

2014 Annual Report

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

The Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs



1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 430

Phoenix, AZ 85007

PH: 602.542.4426

FAX: 602.542.4428

www.azcia.gov

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 | INTRODUCTION
- 2 | MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC BODY – SUMMARY
- 4 | ASSEMBLE AND MAKE FACTS AVAILABLE
- 4 | CONFER AND COORDINATE
- 6 | WORK FOR A GREATER UNDERSTANDING
- 7 | INDIAN NATIONS AND TRIBES LEGISLATIVE DAY
- 8 | LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS
- 9 | COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF

APPENDICES

- COMMISSION MEMBER ATTENDANCE RECORD
- FY14 REPORT BY THE ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM
- PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORTED TO THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGETING
- EXECUTIVE ORDER 2006-14 CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION WITH AZ TRIBES
- ARIZONA TRIBAL LIAISONS DIRECTORY
- NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS LETTER OF SUPPORT
- PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – AUGUST 13, 2013
- PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2013
- DELAYED BIRTH CERTIFICATES UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

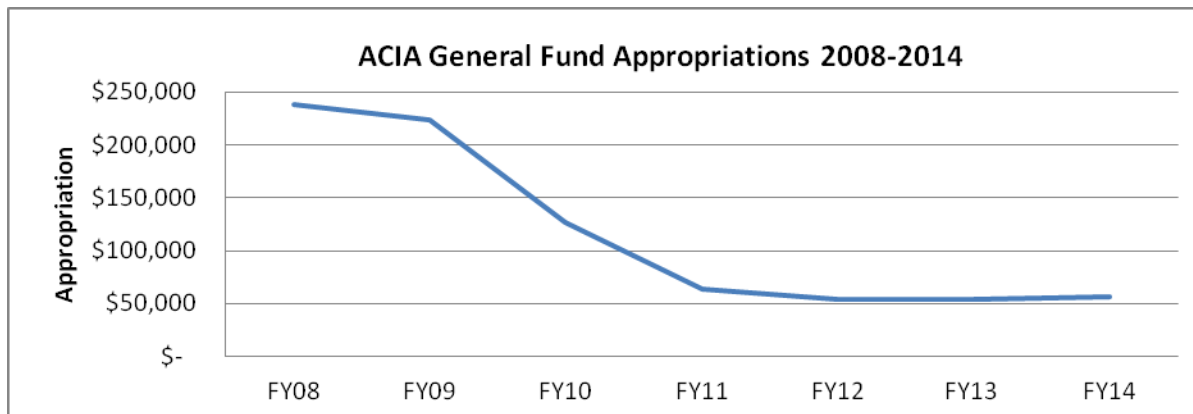
Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-542, the Commission exists to assist and support state and federal agencies in assisting Indians and tribal councils in this state to develop mutual goals, to design projects for achieving goals and to implement their plans.

The public body of the Commission consists of 20 members, including seven Indian and four at-large members appointed by the Governor, and 9 ex-officio members who serve by the virtue of their office.

The 2014 Annual Report describes the varied initiatives carried out by the Commission staff and continued its involvement with Arizona Tribal Leaders, state agencies, professionals and the tribal communities.

MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC BODY – SUMMARY

The Commission held four meetings of the public body with Mr. Kuwaninvaya submitting his resignation and Mr. Watahomogie joining as a new member. The FY14 appropriation from the general fund was \$56,900 with a \$2,200 increase for statewide adjustments.



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

On behalf of Native American Connections, the Commission submitted a letter of support to the Phoenix Indian School Legacy Project for the redevelopment of the band building at Steele Indian School Park.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with statutes, the Commission elected Nathan Pryor as Chairman and Buddy Rocha as Vice Chairman to serve a term of one year.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

To address matters that should be pursued in the upcoming fiscal year, the public body established the Planning and Prioritization Subcommittee to make recommendations on possible action items. By the end of FY13, the subcommittee had developed a process and tool to define activities for the Commission

that effectively answers two questions, what does the Commission do and what do we want to achieve. State statute indicates that the purpose of the Commission is to assist the state in providing assistance to tribal communities. To effectively answer, “*What do we want to achieve?*,” became a three-step process including:

1. Defining the attributes of quality of life
2. Identifying how attributes are interpreted by the tribal community
3. Prioritizing those attributes

Approximately 25-30 people representing a diverse cross section of the tribal community participated in the survey session. Participants were asked to name attributes that defined a high quality of life (i.e., meaningful employment), and then each attribute was given a metric to further clarify what level of the attribute was good, adequate or unacceptable. A follow up survey session focused on prioritizing the attributes. The following are the attributes as defined by the session participants in order of importance:

1. Public safety
2. Infrastructure, employment, health services
3. Leadership, education
4. Social and cultural resources
5. Financial services, Tribal ownership of businesses

In addition to these efforts, the Executive Director began to serve as a member of the Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee.

