

Tribal-State Collaboration

Liz Mueller, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

WHAT WORKS IN WASHINGTON STATE

- **Centennial Accord -Institutionalized government to government agreement- having the commitment from the governor that flows down to his/her cabinet with sustaining an Office of Indian Policy within.**

WHAT WORKS IN WASHINGTON STATE

Each cabinet secretary establishes an OIP within their department with tribal liaisons within each division. Quarterly Indian Policy Advisory Committees. Each IPAC Chair and the Secretary report out to the Governor and Tribal Chairs at the Centennial Accord meetings on success and problems.

- Tribal/State Agreements Exclusive or concurrent individualized to each tribe.**
- LICWAC -Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee – oversight for out of state tribes and Canadian Indigenous children.**
- 7.01 Consultation Policy and Communication Protocol. Directs how staff and tribes will consult in cooperation, mutual understanding and respect. Consistent and early communication. When to call an impasse.**
- ICW Manual Policy – Direct state caseworkers on how to proceed with ICW in Washington State.**
- ICW Review Tool – every two years we pull ICW cases from the six regions in the state. We have four Tribal reviewers and four state caseworker reviewers to review charts on approximately 35 questions.**

WHAT WORKS IN WASHINGTON STATE

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT 2011

- Having consistency across the state
- Active Efforts
- QEW
- Child Placement
- Direction to courts, “is the child Indian”.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK IN WASHINGTON STATE FOR TRIBES

- **Lack of resources, program and providers in the rural area.**
- **Caseworker burnout and turnover and the difficulties that result in turnover.**
- **Title IVE impossible for small Tribes to obtain or retain. Prevention dollars flow through Title IVE, but small tribes can't access the funding and funding that should go towards family pays for a full-time staff to just handle the difficult reporting. 17 Tribes out of 574 have Title IVE!!**

Recommendations to improve outcomes

- **Program dollars available to assist family members to care for children when parents are not available.**
- **Programs that teach cultural connection and positive image.**
- **Programs that teach life skills at an early age, which leads to self-reliance and confidence.**