

**NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION  
INDIAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

*January 16, 2017- 9:30am*  
Via UberConference

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Seat Filled</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Saundra Mitrovich	University of Nevada, Reno	<b>x</b>	
Fredina Drye-Romero	NV Department of Education	<b>x</b>	
Lori Pasqua	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA		<b>x</b>
Mary Williams	Yerington Paiute Tribe	<b>x</b>	
Patrick Naranjo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	<b>x</b>	
Theresa Rowe	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA, Head Start	<b>x</b>	
Chelsey Solemsaas	Washoe County School District	<b>x</b>	
Jonathan Lowery	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada	<b>x</b>	
Della Frank	Clark County School District	<b>x</b>	
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College	<b>x</b>	
Felicia Siyuja	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe	<b>x</b>	

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III

Others Present: Tina Warren, Title IX, Child Care Development Fund, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Fran Maldonado, Indian Child Welfare Act Tribal Liaison, Division of Child and Family Services; Marlene Dick, Social Services, Elko Band Tribe; Kenneth Redner, Education Advisor, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Tony Montgomery, Indian Education, Washoe County School District

**I. Invocation**

Della Frank provided the invocation.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairwoman Mitrovich called the meeting to order at 9:35am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

**III. Initial Public Comment**

There were no initial public comments.

**IV. Approval of November 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Ms. Drye-Romero made a motion to approve the November 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes and Ms. Frank seconded. The motion carried.**

## **V. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native Appointment of Representative Forms**

Executive Director Rupert presented two Appointment of Representative Forms for approval on the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC): Jonathan Lowery, Workforce Specialist, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) and Felicia Siyuja, Education Director, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe.

**Ms. Williams made a motion to approve Ms. Siyuja and Mr. Lowery's Appointment of Representative Forms and Mr. Martinez seconded. The motion carried.**

## **VI. Update on Tribal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Region IX Office of Child Care Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Ms. Warren presented information on the Tribal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and gave the following highlights:

In Fiscal Year 2017, the State of Nevada received \$4.18 million from the CCDF for seven tribal grantees: the Duck Valley Shoshone Tribe, Ely Shoshone Tribe, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and the Fallon Shoshone Paiute Tribe. Two additional grantees, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and the ITCN are considered 102477 Programs, in which its child care funds are rolled into other programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Child Welfare, or Head Start. Ms. Warren stated that she presented information on the CCDF at last year's Nevada Department of Education's (NDE) Indian Education Summit along with her colleague, Abby Cohen.

In 2014, the law was reauthorized and made two changes that applied to tribes: to support working families and to enhance children's learning and development. In September 2016, new regulatory language was approved and tribal grantees must come into compliance with new Health and Safety Standards by October 1, 2019. Last summer, about half of Nevada tribes attended a meeting to discuss the CCDF changes. The law makes it easier for kids to keep their care for 12 months. Grantees have more flexibility with eligibility if their clients fall below the State's poverty level. Additionally, the law also states that grantees must spend a certain amount of money on "Quality Improvement Activities" and each tribe must determine what those activities are.

Ms. Warren went on to say that her office works closely with the State of Nevada's CCDF program, separate from the tribal CCDF program. The new law dictates that increased tribal consultation must occur as well as the sharing of State resources. Ms. Warren reported that Christell Askew is the new CCDF Administrator for the State of Nevada.

## **VII. Discussion and Review of Additional Recommended Revision to the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) By-laws**

Ms. Rupert stated that the Nevada Indian Commission Board still has questions regarding the purpose of the IEAC. What does the Committee do and how many representatives may be on it? The Board is concerned that the Committee may get too big, especially considering that some school districts have a higher population of Native students than others. Ms. Rupert suggested that instead of getting people all together, she will edit the most recent updated document and forward to Ms. Mitrovich for her input. This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

## **VIII. Discussion and Review of Letter to Support a Travel Budget for the Nevada Department of Education, Indian Education Programs Professional**

