

LTBB CWC 12-16-11 Open Session

MINUTES APPROVED 1-6-12

**LTBB Child Welfare Commission Regular Meeting
12-16-11
Open Minutes**

Call to Order: Chairperson Heidi Bosma called the meeting to order at 10:20pm.

Attendance: Heidi Bosma, Rochelle Ettawageshik, Debbie DeLeon and Steve Sochay.

Excused Absent: Emily Proctor

Staff and Guests: Denneen Smith, LTBB Human Services Department Director, Matt Leskey, LTBB Prosecutor, Lisa Kurtz-Tollenar LTBB Social Workers and LTBB Attorney Jim Bransky.

Closed Session: Ms. Ettawageshik made a motion to go into Closed Session at 10:30am; Mr. Sochay supported the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

Return to Open Session: Motion was made by Ms. Ettawageshik to return to Open Session at 11:08am; Supported by Mr. Sochay; Motion approved by unanimous decision.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Ettawageshik made a motion to approve the agenda; supported by Mr. Sochay; Motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Ettawageshik made a motion to approve the November 11, 2011 Open Session and Closed Session Minutes as amended; supported by Mr. Sochay; Motion was approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Report:

- The Chair attended **Building Strong Sovereign Nations: Anishnaabek Leadership For Seven Generations Tribal Governance Training Conference** and reported on her experience, the wealth of information she learned and handouts that she brought back to share with the CWC members.
- The Chair and Ms. Proctor did meet with the Executive regarding the budget. First meeting was rescheduled at the last minute.
- Adobe Connect—the purchase orders for the equipment have been submitted.

Social Services Director's Report:

- The Director previously reported that she is working on scheduling a date when Mary Mehren from State DHS to come to meet with us regarding the Title IV-E Agreement. The draft agreement is basically the plan, but does not spell out who is responsible for what—the nuts and bolts of the overall agreement. This month's update is that Ms. Smith expects to work out the details of the agreement for finalization and

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43 implementation. Once that is completed, she expects that the state will be signing
44 agreement. The meeting will be with Mary Mehran and one or two of the department's
45 legal people.

- 46 • New social worker is Heather Benning (was previously probation officer with our court)
47 and is a tribal member
- 48 • Ms. Smith advised that she has been told that they are moving but doesn't know when
49 it will happen.

50

51 **Prosecutor's Report:**

- 52 • The Prosecutor previously advised that he expects to have a cultural agreement form
53 prepared for the CWC to review and utilize at the next meeting still under construction.
54 Working to make it similar to his diversion agreement that lists various elements that
55 could be used to tailor to specific needs that the child(ren) may have.
- 56 • Prosecutor is working with Emmett County to be able to facilitate the transfer of
57 delinquency/diversion cases more easily.

58 **Closed Session:** Mr. Sochay made a motion to return to Closed Session at 11:20am; Ms.
59 Ettawageshik supported the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

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61 **Return to Open Session:** Motion was made by Ms. Ettawageshik to return to Open Session at
62 1:35pm; Supported by Mr. Sochay; Motion approved by unanimous decision.

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64 **Public Comment:** Opened and closed at 1:40pm.

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66 **Treasurer's Report:** No report

67

68 **Old Business:** Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act (MIFPA)--Discussion continued
69 regarding the MIFPA and the status of the request for this commission's support. Our initial
70 concern had been that we were not a part of this process and needed to understand what had
71 transpired and why the descendants of the Treaty, State Historic and Canadian Tribes were not
72 included. After our discussion with LTBB Attorney Allie Maldonado, who has been involved
73 from the beginning, it was decided to rescind our previous statement of support removing the
74 statement of concern regarding the omission of the descendants of the Treaty, State Historic
75 and Canadian Tribes. **Motion was made** by Mr. Sochay to rescind our previous statement of
76 support for the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act and reissue the statement of support
77 minus the statement of concern regarding the omission of the descendants of the Treaty State
78 Historic and Canadian Tribes. Motion was supported by Ms. Ettawageshik. **Motion passed**
79 **unanimously.**

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82 **New Business:**

- 83 • Motion was made by Ms. Ettawageshik to authorize any costs associated for CWC Chair
84 who attended the Tribal Council meeting on December 3, 2011 and for CWC Treasurer
85 who attended the Tribal Council meeting on December 4, 2011. Supported by Mr.
86 Sochay; **Motion passed unanimously.**
- 87 • Motion was made by Ms. Ettawageshik to authorize any costs associated for the CWC
88 Chair and Treasurer to attend a meeting with the Tribal Chair regarding the budget and
89 discuss the Executive Office memo regarding the *Rescission of Service of Commissioners*
90 *Statute* on December 6, 2011. Supported by Mr. Sochay; **Motion passed unanimously.**
- 91 • A motion was made by Mr. Sochay to authorize costs associated for any commissioner
92 to attend any tribal council related meeting where the Child Welfare Commission
93 Statute or Child Protection Statute appears on the agenda or where the CWC is advised
94 in advance that it will be added to an agenda. Motion was supported by Ms.
95 Ettawageshik. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- 96 • Motion was made by Mr. Sochay to authorize any costs associated for the CWC Chair or
97 anyone interested in attending the Supreme Court Hearing dates on January 11 & 12,
98 2012 where an Indian Child Welfare case will be on their docket. Motion was supported
99 by Ms. Ettawageshik. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- 100 • Ms. DeLeon provided an update on the MI Coalition on Race Equity in Child Welfare and
101 Juvenile Justice and will share website information. She also relayed the invitation from
102 the Coalition Co-Chairs to anyone interested in serving on any of the subcommittees.
103 She will provide that information as it becomes available.

104

105 Jim Bransky met with the CWC to discuss the latest draft of the Child Protection Statute and the
106 process it has followed now that it is before Tribal Council. Jim will develop a summary of the
107 history and changes to help everyone better understand the developmental process of the
108 recommended changes.

109

110 **Announcements:** None

111 **Meeting Schedule:** The next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 6 & 7, 2012, at 1:00pm
112 and 10am respectively at a location to be determined.

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114 **Adjournment:** Ms. Ettawageshik made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Sochay supported the motion.
115 Motion passed; meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

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117 Respectfully Submitted,

118 Debbie De Leon

119 CWC Secretary