

Minutes

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs 4th Quarterly Meeting

Date: June 1st, 2018

Location: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, Colorado

CCIA Members Present: Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne, Chair; Chairman Harold Cuthair, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Juanita Plentyholes, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Chairman Christine Baker Sage, Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Councilman Adam Red, Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Web Brown, CDPHE; Dr. Larry Wolk, CDPHE; Lucille Echohawk, Member-At-Large; Chantalle Hanschu, CDHS; Irv Halter, DOLA; Jason Benally, CDOT; Sheila Goff, History Colorado

CCIA Ex-Officio Members Present: Ernest House Jr., CCIA; Jose Esquibel, Office of the Attorney General; Joshua Montoya, HCPF; Dr. Rocco Fuschetto; Michael P. Lewis, CDOT; Tom Hooten, CSU extension; Lori Haukeness, Montezuma-Cortez School District; Brett Shelton, NARF; Sheila Goff, History Colorado

<i>Agenda Topic/Narrative</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Time Frame/ Person Responsible</i>
Meeting Convened: Lt. Governor Lynne called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and welcomed all in attendance.		
Quorum Established: Quorum was established and meeting materials reviewed.		
Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the 3 rd Quarterly meeting minutes.	Motion was approved unanimously	
Executive Director Report: Ernest House, Jr. presented the Executive Director Report and provided an update on the meeting packet and agenda items.		
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Comments: Councilwoman Juanita Plentyholes reported that graduation rates are down and that the UMUT is meeting with the high school regarding new graduation requirements so that relevant information can be distributed to students before school year. The UMUT is also working on transitions from Headstart - Kindergarten and transitions from 6-7 Grade. Councilwoman Plentyholes mentioned that the UMUT enjoys working with the district and emphasized the importance of		

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<p>maintaining that communication. Councilwoman Plentyholes also announced that the 19th Uto-Aztecan Shoshonean-Numic Reunion Conference will be held on July 22nd – 24.th</p> <p>Councilwoman DeAnne House provided updates regarding mental health. She reported that the UMUT is looking at possibilities of telehealth because it is difficult to recruit professionals to work in the community. Councilwoman House also reported that the UMUT asked the State of Colorado for a list of Native American psychologists in state to determine if it might be possible for the UMUT to work with them. Councilwoman House also reported that the UMUT is currently working with Dr. Islam from the University of Denver (DU) and looking at possibilities of telehealth with individuals based in California. Councilwoman House mentioned that at the LA Skins festival, attendees considered the meaning of wisdom and the types of events in tribes’ culture that allow for the production of wisdom conducive to positivity in tribal communities. Councilwoman House announced that the UMUT developed a master housing plan in collaboration with architects based in California. She announced that the UMUT median age is 26 years old and that 200 homes are needed in order to have sufficient housing for the tribe’s young adults. Councilwoman House communicated partners and resources to complete the plan that would be helpful.</p> <p>Chairman Harold Cuthair welcomed the CCIA members to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and their annual Beardance celebration. He also introduced Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Royalty.</p>		
<p>Southern Ute Indian Tribe Comments</p> <p>Councilman Red mentioned that the SUI is working on designing security features to avoid issues with the local DMV which is currently accepting those identification documents. Councilman Red announced a successful Tri Ute Games, a great Bear Dance, and successful school year. Councilman Red reported that the SUI Montessorri Academy is doing well and that graduation rates for high school were good. Councilman Red also communicated that despite these successes, there have been three suicides among SUI students since last meeting. Two of these suicides were by 18 year olds and were associated with drugs. The other suicide was by a 13 year old struggling at home who didn’t see another way out. Councilman Red emphasized the need to communicate to kids that are ways out and that there is always someone with experience and places where they can go to talk.</p>		

