

2023 Indigenous Children, Youth & Families (ICYF) Conference



DETAILED AGENDA



Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

DCYF LEADERSHIP

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

SANDRA WHITE HAWK, Founder/Director, First Nations Repatriation Institute

The First Nations Repatriation Institute (FNRI) is the first organization of its kind whose goal it is to create a resource for First Nations people impacted by foster care or adoption to return home, reconnect, and reclaim their identity. The Institute also serves as a resource to enhance the knowledge and skills of practitioners who serve First Nations people.

Sandra organizes Truth Healing Reconciliation Community Forums that bring together adoptees/fostered individuals and their families and professionals with the goal to identify post adoption issues and to identify strategies that will prevent removal of First Nations children.

Sandra is the Elder in Residence at The Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, Minneapolis, and is a consultant/trainer for the Tribal Training Certification Program, University of Duluth, Minnesota.

Sandra has become a spokesperson on the issues of the adoption and the foster care system and how it has impacted First Nations People. She has traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Australia and Japan, Alaska sharing her inspirational story of healing.

She is a Sicangu Lakota adoptee from the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota, and is the author of “A Child of the Indian Race: A Story of Return.”



11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

Session A | Community-wide Mental Health Training for Tribal Communities

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

DR. MARTINA WHELSHULA & DR. DEBI LaPLANTE, xaʔtus (First Face) for Mental Health

Native adolescents experiencing mental health challenges, including substance use disorders, often prefer to seek support from their peers and other informal sources. This preference may be due to the stigma associated with mental health challenges and help seeking, as well as a lack of access to, and cultural fit with, professional behavioral health services.

xaʔtus (First Face) for Mental Health is an NIH-funded Tribal community-based intervention designed to strengthen networks of informal mental health support in Tribal communities, and open pathways to more formal support. Dr. Whelshula and LaPlante will describe the origins, structure, and evaluation of xaʔtus (First Face) for Mental Health, and touch on their larger initiative for training and research at the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations called, The Center for Indigenous Research Collaboration Learning & Excellence (CIRCLE).



Session B | The Healing Power of Qigong

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/88526805773?pwd=eEJxZkNsTW huMzFRYUVaQmFINK8rUT09>

CHENOA EGAWA

Join Chenoa as she guides us through a breathing and Qigong movement practice. Each practice holds a story about our deeper connection to the Earth, and the Elements from which we are made.

The Ancient Practice of Healing Qigong and its Deep Connection to Our Indigenous Ways of Knowing Chenoa will begin with an introduction answering the following questions: What is Qigong? Where does it come from? How can it benefit our mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health? How does it relate to our cultures, values, traditions, ways of life, health, and overall well-being as Native peoples?

Chenoa Egawa is Coast Salish of the Lummi and S'Klallam Nations of Washington State. She is a ceremonial leader, singer, speaker, environmental activist, author, artist, and Qigong teacher.

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

1 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2

Session A | Warning Signs of Online Grooming

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

NATHAN LaCHINE, Board of Director/Webmaster, MaleSurvivor

Learn the warning signs of online grooming. Ready access to smart phones, tablets, and computers has created a whole new world of challenges for parents of pre-teens and teens. Youth do not need to leave their bedrooms to be introduced to risky situations. Caregivers will learn how to guide children to appropriate uses of technology while keeping them safe from online grooming.

Nathan LaChine is a professional speaker, trainer, published author, community advocate, long-time specialized foster parent, and enthusiastic collector of modern and historic queer art.

Session B | COVID-19 in Juvenile Rehabilitation

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/88526805773?pwd=eEJxZkNsTW huMzFRYUVaQmFINK8rUT09>

TAYLOR PITTS, RN, DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation

This presentation describes the impacts of COVID-19 in Juvenile Rehabilitation. It will provide an overview of how COVID-19 is handled in these facilities, why COVID-19 is handled this way, infection control precautions, and COVID-19 resources available to the public.

Taylor Pitts is an experienced nurse in this system, having worked in the emergency department and the ICU step down unit. She currently serves as one of two COVID nurses. She oversees COVID for all 10 JR facilities.



