

ICWA PARTNERSHIP



Created in June, 2016, by the recommendation of the Tribal State Workgroup

- ❖ Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association
- ❖ Oklahoma Court Improvement Program
- ❖ Oklahoma Department of Human Services

ICWA Partnership Grant

In October, 2016, Oklahoma was awarded one of three ICWA Partnership Grants by the Children's Bureau. Minnesota and North Dakota also received ICWA Partnership Grants.

Goal

Improve the safety, permanency and well-being of American Indian children and families through improved communication, training, and accountability of child welfare and court systems as it relates to ICWA.

Anticipated Outcomes of the Grant



- ✓ Improved early identification of children who are members of or eligible for membership in a Tribe
- ✓ Improvements in both formal (notice) and informal communication between Tribes, DHS, and courts
- ✓ Increased understanding and application of “active efforts”
- ✓ Increases in early adherence to tribal placement preferences

Grant Team

Dr. Deb Shropshire - Project Investigator
Ann Davis - Grant Manager
Jonathan Moore - Grant Evaluator
Te’Ata Purcell - OICWA Grant Coordinator

Model of Collaboration

- ❖ Agreement by a core group that wants to take action to improve outcomes
- ❖ Key informant interviews gather consensus about priority needs and actions which should be taken
- ❖ Collateral interviews/key considerations identify technical expertise and resources
- ❖ Local projects are developed
 - Identification of site
 - Local leadership team identified or developed
 - Innovative project identified and implemented (evidence based)
 - Evaluation and adjustment, dissemination of success

Key Considerations for Projects

- ❖ Presence of an existing coalition or collaboration that is actively involved in making change
- ❖ Readiness for change and strengths in local leadership
- ❖ The existence of or willingness and ability to gather accurate local practice data
- ❖ The identification of an innovative evidence-informed solution for a problem
- ❖ The availability of staff or other resources needed (including locally) to successfully conduct the proposed project.

Key Informant Surveys

The Grant Team interviewed 140 individuals from Tribes, DHS, Courts and other stakeholders in Key Informant interviews. The interview questions were open ended which allowed for conversation to flow around:

- Strengths and challenges with ICWA practice
- Ideas for change/improvement
- Willingness to be involved
- Who else should be involved

Emerging Themes	
• Collaboration	• Policy/Practice/Processes
• Communication	• Respect/Relationship/Attitudes
• Community	• Services/Financial Resources
• Courts	• Support Services
• Human Resources	• Training
• Leadership	• Tribal Culture/Sovereignty

Grant Activity Time Frames

- Year 1 - Building the Framework
 - ✓ Relationship building between the three partners
 - ✓ Defining roles and responsibilities of the partners
 - ✓ Developing the grant governance structure
 - ✓ Identifying the staffing needs for the grant and developing roles of the grant team
 - ✓ Development of contract and budget between OICWA and DHS
- Year 2 - Engaging, Enhancing, Building
 - ✓ Grant team in place by October of 2017
 - ✓ Key Informant Interviews
 - ✓ Formalizing the grant governance structure
 - ✓ Second round of ICWA Snapshot
 - ✓ Enhancing and supporting the OICWA Conference
 - ✓ Expansion of the OICWA Website
- Year 3 - Beginning the Journey to Change
 - ✓ Analyze and report on the data from the Key Informant interviews to grant governance structure
 - ✓ Consider evidence based and best practice strategies to effect positive change and improvement in ICWA practice
 - ✓ Develop demonstration projects and identify sites for projects
 - ✓ Define desired outcomes and develop evaluation tools to measure change
 - ✓ Evaluation and adjustment, dissemination of successes
- Years 4 and 5
 - ✓ Continue projects and evaluations
 - ✓ Make adjustments as needed
 - ✓ Replicate positive practice
 - ✓ Share lessons learned
 - ✓ Develop sustainability plan so that positive changes in practice continue.