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<p>Councilman Red also provided updates regarding Lake Nighthorse. Councilman Red reported that various laws require that motorized vehicles be permitted to recreate on the lake. Councilman Red reiterated that the lake was designed specifically to deliver tribes’ treaty rights to drinking water. Councilman Red reported that the lake is now used for recreation and that the only infrastructure being built is dedicated to recreation, not to delivering water to the tribal reservations. Councilman Red cited this an example of tribes’ not being permitted to shape decisions regarding their resources. Councilman Red conveyed that the SUIT is not happy with this fact but that there isn’t anything the tribes are able to do given various legal parameters associated with funding.</p> <p>Councilman Red introduced SUIT’s new staff member, David Smith, Director of Legal for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.</p> <p>Councilman Chavez reported SUIT’s focus on economic development and efforts to investigate opportunities to provide services for tribal members and for economic development options that can be sustained into the future. Councilman Chavez also announced that the SUIT is updating codes and policies to ensure they are appropriate for contemporary times. He affirmed that health matters are always an issue, especially mental health. Councilman Chavez also conveyed that the SUIT has been discussing ways to navigate Medicaid and Medicare working mandates proposed by the Trump administration. He expressed the need to work with the State to figure out what this might mean for the tribes. Councilman Chavez referenced the original agreements regarding Lake Nighthorse and emphasized the tribe’s desire to ensure the water stays clean and clear for what it’s intended use, water provision for folks living on the reservations.</p>		
<p>Commissioners/Ex-Officio Member Comments:</p> <p>Lt. Governor Lynne expressed her condolences for mental health challenges the tribes are facing. Lt. Governor Lynne mentioned that Colorado is expanding broadband capability to rural areas and that the need for telehealth has been a prominent driver of this action. She also acknowledged that telehealth alone would not be sufficient and that culturally sensitive care is also essential.</p> <p>Mr. Ernest House Jr. mentioned that CCIA/Tribes/CO Dept of Revenue is still working on tribal identification cards. He also brought up the issue of Medicaid work requirements and identified Josh Montoya at HCPF as the appropriate contact for additional details.</p>	<p>Lt. Governor Lynne to follow up with Mr. Ernest House Jr. regarding telehealth and culturally relevant care.</p> <p>Tribes to write letter indicating</p>	<p>CCIA, UMUT</p> <p>SUIT, UMUT, CCIA</p>

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<p>Conversations with HHS suggest that decisions regarding the Medicaid work requirement are being given to states. The commission asked SUIT and UMUT if they could write a letter so that when legislation is proposed, the State of Colorado can have and coordinate their testimony on the issue.</p> <p>Councilwoman Juanita Plentyholes communicated the importance of agencies and departments notifying tribes in regard to relevant information. Councilwoman Plentyholes explained that CMS administers the Medicaid program but asked the federal government if it could pursue work requirements. She communicated that tribes need to be working closely with the federal government since treaties are between Tribes and the federal government. Councilwoman Plentyholes also communicated that UMUT tribal members living in Utah often fall through the cracks due to strained State-Tribal relationships in Utah. Regarding the proposed Medicaid work requirement, Councilwoman Plentyholes inquired if monies, or other resources would be made available to support job creation in rural areas if such a requirement were instituted.</p> <p>Councilwoman DeAnne House inquired if lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies were private or if tribes were getting involved. Mr. Brett Shelton from NARF said that he could follow up with more information and indicated that leadership on the law suits seems to be coming from Oklahoma. In response to the discussion on opioids, Lt. Governor Lynne reported that Governor Hickenlooper signed a series of bills limiting prescribing authority in an attempt to address the supply of opioids.</p> <p>Web Brown (CDPHE) announced the Native American Women’s Health Summit sponsored by CDPHE’s which will occur next Thursday at the SUIT’s cultural center.</p> <p>Josh Montoya (HCPF) addressed the Medicaid work requirement. He explained that in order to operate a Medicaid program, the State needs an agreement with the federal government. The state of Colorado would need to pursue legislative action to obtain a work requirement waiver. Currently Colorado doesn’t have a work requirement. If the topic comes up next legislative session, Josh announced that HCPF would have an extensive and robust outreach process in terms of considering what this looks like.</p> <p>Chantalle Hanschu (CDHS) announced that ICWA specialist, Kathryn</p>	<p>their position on Medicaid work requirements.</p>	

