



MEDIA ADVISORY
May 25, 2023

Contact:
Commissioner Carlyle Begay
email@commissiononnativechildren.org

THE COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN WILL CONVENE IN NASHVILLE, TN JUNE 14–15 FOR THE EASTERN REGIONAL HEARING

Nashville, TN — The Commission on Native Children will hold its Eastern Regional Hearing June 14–15, 2023, both virtually and in-person in Nashville, TN at DoubleTree Nashville Downtown. The Commission will hear from respected researchers and experts and the public on the successes and challenges in supporting Native children. This Regional Hearing will inform the Commission’s recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native children.

Hearing Details

The Eastern Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually on June 14 and 15. Both days comprise a series of expert panels on topics relevant to the commission. There will be an opportunity for public comment following the last panel on June 15.

Please register for each day’s proceedings by clicking on the links below. Once registered, you will receive information on how to participate virtually and in-person.

- June 14, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., CST
 - <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcuCpgi0iGtyqZ9hBtNdFCsGjFBTQzt7g>
- June 15, 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., CST
 - <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYofuyqgTIsH90HD6x1XaCnMf009tkPvXNC>

In-person hearing location:

DoubleTree Nashville Downtown
Salon AB Room
315 4th Avenue N
Nashville, TN 37219

Expert testimony will be given from the following panelists on four key topics:

- **Physical, mental, and behavioral health:** This session will increase the Commissioner’s understanding of the systems of health services provisions available for Native children in the region (including physical, behavioral, and mental health, and traditional and cultural services).
- **Education and early childhood development:** This session will explore supporting Native students by incorporating Native language and culture into educational systems at all levels of education and discuss the importance of early childhood programming serving children 0–5 in Native communities like Head Start, childcare, pre-kindergarten, and home visiting.
- **Child welfare, juvenile justice, and violence:** This session is to explore the issues around child welfare in Native communities in the region, including addressing jurisdictional issues

related to the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act by improving state-local-tribal collaboration, and building tribal capacity to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and related issues, and the efficacy of the juvenile justice system for Native children, youth and communities and the disproportionate rates of arrest, detention and incarceration among Native youth compared to non-Hispanic Whites.

- **Systems innovations and best practices in Native communities.** This session will highlight cross-system models, innovations, and best practices to meet the needs of Native children in a seamless and coordinated way.

The public can submit oral and written testimony, as well as questions, at any time to email@commissiononnativechildren.org.

To learn more, please visit <https://commissiononnativechildren.org/>. For media inquiries, contact Regina Gilbert: regina.gilbert@bia.gov.

Follow the Commission on Facebook at: [Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children](#), or on Twitter: [@asbwscnc](#).

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About: The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children was established by Congress as an independent federal entity charged with conducting a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and developing recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native Children.

