAP-Ed supports this goal by providing evidence-based educational programming, using social marketing, and supporting or implementing policy, systems and environmental changes that affect the food and activity environments where people live, learn, work and play.

These goals overlap with health issues that Tribal communities face. CDC data from 2021 reflects that 37.5 percent of Indigenous adults are obese\*. From 2015 to 2020, obesity rates among Indigenous

individuals increased by 2.8 percent, while the rate of overweight individuals decreased by 3.8 percent.

The SNAP-Ed program consists of the state agency (ODHS) who oversees the program and planning and implementing agencies who deliver programming and work directly in communities. Oregon's primary implementing agency is Oregon State University Extension Service (OSU ES). SNAP-Ed partners at OSU ES live and work in the communities SNAP-Ed serves, which include communities of the Nine Tribes of Oregon.

SNAP-Ed's foundational program design is the same no matter the population or community. For all customers, the focus is on nutritional and physical health and well-being using evidence-based curricula. However, SNAP-Ed recognizes populations often have different specific health, dietary and cultural needs. SNAP-Ed works with Tribal members to identify traditional foods that can be incorporated into the development of new recipes. The program strives to strike a balance between culturally available foods and commercially available foods. It is important that SNAP-Ed recipe development remains respectful of the cultural significance of ingredients which the Nine Tribes of Oregon and Tribal members might not want shared with a broader audience. Because SNAP-Ed

\*<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/prevalence-maps.html#overall>

works with all nine Tribes, the program is better able to meet the needs of the local population, rather than a “one-size-fits-all” approach.

In designing curriculum for Tribal communities, SNAP-Ed seeks direct input from the community. In a previous SNAP-Ed three-year plan cycle, Oregon established several culturally focused workgroups including the creation of the Indigenous Peoples Workgroup. This workgroup is co-led by SNAP-Ed staff who are also Tribal descendants. Additionally, SNAP-Ed staff have contacts at each of the Nine Tribes.

Oregon SNAP-Ed continues to develop educational materials with input from Tribes and the Indigenous Peoples Workgroup (IPWG). In fiscal year 2023, several lessons were developed, including a lesson called “Respecting Indigenous Foods: Squash.” This lesson was shared and implemented across Portland Public Schools. The Indigenous Peoples Workgroup worked with youth to create an IPWG logo that incorporates several meaningful images such as chokecherries, salmon, and the Three Sisters mountain range.

### **Tribal citizens served by SNAP-Ed**

While complete data is not yet available for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (October 2022 to September 2023) preliminary data reflects that Oregon SNAP-Ed

worked directly with more than 2,500 individuals who identify as Indigenous. This is a 178 percent increase from fiscal year 2022. Additionally, 10 percent of all SNAP-Ed “indirect activities” (events, social media, distributed materials) used materials and approaches specific to Indigenous Peoples.

### **SNAP-Ed funding**

The SNAP-Ed program does not directly provide funding to Tribes, but rather works to collaborate on projects and share resources. SNAP-Ed is federally funded, and ODHS contracts directly with OSU ES for SNAP-Ed delivery. Additional funding comes in grants and donations, such as the \$15,000 Healthy Outreach Grant received from the Moore Family Center. In 2022, SNAP-Ed received a \$95,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, which was used to purchase materials for food preservation and gardens in Warm Springs.

Many individuals from Tribes around the state heard about the Food Preservation libraries that had been placed around the Portland area in key Native-led organizations, funded through the Moore Family Center Healthy Outreach grant. After continued training for community organizations’ personnel on use of preservation equipment, and safe, tested extension food preservation recipes, the number of

Native community members preserving foods has greatly expanded. The number of calls, emails, and texts received related to food safety, food preservation and the safety of traditional foods increased by 133 percent. Local Tribes, including The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, have requested food preservation workshops for their communities. In Portland, SNAP-Ed worked with Oregon Department of Agriculture to secure a farm-to-school grant that focused on urban Indigenous programs.

### **SNAP-Ed outreach and engagement with the Nine Tribes of Oregon**

Oregon SNAP-Ed has been included in several coalitions across Oregon, working with Tribal communities in their counties. SNAP-Ed also has an office located on reservation lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. In the Portland metro area, SNAP-Ed continues to work with organizations representing tribes from all parts of Oregon. These partners – Native American Agricultural Fund, Columbia River Intertribal Fishing Commission, Native American Youth and Family Center and others – are the key to providing effective nutrition education to Tribal communities. SNAP-Ed also works with other government agencies to effectively reach Indigenous populations. Partnering with the Oregon Department of Education’s Office of Indian Education helps to expand the reach of SNAP-Ed programs.

In addition to working directly with Tribes, SNAP-Ed works with Tribal partners throughout the state. For example, the Klamath Tribes reached out to the Northwest Area Indian Health Board (NIAIHB) who then contacted a SNAP-Ed educator to request food preservation education. Shortly after, other Tribes in Oregon, including Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, contacted Oregon SNAP-Ed to request pressure canning and freeze-drying education.

Several Tribal organizations have expressed interest in learning more about food preservation, from canning to dehydration and freeze-drying. In Warm Springs, SNAP-Ed consulted with and received permission from the Tribe’s Culture and Heritage Committee to provide a training on freeze-drying Indigenous foods. The training was well-received, with one participant stating that the “[freeze-dried] strawberries are great! It will be a snack that SNAP-Ed kids can relate to but healthier.”

In 2023, SNAP-Ed shifted to doing more collaborative work on Food Systems with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:

- Attending coalition meetings discussing local food sovereignty concerns and opportunities
- Increasing community outreach through events
- Assisting the local WIC department in delivery of Fresh Harvest kits through High Desert Food and Farm Alliance
- Making adaptations to the Veggie Rx program pilot moving into Federal Fiscal Year 2024
- Working on newly adopted SNAP-Ed curriculum Turtle Island Tales

### SNAP-Ed committee participation and Tribal representatives

The SNAP-Ed Indigenous Peoples Workgroup meets monthly and includes participation from members of multiple Tribes. Additionally, the Portland-area SNAP-Ed Tribal liaison participates in regular meetings with various Tribal organizations, such as the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and Wombyn’s Wellness. Each SNAP-Ed county unit also has a direct contact within any Tribes in that county.