Executive Director Rupert commented that she forwarded a draft letter to the Committee in support of Ms. Drye-Romero obtaining a travel budget from the NDE. The Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) has been involved with this position for a long time and has seen its importance within the State of Nevada as well as with Nevada's tribes. Ms. Rupert feels that the NDE could be more supportive, especially considering that the Indian Education Programs Professional must travel long distances at times to assist in tribal consultation processes within the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). She always notices a great response whenever she has traveled with Ms. Drye-Romero to meet with tribes. In order for Ms. Drye-Romero to continue building relationships between the Tribes and the NDE, she must have the funding to do so. In addition, Ms. Drye-Romero is involved at the national level as a board member of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA). With Ms. Drye-Romero's involvement in the NIEA, she is able to bring new Indian Education policies and information to the State of Nevada, and vice-versa. Chairwoman Mitrovich stated she relies heavily on Ms. Drye-Romero's position and feels the work that she does is essential, on both the local and national level. Ms. Frank remarked that ESSA consultation would just not happen without Ms. Drye-Romero's position and suggested that each of the IEAC members write letters to the NDE in support of Ms. Drye-Romero's need for both an in-state and out of state travel budget.

**Ms. Williams made a motion to approve the NIC's letter to the NDE and Ms. Frank seconded. The motion carried.**

## **IX. Indian Education Updates**

### **A. Nevada Department of Education (NDE), Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education**

Ms. Fredina Drye-Romero reported on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Part B grant which is an after school program that tribes are eligible and encouraged to apply for. She stated she will provide technical assistance to tribes in filling out the paperwork in addition to holding a webinar in order for them to learn more about this grant and its guidelines.

Native Youth Community Programs (NYCP) Grant - There are openings for a College and Career Coach and Community Based Instructors in McDermitt and Yerington. There is also a Community Based Instructor position available in Walker River. Ms. Drye-Romero also shared that this grant will be providing 100 registrations for youth to attend the 2018 Indian Education Summit for free. Ms. Solemsaas asked Ms. Drye-Romero to send out the code for youth to register, as she wants to place this information on the Washoe County School District website.

Additionally, Ms. Drye-Romero reported that the upcoming Indian Education Summit will be taking adult registrations until February 23, 2018 and that youth registrations will end on March 9, 2018. The Summit will be held at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) on March 22-23, 2018.

Indian Education Plan – Ms. Drye-Romero commented that the NDE has two goals that are being focused on for the 2017-2018 academic year. Goal 1 supports districts and schools in developing sustainable systems to promote high expectations for American Indian/Alaska Native students. Goal 2 is to provide an effective two-way system with tribal communities and schools to determine funding, policy and instructions.

Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies – Ms. Drye-Romero stated that the Department is in the process of creating a subcommittee to fulfill the Indian Education Plan to revise and amend the current Curriculum Guide along with the Social Studies standards.

ESSA Consultation Update – Ms. Drye-Romero updated the Committee by saying that she met with the Churchill County School District and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe on November 12, 2017. Ms. Drye-Romero was accompanied by Executive Director Rupert and felt it went well. The school district reviewed and provided comments to the ESSA Tribal Consultation Guidance document.

#### B. Tribal Education Programs

Mary Williams, Education Director for the Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) stated that she is getting ready for semester finals. As Ms. Drye-Romero had stated previously, the YPT received four to five applications for a coach as well as a Community Based Instructor via the NYCP grant.

Kenneth Redner, Education Advisor for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony reported that today is his first day.

#### C. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs

Theresa Rowe, Head Start Education Manager, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, reported that the Native American Child and Family Conference will be held on March 15, 2018. This conference is organized by the Southwest Consortium of Indian Head Start Programs, Inc.

#### D. County School District Programs

Della Frank, Indian Education Opportunities Program, Clark County School District, reported that there are 639 Title XI kids in the District, along with 415 Johnson O'Malley students. She mentioned the importance of having close contact with family community engagement and often organizes or attends college fairs for the students. Ms. Frank stated that 48 cap and gowns have been ordered so far for the Johnson O'Malley students. No tutoring has been happening at the Moapa location, but she has reached out to Chairman Daboda for assistance in recruiting tutors. The Moapa Tribe has been working with Ms. Frank to update the MOU for a tutoring support center. Ms. Frank also reported that six students will be attending the Johnson O'Malley Conference to be held in Tulsa, OK on April 8-9, 2018. Students had to write a 500 word essay in order to qualify.

