

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Report



Prepared for Grand Ronde Tribe, Oregon
By Kathy Deserly, Consultant, NRCCPS
On-site dates: 9/7/06

Please indicate which responses were employed in this T/TA:

- Technical Assistance
- Training
- Phone Consultation
- Referral to another NRC
- Referral to Other Organization
- Review of Policy and Materials
- Publications Provided
- Secondary Research
- Other

(Please explain the Service Responses in the report which follows)

Situation and Technical Assistance Request

Context of TA Request

Two years ago, a series of extremely negative newspaper articles were published by The Oregonian newspaper regarding tribal child protection services on an Oregon reservation. Although the article focused on one reservation, it brought painful information to the public and to tribal leadership about the condition of tribal child protection services. Since that time, tribal leadership in Oregon has been supportive of efforts to improve services to the community's most vulnerable members—its children.

In that same time period, Oregon Tribes had an opportunity at a training event sponsored by several National Resource Centers for the Oregon tribes in 2004 to learn more about the Indian Safety Curriculum developed by the NRCCPS. The tribes appreciated that such a curriculum had been developed and began to develop an idea to tailor the curriculum to more specifically address the cultures of Oregon Tribes.

A follow up training on the Indian Safety Curriculum also occurred in Oregon at the request of Oregon tribes. Subsequently, the tribal ICWA Advisory Committee formed a subgroup to look further into how the curriculum could be modified to better fit the cultural needs of Oregon tribes. The Child Safety and Risk Assessment curriculum advisory committee, also includes representatives from Oregon tribes, DHS, and Portland State University.

The curriculum advisory committee is an example of the support that communities are offering to try to address all aspects of improving child protective services and child safety, with tribes striving to improve child safety, permanence and well being through coordinated efforts with DHS and external stakeholders.

Specific TA Request

The Oregon tribal TA request is to assist the Oregon Tribes to develop a culturally appropriate revision of the NRCCPS Indian Safety Curriculum to specifically address the cultural needs and values of Oregon tribes which will enhance learning opportunities for tribal child protection services staff.

Technical assistance is intended to promote improved safety assessment for Oregon's tribal children, through the use of the Indian Safety Curriculum which, upon modification, recognizes unique cultural values, beliefs and practices of Oregon tribal communities.

Site Visit – September 7, 2006

In advance of the on-site technical assistance in Madras, OR, the NRC Consultant had telephone and email conversations with members of the tribal work group to discuss the plan for our on-site TA and how it will further the development of the final revised version of the Indian Safety Curriculum and a 'train the trainers' session.

Participants at the on-site TA included the Grand Ronde tribal child welfare director, who also chairs the curriculum work group, the Oregon Department of Human Services Indian Child Welfare Specialist, DHS Training Specialist, and the Portland State University Rural Training Grant project. The OR Tribes, DHS and PSU have partnered in other areas for development of child welfare training activities.

The on-site meeting included a review of the currently revised curriculum and detailed discussion of portions of the Curriculum. Each of the curriculum committee members took a module of the curriculum which they have specific interest/knowledge of and provided a more in-depth review of the revised module. Reviews were followed by discussion of the changes to be edited again; in addition, a discussion of the format of handouts, audio dialog, and other aspects of the curriculum were discussed. Comments were then incorporated into the documents; a second revision of the actual curriculum format was made. The curriculum review team has been specific in their desire to have the actual curriculum layout be more 'user friendly' and easy to read and follow.

Next Steps

Finalize the overall curriculum—technical aspects of layout will be handled by admin support working with the Oregon work group; development of Participant Manual which will include handouts for each Session; completion of audio dialog that will accompany various sessions; completion of power point. Schedule 'Train the Trainers' session which will include state and tribal staff. Participants will then be able to continue offering training without the need to bring in outside

consultants/trainers. Training will be developed through tribal and DHS partnerships. A conference call with work group is scheduled for October 31, 2006.