### Tribal Agreements: SNAP-Ed

SNAP-Ed Unit	Tribe Name	Agreement
SNAP-Ed Warm Springs Unit	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	OSU SNAP-Ed MOU
SNAP-Ed Lincoln County	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon in Lincoln County	
SNAP-Ed Klamath County	The Klamath Tribes (Klamath, Modoc, Yahooskin)	
SNAP-Ed Coos County	Coquille Indian Tribe in Coos County	
SNAP-Ed Marion-Polk Counties	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	
SNAP-Ed Urban Indigenous Unit	<p>Multnomah County has designated services associated with the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as well as many other Pacific Northwest Tribes.</p> <p>Urban Collaboratives have Tribal liaisons for all Nine Tribes of Oregon.</p>	

## Key Contacts for SNAP-Ed

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## SNAP-E&T

The purpose of all SNAP E&T programs in Oregon is to assist people receiving SNAP benefits in obtaining skills, education, training, and work experience.

This also includes access to items they need to be successful in reaching their goals such as transportation support, work clothing, housing or utility support, and a variety of other supports. The goal is to increase their ability to obtain living-wage employment that leads to a gainful career path and economic mobility.

The skills an individual has and their willingness to be part of building their future career path are highly valued. Case management services are provided to address barriers in a person-centered, trauma informed approach. A priority for the program is to ensure equitable access and culturally appropriate services are made available for everyone. All of this results in the opening of new doors of opportunity and the creation of real pathways for stability and economic mobility.

Oregon offers SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) activities for SNAP participants in every area of the state. Oregon has two voluntary SNAP E&T programs:

- SNAP Training and Employment Program (STEP), nationally called the SNAP 50/50 program
- Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) program

Oregon contracts with statewide and local providers for services to support all SNAP E&T participants.

Oregon continues to evolve and expand the E&T programs ongoing investment in Oregon's economy and communities. For Federal Fiscal Year 2024, Oregon's SNAP E&T Program includes 27 contracted providers and 29 sub-contracted providers. Included in these contracts, Oregon Employment Department (OED) offers STEP in all 37 Work Source offices around the state. All 17 community colleges offer STEP services under the Community College Consortium.



The statewide expansion of STEP has provided an increased number of SNAP participants with robust opportunities.

Due to the Public Health Emergency unwinding, on July 1, 2023, Oregon was required to implement SNAP time limits for all individuals with an ABAWD status in Clackamas, Deschutes, Jackson, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. An ABAWD is an individual between the ages of 18 – 52. These

individuals are required to complete 80 hours of work-related activities each month to keep their SNAP benefits longer than three months in a three-year period. OED is Oregon’s statewide ABAWD Program contractor and offers SNAP E&T services to individuals with an ABAWD status to complete the required hours of activities.

For Federal Fiscal Year 2024, it is anticipated 33,486 individuals will be served by SNAP E&T Programs.

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Oregon STEP Provider Network

Number of Providers	Organization
27	Prime STEP Providers*
11	WorkSystems, Inc. Subcontractors
16	Community College Subcontractors
1	Clackamas Workforce Partnership Subcontractor
37	OED WorkSource Centers
92	STEP sites offering SNAP E&T services
Total SNAP E&T Budget: \$65,664,286.52	

\*A Prime STEP Provider is one that has its own contract and is not a sub-contractor of another contractor.

Oregon's SNAP E&T Programs provide individualized supports and culturally relevant services. The programs collaborate with participants to outline and achieve their short- and long-term goals. SNAP E&T programming supports Tribal communities by providing access to anyone receiving SNAP in the district. While STEP does not have any formal agreements with the Tribes, the program has met with Tribal Affairs and continues to develop communications plans. The federal government offers a 75 percent reimbursement rate to Tribal STEP providers, compared to the 50 percent offered to non-Tribal providers.

The SNAP E&T Program continues to engage with Oregon's Tribal communities to ensure equitable programming access across the state. Oregon recently updated the Tribal Consultation and Urban Indian Health Program Confer Policy. The updates include a commitment by the SNAP E&T program to coordinate the development of the State Plan each Federal Fiscal Year by including Tribal Leaders in the monthly SNAP E&T Statewide Steering Committee to take part in development, implementation, and maintenance discussions of the program.

In August 2023, Jessica Amaya Hoffman, ODHS SSP Deputy Director, presented information about the

SNAP E&T Program at the Indian Child Welfare Act Advisory meeting to Tribal Leaders.

In August 2023, SNAP E&T policy staff met with ODHS Tribal Affairs Strategic Director of Tribal Initiatives, Leona Enright to discuss engagement and consultation with the Tribes. There will be regular meetings set up with these individuals to continue planning and discussions for further engagement and consultation.

In October 2023, ODHS SSP Director Claire Seguin presented additional information about the SNAP E&T Program at the Director's Convening with the Tribal Leaders.

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### **The Emergency Food Assistance Program**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program intended to provide lower-income households with food for household consumption and congregate meal use at no cost. Anyone who meets the income guidelines (monthly income at or below 300 percent FPL) qualifies for TEFAP and can access a pantry or congregate feeding site that distributes emergency food anywhere in the state.

Under TEFAP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) makes USDA Commodities available to State Distributing Agencies. ODHS provides oversight for the administration of TEFAP in Oregon. All USDA commodities and 100 percent of the administrative funding for the program is passed through to the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) as the sub-grantee. OFB works with a cooperative statewide 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.

### **TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant**

ODHS applied for and received a second round of TEFAP Reach and Resiliency grant funding to expand TEFAP into remote, rural, and Tribal communities. Awarded funding from USDA's second round of Reach and Resiliency grant funding extends the project period of performance through June 30, 2025 and will support ODHS in partnership with OFB's Network of Regional Food Banks (RFBs) throughout the state. These specific Regional Food Banks will include:

- Columbia Gorge Food Bank (CGFB) serving Wasco, Hood River and Sherman counties
- Oregon Food Bank Southeast Services serving Malheur and Harney counties

- NeighborImpact serving the rural communities of Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties, as well as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Community Connection of Northeast Oregon Inc. (CCNO) in LaGrande serving Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa counties
- Josephine County Food Bank (JCFB) in Grants Pass

Grant activities include:

- Adding and expanding partnerships (focusing on Tribal, Indigenous, immigrant and refugee, and migrant farmworker communities) in the Southeast Oregon and Columbia Gorge Food Bank distribution areas
- Purchasing equipment to expand NeighborImpact's warehouse capacity
- Supporting CCNO with necessary warehouse upgrades and completing the purchase of a refrigerated truck
- Supporting the implementation of Link2Feed database systems at JCFB as well as supporting a Network Coordinator position that will be directly responsible for the expansion of service areas and distribution sites across rural Josephine County.

