

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Date: January 31, 2022  
Name: Commissioner Carlyle Begay  
Email: [email@commissiononnativechildren.org](mailto:email@commissiononnativechildren.org)  
Website: [www.commissiononnativechildren.org](http://www.commissiononnativechildren.org)

## COMMISSIONERS

Gloria O'Neill (Chair)  
President/CEO, Cook Inlet Tribal  
Council, Inc., Alaska

Dr. Tami DeCoteau (Vice Chair)  
DeCoteau Trauma-Informed Care  
& Practice, PLLC, North Dakota

Carlyle Begay  
Former State Senator, Arizona

Dr. Dolores Subia BigFoot  
Director, Indian Country Child  
Trauma Center, Oklahoma

Jesse Delmar  
Director, Navajo Nation Division  
of Public Safety, Arizona

Anita Fineday  
Managing Director, Indian Child  
Welfare Program, Casey Family  
Programs, Minnesota

Don Atqaqsaq Gray  
Board Member, Ukpeagvik Inupiat  
Corporation, Alaska

Dr. Leander R. McDonald  
President, United Tribes  
Technical College, North Dakota

Elizabeth Morris  
Administrator, Christian Alliance  
for Indian Child Welfare, North  
Dakota

Melody Staebner  
 Fargo/West Fargo Indian  
Education Coordinator, North  
Dakota

Stephanie Bryan  
Chairwoman of the Poarch Creek  
Indians of the White Earth Tribal  
Nation, Alabama

## COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN TO HOLD SOUTHWEST/WEST REGIONAL HEARING IN PHOENIX, FEB. 24–26

*The Commission will hear from expert witnesses and the public on the successes, challenges, and needs for supporting Native children.*

**Phoenix, AZ** — The Commission on Native Children will hold its Southwest/Western Regional Hearing in Phoenix, AZ Feb. 24–26, 2022 at the Radisson Hotel Phoenix Airport, 427 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ, and virtually. The prior regional hearing was held in August 2021, in Anchorage, AK.

The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children was established by Congress as an independent federal entity charged with conducting a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and developing recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native Children.

The Commission will examine the unique challenges Native children face and make recommendations on improving the current system by building on the strengths and leadership of Native communities, with the goal of developing a sustainable system that delivers effective, culturally appropriate, meaningful wrap-around services to Native children.

“For too long, in spite of their resilience and rich heritage, the life experiences of Native children have been disproportionately marred by poverty, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, and substance abuse; it is our job, as Commissioners, to do all we can to change those circumstances for our youngest and most vulnerable Native people,” said Commission Carlyle Begay.

During the three days of the Regional Hearing, the Commission will hear from respected researchers and

experts in the region on the successes and challenges in supporting Native children on four key topics:

- Health, mental health, and behavioral health;
- Education and early childhood development;
- Child welfare, juvenile justice, and violence;
- Systems innovations and best practices in Native communities.

The Commission also invites Native children, their families, tribal leaders, and community members to share their thoughts on issues that are important to protecting Native children served in the various communities during the two public comment sessions.

The Southwest/Western Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually at the following dates and times:

- Feb. 24: Public Comment, 5–8 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time)
- Feb. 25: Expert Panels, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time)  
*\*The public is invited to attend and listen-only on this day*
- Feb. 26: Public Comment, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time)

### **Register Today**

Please register for each day's proceedings by clicking on the links below. Once registered, you will receive information on how to participate virtually and in-person.

- [Feb. 24](#)
- [Feb. 25](#)
- [Feb. 26](#)

In person hearing location:

Radisson Hotel Phoenix Airport  
427 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ, 85008

### **COVID-19 Considerations**

CDC guidance related to COVID-19 will be encouraged and followed. All hearings will be a hybrid (in-person and virtually). However, the Commission may decide to move to virtual-only for hearings and events depending on COVID-19 related developments and participants will be notified in advance.

The public can submit oral and written testimony, as well as questions, at any time to [email@commissiononnativechildren.org](mailto:email@commissiononnativechildren.org).

To learn more, please visit [www.CommissiononNativeChildren.org](http://www.CommissiononNativeChildren.org). For media inquiries, contact Regina Gilbert: [regina.gilbert@bia.gov](mailto:regina.gilbert@bia.gov).

Follow the Commission on Facebook at: Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, or on Twitter: @asbwscnc.

###

