

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES

In Brief *March 2005*

VOLUME ONE, NUMBER TWELVE

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY ANNUAL SOCIAL POW-WOW**
Saturday, March 12
Cone Fieldhouse
Contact Gordy: 503.370.6265
- **RETURN OF THE C'WAAM CEREMONY**
Chiloquin High School Dam Site
Saturday, March 19
Further info: 800.524.9787
- **PI NEE WAUS ELDERS ANNUAL POW-WOW**
Portland State Gymnasium
Saturday, March 26
Contact Jacki: 503.771.3209

DID YOU KNOW?

- * January 2005 marked the third year since the establishment of the Wildhorse Foundation by the *Confederated Tribes of Umatilla* and a contribution total of over \$1.3 Million to local organizations.

Legislative Commission on Indian Services

State Capitol, Room 167
(503) 986-1067

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis>

Karen.M.Quigley@state.or.us
Executive Director

Jeana.Harrington@state.or.us
Commission Assistant

Harvard *Opportunities* E-Newsletter

Opportunities is an e-newsletter compiled by the Harvard University Native American Program that includes internship, scholarship, fellowship, grant, and career opportunities as well as announcements for conferences, workshops and symposia. The Harvard University Native American Program provides *Opportunities* as a free information service. To subscribe to this free service, please send an email to Majordomo@ksylist.harvard.edu, in the body write: "Subscribe HUNAP *Opportunities*," followed by your e-mail address.



Government to Government ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Oregon Commission on Children & Families

Note: the subsequent article is an excerpt taken from the OCCF 2004 Government to Government Agency Report required by ORS 182.162. To view the complete report or other State Agency Government to Government Reports for 2002, 2003 or 2004 visit the [CIS website](#).

Title IV-B (2) Grants for Family Preservation and Support

As part of the 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act approved by the U.S. Congress, legislation amending Title IV (B) added additional components for time-limited family reunification services along with adoption promotion and support provisions. The Oregon Commission on Children & Families again allocated a total of \$8,600 to each of the nine tribes who have elected to participate in the grant program for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

The tribes submitted plans to OCCF for the funding to assure the grant is utilized to support families who need to reduce those factors which would put their children at risk of being placed in foster care; families in the process of reuniting with children who have been in foster care; and families who have adopted, or plan to adopt, children out of foster care. This funding has been a key piece for tribes to continue family preservation and support programs that meet the cultural needs of their members.

Healthy Start

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families coordinates the efforts of local Healthy Start programs to ensure that they adhere to best practice standards. In 2004, Healthy Start began to work on becoming credentialed as a state multi-site system through Healthy Families America. One of the 12 Critical Elements of Healthy Families America is cultural competency. As part of the credentialing process, local Healthy Start programs are undertaking analyses of their cultural sensitivity and the effectiveness of their services for all families within their county. This is leading to greater awareness of the effectiveness of Healthy Start in serving tribal people as well as others.

Continued page two

OCCF 2004 SUMMARY *continued*

Healthy Start has a tribal member on its newly formed statewide Advisory Committee. This group will provide direction for program planning and implementation throughout the state, and will be asked to review the cultural sensitivity analyses of local programs, making suggestions for improvement.

Strategies for outreach to engage tribal communities in Healthy Start include:

- Hiring tribal home visitors and assigning them to Native American families whenever possible.
- Staff training on tribal cultures is required. Through enhanced knowledge of tribal people, staff are enabled to effectively engage and retain Native American families, and to provide services that more closely meet their needs.
- Outreach to tribal leaders for participation in program planning and implementation, including membership in local advisory bodies.
- Encouraging tribal participation in special events sponsored by the program.
- Shared training with staff of tribal organizations, related to common areas of interest and practice.
- Encouraging Healthy Start staff to participate in tribal coalitions with other service providers.

CASA

During 2003 in Oregon, 6.8% of the victims of child abuse and neglect and 9.3% of children in foster care were Native American* with many of them assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. In each case, CASA endeavors to determine if the child is a member of a tribe and to engage that tribe in determining the child's best interest. To provide culturally appropriate advocacy for Native American children, all CASA volunteers are required to complete training in cultural competency and training specific to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The Crooked River CASA program and the Coos County CASA program exemplify CASA's ongoing efforts to link with tribes in Oregon. Crooked River CASA serves Crook and Jefferson Counties and The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. It is one of the few merged state and tribal court CASA programs in the nation; CASA volunteers are appointed to children in both courts and stay with the child even if jurisdiction changes. Coos County CASA works closely with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. The Tribes have representatives on the Friends of CASA Advisory Committee, help recruit volunteers, and publicize events and fundraisers.

**The Status of Children 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services*

Mickey Lansing is the Executive Director of the Oregon Commission on Children & Families

From the Desk of the Executive Director...

Often effective state-tribal relations is a matter of perspective—as in learning to appreciate the perspective that motivates the action (or reaction) of a state agency or a Tribe in a particular situation. For example, take the case of inadvertent discovery of human remains. In coastal or rural areas of Oregon, hikers, hunters or boaters may sight or come across remains which have become exposed due to either extreme weather conditions or possibly due to soil or bank erosion over a long period of time. Tribes and certain state agencies may react quite differently to these discoveries. I would suggest that Tribes (given their countless centuries of living and burying their dead on these lands) assume the remains are an ancestor, respectful treatment of the remains is a priority and decisions need to be made about proper treatment of the remains and reburial. In contrast, there are those whose training and orientation might trigger a very different reaction to such a discovery—assuming first and foremost that it is a crime scene. Oregon's law protecting Indian burials takes both views into account: discovery of remains requires notification to the State Police, State Historic Preservation Office, Legislative Commission on Indian Services and the appropriate Tribes. The Forensics Division of the Oregon State Police determines if it is a crime scene, the Medical Examiner's Office (or other archaeologically-trained consultant) determines if the remains are Native American and, if so, the appropriate Tribes will decide about reburial. Discussions have occurred (and will likely need to continue for the foreseeable future) between law enforcement and the Tribes about the two perspectives: crime scene until proven otherwise vs. ancestor who needs to be treated with respect and protected from any unnecessary mistreatment due to a delay in the recognition of the identification of the remains as Native American. The Legislative Commission on Indian Services seeks to get both the state agencies and Tribes talking in order to close the gap in terms of elapsed time for those situations that do involve the remains of Native Americans.

