Tribal & State Partnership

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
CTWS & Oregon DHS History:

- Treatment referrals made by Tribal worker
- Treatment committee included Tribal case worker, Director, & DHS Staff
- Joint Custody to get child into treatment but Tribe assumed case management responsibility & jurisdiction
- DHS worker assistance for tx referrals & information needed.
- DHS communication for necessary f/u & coordination needed
- Joint custody meant joint responsibility
State & Tribal position- History:

- A State & Tribal position was created to assist both the State & Tribe with tx referrals. This facilitated case coordination between Tribe, DHS, & residential facility.
- Jointly, this person with Tribal case worker would attend & participate with Tx reviews, aftercare planning, etc.
- Tribe was included in the position description development, interviewing, & both agencies were responsible for position supervision.
- Supervisors communicated weekly.
- Position was paid out of State funds.
Child Abuse Reports

♦ Tribes assume Exclusive Jurisdiction of our cases.
♦ In our neighboring city and county, the Jefferson County DHS cross-reports the Child Abuse reports to Tribal CPS and Police Department.
♦ Any inquiries made regarding Tribal children, DHS contacts Tribal CPS to communicate the situation and/or necessary follow up information.
♦ If family resides in the County area, the DHS worker notifies the Tribe, if action taken for immediate removal or services provided.
Statewide Resources

- Tribal CPS & Local DHS program work collaboratively together for resources that may be beneficial for our children/families (treatment, hard to place children, testing, Title IVE, TANF, DD services, etc).

- Tribal CPS is able to contact Local DHS program and/or Tri-County DHS programs to certify foster homes (to do a Dual FC certification). This occurs vice versa & DHS honors Tribal FC Certification.

- Annual Tribal & State ICWA Conference-information sharing & relationship building opportunities.
State Resources (continued)

- Tribal CPS has utilized Local DHS program to facilitate Family Decision Meetings.
- Tribe having opportunity to be Expert Witnesses in ICWA hearings.
- Tribes having ability to provide Technical Assistance to DHS for cultural awareness.
- Tribes inviting DHS to the Indian Reservation for meetings, training, &/or get-togethers.
What makes this work?

- Identifying what needs are for both agencies & build on strengths.
- Communication is ongoing.
- Resources are shared between agencies regularly.
- Staff are regularly introduced to each other.
- Areas of concerns are presented, discussed, & find solutions to continue partnership.
- Support of Directors & Supervisors are important to both teams.
- Having quarterly State & Tribal Regional meetings.
Training Opportunities

♦ Tribal CPS program wanted tribal case workers to have more exposure to State Court proceedings-so job shadowing was created between the Tribe & DHS. Both agencies became familiar with one another’s court system.

♦ Joint training opportunities have been made for the benefit of Tribal CPS & local DHS program through the years.

♦ Examples: Title IV-E (T4E) eligibility, T4E reviews, Medical Cards, Tx Referrals, GAP, FACIS, Permanency Planning, Citizen Review Board, DV, child development, Foster Care, etc.
Oregon Tribes & State DHS Quarterly Advisory Meetings

- Oregon ICWA Manager
- Oregon ICWA Liaisons developed
- Oregon Tribes are able to voice concerns & advocate for change as/when needed.
- Relationships are built among Tribes & State Central Office Directors, so team building efforts start at the top & then flows downward throughout DHS in Oregon.
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