Co-Creating a Strategic Roadmap for Collaborative and Effective Evaluation To Improve Tribal Child Welfare Programs

Presenting on behalf of the Workgroup:

Paulette Running Wolf, PhD (Blackfeet Tribe)
Running Wolf & Associates

Malia Villegas, PhD (Alutiiq/Sugpiaq-Alaska Native)
National Congress of American Indians

Carol Hafford, PhD
NORC at the University of Chicago

Melinda J Baldwin, LICSW, MSW
ACF/ACYF/Children’s Bureau

April 17, 2014
The Way Forward: ACF Research with American Indians and Alaska Natives
Where did this come from?

Child Welfare Research and Evaluation Workgroups
The Children’s Bureau launched a project in April 2012 to capitalize on the momentum at the 2011 National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit.

Goals:

- To engage stakeholders in evaluation practice (program administrators, evaluators, researchers, Tribal governments)
- To have conversations about how to build and disseminate evidence, strengthen evaluation practice, and promote the use of findings for sound decision-making in child welfare programs and systems

Three workgroups convened to meet these goals:

1. Conceptualizing a Framework
2. Calculating the Costs of Child Welfare Services
3. Child Welfare Evaluation in and with Tribal Communities
Who is the Workgroup?

Workgroup –

Marla Jean Big Boy, JD (Oglala Lakota), Board of Directors, National Indian Child Welfare Association
Dolores Subia Bigfoot, PhD (Caddo Nation of Oklahoma), Indian Country Child Trauma Center at the University of Oklahoma*
Nancy Dufraine, MEd, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Lucille Echohawk (Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma), Director of Denver Indian Family Resource Center
Francine Eddy Jones, MSW (Eagle/Wolf of the Yanyeidi Clan of the Taku Tlingit people), Central Council of Tlingit and Haida
Carol Hafford, PhD, NORC at the University of Chicago
Joan LaFrance, EdD (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), Mekinak Consulting
Sylvia Murray, LMSW-Macro (Lake Superior Band of Chippewa, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwe), Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of MI
Deborah Painte, MPH (Arikara), Native American Training Institute
Carlette Randall, MSW (Oglala Sioux Tribe/Lakota), JBS International, Inc.*
Paulette Running Wolf, PhD (Blackfeet Tribe), Running Wolf & Associates*
Malia Villegas, PhD (Alutiiq/Sugpiag - Alaska Native), National Congress of American Indians*
Joe Walker, MPM (Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma), National Resource Center for Tribes
Virginia Whitekiller, EdD, MSW (Cherokee), Northeastern State University
Nancy Whitesell, PhD, Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Health at the University of Colorado*

Workgroup Coordinator – Mary Jane Peck, MSSW, JBS International, Inc.

Federal Staff –

Melinda Baldwin, MSW, Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families
Brian Deakins, MSW, Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families
Erin Geary, MSW, Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Rosie Gomez, MS, Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families
Molly Mee, Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families
Aleta Meyer, PhD, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families *
Eileen West, Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families

*Member of the Steering team
Presenter Bios

Paulette Running Wolf, PhD (Blackfeet Tribe)
Dr. Paulette Running Wolf is a counseling psychologist and graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has successfully implemented national quantitative and qualitative outcome-based evaluations in numerous Tribal communities, both urban and reservation and has over 25 years of experience in American Indian education/training, program development, research and evaluation, and community mobilization.

Malia Villegas, PhD (Alutiiq/Sugpiaq-Alaska Native)
Dr. Villegas earned her master’s degree and doctorate in Culture, Communities, and Education at Harvard University. Dr. Villegas serves as the Principal Investigator of an NIH-funded Native American Research Center for Health project examining the use and impact of community-based participatory research in Indigenous and minority communities. In addition, Dr. Villegas has extensive experience in tribal governance as she leads projects involving tribal research regulation, research ethics, tribal public health law, and data quality.

Carol Hafford Ph.D.
Dr. Hafford is a Principal Research Scientist in the Economics, Labor, and Population Studies department at NORC at the University of Chicago, where she leads studies and evaluations on human services for vulnerable children, families, and elders. Dr. Hafford is NORC’s project director for two nationally representative studies in Indian Country. An applied anthropologist from NYC, she earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Melinda J Baldwin, LICSW, MSW
Melinda Baldwin is a Child Welfare Program Specialist in the Capacity Building Division of the Children’s Bureau. She has extensive experience in child welfare practice and social work education. She has over 20 years of experience working within public and private nonprofit agencies in direct service and administrative capacities. She is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago with her dissertation focusing on the role parental criminal histories play in CPS investigators decision making processes in removal decisions.
Co-Creating Collaborative & Effective Evaluation to Improve Tribal Child Welfare Programs

Values
Indigenous Ways of Knowing | Respect for Tribal Sovereignty
Strengths Focus | Cultural and Scientific Rigor | Community Engagement
Ethical Practices | Knowledge Sharing

Intergenerational and community trauma
Indigenous world views undervalued

Tribal Government Leaders
Policy Makers
Community Members
Cultural Authorities & Spiritual Leaders

Relationship Building
Evaluation practice that involves the community in determining priorities
Dialogue with community to anchor evaluation within cultural & ethical practices
Clear guidelines & examples of evaluation components important to the community
Clear guidelines & examples of required evaluation components tied to funding
Transparency in evaluation & translation for community

Knowledge & Skill Building
Cultural protocols for community-engaged, comprehensive evaluation
Mentoring for evaluation design & implementation
Guidelines for selecting, adapting, developing, administering, & interpreting evaluation instruments
Storytelling to support staff & community interpretation of evaluation data
Training in use, interpretation, & storage of data
Consolidation & coordination of data across community programs

Building a New Narrative
Collaborative, Culturally Responsive Evaluation
System Improvement
Locally Guided Questions, Data, & Insight
Meaningful Analyses
Bidirectional Learning
AI/AN Evaluation Skills

Historical Context
Invasive, imposed evaluation
Judgmental evaluation

Developing policies, establishing clear guidelines, & building tribal infrastructure for evaluation

Invasive, imposed evaluation
Judgmental evaluation

Tribal Colleges
Universities
Professional Organizations

Distress
Historical Context
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CO-CREATING COLLABORATIVE & EFFECTIVE EVALUATION TO IMPROVE TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

Values
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- Judgmental evaluation

Program Directors
- Tribal Evaluators
- Evaluation Partners
- Program Staff

Tribal Government Leaders
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Development of Tribal Education & Training Centers
- Universities
- Professional Organizations

Historical Trauma
- Cultural trauma
- Community trauma

Intergenerational Context
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**Intergenerational and Community Trauma**

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The Roadmap in Practice

• Community & Program Discussions about Evaluation in Native Youth Contexts
• Organizational Strategic Planning around Evaluation
• Inform (Local, Regional, National) Narratives about Meaningful Measures in Native Youth Contexts
• Torres Martinez: TANF Readiness Evaluation