All the activities outlined in this proposal will increase the staffing and warehouse capacity necessary for these Regional Food Banks to successfully expand TEFAP's reach in remote, rural, Tribal, and low-income communities in Oregon

## Key Contacts for TEFAP

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## Local Food Purchasing Agreement with Agricultural Marketing Service

ODHS is partnering with subgrantee OFB to implement the Oregon Producers Feeding Oregon Communities project through a local food purchasing agreement (LFPA) with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

Through this program ODHS and OFB will increase access to food systems and improve supply chain resiliency by building partnerships with local and regional producers, socially disadvantaged farmers and producers, and underserved communities across Oregon. The program will work to strengthen the regional food system by establishing purchasing agreements with disadvantaged and local farm enterprises, as well as lay out pathways for alternative distribution channels to combat hunger.

This project will also work to mitigate harm from historical policies rooted in racism and oppression affecting Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities' access to land and healthy food. Since

the program began in January 2023, the program has purchased from and distributed locally produced food to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Yakama Nation, and has worked with the Northwest Native Chamber and Native American Youth and Family Center to serve urban Indigenous families and individuals.

Along with OFB, key partners on the project include the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, Oregon State University Small Farms program, and Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). ODHS will collaborate with CRITFC on opportunities to source fish and other First Foods from native fishers and Tribal members in meal programs that reach underserved communities in Oregon. ODHS will also meet with CRITFC partners for the duration of the project to determine supply chain needs and how the producers funded through the state program can access Tribal market channels.

## Key Contact for LFPA

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## **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federally funded cash assistance and employment program. The purpose of TANF 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. In addition, the TANF program offers assistance with applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and grants to escape domestic violence to help families stabilize their lives, 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 an income below 32 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to qualify. A qualifying family of three can receive up to \$506 per month in cash assistance.

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. Oregon's TANF program has been working closely with both The Klamath

Tribes and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians TANF programs on service improvements.

## **Tribal Agreements**

As stated previously, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and The Klamath Tribes operate their own Tribal TANF programs within Oregon.

ODHS 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 individuals 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 \$540,533.36 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 ODHS.

## Key Contacts for TANF

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## Job Opportunities and Basic Skills

The Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program for TANF participants offers an array of services that work to build a strong foundation for participants. JOBS services align with the Family Assessment tool, in which participants identify their strengths and areas in need of support as they work to develop an individual plan toward supporting themselves.

### Well-Being

Child Activities  
Stabilized Living  
Life Skills

### Family Stability

Drug/Alcohol Services  
Medical Related Services  
Mental Health Services  
Rehabilitation Services

### Job Readiness & Employment

Job Search Support  
On the Job Training  
Jobs Plus (subsidized employment)  
Supported Work  
Work Experience (unsubsidized employment)

### Education & Training

GED/High School Diploma  
English as a Second Language  
Adult Basic Education  
Jobs Skills Training  
Self-Initiated Training  
Vocational Training



These services are 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 has been expanding to create a continuum of services so that as families transition off TANF, there are continued resources and wraparound services available through the SNAP E&T STEP program, as well as community providers and resources.

The JOBS program provides participants who are engaged in employment and training activities with support services such as paying for childcare, meeting transportation needs, providing books and supplies, and many other support services that are needed for the participant to be successful in their plan. These supports are available to those who are engaged in the JOBS program as well as those transitioning off TANF who continue to work with SNAP-Ed contracted providers.

### **Tribal citizens served by JOBS**

Over the last few biennia, the JOBS program has shifted the way staff work with families. It is no longer the goal to get a participant any job, rather, it is about ensuring that the whole family has stability, and that needs, and barriers are being addressed. The goal is

to work alongside of families and support them as they work towards their interests and employment goals, including living wage jobs with opportunity for career advancement. The table above gives an overview of where the focus lies within SNAP-Ed program with examples of some of the activities that families have access to.

The JOBS program is offered to eligible families and adults who receive TANF cash assistance. For any Tribal family or individual receiving TANF, these are the types of services available to them.

### **Key Contacts for JOBS**

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### **Family Support and Connections**

The Family Support and Connections (FS&C) program supports community-based services intended to increase protective factors\* and prevent the need for future Child Welfare involvement by assisting parents in moving towards holistic family stabilization using a comprehensive array of life skills, parent training and support services.

\*Protective factors may lessen the likelihood of children being abused or neglected. See the CDC website for examples of protective factors. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/riskprotectivefactors.html>

## **FS&C program funding and delivery**

The foundational purpose for FS&C is set by the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP). CBCAP, a component of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), is a nationwide program funded by the Children's Bureau (CB) within the federal Administration for Children and Families, of the Department of Health and Human Services. Tribal and Migrant grant funding reserves 1 percent of the available Title II funding for Tribes, Tribal organizations, and migrant programs. The goal of the programs and activities supported by these funds is to prevent child abuse and neglect within Tribal and migrant populations. Oregon is not a grantee of this funding. FS&C funding uses a combination of CBCAP, TANF Federal Funds and General Funds.

FS&C is available statewide in each of Oregon's 36 counties. ODHS has organized these counties into 16 regional districts with at least one FS&C contracted community-based provider in each district. FS&C is available for families, including Tribal members, who are experiencing low-income with minor children in their home, and are not receiving services through Child Welfare.

FS&C services offer a research-based approach focusing on family's strengths and promoting protective factors that are essential in minimizing

the likelihood of child exposure to maltreatment. Services include home visiting, strength and needs-based family assessments, connections to needed community services and resources, advocacy, individualized interventions, concrete emergency services, and joint outcome-based case planning.

The FS&C and Prevention Coordinator works directly with Tribal Prevention Coordinators and attends the Tribal Quarterly Prevention meeting. FS&C does not yet have any formal agreements with Oregon Tribes.

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## **Domestic Violence Programs**

SSP has multiple survivor-centered domestic violence programs. These programs focus on increasing safety for survivors and their families, while decreasing the risk of returning to an unsafe situation. These programs include:

- Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS)
- Co-Located Domestic Violence (DV) Advocates Program
- Survivor Investment Partnership (SIP)

## **Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence**

### **Survivors**

The TA-DVS program is a TANF-funded program intended to provide temporary financial assistance and support to families affected by domestic violence during crisis or emergent situations. This program is used to help the family address their safety concerns and stabilize their living situation, reducing the likelihood of a survivor having to return to an abuser. The most common need for TA-DVS is when a domestic violence survivor is fleeing their abuser. The grant helps with up to \$1,200 over a 90-day eligibility period, and payments are dependent on the survivor's specific safety needs.