INDIAN EDUCATION

The Commission was a contributing partner in the Tribal Leaders/Education Leaders Gathering in March 2014. The event was held at the Harrah’s Ak-Chin facility for a two-day work session with 14 tribal nations represented. Each tribe was invited to send an interdisciplinary team of five people to strategize and link tribal policies and in programs in education within six key areas:

1. Education Reform
2. Language and Culture in Curriculum
3. Juvenile Justice/Contributing Factors
4. Parent and Community Involvement
5. Workforce Development and Education
6. Connecting tribal governments to educational systems

While each tribe had unique goals, there were three identifiable themes:

1. Capacity Building at all Levels
2. Information Sharing and Dissemination
3. Coordination of Available Resources

A full record of the proceedings was compiled into one report, “Rigor and Relevance in Indian Education: A Pathway to Strengthening Communities.”

AZ INDIAN TOWN HALL

In a town hall setting, it would be most effective to focus on one topic that may actually make an impact on the quality of life, and move forward with policy remedies. A one-day format is manageable if we were to also limit the number of attendees by invitation-only with an intensive focus on public safety. There were no objections on moving forward with a condensed town hall.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ In developing future plans and objectives, the Commission should focus on public safety issues.

ASSEMBLE AND MAKE FACTS AVAILABLE

The Commission consistently shares pertinent information to tribal nations and community members through the distribution of an electronic newsletter to identify resources.

Serving as an information clearinghouse, the Commission annually processes more than 500 inquiries ranging in interest from duplicating the Arizona State-Tribal relations model to requesting presentations on cultural sensitivity.

- ❖ The AZ Council for International Visitors reached out to the Commission to provide a customized presentation on two separate occasions for visitors from Russia and New Zealand.

We enhance growth and development among low income and minority populations by partnering with community organizations and individuals to disseminate information regarding employment opportunities and vacancies on state boards and commissions. The Commission also provides information regarding state contracting opportunities, referrals to the state procurement office and ADOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

In accordance with A.R.S. § 41-844(D), the director of the state museum is required to give notice to this office upon the discovery of American Indian human remains, funerary objects, sacred ceremonial objects or objects of cultural patrimony. For FY14, 13 instances were reported.

CONFER AND COORDINATE

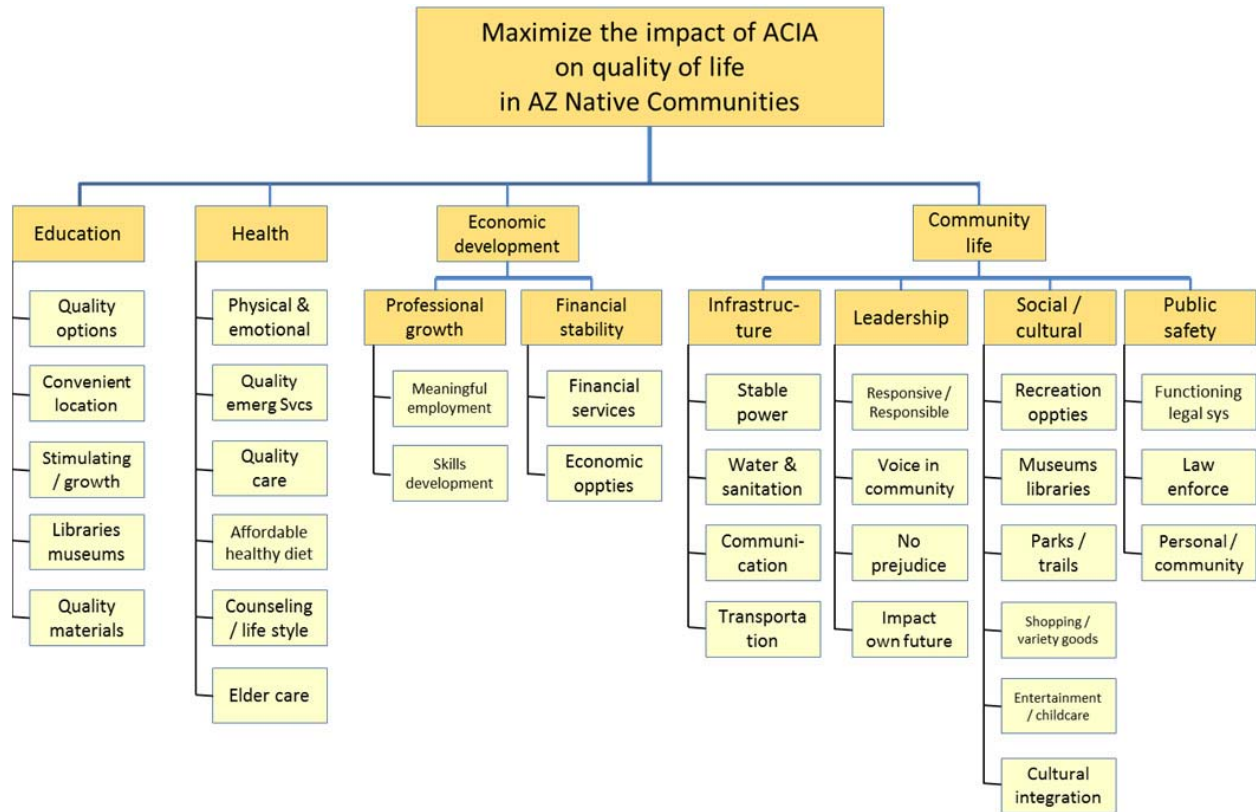
The planning and prioritization subcommittee met six times throughout the year to establish a two year work plan focused on fulfilling statutory obligations and developing a strategic plan. During FY13, the subcommittee contacted various agencies and tribes to gain a better sense of service delivery and correct previous inconsistencies cited within Sunset Review Audits. The result was a survey that could be used as a tool to define activities for the commission.

