



Developing Culturally Relevant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health supports in WA Tribal Communities

Dawn A. Yazzie, MA, NCC

Consultant

Dził Nitsaa Consulting and Services, LLC

WA State Tribal Proviso Language

- PROVISO LANGUAGE:
- *\$260,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 is provided solely for the department to implement an infant and early childhood mental health consultation initiative to support tribal child care and early learning programs. Funding may be used to provide culturally congruent infant and early childhood mental health supports for tribal child care, tribal early childhood education and assistance program, and tribal head start providers. The department must consult with federally recognized tribes which may include round tables through the Indian policy early learning committee.*

Dawn A. Yazzie – DawnA.Yazzie@gmail.com
Contracted by Tribal Proviso Group /
WA DCYF

- Clinical background in mental health

- Was an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant for 8 years on the Navajo Nation
- Provided national technical assistance for 7 yrs. to programs/tribes to build their IECMHC/ IMH C systems
- Currently contracting with states, agencies to support the building of their IECMHC systems, structures
- Working to reclaim Navajo way of life/ teachings
- Ye'ii Diin'é Táchíinii, Kinya'aanii, Tábaaha, Seminole





WA IECMHC Tribal Proviso Advisory Workgroup

- Tribal IECMHC Advisory Group Meetings every other week on Thursdays from 9am -10amPT -- Next meeting is May 30th, and every other week thereafter
- Members include Early Learning Directors, Behavioral Health Clinicians, Mental Health Consultants at ECE centers.
- RECRUITING additional IECMHC Tribal Proviso members to co-create the work. Email Jess.Mayrer@dcyf.wa.gov, or DawnA.Yazzie@gmail.com to be included in listserv.



Update on Current Tribal IECMHC Work:

- Co-created with Advisory Group and sustainability of this IECMHC system state-wide for Tribal communities is a goal of this work. Coordination with members of the Advisory Group to schedule ECE visits to learn about their center.
- Visits to Yakama Nation, Port Gamble S'Kallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Chehalis Tribe. Drove near tribal communities towards Forks, WA
- Sustainability includes 'growing your own' IECMH Consultants from the communities to stay long-term. Will include training program to be developed.
- 1) Program Structure w/Cultural Considerations, 2) Workforce, 3) Equity, 4) Policy & Finance, 5) Data/Research/Evaluation



Update on Current Tribal IECMHC work (continued)

- Yakama Nation, Trauma Informed Care Conference, May 21-23, 2024
- May 24th IECMH Tribal 1 Day Workshop, Legends Casino, Toppenish, WA.



Questions?

Contact Information:

- Dawn A. Yazzie, Consultant
dawna.yazzie@gmail.com

Thank you!