### **Co-located Domestic Violence Advocates Program**

ODHS' supports for domestic and sexual violence survivors are enhanced by contracts that allow the agency to partner with local domestic violence sexual assault (DVSA) agencies to provide confidential advocacy services in all SSP and Child Welfare offices. Advocacy services are available through co-location of advocates in many ODHS offices and provide enhanced and confidential supports and safety planning to survivors working with ODHS.

## **Survivor Investment Partnership**

The Survivor Investment Partnership (SIP) is a unique and newly developed flexible funds program implemented in 2023. SIP collaborates with the Nine Tribes of Oregon, eight culturally responsive domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSA) service providers, and 31 co-located DV advocacy agencies across the state. The funding goal is to enhance and increase access to culturally responsive services and supports to survivors of DVSA within Tribal and other culturally specific populations who have been continually underserved and disproportionately impacted by the effects of DVSA.

Through ongoing collaboration and engagement with the Nine Tribes of Oregon, culturally responsive providers, and co-located DV advocacy agencies, these funds will assist with capacity building, increased advocacy, and provide increased funding. The flexible funding is provided directly to the Tribes and DVSA organizations who determine how they support survivors in their communities.

Individual intergovernmental agreements between ODHS and each of the Nine Tribes of Oregon were finalized in June 2023. These agreements facilitate SIP funding for DVSA supports and services to survivors who are enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe, Tribal descendants, non-Tribal affiliated

and/or directly or indirectly impacted by a Tribal member. Each of the Nine Tribes of Oregon received \$453,000 at the end of the 2021-2023 biennium for infrastructure, staffing, direct services, Gathering of Native Americans, indirect costs, and other costs. Amendments will be developed in partnership with each Tribe and will include an allocation of \$472,060 for the 2023-25 biennium to be disbursed in early 2024. Each of the Nine Tribes of Oregon have determined who they will be serving with SIP funds and how they spend the Survivor Investment direct services funds.

Recognizing Tribal sovereignty ensures that SIP does not regard the Nine Tribes of Oregon as homogenous communities. The ODHS SIP team meets at least quarterly with each Tribe to offer support, technical assistance, and build lasting relationships. In partnership, qualitative and quantitative data collection, as well as expenditure reporting, will measure outcomes while preserving survivor confidentiality and safety. In coming months, ODHS SIP staff will collaborate with the Nine Tribes of Oregon to arrange in-person visits to the Tribes to better understand their work with survivors and local communities. SIP recognizes the impacts of historical trauma and through partnership is committed to creating systemic change.

During the SIP IGA development planning meetings, many of the Nine Tribes of Oregon voiced the need for a Tribal specific DVSA coalition. The ODHS SIP team, in collaboration with the Office of Tribal Affairs and the Nine Tribes of Oregon, are currently exploring how we could support their work in developing a coalition where the Tribes can share best practices and ideas and discuss the impacts of DVSA within their communities.

### **Key Contact for Domestic Violence Survivor Programs**

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### **Refugee Program**

The Refugee Program assists refugees and others with an eligible immigration status access cash, medical, employment and other services when they first come to Oregon. The program is primarily funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) including some State General funds. The program partners with local Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRAs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) 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 the first 12 months 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 include orientation to the U.S., case management, employment services, school impact, youth mentoring and senior services. These additional services are available to refugees within 60 months of the date in which an eligible immigration status is granted.

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### **Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP)**

ODHS is responsible for coordinating statewide planning for delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. The Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP) provides youth experiencing homelessness with services and housing supports through grant agreements with youth-serving organizations.

The program recommends policies that integrate a system of services and support into the state's continuum of care for children and youth through 24 years of age who continue to be or who become

homeless. The program also coordinates the collection of data, provision of technical assistance to communities for assessing the needs of runaway and homeless youth, identification and promotion of the best practices for service delivery and recommends long-term goals to identify and address the underlying causes of homelessness of youth.

Tribal youth have more than double the risk of homelessness as other youth\*. Due to limitations in funding, both in terms of a small biennium budget and legislative limitations on which programs can access new funding, there have been minimal opportunities for the Nine Tribes of Oregon to access funding and support outside of local partnerships. While the 2023 legislative session saw significantly increased short-term funding, there were no specific requests made from the Nine Tribes of Oregon. Most of the housing and support services for youth experiencing homelessness have historically come from non-YEHP funding (for example, federal, county and city funding).

### **YEHP program delivery**

The Youth Experiencing Homelessness Advisory Committee (YEHAC) advises ODHS on policies and procedures to coordinate statewide planning for delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. Most of the funding is delivered to local public agencies or private nonprofit agencies

that, under grant agreements, take responsibility for assisting youth experiencing homelessness through the provision of housing, services and support, as well as connecting youth to other public and private service provider agencies.

### **Tribal citizens served by YEHP**

From 2014 to 2022, the Native American Youth Association (NAYA) received a YEHP grant of approximately \$50,000 a year, with small short-term increases during the COVID-19 pandemic. NAYA provides job development skills, mentoring and, most recently, culturally specific LGBTQIA2S+ youth case management. NAYA's YEHP grant has historically served around 50 youth per year for grant-specific services, though NAYA serves a larger number of total youths within their programming.

Beginning in 2023, NAYA continued as a grantee for culturally specific case management at \$100,000 a year. They estimate being able to support upwards of 80 youth per month with this grant.

YEHP has not previously required data response from grant providers outlining demographics. However, beginning July 2023, YEHP grant providers will be responsible for entering information into the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), a portal that will better identify how many

youth are being supported via YEHP grants and a basic demographic breakdown of youth service recipients.

NAYA also receives a grant from YEHP to act as one of three youth-serving agencies for YEHP's Direct Cash Transfer Plus (DCT+) pilot. This pilot prioritizes youth who are overrepresented in youth homelessness counts – including Tribal Youth. DCT+ is providing 74 Tribal young people experiencing homelessness with \$1,000 per month for 24 months to navigate their experience of homelessness and secure stable housing. All DCT+ agencies are tasked with providing optional services surrounding housing assistance, financial readiness, and case management to enrolled youth. As of September 2023, 32 percent of voluntary survey respondents identified as Indigenous or American Indian. Also, as of September 2023, NAYA reports that 57 of 74 youth served through DCT+ are housed. This pilot will continue with payments through February 2025.

