

NOTICE: PUBLIC HEARING OF THE ALYCE SPOTTED BEAR AND WALTER SOBOLEFF COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN, OCTOBER 7, 2020, AT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MEETING

The 11-member Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children (Commission) was established by Congress to conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and to develop recommendations, goals, and plans for achieving goals, for federal policy relating to Native children, as well as modifications necessary to improve programs that serve American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels. The Commission is tasked with issuing a report focusing recommendations on solutions to issues that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native children, including: child welfare; physical, mental, and behavioral health; educational and vocational opportunities; school district policies and practices; access to cultural and extracurricular activities; juvenile justice; early education and development; wraparound services for Native children through increased coordination; flexible use of existing federal programs; improved data collection methods; and models of successful federal, state, local and tribal programs. The Commission's goal is to develop a sustainable system that delivers effective, culturally appropriate, meaningful wraparound services to Native children.

The Commission will be holding hearings in and reviewing documentation from tribal communities throughout the country to hear from Native children, their families, tribal leaders, and community members. The Commission will also hear from respected researchers and experts as they consider their recommendations. The Commission is pleased to have an opportunity to hear from attendees at the National Indian Education Association meeting on October 7, 2020 at 12 pm MT. Interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard on topics related to the health, education, and well-being of Native children. The Commission is particularly interested in hearing the perspectives of those involved with and impacted by the educational system, and how it can be improved to support better outcomes for all Native children.

The Commissioners of the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children are:

Gloria O'Neill (Chair), President/CEO, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc., AK
Tami DeCoteau, Ph.D. (Vice-Chair), DeCoteau Trauma-Informed Care & Practice, PLLC, ND
Carlyle Begay, Former State Senator, AZ
Dolores Subia BigFoot, Ph.D., Director, Indian Country Child Trauma Center, OK
Jesse Delmar, Director, Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, AZ
Anita Fineday, Managing Director, Indian Child Welfare Program, Casey Family Programs, MN
Don Atqaqsaq Gray, Board Member, Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, AK
Leander R. McDonald, Ph. D., President, United Tribes Technical College, ND
Elizabeth (Lisa) Morris, Administrator, Christian Alliance for Indian Child Welfare, ND
Melody Staebner, Fargo/West Fargo Indian Education Coordinator, ND