



Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children

Southwest/Western Regional Hearing

AGENDA

Location:

Radisson Hotel Phoenix Airport
427 44th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008
February 24-26, 2022

**All times listed are Mountain Standard Time unless otherwise indicated.*

Agenda Overview

- **Thursday**
 - Regional Public Comment Meeting (evening)
 - Zoom link to join: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/82923382928>
- **Friday**
 - Regional Hearing Introduction Presentation
 - Zoom link to join: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/85073913871>
 - Regional Hearing Panels (4)
 - Zoom link to join: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/85073913871>
- **Saturday**
 - Regional Public Comment Meeting (morning)
 - Zoom link to join: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/87494590207>

COVID-19 Protocols – For in-person attendance, CDC guidelines will be encouraged.



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Thursday, February 24th – Regional Public Comment Meeting

4:30 pm **Doors Open to the Public (30min)**

Zoom link to join: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/82923382928>

5:00 pm **Regional Public Comment Meeting (3hrs)**

(3pm AK, 4pm PT, 5pm MT, 6pm CT, 7pm ET)

This is a large group session open to everyone in the community and offers people from diverse backgrounds a chance to express their views. The Chair will provide an introduction and ask for those assembled in the room to comment. Witnesses will register ahead of time (or will sign up onsite) and will be given # of minutes each to speak. Testimony will be facilitated and open to any topic related to the health, education, and well-being of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children (age prenatal-24).

- **Welcome, Introduction, Opening Prayer**
- **Opening Remarks**

The Commission Chair and individual Commissioners will have an opportunity to provide remarks to the audience around goals for the Commission and the hearing.

- **Formal Public Comment**

The Public will have an opportunity to provide their comments to the Commission.

8:00 pm ***Closing Remarks and Adjourn***

(6pm AK, 7pm PT, 8pm MT, 9pm CT, 10pm ET)

The Chair will provide closing remarks and adjourn the meeting.

Friday, February 25th – Regional Hearing

The public is welcome to attend and listen to the Regional Hearing. The dialogue will be between the panelist and the Commissioners only.



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8:30 am **Doors Open to the Public (30min)**

Zoom link to join: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/85073913871>

9:00 am **Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Prayer (30min)**

(6:30am AK, 7:30am PT, 8:30am MT, 9:30am CT, 10:30am ET)

The Commission Chair will provide remarks to the audience around goals for the Commission. Opening prayer and remarks from Tribal leader.

- **Martin Harvier**, President, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- **Troy Truax**, Veterans Color Guard, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

9:30 am **Introductory Session (30min)**

(7am AK, 8am PT, 9am MT, 10am CT, 11am ET)

The goal of this session is to provide a general overview of the current issues faced by Native children and youth (both on reservations and in urban communities) in the region, covering all topics to be studied by the Commission. Speakers will highlight common systemic challenges and discuss programs and strategies that have been effective in tribal communities in the region (including trauma informed and culturally based strategies).

- **Governor Steven Lewis**, Gila River Indian Community
- **Dr. Monica Tsethlikai**, Associate Professor, T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University

10:00 am **Panel 1: Health, Mental Health, and Behavioral Health (1.5hrs)**

(7:30am AK, 8:30am PT, 9:30am MT, 10:30am CT, 11:30am ET)

The goal of this session is to increase the Commission's understanding of the systems of health services provision available for Native children in the region (including physical, behavioral, and mental health, and traditional and cultural services). Panelists will discuss the strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improvement within the current health system. Each panelist will provide 10 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 15-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Dr. Jennie Joe, PhD, Mph**, Professor Emerita, Department of Family and Community Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arizona



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- **Orenda R. Hill**, Native Health Community Health Director, Community Health and Wellness
- **Christopher Sharp**, Director, Office of American Indian Projects, School of Social Work, Arizona State University
- **Maria Walker**, Nursing Student, Arizona State University

11:30 am Break (15min)

(9am AK, 10am PT, 11am MT, 12pm CT, 1pm ET)