About the DCT+ program, one youth served by NAYA shared, "...the fact that [this program] exists has given me hope for a better future for me, future generations and SNAP-Ed collective community. ... [It] helps keep me alive and is medicine to my soul because it reminds me that there are people that care about and for me and are working to make sure that I and many others in situations like me are receiving



the resources that we need to get SNAP-Ed needs/wants met and to not just survive but to thrive while I'm/we're here on this tx'otx' (earth), as well."

### **YEHP outreach and engagement with the Nine Tribes of Oregon**

Within local YEHP programming, engagement has increased with Tribal partners and YEHP grantee organizations. For example, the Mid-Willamette Valley Housing Alliance – and their youth-specific partner the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency – received a federal grant for Marion and Polk County that includes representation from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency is also a YEHP Program grant recipient. Recent YEHP grantees, such as Hearts with a Mission's host home programming in Lincoln County, have received funds from Tribal partners. Other grantees – including in Hood River County, Klamath County, Clackamas County and Coos County – report plans to enhance connection to Tribal partners.

### **Internal Tribal Engagement Opportunities**

YEHP maintains a commitment to ensuring that all its efforts prioritize cultural sensitivity and responsiveness, including respecting the distinct identities and sovereignty of each of the Nine Tribes of Oregon. As a result, YEHP strives for more active

and intentional work and has begun collaborations with ODHS Tribal Affairs. It is the focus of YEHP to work to grow to be more culturally responsive, while building a supportive relationship with the Nine Tribes of Oregon.

### **Youth Action Board**

In May 2023, YEHP began implementation of a statewide Youth Action Board (YAB). The vision of the YAB is to allow for young adults with diverse backgrounds, geographies, and experiences to advise YEHP on the needs of young people.

YAB began with three participants and currently has nine participants between the ages of 14 and 23. The current YEHP lead of the YAB is Indigenous and future recruitment onto the YAB will seek to support Tribal youth participation.

### **Key Contacts for YEHP**

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## **2023 Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Opportunities SNAP-Ed**

SNAP-Ed has created many strong partnerships with Tribes and Tribal organizations; 2023 saw a number of those partnerships grow stronger. SNAP-Ed has had success working with Indigenous populations because the program asks and listens to what participants want.

SNAP-Ed county educators work with Tribal partners to create educational materials that are specific to the cultures and traditions of each individual tribe. Oregon SNAP-Ed asks participants, “What do you want from this class, presentation or curriculum?” and “What are the needs of this specific community?” Several Indigenous populations have asked about food preservation education, and SNAP-Ed has provided this support. For Federal Fiscal Year 2024, SNAP-Ed is developing more food preservation curricula. Many SNAP-Ed units across the state have equipment lending libraries; In response to community requests, more food dehydrators and canning equipment are being made available across the state.

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**

Collaboration with The Klamath Tribes has focused on a shift to allow family choice for Tribal members applying for TANF. In 2022, policy was changed, by

The Klamath Tribes request, to allow low-income members of The Klamath Tribes to choose whether to apply for Tribal TANF or TANF through the state.

Collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has focused on an expansion of the population eligible for their Tribal TANF program. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians expanded this population to serve members of any federally recognized Tribe. To support this change, the Tribe and ODHS have partnered on policy updates, notifying potentially eligible families, and making referrals to the Tribe.

### **Job Opportunity and Basic Skills**

Along the Columbia Gorge as well as in Klamath Falls, there is an intentional effort to build on relationships with the Tribal communities, regardless of if they have Tribal TANF, to ensure they know what the program can offer, they have access to the program, and their needs are being considered so the program works for them. This has been a collaborative effort to ensure the program incorporates the culturally specific needs of Tribal communities.

While these are very concrete examples of two areas that are leading in their work with the Tribal communities, there is also a larger effort taking place to look at the population in each district across the

state and ensure services are meeting the needs of Black, Oregon Tribal Nations and People of Color communities, families and individuals.

### **Family Support and Connections**

Throughout Fiscal Year 2022, FS&C expanded services, prioritizing access for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and rural communities, with an increased investment in TANF funds. In Fiscal Year 2023, FS&C has worked to make CBCAP funds available and pursue use of TANF funds for the Nine Tribes of Oregon. The intention of this work is to increase family and youth-led prevention services that are tailored to the customs and traditions of each Tribe.

### **District Offices**

#### **Hiring and roles to support Tribal partnership**

**District 1** (Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia Counties) has worked to implement changes informed by Tribal leaders to better support and serve the Tribes. These changes have included working with ODHS leadership to create and expand Tribal Liaison Worker positions. Tribal Liaison Workers come from both Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Programs and serve in a leadership role, holding the team accountable for performance measures and other work related to Tribes. These staff also make regular outreach efforts

to the Tribes to formalize their relationship and build stronger bonds.

District 1 has also overhauled their hiring process to hire and support staff with passion and understanding for Tribal relations. Self-Sufficiency Programs in the district has seen a 12 percent increase in managers hired who identify as Black, Indigenous or as a Person of Color.

**District 2** (Multnomah County) has hired Tribal Family Coach positions and begun a “Closed at Screening” pilot for Native families. This pilot handles calls that are made to the hotline but are closed at screening, staffs the calls and contacts families through the CW/SSP Tribal Family Coaches to offer enhanced support. The goal of this pilot is to prevent future calls to the hotline and increase family stability.

**District 3** (Yamhill, Polk, and Marion Counties) has identified a family coach to work with ICWA cases and is establishing a process to identify these cases and get them referred to the family coach.

**District 11** (Klamath County) has continued to support a Tribal Family Coach to provide Child Welfare prevention services to Klamath Tribal members as well as other Tribal families in Klamath County. Since this work began in 2020, the Tribal Family Coach has worked with 33 Klamath families and only three have

entered the Child Welfare system to date. Additionally, the Klamath Tribal foster care population in Klamath Falls has fallen from 49 children to 14 children in foster care.

**District 15** (Clackamas) began a collaboration with CW to have two Family Coaches attend monthly D15 ICWA Learning Sessions and have brought this information back to their teams to inform Family Engagement work across Clackamas County.

**District 16** (Washington County) sent an SSP engagement specialist to the 2023 ICWA Conference. Through unit meetings and the District 16 Family Coach Forum, this engagement specialist was able to share what was learned with all local family coaches and engagement specialists. Through Family Preservation work, local engagement specialists are working with Child Welfare to develop trainings for staff with an equity-centered lens and strategies for better supporting Tribal families.

