Hope for Fathers with Native Children from POPS – Paternal Opportunities Program & Services

Paternal Opportunities Program & Services (POPS) is Southern California’s largest fathers’ advocacy and a resource center for Native children in the child welfare system. Since 2014, POPS has been serving Native fathers and their children through various programs that include Men’s Talking Circles, parenting classes, and support groups.

There are more than 2000 Native American children in foster care in San Diego County, and POPS is working to empower Native fathers and families to improve outcomes for these children. POPS offers a range of programs and services, including support groups like the Men’s Talking Circle, which has been going strong since 2012 and has grown by word of mouth within the father community, a testament to POPS success and credibility within the fatherhood community, child welfare, and the courts.

The key is for fathers to take responsibility and prove their worthiness. They should also work closely with and communicate with the child welfare agency. In these fatherhood support groups, fathers the opportunity to participate in activities designed to help them enhance ICWA compliance in Riverside County.

The San Diego County Foster Youth Project (FYP) is a collaboration among Baja California, Riverside County, and the Poway Unified School District to provide services and support to Native foster youth and their families. POPS is working closely with FYP to ensure that Native fathers have access to the necessary support and resources they need to improve the outcomes for their children.

Fatherhood programs are critical to improving outcomes for Native children in foster care. These programs provide Native fathers with the information, skills, and support they need to reclaim their role as fathers and improve their relationships with their children. By helping Native fathers improve their parenting skills, we can reduce the number of children who are placed in foster care and increase the likelihood that they will experience successful reunification with their families.

There is little doubt that children with missing fathers are at risk. Research shows that children with absent fathers are more likely to experience behavior problems, academic difficulties, and other negative outcomes. By working with Native fathers, we can help improve outcomes for Native children and strengthen families.
3158. common? in American history related to American Indians – and what do these events have toward American Indians. During this course you will be asked to identify three events explore how media and propaganda have affected our perceptions resulting in a bias ICWA Bias, Media and Historical Context eLearning

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

Tribal Star Training
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Approximately 1000 Tribal and non-Tribal individuals, leaders, public and foster care agencies, rural and urban, and cities nationwide have received training throughout the project. The learning paths are geared up to three different levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Learning paths are built to allow participants to progress through other levels to match their skills and understanding. Course participants are encouraged to collaborate with others on their projects and to work with community leaders, Tribal foster care directors, or Tribal youth agencies. For more information regarding trainings in your area please visit our website.

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Working with Native American Families and Tribes
ICWA: Working with Native American Families and Tribes is intended to provide social work professionals with the knowledge of the Indian Child Welfare Act and best practices.

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

Summit
The Summit provides an overview of Native American culture, history, and distrust of government systems and services. The Summit includes four full days of Tribal child welfare and related training in Tribal youth information and training.

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

Tribal Side of ICWA
The Client Side of ICWA is centered on the client, the “front line of service,” and their common experience in traditional training that is unessential for successful implementation of ICWA.

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

Evaluators
The Gathering provides an overview of Tribal processes, systems, and services. The Gathering includes four full days of Tribal child welfare and training.

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

Collaborative
The Collaborative is a half day training program that introduces Tribal and non-Tribal child welfare professionals to overview of Tribal youth experiences receiving CWS services and basic communication techniques that support more trusting relations with Tribal youth and families. The training allows organizations to focus on specific challenges and identify solutions.

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

TTF
Training for Tribal Leaders – A half day training designed to introduce Tribal leaders to issues that affect their communities.

For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.

Summaries
For more information contact Sunni Dominguez – sadominguez@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6107.
General information, pertinent articles and resources related to Native American Foster Youth can be sent to us at tstar@mail.sdsu.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the Tribal STAR eNewsletter. Whenever possible please make submissions 3 weeks prior to publication of the next newsletter. The next issue will be published the first week of April. All submissions will be reviewed and are published at the sole discretion of the Tribal STAR editorial staff.

For current news, thoughts and events follow us on Twitter @TribalSTARNews.

Tribal STAR is a program of Academy for Professional Excellence, a project of San Diego State University School of Social Work.

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Note: documents in Powerpoint format (PPT) require Microsoft Viewer, download PowerPoint.

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