



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL NARRATIVE
Submitted by: Julie Shananaquet, Tribal Council Secretary

Training/Event: United Tribes of Michigan
Location: Sault Ste. Marie, MI
Date of Event: May 10 & 11, 2017

Thank you Tribal Council members and Tribal Citizens for allowing me the opportunity to travel on behalf of the Tribe to attend the United Tribes of Michigan Meeting held in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The following is a summary of items discussed:

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Indian Child Welfare Training as presented by Jack Trope, Senior Policy Advisor, Casey Family Programs.

Presenter Trope presented a slide presentation which included the history of ICWA and how the system is failing when it comes to recording ethnicity of children in the system, which lends to the alarming disparity of Native children in state care. Presentation included breakout groups with different placement, removal scenarios presented for discussion of whether compliance of ICWA was adhered to.

Dinner Meeting with Guest Speakers Jack Bergman, Congressman MI District 1 and Agustin V. Arbulu, Michigan Department of Civil Rights Director
Congressman Jack Bergman was asked to look into Line 5 issues, upcoming 2020 Consent Decree. Mr Bergman was very honest about not knowing a lot of issues faced by Tribes but looks forward to the education Tribes will be providing.

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Breakfast was available for attendees, however, I did not attend.

The United Tribe Meeting began with an opening ceremony – presentation of flags, opening prayer and regular meeting protocol.

UTM President – SSM Chairman Aaron Payment welcomed attendees and presented opening comments.

Executive Director Frank Ettawageshik presented Ogema Larry Romanelli's Treasurer's Report, and proceeded to give a verbal Executive Report.

Melissa Kiesewetter, MI Dept. of Civil Rights - Tuition Waiver, provided statistics on tuition waivers used. Additional information was requested of Ms. Kiesewetter and the possibility of including additional educational institution into the waiver process. It was also discussed that participating educational institutes have paid the difference of expenses associated with waiver and have not to date voiced any intent to withdraw from the waiver program due to excessive costs.

"Redskins" Resolution as presented by Julie Dye - MI Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media. Paw Paw struggles with severe racism and threats due to their fight to change

use of Indian mascot. Lengthy discussion followed with amendments made to the original Resolution presented to United Tribes. Game plan included getting "foot in door", by voicing opposition to the use of term "Redskin" and drafting legislation at a later date which will address the actual mascot figure. Resolution pass with no opposition.

Legal Update presented by: Brian Pierson, Godfrey & Kahn
Mr. Pierson spoke specifically to the case of Lewis vs Clark and the importance of Tribes to include specific wording within their laws and statutes regarding status of employees and tribal representatives covered under sovereignty.

John Link, Coddington and Butler. Mr. Link emphasized importance that not only Tribal laws specify who is covered as a sovereign, but this wording should be included in Insurance Policies.

Indian Child Welfare Regulations as presented by Jack Trope, Casey Family Programs, This was a repeat condensed version of previous day's work session.

Stacey Tadjerson of the MI Department of Health and Human Services presented statistical data of Michigan cases and informed attendees that MI has recently switched to a new reporting system and does not know if this will provide the necessary classification, reporting and notification for Native people receiving assistance from the state.

Lunch provided for attendees. I did attend luncheon

Office of the Governor – Dave Nyberg

National Indian Child Welfare Association – Rochelle Ettawageshik, presented film regarding adoption scenario which led to need for ICWA regulations.

Great Lakes Indian Tribal Health Board – Tyler LaPlaunt, Director
ITCMI Children's Services Update – Michelle Schulte

Closing remarks and Adjourn UTM meeting – President Payment

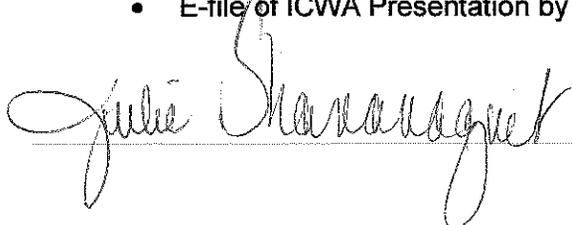
Remark/Recommendation:

Revisit/Review and/or Create Statutes that addresses who shall be included under tribal sovereignty. Although Executive was in attendance, we may want to request Executive to revisit Insurance coverages.

Attachments:

The following attachments are available with hard copy report:

- UTM Financials
- Tuition Waiver Stats
- Assorted Mascot literature
- Legal Updates
- Mi Health and Human Services Stats
- E-file of ICWA Presentation by Jack Trope

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