

LTBB CWC 2-3-12 Open Session

MINUTES APPROVED 3-4-12

LTBB Child Welfare Commission Regular Meeting 2-3-12 Open Minutes

Call to Order: Chairperson Heidi Bosma called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

Roll Call/Attendance: Heidi Bosma, Rochelle Ettawageshik, Debbie DeLeon, Emily Proctor and Steve Sochay.

Staff and Guests: Denneen Smith, LTBB Human Services Department Director, Lisa Kurtz-Tollenar, Tosha Bennington, and Heather Boening, LTBB Social Workers; Chrissy Yuhn, Administrative Assistant for Ms. Smith; Matt Leskey, LTBB Prosecutor; and Legislative Leader Mel Kiogima.

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

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Proctor made a motion to approve the **January 6, 2012** Open Session and Closed Session Minutes as amended; supported by Ms. Ettawageshik; Motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Opened and closed at 1:10pm.

Chairperson's Report:

- The Chair reported that she heard that L&L has rescheduled their meeting to Feb 8 regarding the Draft Child Protection Statute at 10:30a.m
- The Chair reported that the CWC has been invited by Council to attend their meeting on February 4, 2012 because they plan to discuss the memo from Executive regarding their recommended changes to the commission.

Closed Session: Ms. Ettawageshik made a motion to go into Closed Session at 1:20pm; Mr. Sochay supported the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

Return to Open Session: Motion was made by Ms. Ettawageshik to return to Open Session at 3:10pm; Supported by Ms. Proctor; Motion approved by unanimous decision.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Proctor reported that we just received the corrected R&E today. 2011 budget appears to have somewhere around \$3000. Ms. Proctor will pursue a discussion with someone in accounting regarding what it will take to put our budget in a line by line itemization...that is the way it is submitted, but it doesn't come back that way from accounting.

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44 **Prosecutor's Report:**

- 45 • The Prosecutor advised that he completed his letter to Council on the need to have and
46 retain a Child Welfare Commission.
- 47 • Cultural Agreement template is still under construction and he will work with Ms. Kurtz-
48 Tollenar.

49 **Social Services Director's Report:**

- 50 • The eventual relocation of the office remains pending with no specific timeline.
- 51 • She has been advised by the Vice-Chair to attend a meeting on Wednesday to discuss
52 the new Child Protection Statute code with L&L Committee. She also advised of her
53 position on the inclusion of the CWC statute in the Code.

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55 **Old Business:**

- 56 • Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act (MIFPA)—Discussion continued regarding the
57 MIFPA and the status of the request for this commission's support. The Prosecutor gave
58 some background regarding DHS across the nation do not notice tribes when parent(s)
59 claim to be Cherokee, but tribe is unknown. So, this has been a national problem that
60 needed to be addressed. This particular Michigan case the parents rights were
61 terminated; parents appealed based on non compliance with ICWA; appellate court
62 denied; supreme court remands back to lower court to...basically let the decision for
63 termination stand and do the notification, etc to comply with ICWA. Danger in this is
64 that the parent will still have to appeal reverse the decision to terminate once again
65 thus parents were never given the guarantees that ICWA requires. The cost of not
66 sending four notices to the Cherokee tribes is incredible.
- 67 • **Draft Child Protection Statute**—The January 19th L&L meeting had been canceled due to
68 weather, however, even though a motion was previously passed in December, Ms.
69 Ettawageshik made a motion to continue to authorize costs associated for any
70 commission to attend any Tribal Council related meeting where the Child Protection
71 Statute appears on the agenda or where the CWC is advised in advance that it will be
72 added to an agenda:
- 73 ○ The CWC has been advised that the Legal and Legislative Committee will meet on
74 **Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 10:30am** to address agenda item related to the
75 Child Protection Statute and CWC Statute.
- 76 The motion was supported by Ms. Proctor. Motion passed unanimously.
- 77 • **MI Coalition on Race Equity in Child Welfare**—Ms. DeLeon provided an update on the
78 MI Coalition on Race Equity in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice and that she has
79 shared the website information. She also relayed the invitation from the Coalition Co-
80 Chairs to anyone interested in serving on any of the subcommittees. She will continue
81 to provide information as it becomes available.

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- 82 • **Supreme Court Case**—Ms. Ettawageshik, Ms. DeLeon and Mr. Sochay attended the
83 hearing and reported on their experience.

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85 **New Business:** None

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87 **Announcements:** Ms. Proctor shared a flyer on a series of sessions that focus on Disease
88 Prevention and Management class through MSU Extension.

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90 **Meeting Schedule:** The next monthly meeting is scheduled for **March 2 & 3, 2012**, at 1:00pm
91 and 10am respectively in Rm 321. **Work Sessions: February 4th and possibly 5th** at 2:00pm.

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93 **Adjournment:** Ms. Ettawageshik made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Sochay supported the motion.
94 Motion passed; meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

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96 Respectfully Submitted,

97 Debbie De Leon

98 CWC Secretary