2 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3

Session A | Treehouse Education Programs & Tribal Engagement

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

ANGEL VAN BRUNT & KAREN BILLY, Treehouse

Treehouse is a non-profit in Washington State that strives to create a world where every child who has experienced foster care has the opportunities and support they need to pursue their dreams and launch successfully into adulthood. Knowing that our Tribal communities are disproportionately impacted by foster care, low graduation rates and historical trauma, Treehouse has adapted its educational services to be culturally relevant and meaningful. Learn about how Treehouse partners with tribal communities to prevent unintended harm.

Angel and Karen are Tribal Engagement managers at Treehouse.



Session B | Native American Inquiry

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/88526805773?pwd=eEJxZkNsTW huMzFRYUVaQmFINK8rUT09>

HEIDI WALKER, Native American Inquiry and Relative Search Program Manager, DCYF

Join Heidi to learn about the Native American inquiry process. Determining a child's Indian status must be made as soon as possible to serve the best interests of the Indian child and to protect the interests of the child's Tribe. The Native American Inquiry Unit works closely with families and tribes to ensure connections are maintained throughout the course of DCYF involvement. Native American inquiry process involves the completion of a diligent familial search, a comprehensive ancestry chart for each child, and timely inquiry to all reported federally recognized tribal affiliations for the purposes of ICWA determination.

Heidi's career with the state started in 2006. In 2015 Heidi served as ICW Consultant/Tribal Liaison for Regions 5 and 6. In 2019, Heidi accepted the position as DCYF Native American Inquiry & Relative Search Program Manager, tasked with developing, managing, and overseeing DCYF's Indian Child Welfare Legal, Native American inquiry and Relative Search programs.

3 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #4

Session A | Introduction of the Expressive Arts Program – Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations
<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNNTK3E2QT09>

TERRAL LAY & RALEIGH BROWN, Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations

Whether it's hip-hop, R&B, country, or rock, young people love music. As a part of our effort to reach the youth where they're at, The Healing Lodge uses an Expressive Arts Program to engage our residents with songwriting, music development, and recording alongside traditional treatment. Through this program, residents get the unique opportunity to write and produce their own songs – within any genre of music they'd like. Through this process, the youth can express deep feelings and emotions that may otherwise not have come out during their treatment process. This program often gives them additional tools to help them along the road to recovery.

Terral Lay is a Musician, Song Writer, Influencer, Narrative Therapist, Performer, Expressive Arts Coach at Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations.

Raleigh Brown is a Musician, Singer, Song Writer, and Dancer from Marietta, GA. Profession: Audio Engineer, Narrative Therapist, Performer, Musician, Producer, and Voice Coach at The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations.



Session B | Who's Who in DCYF's Office of Tribal Relations
<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/88526805773?pwd=eEJxZkNsTW huMzFRYUVaQmFINK8rUT09>

OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

DCYF's Office of Tribal Relations is responsible for coordinating efforts of the Washington State Federally Recognized Tribes and the Recognized American Indian Organizations to address the service needs of individual American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington State. Learn who we are as our team has grown exponentially over the past years.

3:50 p.m. – 4 p.m.

DAY 1 CLOSEOUT

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNNTK3E2QT09>

DCYF OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

OPEN IN A GOOD WAY

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

DCYF OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Panel Discussion | ICWA Courts: WICWA & ICWA from the Bench

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

SHELDON SPOTTED ELK, COMMISSIONER ROBERT PORTER, COMMISSIONER MICHELLE RESSA, COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH STANLEY

This session will highlight current efforts of ICWA Courts to capture the spirit and letter of the WICWA/ICWA law and the unique perspectives of judicial leadership towards improved outcomes. ICWA Courts aim to improve outcomes through Tribal collaboration and cultural humility with Indian families. Come join us in this panel discussion about “gold standard” practice.

ICWA Courts have emerged as an intervention to work directly with American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families in hopes of reducing disproportionality and improving outcomes for AI/AN youth in foster care. ICWA Court evaluation have evidenced impact with earlier case closure and higher permanency outcomes with family (i.e., reunification and kinship guardianship).

Sheldon Spotted Elk works as the Senior Director of Judicial and National Engagement at Casey Family Programs. He has a background and presents regularly on tribal law, child welfare, and the ICWA.