11:45 am Panel 2: Education and Early Childhood Development (1.5hrs)

(9:15am AK, 10:15am PT, 11:15am MT, 12:15pm CT, 1:15pm ET)

The goal of this session is to explore two issues. First, around supporting Native students by incorporating Native language and culture into educational systems at all levels of education, from early childhood to higher education. Panelists will discuss the characteristics of Native students in their systems, the ways that their systems incorporate Native language and culture, and the factors that support and hinder the health and well-being of Native children and youth. The second is to discuss the importance of early childhood programming serving children 0-5 in Native communities. Panelist will discuss programs like Head Start, childcare, pre-kindergarten, and home visiting have all been shown to have positive impacts on child and family development, supporting increase child and family health, improved school readiness and academic achievement, and improved family economic self-sufficiency. Each panelist will provide 10 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 15-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Kevin Shendo**, Education Director, Pueblo of Jemez
- **Esther Nystrom**, Mesa School District Indian Education Program
- **Dr. Bryan Brayboy**, President's Professor in the School of Social Transformation, Director of the Center for Indian Education, Arizona State University
- **Lourdes Pereira**, Justice and Indian Studies Student, Arizona State University

1:15 pm Lunch Break (1hr)

(10:45am AK, 11:45am PT, 12:45pm MT, 1:45pm CT, 2:45pm ET)

2:15 pm Panel 3: Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Violence (1.5hrs)

(11:45am AK, 12:45pm PT, 1:45pm MT, 2:45pm CT, 3:45pm ET)



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The goal of this session is to explore two issues. First, to increase the Commission's understanding of issues around child welfare in Native communities in the region, including addressing jurisdictional issues related to the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act by improving state-local-tribal collaboration, and building tribal capacity to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and related issues. Second, to discuss the efficacy of the juvenile justice system for Native children, youth and communities and the disproportionate rates of arrest, detention and incarceration among Native youth compared to non-Hispanic Whites. Research is generally agreed that a more behavioral health approach to juvenile delinquency is better for youth, especially in light of increasing mental health challenges, greater suicide risk, challenges accessing education, and feelings of isolation and disconnection from culture and community. Each panelist will provide 10 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 15-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Mikah Carlos**, Youth Representative, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, National Indian Child Welfare Association Board
- **Kami Hart**, Chief Judge, Gila River Indian Community Children's Court
- **Timothy Sandefur**, Vice President for Litigation, Goldwater Institute
- **Alfred Urbina**, Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

3:45 pm Break (15min)

(1:15pm AK, 2:15pm PT, 3:15pm MT, 4:15pm CT, 5:15pm ET)

4:15 pm **Panel 4: Systems Innovations and Best Practices in Native Communities (1.5hrs)**

(1:30pm AK, 2:30pm PT, 3:30pm MT, 4:30pm CT, 5:30pm ET)

The goal of this session is to highlight cross-system models, innovations, and best practices to meet the needs of Native children in a seamless and coordinated way. Each panelist will provide 10-15 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 15-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Gil Vigil**, Tribal Council, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc
- **Andrea Kilmas**, Clinical Supervisor, Native American Connections, Patina Wellness Center
- **Dr. Sheilah E. Nicholas**, Professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies at the University of Arizona



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5:30 pm *Closing Remarks and Adjourn*

(3pm AK, 4pm PT, 5pm MT, 6pm CT, 7pm ET)

The Chair will provide closing remarks and adjourn the meeting.

Saturday, February 26th – Regional Public Comment Meeting

9:30 am **Doors Open to the Public (30min)**

Zoom link to join: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/87494590207>

10:00 am **Regional Public Comment Meeting (3hrs)**

(8am AK, 9am PT, 10am MT, 11am CT, 12pm ET)

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1:00 pm *Closing Remarks and Adjourn*

(11am AK, 12pm PT, 1pm MT, 2pm CT, 3pm ET)

The Chair will provide closing remarks and adjourn the meeting.