

## AGENDA

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Child Welfare Summit

October 10, 2023

8:30am – 4:30pm (MST)

Albuquerque Convention Center-East Building

Main Level, Room 115

401 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Albuquerque NM 87102

8:00am-8:45am

**Continental Breakfast**

8:30am-9:00am

**Summit Registration and Sign-In**

9:00am-9:30am

**Opening Prayer**

Mark Mitchell, Chairman, All Pueblo Council of Governors

**Welcome Message**

Donalyn Sarracino, Director of Tribal Affairs, CYFD-OTS

Teresa Casados, CYFD Acting Cabinet Secretary

9:30am-10:00am

**Keynote Address**

Honorable Judge John J. Romero Jr. (Ret.)

***Lasting State and Tribal Partnerships***

A review of partnerships as it relates to child best interests. If an Indian child is involved in the child welfare system, we must strive to provide the child with an opportunity to achieve an identity as a member of their larger family, their "people", their tribe; the tribe is each child's primary parent and, as such, should be entrusted to make the best decisions for that child by working collaboratively with the parents, resource parents, the child and other system stakeholders. Fulfilling requirements for the Indian Family Protection Act and Indian Child Welfare Act ensures and promotes the best interest of an Indian child; and protecting and supporting the Indian child's best interest requires constant and meaningful association with the child's tribe.

10:00am-11:00am

Shanell Lavallie, Deanna Mousseau, Robert Mesa, Veronica Krupnick

***Long-term Healing & Well-Being for Current & Former Youth in Care***

This panel has been reconstructed, with a new (and amazing) panelist lineup, to fully embrace and center the perspective of Native Former Youth in Care on their journeys to long-term healing & well-being. We will provide personal reflection on what supported our personal healing, how we are moving from survival to healing, and alternatives to typical mental health practices. We will speak on how representation and cultural awareness has played a role in our individual healing journeys. We will also share where we are currently, how we are navigating healing post-care, and reflect what we believe can help other young people who have been system-impacted.

11:00am-11:15am

**Break**

11:15am-12:00pm

Dr. Pearl Yellowman (Ed. D)

***Understanding Ke': Protecting Blood Memory, Cultural Eco-systems, and Community Connections***

Will allow Social Worker & Human Service practitioners understand the importance of Advocating for Cultural Considerations. The audience will gain a deeper understanding of individual and community by exploring elements of Historical and Contemporary Trauma's. This presentation will explore belief systems and value systems deeply imbedded into American Indian Cultural and Tribal System Narratives. This workshop will engage audience in Collaborative Practices that complement and supplement the current Social Worker & Human Service Practices and the importance of Advocating for Cultural Considerations.

12:00pm-1:00pm

**Working Lunch-The Lighting Boy Foundation:** "Dedicated to nurturing and building confidence and integrity through culture and artistic expression through traditional hoop dance."

1:00pm-2:30pm

Alejandra Gomez, Wyatt Wilson, Christina Kultsakis, Veronica Krupnick

***Indigenous Youth's Perspective on Child Welfare***

Individual Panelists will share about the essentialness of connection to culture, tradition, land, family and community for Native children and youth. On this panel, will we address the journey and fight to protect ICWA and where does child welfare go post-SCOTUS ICWA decision. We will also provide personal connection and reflection on the harm that is still felt today by Native Communities because of a long history of oppression and mass removal of Native Children, and what that means to us as Native system-impacted young people. To finalize this panel, we will also share our hopes and vision for the future of child welfare and our Native communities.

2:30pm-2:45pm

**Break**

2:45pm-4:00pm

Jack Trope (Esq.), Casey Family Programs & Kimberly Cluff (Esq.), California Tribal Families Coalition

***US Supreme Court Haaland v. Brackeen Upheld & Innovative approaches moving forward***

A walk through of the decision and understanding what was at stake and implications. Now that ICWA remains in place looking at context and a legal analysis post Brackeen. What and how to best move forward serving the children and families navigating the child welfare system. Implementing Best Interests, preferred placements, and best practices for ICWA Federal and IFPA State Law and what that looks like in New Mexico and other States. A review of strategies and approaches for the continued need to strengthen tribal-state collaborative partnership to improve positive outcomes.

4:00pm-4:15pm

**Questions & Comments**

4:15pm-4:30pm

**Closing Remarks & Prayer**

Donalyn Sarracino, Director of Tribal Affairs, CYFD-OTS  
Mark Mitchell, Chairman, All Pueblo Council of Governors