On August 13th, a wide cross section of 25 people were invited to participate in this survey process to offer their unique insights as former tribal leaders, leaders in the urban Indian community, student/professional organizations and members of tribal council(s). The discussion was focused on the planning and prioritizing the handling of future matters by focusing on factors that are perceived to influence the quality of life for the American Indian population in Arizona.

To effectively answer, “What do we want to achieve?” became a three-step process that included:

1. Defining the attributes of quality of life
2. Identifying how attributes are interpreted by the tribal community
3. Prioritizing those attributes

The following model is a graphic representation of step 1 and step 2:



The multi-attribute valuation model was finalized on September 9th by:

- a. Aligning key characteristics of qualities of life into common areas
- b. Creating metrics for the quality of life
- c. Adding value functions
- d. Developing the basis for prioritization

Among all tribal nations and communities, the relevant key to an overall better quality of life is public safety.

Resulting prioritization: Defining overall quality of life

Priority: All communities	Priority: Advanced communities
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public safety2. Infrastructure, employment, health services3. Leadership, education4. Social and cultural resources5. Financial services, Tribal ownership of businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership, education• Social and cultural resources• Financial services, Tribal ownership of businesses

The next step is to consider how the Commission will influence public safety in tribal communities without interfering with tribal sovereignty.

To further address public safety and other matters, the commission was contacted by:

- ❖ The AZ Department of Corrections to discuss methods to attract traditional healers to support sweat ceremonies in two correctional institutions.
- ❖ The AZ Department of Juvenile Corrections to identify mentors for native youth who do not receive visitors on a regular basis.
- ❖ The AZ Department of Revenue to establish inter-government agreements with tribal nations to ensure the proper collection of tobacco sales tax.

WORK FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING

The Commission serves an integral role to Governor Brewer in the planning and implementation of biannual meetings with Tribal Leadership to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. Traditionally hosted by the Governor's Office, each tribe is invited to join the Governor in a private roundtable discussion to address issues impacting tribal community members.

In addition to these efforts, Governor Brewer and more than 30 state agencies strive to ensure that state services and resources are accessible to all eligible state citizens residing in Arizona Tribal Communities.

Pursuant to Executive Order 2006-14 *Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes* each executive branch agency is required to assign a Tribal Liaison as a point of contact for tribal issues. The tribal liaison will assume responsibility for the agency's implementation of a tribal consultation policy with an annual report related to tribal activities.

This collaborative effort is facilitated by the Commission, who compiles the annual reports and distributes them to Tribal Leadership. In addition to this, regular meetings are held with designated agency Tribal Liaisons to share ideas, success stories, and brainstorm innovative strategies to serve the tribal community and their members.

By request the Commission will also work with state agencies to develop a tribal outreach model or customized training for their workforce. On occasion the Commission will also serve in the role of ombudsman to address inconsistencies in service delivery.

- ❖ On September 10, the Commission was notified of Native American Elders who were not able eligible to apply for birth certificates due to documentation requirements listed in state statute. After conducting several tribal consultations, the Department of Health established an administrative remedy by establishing an internal policy within 60 days of notification of this issue.

