

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN TO HOLD NAVAJO REGIONAL HEARING IN FLAGSTAFF, APRIL 21–22

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

Flagstaff, AZ — The Commission on Native Children will hold its Navajo Regional Hearing in Flagstaff, AZ, April 21–22, 2022 at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, and virtually. The prior regional hearing was held in February 2022 in Phoenix, AZ.

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 two 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:

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

The Navajo Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually on April 21 and 22. Both days comprise a series of expert panels on topics relevant to the commission. 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 following the panel on the afternoon of April 22.

Register Today

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

- April 21, 1:10–5:40 p.m.: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/83428904935>
- April 22, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/84997853622>

In person hearing location:

Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort
22181 Resort Blvd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

COVID-19 Considerations

Navajo Nation guidance related to COVID-19 will be encouraged and followed. While the hearing is currently scheduled to be held both in-person and virtually, the Commission may decide to hold the Regional Hearing virtual-only due to COVID-19 developments.

The public can submit oral and written testimony, as well as questions, at any time to email@commissiononnativechildren.org.

To learn more, please visit www.CommissiononNativeChildren.org. For media inquiries, contact Regina Gilbert: regina.gilbert@bia.gov.

Follow the Commission on Facebook at: [Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children](https://www.facebook.com/AlyceSpottedBear&WalterSoboleffCommissiononNativeChildren), or on Twitter: [@asbwscnc](https://twitter.com/asbwscnc).

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