

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN TO HOLD GREAT PLAINS/MIDWEST REGIONAL HEARING IN BISMARCK, ND, JUNE 23–24

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

Bismarck, ND — The Commission on Native Children will hold its Great Plains/Midwest Regional Hearing in Bismarck, ND, June 23–24, 2022 at the United Tribes Technical College, James Henry Gymnasium, and virtually. The prior regional hearing was held in April 2022 in Flagstaff, 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; and
- Systems innovations and best practices in Native communities.

The Great Plains/Midwest Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually on June 23 and 24. 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 June 24th.

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.

- June 23, 12:40–5:40 p.m.:
https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqdumqj8oGNevri5iT9A_1-Nk8iBOOjV
- June 24, 8:00 a.m.–5:15 p.m.:
<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlside2hrD4rGNL1Qxo4uFFDoxAH5zp23eR>

In person hearing location:
United Tribes Technical College
James Henry Gymnasium
3315 University Drive
Bismarck, ND

COVID-19 Considerations

United Tribes Technical College 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 <https://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](#), or on Twitter: [@asbwscnc](#).

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