Throughout the year the Executive Director and Commission Members host meetings and attend events in order to establish a presence and remain involved in current issues.

- ❖ The Commission observed meetings by invitation from the Renewal of Hope Task Force. The Nahata Dzii Chapter of the Navajo Nation expressed concern on increasing liquor problems in the area. The task force coordinated efforts to prevent the liquor licensing to one individual with four applications and submitted an urgent public request to Apache County. Lawfully, the state cannot do anything until the applicant has been found in violation of licensing requirements.

19th ANNUAL INDIAN NATIONS AND TRIBES LEGISLATIVE DAY

In cooperation with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, the annual tribal legislative day occurred on Tuesday, January 21st 2014. The primary objective is to discuss issues of mutual interest; and pay tribute to American Indian people and their contributions to the history, prosperity and cultural diversity of the United States.

Beginning with a joint protocol session held in the House of Representatives, we were honored to have a posting of the colors by the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post #84. This year's featured speakers included Chairman Terry Rambler of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, President Diane Enos of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and President Ben Shelly of the Navajo Nation. In attendance were over 448 Individuals, 13 tribes represented, 17 state legislators, and other interested constituents. Some 30 organizations participated in a day long exhibit fair.

SEMINAR – PUBLIC SAFETY IN INDIAN COUNTRY

On January 21, a seminar on public safety was offered to share information on initiatives faced by tribal law enforcement. More specifically:

- AZ Dept of Public Safety and Tribal Police Department collaboration on the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA)
- Indian Country Intelligence Network (ICIN)
- Motor vehicle crashes and safety initiatives
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs initiatives
- Major cases addressed by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in Arizona
- Safe Streets Task Force success stories on tribal land

At the conclusion, members of the audience expressed concerns which emphasized a need for substance abuse and suicide prevention programs. Here are a few of those comments:

“Tribal Judicial systems are too lenient with bootleggers”

“Alcohol sold just outside the reservation makes its way to the reservation and feeds undesirable behavior”

One person read the names of more than 20 individuals who lost their lives due to cirrhosis, drunk drivers or suicide

The general consensus of the 92 participants in attendance was that families, communities and tribes may wish to assume responsibility for identifying potential solutions.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

During the 51st Legislature, 2nd Regular Session, two bills of tribal interest passed.

- ❖ SB1099 established August 14, in each year, shall be observed as Navajo Code Talkers’ Day. Navajo Code Talkers’ day is not a legal holiday.
- ❖ HB2674 specifies that any IGA or contract between DOR and an Indian tribe for the collection and administration of tribal excise tax on tobacco products must contain provisions for a uniform or coordinated audit procedure for the Indian reservation tobacco tax imposed by the state and the tribal excise tax on tobacco products imposed by the tribe.

As a state agency, the Commission of Indian Affairs respects the sovereign status of each of the 22 Indian nations and tribes. To advance government-to-government relationships with the Legislature, we host an Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day and connect Tribal Leaders with their elected State Representative(s).

COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF

Appointed Membership:

Ms. Lucinda Hughes Juan of the Tohono O'odham Nation
Mr. Cedric Kuwaninvaya of the Hopi Tribe (resigned effective 11/13/13)
Mr. Derreck Wheeler of the White Mountain Apache Tribe
Mr. Nathan Pryor of the Navajo Nation
Mr. Philbert Watahomigie of the Hualapai Nation (effective 6/12/14)
Mr. Buddy Rocha, Jr., of the Yavapai-Apache Nation
Mr. Dan Brooks – Member at Large
Ms. Leah Hubbard – Member at Large
Mr. Billie Spurlin – Member at Large
Mr. Dave Castillo – Member at Large (non-profit)

Ex-Officio Membership:

Ms. Debora Norris on behalf of The Hon. John Huppenthal, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mr. Michael Allison on behalf of Director William Humble, AZ Department of Health Services
Mr. Keith Watkins on behalf of Director Sandra Watkins, AZ Commerce Authority
Ms. Dawn Melvin on behalf of Director Sherry Henry, AZ Office of Tourism
Ms. Misty Klann on behalf of Director John Halikowski, AZ Department of Transportation
Ms. Courtney Coolidge on behalf of Mr. Dan Bergin, Director of the Department of Gaming
Ms. Dawn Williams on behalf of The Hon. Tom Horne, AZ Attorney General
Ms. Mary Huyser on behalf of Director Clarence Carter, AZ Dept of Economic Security

Staff:

Ms. Kristine Fire Thunder, Executive Director
Ms. Kelly Hedman, Executive Assistant