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<p>Redhorse visited tribal social services departments. Ms. Hanschu announced that CDHS is reposting the behavioral health position and requested that Commissioners distribute the posting among their networks. Ms. Hanschu verified that the position could be based in Denver or Southwest Colorado. She also announced that both SUIT and UMUT legal councils are in the process of reviewing a contract for pass through dollars for opioid addiction services and other addiction issues. Ms. Hanschu announced that \$950,000 is scheduled to be distributed between both tribes will become available July 1st. She emphasized the existence of noncompetitive funding for prevention efforts and core services dollars for prevention or therapeutic services to be allocated for the next state fiscal year. Chantalle also reported high level support to address issues related to domestic violence. Chantalle announced that CDHS is planning to hold its annual State-Tribal Consultation in September.</p> <p>Councilwoman DeAnne House (UMUT) asked if Chantalle could forward information regarding available resources. Councilwoman House also inquired about state funding for mental health issues that underpin substance abuse. She mentioned the need for counselors, mobile units, resources for individuals on suicide watch, transportation to available services. Councilwoman House mentioned she'd like to learn about funding and what it can be used for so that the tribe can be creative but realistic regarding fund allocation. Chantalle mentioned the Crisis Services Steering Committee and efforts to improve crisis systems statewide. She reported that the Committee is in the process of considering the landscape of crisis situations and what can be done to improve upon the issue. She also mentioned that for resources for therapeutic services, the main requirement is that folks need to be involved in child welfare in some way.</p> <p>Councilwoman Plentyholes mentioned that resources are needed to help parents working with social services to understand legal process and their rights. Councilwoman Plentyholes also communicated that ICWA often activates too late and that focus needs to be dedicated to interventions and services on the front end of these situations. Councilwoman Plentyholes also mentioned the need for education among service providers so that they are equipped to respond appropriately.</p> <p>Lucile Echohawk (DIFRC) mentioned that DIFRC has been focusing on behavioral health and that she and staff can be a resource to the tribes. One possibility DIFRC has been considering is to identify</p>	<p>Chantalle to provide additional information on health related resources to UMUT.</p>	<p>CDHS, UMUT</p>

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<p>AI/AN behavioral health professionals and connect them with appropriate tribal officials. Ms. Echohawk also announced that Colorado has two ICWA courts, one in Denver, and one in Adams County. It is possible that an additional ICWA court may open in Jefferson County. Ms. Echohawk mentioned that housing is also a huge issue in Denver and that DIFHS, DIC, and DIFRC have been collaborating to bring about a housing related project that can house the three organizations so that resources and housing can be provided to vulnerable families. The project is currently in a conceptual planning stage. Ms. Echohawk also announced that the upcoming NCAI conference will be held in Denver.</p> <p>Mr. Jason Benally (CDOT) mentioned a partnership with UMUT to obtain funds for a passing lane. He mentioned CDOT is experiencing funding issues and is working with the tribes to obtain grant dollars. He reported that CDOT is working with TARO offices in Ignacio and attempting to involve tribal members in construction and design in Grandview.</p> <p>Ms. Sheila Goff (History Colorado) announced that the Ute Indian Museum expansion is going well. She reported that attendance has been up and the effort won an award for historic preservation. She also announced that History Colorado’s leadership decided to open a Ute exhibit in Denver which is scheduled to open in December. The exhibit will support work with CDE Ute curriculum and History Colorado’s leadership has continued to support consultation with designated tribal representatives. She reported that the Ute STEM National Science Foundation grant is in it’s second year of implementation and that folks met to prepare for summer field work activities. Part of the grant deliverables are videos and interactives to be installed in Montrose and Denver and History Colorado appreciates the tribes’ support for these projects. Sheila announced that History Colorado will be hosting CCIA’s December 7th quarterly meeting.</p> <p>Tom Hooten (CSU extension) announced that CSU is collaborating with the UMUT education department. Over spring break, 35 kids participated in a program which entailed activities such as elders sharing stories pertaining to Ute heritage. Mr. Hooten announced that funds are available to continue the camp this summer and that he would submit materials and photos to CCIA’s newsletter.</p> <p>Ms. Lori Haukness (Montezuma-Cortez School District) announced a safety committee for the district. She reported that the committee is</p>		