### **Community connections**

**District 2** opened the new Portland Community College (PCC) Opportunity Center where SSP is co-housed with other agencies to include PCC, NAYA, and soon to be Multnomah County Health Clinic and Home Forward. The grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration took place on Oct. 26, 2023.

**District 2** eligibility staff and family coaches also work twice a week onsite at Grand Ronde. Onsite work includes eligibility for all programs, client time and case planning. The district has also identified family coaches to work with Grand Ronde Tribal families from the Dallas and McMinnville Self-Sufficiency offices.

**District 4** (Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties) has maintained a staff point person for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Planning is taking place within the district to install an ongoing Tribal cohort with the intent to include a family coach to enhance Tribal relations and Family Preservation work.

**District 5** (Lane County) assigned a Community Partnership Coordinator as the Tribal point for SSP. In this role the CPC attends Tribal events and supports the Tribal Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) reallocation.

**District 6** (Douglas County) has started a tradition of working with the local Tribe to assist families with yard work around Tribal housing. More than 20 staff members from Child Welfare, Self-Sufficiency and Aging and People with Disabilities attend the event, working with more than 10 Tribal partners. The district is grateful to have Tribal participation in their monthly First Thursday event and is working on enhanced

outreach to outlying communities alongside their new mobile health unit.

**District 9** (Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler Counties) has established a JOBS contract with The Next Door, Inc. Native Supports team to provide culturally responsive employment and training supports to Native families receiving TANF. District 9 has also had a number of successful partnership opportunities in 2023, including work with Gorge Grown and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to deliver fresh produce and food boxes to Native families, supporting the Native Youth Culture Camp, assisting coordination of a back-to-school event at Celilo Village for Native youth, and providing financial support and staff for prepared hot meals to be delivered in November and December to Native families living along the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.

**District 10** (Jefferson, Deschutes, and Crook Counties) continues to have a local office, and have added a small Virtual Eligibility Center, to the ODHS SSP location on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. Having an office on the Warm Springs Reservation has allowed ODHS to serve the community with a local presence and has increased employment opportunities as well. Approximately 90 percent of the Warm Springs office staff are Tribal members.

In **District 13** (Wallowa, Union, and Baker Counties), a Community Resource Network helps meet the needs of individuals and families in the three counties who have struggled to get their needs met through other methods. This has been a highly successful project and model to engage with community and identify gaps in service equity. In cooperation with District 12 leadership, District 13 has worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and community members to design and implement their own network. The district hopes that by making a direct connection with the Tribe as a charter member of the network, it will bring a wider array of supports to their Tribal members.

### **Engagement through meetings and events**

**District 7** (Coos and Curry) has continued existing efforts with Tribal partners and has increased their engagement in many Tribal events and meetings during 2023. Most of these events and meetings were conferences, where staff had the opportunity to learn more about current government relationships with Tribes, historical information about individual Tribes, and opportunities for building relationship and allyship with Tribes.

**District 8** (Josephine and Jackson Counties) CW and SSP Leadership were invited to a quarterly partnership celebration hosted by Klamath Tribal Social Services

in Chiloquin. This gathering occurs quarterly and provides the opportunity for District 11 CW and SSP teams and Klamath Tribal Social Services to have lunch together, celebrate successes, share learning space, and strategize about working in coordination to serve Tribal families. Learning at the event has led the District 8 SSP Leadership Team to explore ways of implementing Tribal point(s) among their family coach services.

**District 9** has been a consistent partner at a weekly virtual meeting known as the Gorge Native American Collaboration (GNAC). This meeting includes community partners and Native community members, focusing on identifying needs and supports for Native communities along the Columbia River.

**District 12** (Morrow and Umatilla Counties) continues to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to support collaborations like the 2023 Diversity Conference and the creation of a Community Resource Network for the Tribe. The district is in the process of submitting a proposal for funds to support Tribal members with resources and support payments, we will work closely with Tribal partners to identify and serve families if funding is approved.

**District 14** (Grant, Harney, and Malheur), under new district leadership, made it a priority to preserve and improve relations with the Burns Paiute Tribe in 2022. While previously established relationships continued between the Burns Paiute Tribe and local ODHS staff, local leaders also committed to participate in quarterly check-in meetings. Beyond information exchange, these relationship-building meetings have resulted in deeper trust and mutual respect in 2023. For the first time, district leaders have been invited to participate in Tribal events, including a Culture Camp in June 2023, and a Pow-Wow in October.

### **Challenges**

**District 13** sits in a pocket between the Burns-Paiute tribe in District 14, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla in District 12. As such, the district does not have an organized Tribal presence. However, District 13 collaborated with District 12 on a community-based project with an emphasis on engagement with CTUIR.

District 13 is constantly evaluating approaches and outreach into the community. The district is helping its staff understand the cultural considerations of Tribal people to improve practice for when they have contact with Tribal members. This includes reviewing training options and supporting the learning and use of the Tribal Engagement Toolkit as developed in collaboration with the Tribal Affairs Unit.

## **Program Summary by SSP Director**

Like many years in Self-Sufficiency's recent history, 2023 was full of change for our program. At the beginning of this year, I took over the role of interim director from Jana McLellan, and in July I was appointed permanent director to Self-Sufficiency alongside Aprille Flint-Gerner's permanent appointment to director of Child Welfare.

This year marked the unwinding of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE), and we worked to prepare people for the end of millions of dollars in additional food benefits through COVID-19 pandemic programs like SNAP Emergency Allotments and Pandemic EBT, among others. We know these changes are creating new challenges for individuals and families and are committed to supporting them through this next phase in collaboration with Tribes, community partners, and other ODHS programs.

The unwinding of the PHE has additionally presented some new opportunities. The Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF), established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, provided funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unused funds have been reallocated to eligible states, territories, and Tribes, with Oregon receiving a reallocation of funds in the amount of \$1,318,822.84.

Self-Sufficiency has offered our 16 districts the opportunity to receive these funds, with the intent to focus funding on members of the Nine Tribes of Oregon. Districts have flexibility in the types of assistance they provide, such as diapers, food, store gift cards, school supplies and housing or utility assistance, among others.

As promised, earlier this year Self-Sufficiency and ODHS Tribal Affairs launched a Tribal Engagement Toolkit to support local offices as they initiate and expand relationships with the Tribe(s) in their region. Across Oregon, Self-Sufficiency's local offices now have 10 family coaches dedicated to working with Tribes. As you will see from our districts' reports above, these positions have been critical in developing intentional connections and collaborations with Tribal governments.

