DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY
STATE OF ARIZONA

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

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August 31, 2016

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Tribal Consultation Annual Report

Dear Governor Ducey:

Pursuant to Executive Order 2006-14, Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes, the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) respectfully submits the DCS Annual Tribal Consultation Report for the period covering July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

I am pleased to provide you with the Department's efforts to enhance communications with Indian tribes and nations during SFY 2016.

Sincerely,

Gregory McKay
Director

cc: President Andy Biggs, Arizona State Senate
Speaker David M. Gowan Sr., Arizona State House of Representatives
The Honorable John M. Allen, Chairman, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Kristine FireThunder, Executive Director, Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs
Joan Clark, State Librarian, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records

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TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) is the single state administered child welfare services agency for Arizona with a mission to successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency. The DCS vision is that children thrive in family environments free from abuse and neglect.

TRIBAL LIAISON

DCS created a Tribal Liaison position in 2014 in accordance with Executive Order 2006-14, and this is the single point of contact in DCS for Arizona's 22 federally-recognized American Indian Tribes. The Tribal Liaison is responsible for facilitating State-Tribal consultation and developing, maintaining, and improving communication between DCS and Tribes. During this fiscal year, DCS was faced with the unforeseen and sudden challenge of having the full-time DCS Tribal Liaison position vacant for several months. DCS Leadership responded with a united team effort to continue the ongoing work of the DCS Tribal Liaison. In July 2016, Mr. Shawn Sellers was hired as the new full-time DCS Intergovernmental Tribal & Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Liaison. Mr. Sellers has been with DCS since October 2012, and has held a DCS Specialist position as well as a DCS Supervisor position for an ICWA unit. Prior to working for DCS, Mr. Sellers worked with and for numerous American Indian Tribes in various professional capacities. He is also an enrolled Tribal member of the Navajo Nation.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION POLICY

DCS is committed to working with American Indian Tribes to improve the quality, availability, and accessibility of human services to children, youth, and adults. The establishment of the Tribal Government Consultation Policy will provide a standard and direction so that DCS engages in open, continuous, and meaningful consultation with Arizona's 22 federally-recognized American Indian Tribes. The purpose is to provide the forum for information exchange and mutual understanding prior to taking actions that will likely have a direct impact on the American Indian Tribes in Arizona. The Tribal Government Consultation Policy is nearing completion with a target implementation date of September 30, 2016.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Consultation and communication between DCS and Tribes are essential, and these are especially important in the areas of contracts management, policies and procedures, Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA), and Indian Child Welfare Act case-related issues. The Tribal consultation activities and performance measures for SFY 2016 for DCS are listed in the following table.

Goal	Objective	Activity and Performance Measure
Build and Strengthen State-Tribal Relations	Engage in open, continuous, and relevant consultation.	July 10, 2015: DCS met with Hopi Tribal Leadership to explore an IGA between the Hopi Tribe and DCS.
Same as above	Engage in open, continuous, and relevant consultation regarding the Navajo Nation IGA.	September 10, 2015: DCS attended the Navajo Nation Annual Tri-State IGA Meeting with Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah for continued collaborative IGA efforts and to strengthen relations.

Same as above	Workforce professional development and readiness assessment.	August 5, 2015: The Capacity Building Center for States Workgroup focused on foundational capacity development, communication plans between DCS and Tribes, and policy development.
Maintain Open Dialogue With Tribes	Provide consistent and continuous consultation opportunities for Tribes.	July 30, 2015: The DCS Tribal Liaison attended the Quarterly Tribal-State ICWA Liaison Meeting with the Tribal ICWA Liaisons. An emphasis was placed on improving communication for ICWA cases.
Same as above	Same as above	September 22, 2015: DCS met with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to increase collaboration efforts. The meeting was also held to enhance ongoing communication between DCS and Pascua Yaqui with a shared focus on improving outcomes for Tribal children/families.
Same as above	Same as above	February 18, 2016: A Quarterly Tribal-State ICWA Liaison Meeting took place with Tribal ICWA Liaisons and the DCS Tribal Liaison. Discussions took place regarding cross-cultural issues in child welfare and available cultural resources for congregate care and foster placements.
Enhance Community Outreach	Engage in collaboration around ICWA efforts.	August 6, 2015 to August 7, 2015: The Connecting Legacies Conference was hosted by the Gila River Indian Community. The theme was "Collaboration and Innovation with ICWA" and provided shared learning opportunities across Tribal communities to strengthen Tribal-State relations and ensure ongoing compliance with ICWA.
Address Legal Matters In Relation To Tribes And ICWA	Discuss relevant legal matters that have significant impact on Tribes and ICWA.	August 14, 2015: An Arizona, Tribal, & Federal Court Forum was held to discuss a variety of legal topics as they pertain to State, Federal, and Tribal law. The forum increased knowledge through shared communication and collaboration.
Same as above	Same as above	September 16, 2015: The ICWA Legal Committee Meeting took place with Tribes and State Justices to discuss and review the new BIA ICWA Federal Guidelines. A point of communication and increased collaborations with both Tribal and State legal teams were established.
Achieve Understanding Of ICWA Through Shared Collaboration With Both Tribes And State	Shared leadership opportunity for both Tribes and State with common goal of ICWA education to targeted audience.	September 23, 2015: The ICWA Seminar at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) aimed at educating targeted personnel on the history of ICWA, legal implementation of ICWA, and a DCS overview with emphasis on ICWA cases.
Build Meaningful Relationships With Tribes With International Connections	Provide an opportunity for Tribes with international connections to communicate and collaborate with the State.	November 13, 2015: A panel discussion was held with the Tribal Nations of Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Mexican Consulate to discuss specific laws, protocols, jurisdiction, and services. DCS gained valuable insight, strengthened communication, and enhanced Tribal-State relations.

Same as above	Establish point of contact and engage in discussions to improve relationships.	November 17, 2015: A DCS-Tribal Roundtable Meeting took place. Tribes in attendance expressed interest in entering Inter-governmental Agreements (IGAs) with DCS, and direction was provided on how interested Tribes can further pursue IGAs with DCS.
Enhance Community Engagement In Recruitment Activities	Assist Tribes and licensing agencies with working cooperatively and collaboratively to increase the number of preferred foster placements available for Tribal children, both on and off Tribal lands.	February 2016 to September 2016: The Casey Family Programs Recruitment and Retention of ICWA Preferred Placements Project has been in progress. DCS has partnered with the Phoenix Indian Center, Hopi Tribe, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in joint collaborative efforts to identify specific State/Tribal solutions to recruiting and retaining ICWA preferred placements for American Indian children.

The following are recommendations from Tribal Representatives:

- DCS will continue to host and facilitate Quarterly Tribal Social Services and ICWA meetings with the support from the Inter-tribal Council of Arizona. The meetings provide an opportunity for continued dialogue between Tribes and DCS on child welfare related matters in accordance with ICWA.
- DCS will continue to assist interested Tribes in creating an IGA with DCS.
- DCS will establish the Tribal Government Consultation Policy.
- The Tribes will be provided with accurate and updated data relating to American Indian Children and their families in DCS care and custody.
- The recruitment and retention efforts will continue for ICWA Preferred Placements available for Tribal children, both on and off Tribal lands.
- DCS will provide continuous learning and educational opportunities for all DCS staff in relation to ICWA to ensure proficiency and compliance with the federal law.

REVISIONS TO TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY

The DCS Tribal Government Consultation Policy is nearing completion with a target implementation date of September 30, 2016. DCS has engaged in meaningful ongoing dialogue with Tribes regarding the Tribal Government Consultation Policy. These efforts will continue to ensure that the policy promotes relationship building through shared information with focus on strengthening relations between DCS and Tribes. DCS remains unequivocally committed to all American Indian Tribes.

For questions or more information, please contact:

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