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<p>comprised of members from the community, social services, and law enforcement. She also cited a crisis example in which tribal law enforcement, the sheriff, and others were able to respond to a crisis within 20 minutes. She also mentioned that the district is looking to see how to consolidate support systems for social-emotional health for students.</p> <p>Mr. Dan Porter (Re-1 school district) announced IPP goals to transition students from pre-kindergarten to kindergarten, from 5th to 6th grade, and from 8th to 9th grade which is where the district sees a lot of students falling through the cracks. Mr. Porter announced that he will be meeting with the UMUT to evaluate progress toward these goals.</p> <p>Mr. Jose Esquibel reported on the Attorney General’s visit to district to discuss safety which Councilman Adam Red and Councilman Chavez attended. He mentioned continued work pertaining to the American Indian Measures of Success (AIMS) for AI/AN students going to college. He announced receipt of a \$150,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education to continue this work.</p> <p>Mr. Rocco Fuschetto (Ignacio School District) discussed a presentation for National Rural Education Association to be held in Denver on Oct 10-13. He expressed concern about student suicide and expressed appreciation of support from surrounding districts. Mr. Fuschetto described strong relationships with the SUIT’s education department and that they are beginning a financial literacy program with the Tribe for middle school students. He communicated that ideally the program will expand to include all middle school students, not just native students. He reported that the Pine River Community Learning Center, lost it’s GED program. Mr. Fuschetto reported that they signed an MOU with the Durango Adult Learning Center and that the SUIT education department will be a testing site. He conveyed that everything will hopefully be finalized within next couple weeks and expressed a desire to talk with DOLA in regard to infrastructure needs for school buildings and community housing.</p>		
<i>Committee Reports/Recommendations</i>		
<p>Health and Wellness Committee: Jeanne Kaufmann, Interagency Tribal Liaison (HCPF & CCIA) introduced and provided updates for CCIA’s Health and Wellness Committee. She reported that in addition to Josh Montoya’s Tribal Liaison work, the Colorado legislature approved for 3 new FTEs which</p>		

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<p>include herself, Brooke Greenky, and Nick Schwartz. She announced that the Health and Wellness Committee will provide regular updates at CCIA’s quarterly meetings.</p> <p>Jeanne communicated that the Health and Wellness Committee is currently identifying what the Committee will look like and is starting with a small group of participants but eventually open the committee up to wider participation. She communicated that the Health and Wellness committee currently encompasses work by the SIM team and other State health departments. Tribal health staff and staff serving urban AI/AN populations are also participants. Health and Wellness Committee meetings will also entail a call-in option She announced that the next committee meeting is scheduled for August 9th. Jeanne communicated that Adrienne Maddux has offered to host the upcoming meeting at DIFS in Denver.</p> <p>Brooke discussed her work at HCPF on Care Compact Agreements between SUIT, UMUT, IHS providers, and non-IHS providers. She communicated that associated coordination would allow for better management of patient care and support information exchange between providers to improve patient outcomes. Brooke mentioned attention to potential privacy concerns and has also been talking with people about effective approaches and relevant community partners that HCPF should reach out to. Currently, she is in the process of getting a sense of what might work. She emphasized that folks should feel free to contact HCPF about the compacts.</p> <p>Councilwoman Juanita Plentyholes commented on the importance of care coordination in providing proper medical care and keeping track of patient information. She also conveyed the importance of educating the community and of ensuring that UMUT members in UTAH can also access care. Brooke conveyed that she met with Kyle Gropp and Carole Veloso about services that are being provided along with what is being referred out. After these conversations she is proceeding to speak with relevant providers. She conveyed that the work traverses geographic regions. Councilwoman Juanita Plentyholes also mentioned challenges related to clarity regarding payment responsibility and the lack of clarity regarding facilities and available coverage depending on whether a person is enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare.</p>		
<p>Reinterment Committee: No Update</p>	Request:	

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Education Committee: Update on Ute Curriculum at September Qrtly Meeting	Request:	
Budget/Personnel Committee: No Update	Request:	
Economic Development Committee: No Update	Request:	
Old Business: No Update	Action:	
New Business: No Update	Request:	
Public Comment: Mary Ontiveros (CSU) announced that she is attending this CCIA meeting to disclose details and answer any questions folks may have about the recent incident at CSU involving two AI/AN students on a prospective student tour. She introduced Shannon Eagle, Director of Strategic Planning and Ty Smith. Events of the incident were recounted and next steps were discussed. Councilman Adam Red commended CSU for their effort regarding the matter. He pointed out that transparency is hard to implement and can go either way. He expressed that it is good to hear CSU is being proactive. He cited his experience with the Mascot issue and commented that the first impressions and assumptions that play out in these conversations can be very difficult and nasty comments are sometimes made. Councilman Red thanked the CSU representatives for their efforts. Mary Ontiveros commented that student conversations will resume when students return from break.		
Next Meeting Date: September 28, 2018 at the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Ignacio, CO		
Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm		