



Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children

Navajo Regional Hearing

AGENDA

Location:

Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort

22181 Resort Blvd

Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

April 21-22, 2022

**All start times listed in Arizona Time (currently Pacific Time)*

Agenda Overview

- **Thursday**
 - Regional Hearing Introduction
 - Regional Hearing Panels (2)
- **Friday**
 - Regional Hearing Introduction
 - Regional Hearing Panels (2)
 - Community and Youth Panel to include time for public comments

COVID-19 Considerations

Navajo Nation guidance related to COVID-19 will be encouraged and followed. All hearings will be hybrid (in-person and virtual) 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.



Thursday, April 21st – Regional Hearing

**All start times listed in Arizona Time (currently Pacific Time)*

Zoom link <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/83428904935>

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

12:40 pm **Doors Open to the Public** (30 min)

1:10 pm **Navajo Nation Welcome** (1 hour)
(12:10 pm AK, 1:10 pm PT, 2:10 pm MT, 3:10 pm CT, 4:10 pm ET)

Color guard to post the colors and opening prayer. Remarks from Commission Chair around Commission goals and each Commissioner will briefly introduce themselves.

- **Posting of Colors**, Navajo Nation Law Enforcement
- **Leonard Chee**, Opening Prayer

The goal of this session is to provide a general overview of 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). Opening remarks:

- **Hon. Jonathan Nez**, President of the Navajo Nation

2:10 pm **Break** (15 min)
(1:10 pm AK, 2:10 pm PT, 3:10 pm MT, 4:10 pm CT, 5:10 pm ET)

2:25 pm **Panel 1: Physical, Mental and Behavioral Health** (1.5 hours)
(1:25 pm AK, 2:25 pm PT, 3:25 pm MT, 4:25 pm CT, 5:25 pm 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



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(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 15 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 20-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Diana Hu**, MD, FAAP, MCH Consultant/Chief Clinical Consultant, Pediatrics/Immunization Coordinator, Navajo Area Indian Health Services
- **Wilfred Moses**, Traditional Practitioner, Navajo Treatment Center for Children & Families
- **Mavis Smith**, MA, LMHC, Family Therapist, Navajo Treatment Center for Children & Families

3:55 pm

Break (15 min)

(2:55 pm AK, 3:55 pm PT, 4:55 pm MT, 5:55 pm CT, 6:55 pm ET)

4:10 pm

Panel 2: Education and Early Childhood Development (1.5 hours)

(3:10 pm AK, 4:10 pm PT, 5:10 pm MT, 6:30 pm CT, 7:10 pm ET)

The goal of this session is to explore two issues. The first topic will be 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 topic will be a discussion about the importance of early childhood programming serving children 0-5 in Native communities. Panelists will discuss programs like Head Start, childcare, pre-kindergarten, and home visiting and share results that have been shown to have positive impacts on child and family development, supporting increased 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 10-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Rose Graham**, Director, Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Aid



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- **Denise Thomas**, Department Manager I, Office of Diné Youth Boys and Girls Club of Diné Youth
- **Grace Boyne**, MA, Education Director at Navajo Nation Head Start, Department of Child Care Development
- **Memarie Tsosie**, Regional Director, First Things First, Navajo Nation, Regional Partnership Councils

5:40 pm

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

(4:40 pm AK, 5:40 pm PT, 6:40 pm MT, 7:40 pm CT, 8:40 pm ET)

The Commission will provide closing remarks for the day.



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Friday, April 22nd – Regional Hearing

**All start times listed in Arizona Time (currently Pacific Time)*

Zoom Link <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/84997853622>

The public is welcome to attend and listen to the Regional Hearing. The dialogue will be between the panelists and the Commissioners only for the morning session.

8:00 am **Doors Open to the Public** (30 min)

8:30 am **Navajo Nation Welcome** (1 hour)
(7:30 am AK, 8:30 am PT, 9:30 am MT, 10:30 am CT, 11:30 am ET)

The Commission will provide remarks to the audience around Commission goals.

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). Opening remarks:

- **Phefelia Nez**, First Lady of Navajo Nation
- **Dottie Lizer**, Second Lady of Navajo Nation
- **Amber Kanazbah Crotty**, Council Delegate, The Navajo Nation Council

9:30 am **Break** (15 min)
(8:30 am AK, 9:30 am PT, 10:30 am MT, 11:30 am CT, 12:30 pm ET)

9:45 am **Panel 3: Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Violence** (1.5 hours)
(8:45 am AK, 9:45 am PT, 10:45 am MT, 11:45 am CT, 12:45 pm ET)

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-



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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 10-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Phefelia Nez**, First Lady of Navajo Nation, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force
- **Michael Henderson**, Director of Criminal Investigation, Navajo Nation
- **Crescentia Tso**, MSW, Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act Program (NICWA), ICWA Unit Supervisor
- **Vernon Jackson**, Senior Prosecutor, Office of the Prosecutor, Navajo Nation

11:15 am **Break (15 min)**
(10:15 am AK, 11:15 am PT, 12:15 pm MT, 1:15 pm CT, 2:15 pm ET)

11:30 am **Panel 4: Systems Innovations and Best Practices in Native Communities (1.5 hours)**
(10:30 am AK, 11:30 am PT, 12:30 pm MT, 1:30 pm CT, 2:30 pm 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 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.

- **Roxanne Gorman**, Department Manager (TANF), Navajo Department for Self-Reliance
- **Deannah Neswood-Gishey**, Executive Director, Navajo Division of Social Services



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- **Shawnell Damon**, Navajo Area Indian Health Services

1:00 pm

Lunch – on your own (1 hour)

(12:00 pm AK, 1:00 pm PT, 2:00 pm MT, 3:00 pm CT, 4:00 pm ET)

2:00 pm

Panel 5: Youth and Community Panel (2.5 hours)

(1:00 pm AK, 2:00 pm PT, 3:00 pm MT, 4:00 pm CT, 5:00 pm ET)

The goal of this session is to explore two issues. First, to provide an opportunity for youth from the region to provide a general overview of current issues faced by youth (both on reservations and in urban communities), covering all topics to be studied by the Commission. Second, the community session is open to everyone and offers people with diverse backgrounds a chance to express their views.

Opening remarks

- **Niagara A.C. Rockbridge**, Miss Navajo Nation (15 mins)

Youth Panel (1.15 hours)

- **Triston Black**, Center for Native American Youth, Champions for Change
- **Tyler Jensen**, Community Youth Panelist
- **Adriano Tsinigine**, Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council Member
- **Ian Teller**, Indigenous Council Member
- **Tanaya Belone**, Student at Diné College

3:30 pm

Community/Public Panel (1 hour)

(2:30 pm AK, 3:30 pm PT, 4:30 pm MT, 5:30 pm CT, 6:30 pm ET)

The Commission 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. The Commission 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).



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- **Kimberly Kee**, Program Coordinator, Navajo Project I-Launch, Navajo Nation Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (10 min)
- **Bo Paddock**, Navajo Christian Foundation (10 min)
- **James Paddock**, Navajo Cristian Foundation (10 min)

4:30 pm

Closing Remarks/Prayer/Color Guard/Adjourn (30 min)

(3:30 pm AK, 4:30 pm PT, 5:30 pm MT, 6:30 pm CT, 7:30 pm ET)

The Commission will provide closing remarks, remarks from Navajo Nation, prayer, and color guard will retire the colors. Meeting adjourned.

- **Bo Paddock**, Navajo Christian Foundation, Closing Prayer
- **Retiring of the Colors**, Navajo Nation Law Enforcement