As you will see in our Domestic Violence Survivor Programs section, individual intergovernmental agreements between ODHS and each of the Nine Tribes of Oregon were finalized this summer. These agreements have made it possible for Survivor Investment Partnership funding for domestic violence and sexual assault survivor supports and services to directly benefit Native survivors. Each of the Nine Tribes of Oregon have determination over who they will serve with this funding.

Collaborative efforts with Child Welfare have continued this year as well, as we have worked to deepen our commitment to family preservation and stability through anti-poverty supports and services. Many of these changes and developments are indicative of Self-Sufficiency's evolving work as we deepen our commitment to services that support lasting economic stability.

This year, Self-Sufficiency Programs launched our Vision into Action effort to prioritize and inform our work in 2024. Staff have begun work with our community and agency partners to create a Vision into Action Guide that will map out our journey toward supporting thriving communities, outlining more detailed actions and measurement tools that will connect our vision to the daily work of serving people in Oregon. We have shared about this effort in our quarterly convening with the Tribes and look forward to providing updates in the new year.

In the year to come, SSP will continue to work collaboratively and cross-agency to support the stability and well-being of Tribal families, individuals, and communities and to seek input, guidance, and direction through meaningful partnership with the Nine Tribes of Oregon.

With gratitude and appreciation,

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# Vocational Rehabilitation

Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) provides employment services to people who experience disabilities. VR offers individualized services to help clients gain, maintain or advance employment. VR also offers youth services to help students ages 14 through 21 prepare for the transition to work.

In addition, VR holds cooperative agreements with five of the Nine Tribes of Oregon that provide a Tribal VR program:

- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon,
- Confederated Tribes of the Klamath Falls,
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon,
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

VR and Tribal VR follow the same processes. Both partner with other organizations, employers, and providers to support Oregonians to achieve employment goals that match their skills, interests, and abilities. The intention is to create pathways to competitive integrated employment that will lead to community participation, independence, and overall well-being.

VR endeavors to provide access to VR services for Tribal citizens and members who are not served by one of the Tribal VR programs, as well as to those who identify as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous. VR is committed to the Oregon Department of Human Services Equity North Star – we strive to serve all peoples, equitably. We invest time, resources and staff in our relationships with Oregon Tribal Nations, and we develop structures and supports that ensure full access to VR's services for Tribal citizens and members, as well as those who identify as American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous.

## Program Delivery

To be eligible for VR and Tribal VR, individuals must have a physical or mental disability that is an impediment to employment. Eligibility also requires that the person must benefit from and require VR services to reach their employment goal.

Once eligibility is determined, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will work with the client to form an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) to reach a specific employment outcome. The counselor and client may work with community service providers to help the client meet their goals. Services in the plan may include:

- Job exploration counseling to determine what jobs may be a good fit for the client and what skills the client may need to obtain or maintain employment;
- Purchase of and training to use assistive technology;
- Workplace ergonomic assessment;
- Job readiness skills, such as interview preparation and resume writing;
- Counseling in self-advocacy and how to request accommodations;
- Job coaching if support is needed at the worksite.

Counselors use a variety of counseling techniques to help clients overcome barriers and achieve employment goals.

VR also runs an early intervention program that provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to all students ages 14 through 21, including Tribal citizens and students attending a Tribal school. Students do not need to apply for these services; to be eligible, students simply need to experience a disability. Students seeking Pre-ETS may receive one or more of the following services:

- Job exploration counseling;
- Work-based learning experiences, which may include internships, in-school or after school opportunities, and experiences outside of the traditional school setting;
- Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living skills;
- Information about postsecondary educational programs;
- Self-advocacy skill building.

State VR serves youth ages 14 -18 both directly and through our contracted partners, and regularly coordinates services for youth using a holistic approach. While most of our Tribal partners do not provide VR services to youth under age 18, they provide many other services to this age group. We

stay in communication with Tribal VR whenever serving a young person who has Tribal affiliation, using a wrap-around and client-centered approach to service provision. It is vitally important that State and Tribal VR partner to provide services to reach people who are under age 18. Families, guardians, and other support persons are often involved in this team effort. This makes for better transitions to Tribal VR services or ongoing co-management when the client turns 18.

### **How many Tribal citizens/members were served in 2023?**

State VR served 996 individuals who are American Indian/ Alaska Native in 2023. This included those who were served by the Tribal VR program or identified as AI/AN (utilizing the updated REALD standard of reporting for ODHS/OHA). Also served were 133 individuals who identified as Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander.

### **How has service delivery to Tribes and Tribal citizens/members improved, strengthened, or shifted in 2023?**

State VR continues to look for ways to improve and strengthen relationships with Tribes, their citizens, members, and other indigenous persons. We continue to build relationships with those Tribes that have a Tribal VR program. State VR offices in proximity to a Tribal VR program provide a main point of contact for

Tribes – a VR Counselor who is available to answer questions, and if needed – co-manage cases. These relationships have been vital to insuring the best possible client services. This kind of relationship building contributed to the success story we are sharing, from working with Grand Ronde Tribal VR program.

We are also working more closely with the ODHS Tribal Affairs Office. Leona Enright, Strategic Director of Tribal Initiatives, is working closely with State VR to identify strategies for outreach and connection, as well as gaps within our understanding and work with tribes. State VR Tribal liaison and State VR policy manager are participating in ODHS Tribal Consultation Policy workgroups, to ensure VR is aligning with this effort.

### **Outreach and engagement with Oregon Tribes**

VR strives to provide regular communication and engagement with Tribal VR programs. We include Tribal VR when we send Director's Messages with program updates and opportunities. We also invite Tribal VR to participate in developing rules, policies, and procedures. For example, VR and the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) invite Tribal VR representatives to twice-monthly meetings of VR-SRC Policy, Legislation and Budget Committee.

VR also extends invitations to Tribal VR staff for all trainings we coordinate for staff and partners in collaboration with Cornell University.

Here are two outreach and engagement successes in 2023:

### **Inclusive Career Advancement Program**

VR's Inclusive Career Advancement Program (ICAP) is a new, grant-funded program that aims to help VR consumers enroll in training programs in Oregon's community colleges. On-campus job coaches provide one-on-one support to participants. Upon completing their training program Tribal VR and state VR staff will help participants find jobs in their field.

