

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN TO HOLD SOUTHERN PLAINS/EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGIONAL HEARING IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, OCTOBER 6–7

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

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — The Commission on Native
Children will hold its Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma
Regional Hearing in Oklahoma City, OK, October 6–7, 2022
at the First Americans Museum – Oklahoma and virtually.
The prior regional hearing was held in August 2022 in
Woodland, CA.

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.

The Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually on October 6 and 7. 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:

1. Physical, mental, and behavioral health;
2. Education and early childhood development;
3. Child welfare, juvenile justice, and violence; and
4. 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 following the panel on October 7.

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.

- October 6, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Central Time
<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl0fuiqrjogGNawcCjSX9-qPGtavVeRgD3X>
- October 7, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Central Time
<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvce6hrDsjHtfa1kzxhDx3u1WpNg601dfe>

In person hearing location:

First Americans Museum – Oklahoma

659 First Americans Blvd.

Oklahoma, City, OK 73129

**Thursday’s hearing will be held in the Five Moons Theater*

**Friday’s hearing will be held in the Hall of the People*

COVID-19 Considerations

First Americans Museum – Oklahoma 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.

To learn more, please visit <https://commissiononnativechildren.org>. For media inquiries, contact Regina Gilbert: regina.gilbert@bia.gov.

The public can submit oral and written testimony, as well as questions, at any time to email@commissiononnativechildren.org. Follow the Commission on Facebook at: [Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children](#), or on Twitter: [@asbwscnc](#).

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