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Improving the Quality of Life for Our
Children.

October 10, 2021

Contact: Charlie Moore-Pabst, Acting Public Information Officer
New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department
505.470.3248 | charlie.moore-pabst@state.nm.us

CYFD HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT SUMMIT

Virtual Summit Brings Together State and Tribal Leaders and Partners Committed to Native Child Well-being

Santa Fe, NM – The Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD) will conduct its second annual Indian Child Welfare Act Summit virtually on Tuesday, October 12 at 9:00 AM. The virtual gathering brings together key stakeholders and leaders from the state Judiciary, Pueblo and Tribal communities, as a commitment to the application of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in all aspects of Native American child placement and services in New Mexico.

In addition to state and Tribal judges and other leaders, participants include CYFD personnel, advocacy partners, and legal representatives and others whose work is guided by the Act. ICWA is the gold standard for placement of children in the system who are members of Pueblos and Tribes, requiring that children are placed in familial settings whenever possible and further prioritizes placement within their own Native communities, maintaining the critical cultural and family connection to reduce harm. Efforts to codify the national ICWA standards have been recently undertaken at the New Mexico Legislature, with strong support by CYFD and the administration.

The summit will include Pueblo and Tribal officials including Santa Clara Pueblo Governor Michael Chavarria, as well as State Representative Georgene Louis, sponsor of legislation to establish the federal ICWA protections as state law in New Mexico, and CYFD Secretary Designate Barbara J. Vigil.

A copy of the agenda is included, and limited spots are available for those interested in attending, via the [registration site](#).

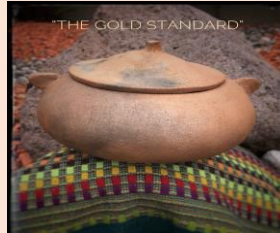
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AGENDA

CYFD's 2nd Annual (virtual) ICWA Summit

October 12, 2021

9:00am - 4:00pm (MST)



9:00am - 9:20am

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Michael Chavarria, Governor Santa Clara Pueblo

Donalyn Sarracino, Director of Tribal Affairs, CYFD-OTS

9:20am - 9:50am

Keynote Address

ICWA Gold Standards for Relative Placements and Cultural Connections

Cabinet Secretary Barbara Vigil, CYFD

9:50am - 11:15am

NM's Multifaceted Defense to Protect Our Tribal Children, Families & Communities

Representative Georgene Louis

Jennie Lusk, Civil Rights Bureau Chief, NM Office of Attorney General

Charlie Moore-Pabst, Acting Public Information Officer, CYFD-OTS

11:15am – 11:30am

Break

11:30am - 12:30pm

Panel Discussion

CYFD ICWA Unit and 2nd Judicial ICWA Court

Moderator: Melissa Clyde, Senior Director-Casey Family Programs

Catherine Begaye, Judge ICWA Court, 2nd Judicial Children's Court

Cynthia Chavers, Field Deputy Director, CYFD Protective Services

Veronica Krupnick, Mentorship Advocacy & Peer Support Program

Coordinator, CASA

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Working Lunch

Pueblo of Pojoaque Hoop Dancers

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Panel Discussion

Indian Child Welfare – A Tribal Perspective

Moderator: Jenessa Garay-ICWA Unit CCA, CYFD Protective Services

Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis, Washington Supreme Court

Jacqueline Yalch, Pueblo of Isleta Social Services Director

Pueblo of Isleta family

2:30pm - 2:45pm

Break

2:45pm - 3:45pm

Panel Discussion

Establishing & Maintaining Cultural Connections

Moderator: Isabel Guerrero, PS Tribal Coordinator, CYFD-OTS

Kurt Riley, former Governor Pueblo of Acoma

Julie Bird, ICWA Manager, Pueblo of Nambe

Matt Esquibel, Santa Fe County Office Manager-CYFD

3:45pm - 4:00pm

Closing Remarks & Prayer

Michael Chavarria, Governor Santa Clara Pueblo

Donalyn Sarracino, Director of Tribal Affairs, CYFD-OTS

4:15pm- 5:30pm

Film Screening – *Dawn Land*

“For most of the 20th century, government agents systematically forced Native American children from their homes and placed them with white families. As recently as the 1970’s, one in four Native children nationwide were living in non-Native foster care, adoptive homes, or boarding schools. Many children experienced devastating emotional and physical harm by adults who mistreated them and tried to erase their cultural identity.” Sponsored by Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women