ICAP program staff have intentionally reached out to Tribal VR programs and are partnering to support nine Tribal students who are enrolled in community colleges throughout the state. Students are receiving training in a variety of educational pathways such as journalism, childhood education and water treatment studies.

One student who is a Klamath Tribal member studying drug and alcohol counseling reports he is looking forward to graduation and supporting his young family in his chosen career.

### **2023 VR In-Service**

VR also consistently invites Tribal VR staff to its annual In-Service, a time for staff and contracted partners to connect, collaborate and receive training. New in 2023, VR hosted a gathering prior to the start of In-Service. The gathering was an informal time for State and Tribal VR staff to meet, build relationships and celebrate one another. State VR presented small gifts, including a culturally meaningful gift from Director Keith Ozols. Approximately 20 people joined the gathering and reported that it was worthwhile time spent together.

Susie Calhoun and staff from the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation CTUIR conducted a session during In-Service, titled Tribal and State VR – Let's Explore our Differences. The Tribal VR team lead an immersive bead activity. This was a rich experience for the more than 40 participants, a mix of VR and Tribal VR staff, who were able to be in community with one another while sharing a piece of the Tribe's culture.

### **VR Committees with Tribal Representation**

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) includes a standing position for Tribal VR. CTUIR Tribal VR Director Susie Calhoun is co-chair and has been a member of the council for several years.

The SRC is a group of consumers, advocates and representatives from business and the community with lived experience or expertise in disability awareness. Members are appointed by Oregon's Governor to advise the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program about how to best serve Oregonians with disabilities. In particular, the council focuses on helping people with disabilities achieve their career goals and employment potential. The SRC is an accountability partner to VR and represents the voice of people who receive services.

The SRC continues to seek greater involvement from Tribal VR and other Tribal members.

### **Success Story**

Tribal members have the option of seeking state VR services in addition to (or instead of) Tribal VR services. State VR endeavors to collaborate with Tribal VR to provide dual-enrolled clients with the best possible services, that are aligned with client choice and culture. One example of where this partnership shines is between the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the McMinnville VR office.

Tribal VR counselor Amber Yates said she often refers clients to the McMinnville office because of the additional resources and support state VR can provide.

"I tell clients, the more people who are on their team to help them be successful, the better," Yates said.

She and VR Counselor John Gaudet have worked together to support many clients over the past five years. Both agree communication is key to providing the best support to clients.

"We have an open line of communication. I'll share information with Amber, and she shares information with me," Gaudet said.

Grand Ronde Tribal member Amanda Yates, 34, has benefited from this partnership. With help from both programs, she started a photography business and got a part-time job with the Tribe as Resource Coordinator for Missing Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). Gaudet and Yates helped her get equipment, apply for jobs, and learn to advocate for herself.

"Since starting VR, I quit pain medication, I quit methadone, I quit gambling," Freeman said. "VR really helped me recognize who I could be and my potential."

### **Geographic service area**

Vocational Rehabilitation offers services statewide. Tribal VR programs offer services in areas that align with their unique service area. Each Tribal VR program has unique service stipulations and may require that the consumer be an enrolled member of the Tribe. When State and Tribal VR work together, putting client choice first, there may be fewer gaps in services.

## Challenges

Our greatest opportunity and our greatest challenge for partnering with Tribes is in building relationships. We value our relationships with Tribal VR program staff. Program service delivery guidelines are very similar for both programs. Making and keeping those connections is often a challenge, as the demands on everyone's time is great. Building relationships takes time, and every individual person and program has competing priorities. It is always a joy to work together – and we aim to do this more frequently and more effectively. One way to work together more effectively is to provide points of contact to each of the Tribal VR programs. Our success story from Grand Ronde is an example of a good outcome that can result when State VR staff and Tribal VR staff have a strong partnership.

Another good example of the importance of building and maintaining relationships occurred with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. The October ODHS Directors/Oregon Tribes Quarterly Convening for Tribal and ODHS leadership took place at Warm Springs. The VR director and Tribal VR director were able to share information about the Tribal VR program with the ODHS cabinet. It was an important time to build relationships, and a powerful way to see the amazing work being done at Warm Springs. Participants got to meet many people and see

programs providing services for the people – including their ongoing need for drinking water. Two years ago, VR was involved in taking emergency water and other supplies to Warm Springs. This tour was an important reminder that the need still exists – and there is still an opportunity to take water to Warm Springs.

Perhaps our biggest challenge is building relationships with those tribes that do not have a Tribal VR program. We are making headway in building those relationships in partnership with ODHS Tribal Affairs. For example, Tribal Affairs has coordinated a meeting with Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. VR looks forward to working with the ODHS Tribal Affairs and Community Engagement teams to expand our outreach efforts to the other Tribes without a Tribal VR program.

We also empower and encourage direct services staff to conduct outreach and make connections, and some branches are making good progress in this area. For example, the VR counselor who works in Harney and Grant Counties is working to build relationships with the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Tribal and State VR programs have a rich history of working together dating back to 1975 when the first federally funded tribal VR program was funded in Arizona. Today there are 93 tribal programs in 26 states and Oregon is extremely fortunate to have five of those federally funded programs. As described above, when we collaborate and provide culturally responsive services our mutual customers succeed and reach their goals. Our goal for 2024 and beyond is to deepen those relationships with all Nine Tribes in Oregon. We know we can elevate the expectations for our tribal students with disabilities through our youth programs. We see opportunities to support that continuum of growth by creating career pathways throughout Oregon with all 17 community colleges from our work with ICAP and the tribal partnerships. We are confident that through our partnership with all nine Tribes, we can support any tribal member reach their employment goals.

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# Conclusion

The Oregon Department of Human Services and Office of Tribal Affairs is proud but humbled by the progress made in serving Tribes in 2023. We hope this year's LCIS report is a testament to how honored we are to serve the Nine Tribes of Oregon and Tribal communities across the state. More importantly, we hope this report shows the transformation happening that will raise the level of health and wellness for Tribes people in Oregon.

As the agency looks toward 2024, the Office of Tribal Affairs is aspiring to reach some big milestones such as the implementation of the shared ODHS-OHA Tribal Consultation Policy. After years of planning, ODHS is finally on the cusp of having a formal consultation mechanism that will uphold our government-to-government relationships. This is an example on how ODHS is making the necessary shifts and changes to better serve Tribes. We hope to make 2024 an even bigger year!

Ahéhee' (Thank you)



# Legislative Commission on Indian Services Report



Oregon Department of Human Services

**Tribal Affairs**

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