

ERICSA 2015: Building Sweet Futures for ...



State/Tribal Collaboration Cultivating the Relationship

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Session Overview

- ❖ Federal, State & Tribal Roles
- ❖ Relationship Building
- ❖ Successful MOU's
- ❖ Case Transfers
- ❖ Challenges
- ❖ Opportunities
- ❖ Wrap Up
- ❖ Questions

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Relationship Building

- ❖ Introduce State and Tribal Directors
- ❖ Get involved early and start relationship building right away.
- ❖ Agree up front to work with one another.
- ❖ Recognize the program differences.
 - Federal Regulations
 - Understanding Tribal Sovereignty
 - Caseload sizes
 - Automation

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Roles

❖ Federal Office

- Start introductions right away.
- Regional offices may facilitate the meetings between the state and tribal agencies.
- Provide education up front on the differences of each program.
- Share best practices and contacts
- May facilitate the conversations.
 - Region VII office recognized the importance of cultivating state and tribal relationships early.

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Roles Continued...

❖ State Office

- Agree to work with one another up front
- Education Regulation Differences
- Understand Tribal Sovereignty
 - Provide cultural training to state staff
- Invite tribal staff to state offices to see how they process cases
- Lesson learned do up front analysis of State Computer System
 - Security & Access
 - Identify potential Case Transfers
 - IRS submissions
 - Identify work effort and cost

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Roles Continued...

❖ Tribal Office

- Agree to work with one another up front.
- Learn from state partners who have many years experience.
 - PBP hired a former state child support employee.
- Gather best practices from other Tribal Programs
- Share Tribal Code and policy with State
- Identify

❖ Draft MOU starts with these principals

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Successful MOU's

- ❖ Start with a draft with general topics
- ❖ After each meeting refine and hone the MOU based on consensus.
- ❖ More detail is added as the programs progress and have decisions on how procedurally they move forward.
 - Continued meetings is important to understand the role and systems of each agency.
- ❖ Terminology and acronyms are defined
- ❖ Is a living document.

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Case Transfers

- ❖ Identify potential case for transfer.
- ❖ Outline the difference between Case Transfer and Case Referral
- ❖ Often timing is an issue.
 - Kansas privatized the CS program and had new staff come on board.
 - PBP had staffing issues.
 - Tribal programs are most often smaller scale and when there is turnover it can greatly affect the day to day operations.
- ❖ Important to communicate through various case transfer issues.

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Challenges

- ❖ What challenges?
 - Trust
 - Lack of familiarity
- ❖ Ownership?
- ❖ Territorial Issues?
- ❖ Who knows best?
- ❖ Must agree to set aside for the betterment of the programs and all involved.

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Challenges

❖ State Systems

- How do you share data?
 - A system for calling with questions?
 - What do you share?
 - Unlimited access?
- IRS safeguarding issues?
 - Kansas recreated the profile in their system to accommodate the tribes ability to see their cases, payments, address information.
 - This was done in response to an IRS audit finding that included other entities, not just the tribal programs.
 - Some tribes have gone through individual IRS certification.

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Challenges

- Return on investment?
 - How many tribes does the state have?
 - Scale and size of the tribe?
 - System issues?
 - System workarounds to process tribal cases?
- Child Support collections on per capita income vary from tribe to tribe.
 - Some tribes only allow per capita garnishment for child support arrears.
 - How does a state system handle this?

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Opportunities

- ❖ Learn and grow from each other.
- ❖ The tribes can partner with the states on enforcing state orders.
 - Tribal laws vary between tribes.
 - through per capita intercepts
 - Tribal Income Withholding
 - Tribal court action
- ❖ Opportunity for state staff to partake in tribal events.
 - Become involved in the community.

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Wrap Up

- ❖ Where do we go from here?
 - Continued meetings
 - Open dialogue
 - Revise the MOU as programs evolve
 - Be willing to embrace change
 - Share best practices and promote the relationship with others

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Questions?

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Thank You
Have a great evening!

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