Robert Porter is a Commissioner for Yakima County Superior Court. He is currently assigned to the dependency docket, where he is working to create an Indian Child Welfare Court. His prior legal experience includes time spent prosecuting both domestic violence crimes and juvenile offenders.

Commissioner Michelle Ressa was appointed to the Spokane County Superior Court bench in May 2007. Before that, she spent a year as the Superior Court Commissioner in Grant County. Commissioner Ressa has spent her entire legal career working in the field of child welfare, or as she describes, in public health.

Commissioner Elizabeth Stanley was appointed as the Family Court Commissioner in Clallam County Superior Court on Feb, 27, 2023. The Clallam County Family Court Commissioner handles all family law matters except trials and child-welfare cases (dependency matters), truancy At-Risk Youth hearings, and therapeutic courts which serve families.



11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

Session A | A Tremendous Victory: Haaland v. Brackeen

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

KATHRYN (KATE) E. FORT, Director of Clinics, Michigan State University College

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of ICWA by a 7-2 vote. This presentation will discuss what the Court decided, pitfalls to avoid, and focus on the work that comes now that the biggest challenge to ICWA has ended in a victory for the law and Native families.

Kathryn (Kate) E. Fort is the Director of Clinics at Michigan State University College of Law and runs the Indian Law Clinic, where she teaches the Clinic class and other classes in federal Indian law. In 2015, she started the Indian Child Welfare Act Appellate Project, which represents tribes in complex ICWA litigation across the country. She is the author of American Indian Children and the Law. Prof. Fort has researched and written extensively on the ICWA.

Session B | Fentanyl & Xylazine

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/88526805773?pwd=eEJxZkNsTWhuMzFRYUVaQmFINK8rUT09>

GINA COOPER, Director of Toxicology, Drugscan

Learn more about how Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug poisoning. Because xylazine is not an opioid, naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse its effects. Still, experts always recommend administering naloxone if someone might be suffering a drug poisoning.



12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

1 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2

Session A | The Healing Power of Qigong

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Session B | Opioids in Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/88526805773?pwd=eEJxZkNsTW huMzFRYUVaQmFINK8rUT09>

DR. KYM AHRENS, Assistant Professor in the Division of Adolescent Medicine, Seattle Childrens Hospital and the UW School of Medicine

Learn more about how Juvenile Rehabilitation is handling opioid issues within their facilities.

Dr. Kym Ahrens earned her MD from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. She completed residency, Adolescent Medicine training at Seattle Childrens and the University of Washington.

2 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3

Session A | ICWA Policy & Procedure Update

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNtK3E2QT09>

ADRIAN (ADDIE) TOBIN-SMITH, Owner, Tobin Smith Consulting

DCYF and Washington State Tribes have worked extensively to update DCYF's Indian Child Welfare policy and procedures. Addie will walk us through that process.

Addie is the owner of Tobin Smith Consulting and a Senior Consultant with The Whitener Group, LLC. She's a facilitator and trainer for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice systems with a specialty in ICWA.



Session B | Two Spirit 101: Colonization and Indigenous Queer Identity

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/88526805773?pwd=eEJxZkNsTW huMzFRYUVaQmFINK8rUT09>

JACK MALSTROM

Understanding the history of Two-Spirit people and their unique challenges sheds light on the complex relationship between this community and the child welfare system, rooted in a history of colonialism and cultural disconnection.

Jack Malstrom (Akimel O'odham/Yaqui) is a Two-Spirit and Indigenous adoptee from Portland, Oregon. They are an advocate for Queer Indigenous rights and support for Indigenous adoptees reconnecting with their culture and building community.

3 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Closing Keynote | Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Future

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

CALINA LAWRENCE

A story of adaptation through lived experiences, family history, art, curiosity, and action.

Calina is from the Suquamish Nation. She is a Coast Salish vocalist, multi-media artist, wellness facilitator, Tribal Elder Caregiver, and former foster youth.

3:55 p.m. – 4 p.m.

DAY 2 CLOSEOUT

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/87998452848?pwd=SFBNZG5PbGxPT2crL3EwdXNTK3E2QT09>

DCYF OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