Chelsey Solemsaas, Indian Education Specialist, Washoe County School District (WCSD), reported that Tony Montgomery had been working in her position while she was on maternity leave, and continues to assist her. Ms. Solemsaas reported that two new Paiute language instructors have been hired, Quecholli Nordwall and Nathan Cortez. The Paiute Language Bowl will be held at UNR in May 2018. Ms. Solemsaas stated that the WCSD is preparing for February tribal consultations. Finally, Ms. Solemsaas mentioned that she plans to contact the NIC to set up a field trip for some students to visit the Stewart Indian School or Pyramid Lake Fisheries.

## E. Universities & Community Colleges

Ms. Rupert stated that she sent an email and follow up letter to University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) President Jessup requesting him to respond to an inquiry the NIC Board received regarding the Office of Community Engagement. The inquiry questioned the lack of involvement by the State's tribes at UNLV. She will report back to the Committee when she receives a response from President Jessup about the possibility of needing assistance from the NIC regarding tribal representation on the advisory board.

Miguel Martinez, Truckee Meadows Community College, reported that there weren't any celebrations during Native American Heritage Month. Ms. Mitrovich asked Mr. Martinez to have a table at the youth portion of the Indian Education Summit.

Fran Maldonado, Indian Child Welfare Act Social Worker, Division of Child and Family Services, stated that she teaches Early Childhood education courses at Western Nevada College. Ms. Mitrovich invited Ms. Maldonado to assist in planning an early childhood workshop at the Indian Education Summit.

Chairwoman Mitrovich gave her report on UNR's Intertribal Higher Education Program and stated that she is excited about upcoming opportunities for her students. A partnership with the IGT Knowledge Center allowed 12 American Indian/Alaska Native students to participate in the I-RISE group, which engages students in research and presentation. The first proposal from the I-RISE group to attend a conference later in the year was received and accepted. Ms. Mitrovich also commented that although 568 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students are enrolled in UNR's 2017/2018 academic year, 150 of the native students that she knows didn't identify as AI/AN, but multi-racial. So now they may not be able to apply for grants or conferences because of identifying incorrectly.

Ms. Frank also stated that over 7,000 students identify as AI/AN and that figure is wrong. She is frustrated because if that figure is true, then many students are not receiving services. Therefore, inaccurate information is being reported. Ms. Solemsaas confirmed that the WCSD is also having the same issues. Sherry asked why there is even a multiracial box to choose instead of just AI/AN.

## F. Other Indian Education Programs

Mr. Lowery reported that he is working with Tony Sampson to put together a fair in Pyramid Lake in early March during Spring Break. Still want to sign up more youth at ITCN. Mr. Lowery asked Committee members to forward parents or students to him at ITCN, and if he can't help them, he will refer to other resources.

## X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

Ms. Rupert commented that there have been various meetings on the Stewart Indian School regarding the Construction on the Cultural Center and Welcome Center. A blessing ceremony will be held on May 3, 2018 and Governor Sandoval will attend. Ms. Rupert stated that the Grand Opening is expected to be in early 2019. The Stewart Indian School Documentary has been completed and may possibly be shown at the Nevada Museum of Art in Northern Nevada and possibly the Smith Center in Southern Nevada.

Ms. Mitrovich commented that the YPT Youth Group has been instrumental in moving forward with UNITY and holds meetings every month at UNR. There will be a meeting this Friday, January 19, 2018. Their statewide meeting will be held during the youth portion of the Indian Education Summit which is very exciting because at last year's Summit, there was no Nevada UNITY program.

#### **XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Suggestions for future agenda items include the multi-racial question, approval of the January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes; a report from the In-State Tuition Subcommittee; and education program updates. Any other requests for agenda items should be forwarded to Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission.

#### **XII. 2018 Indian Education Committee Listing of Meetings**

Please use the listing of meetings when inputting the dates into your calendars. Ms. Mitrovich reminded the Committee that if members are unable to attend a meeting, to forward their update to Ms. Mitrovich or another Committee member. The next Indian Education Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 6, 2018 from 9:30-12:00pm, via UberConference.

**Ms. Frank made a motion to approve the IEAC meeting listing and Ms. Solemsaas seconded. The motion carried.**

#### **XIII. Final Public Comment**

There were no final public comments.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

**Ms. Frank made a motion to adjourn the IEAC meeting and Mr. Lowery seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:34am.**