Nevada Indian Commission
Indian Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2019
Via Teleconference

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Seat Filled</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saundra Mitrovich, Chair</td>
<td>University of Nevada, Reno</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Pasqua, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Washoe Tribe of NV &amp; CA</td>
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<td>Teresa Rowe</td>
<td>Washoe Tribe of NV &amp; CA Head Start</td>
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<td>Empty Seat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fawn Hunter</td>
<td>Washoe County School District</td>
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<td>Miguel Martinez</td>
<td>Truckee Meadows Community College</td>
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<td>Priscilla Acosta</td>
<td>Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada</td>
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<td>Fredina Drye-Romero</td>
<td>Nevada Department of Education</td>
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<td>Della Frank</td>
<td>Clark County School District</td>
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NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Diane Buckley, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission

Others Present: Cheryl Adler-Walls, Director, Families and Communities Empowerment for Success; Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Division of Child and Family Services; Mary Williams, Education Director, Yerington Paiute Tribe; Rochanne Downs, CLC Director, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe; Cheryl Adler-Walls, Director of Family Community Services for Indian Education, Clark County School District; Kari Emm, Director of Transfer Recruitment, University of Nevada Reno

I. Invocation

Della Frank provided the invocation.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Lori Pasqua called the meeting to order at 9:34am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

III. Initial Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of March 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Acosta made a motion to approve the March 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Frank. The motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business
A. Update on In-State Tuition Waiver Research
Director Rupert reported on the In-State waivers from Oregon State. She read the report and highlighted the finer points.
Ms. Emm commented about why the regents have proceeded the way they did.
Ms. Pasqua commented about the wording on this report in regards to the waivers.
Director Rupert commented about the enrolled members of the tribes. Her recommendation is for the committee to come up with some draft language for the regents for when the committee meets again in September.

B. Update on School District Fees Research

Director Rupert reported on the school district fees and the impact on the Native families within the school districts.
Ms. Romero commented about the school districts being locally controlled.
Director Rupert commented about the local fees the high schools charge their junior and senior students for. The committee wanted to know if the high schools had waivers for students that are free-and-reduced meals.

Ms. Pasqua commented that in Douglas County students can take a summer school class to obtain a waiver.

Ms. Frank commented about paying the fees for the students with a Title VI grant in Clark County. There was an issue with deciding where the money was going. It was difficult to track what the funding was paying for. ACT fees, summer schools fees, and cap and gowns are paid out of the Title VI and the Johnson O’Malley grant.

Ms. Hunter commented that with their Indian Education, they pay for the AP / IP courses for their students. Some of the classes have additional fees that the students are required to pay for like lab fees. The committee doesn’t pay for these fees.

Director Rupert mentioned that the committee is interested in knowing what the individual school district fees are, and how much they are so we can decide how better to assist Native families.

Ms. Romero commented that the schools are locally controlled. They already know what they are doing with the Title VI and Johnson O’Malley programs. Ms. Romero will make contact with the schools.

Director Rupert will ask the school districts to extend this information to Fredina Drye Romero. She will send an email out to the LISTSERV.

Ms. Williams commented that when she worked in Walker River, she approached Mineral County School District about this very subject. So many of her students had been struggling. The schools wouldn’t give a student their grades if they owed money for their fees. Ms. Williams enlisted one of the school board members to take up this cause. She joined Ms. Williams in trying to affect a change.

C. Update on Research on Beaded Caps for High School Graduates for Legislative Recommendation
Director Rupert commented on the problem with the students using the beaded caps for graduation. She reported on the points from the report provided from Fredina Drye Romero. She said that it would be a good idea to have a bill that would outline the priorities. Ms. Romero commented that the committee was copied on the emails she had sent out to the LISTSERVS asking this same questions.

Ms. Acosta asked if this new legislation could be addressed in the current session. The session is winding down, so any new legislation will need to wait for the next legislative session in 2021. Rupert explained that new legislation would need to be drafted for the next legislative session. There needs to be a lot of work done now to be ready for putting in a bill draft next year for the next legislative session. This is something that the committee could mention to the Board for the Indian Commission. This time next year you can submit a bill draft for the following year’s legislative session. Ms. Pasqua mentioned that the committee will need to have another sub-committee to address this. She asked those present if they were interested. Ms. Acosta, Ms. Frank, and Ms. Pasqua will address this subject in a sub-committee.

VI. New Business
A. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native Appointment of Representative Forms

There haven’t been any Appointment of Representative Forms received for this meeting.

***Mary Williams and Rochanne Downs have asked for Appointment of Representative Forms to be sent to them.

VII. Indian Education Updates
A. Nevada Department of Education

Ms. Romero reported on the educational activities for the Nevada Department of Education. She updated the committee about the Education Summit that took place in March 2019. Three hundred people signed up for this Summit. She received the evaluations back from Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and the comments were very positive. One of the Native Youth Project Grant’s (NYCP) grantees held a youth conference in April 2019. The Powwow was a success. The NYCP grantees are doing awesome things as well. Ms. Romero is working on a community practice for the principals for next year. They are trying to create some modules for the schools in the districts.

Ms. Romero is working on getting another committee together to create a second edition of the cultural curriculum guide. There will be a summer camp this summer through the Native Youth Project Grant. She is working with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada to put on this camp. This will take place at Lake Tahoe. She is working on making this camp free or at a minimal cost.

Question asked: Sherry Ely-Mendes, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, asked to be a part of this committee. She asked Ms. Romero about the issue with the Natchez schools for special education. The children are being bussed out of the schools. She would like to have Ms. Romero set up a meeting with the tribal council members and a representative from the school in order to mitigate the problem.
Ms. Acosta commented about the schools in the Natchez school district. They are operating under a ten year old MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). They are not in compliance to meet the needs of the community. The children are being bussed out to other schools. She recommended that Ms. Ely-Mendes contact the Executive Director at the Washoe County School District, Mr. Victor Sherbondy.

Ms. Hunter and Ms. Pasqua discussed Tribal Consultation and the MOU programs in their prospective school districts.

B. Tribal Education Programs

Ms. Pasqua reported for the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA. The Executive Director for the Washoe Tribe, Mr. Marty McDeen is working on a Stem summer program. They are in the process of revising the higher education program. Mr. McDeen will have two pre-college advisors. There are two positions for a Pre-College Advisor and a Pre-College Coordinator. There have been a lot of adult vocational requests. Last year more than twenty-six adults were serviced and received certificates.

Ms. Williams discussed the summer school programs in her district. These include a credit recovery program. There will be advanced placement courses and cultural classes. There is an upcoming field trip to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV). There will be a conference coming up in June, sponsored by their NYCP program. Native wellness trainers will be training on historical trauma. There will be sessions for the parents. There will be another session that will focus on the students. There will be another session for administration. There will be a session for the teachers. Ms. Williams is working on grants.

Rochanne Downs updated the committee on the Fallon Paiute Shoshone tribe’s status with after school tutoring programs. They are preparing for graduation. They are planning their summer recreation programs. She is coordinating a field day with the Fallon community and opening it up to the other tribes. They are working on cultural classes for the students and the community. The Tribe just opened up their wellness center. They are working on developing job and employment skills for youth.

Ms. Acosta asked about the wellness training for the Fallon staff. Will this training be opened up to others as well? Ms. Downs may open it up to others but charge a small fee.

C. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs

Ms. Acosta reported for the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada about a full Dakota immersion school that will open in Minnesota. They are working on appropriations for the Childcare Development Grant. Tribal Education and Tribal Consultation is having a webinar on the demonstration of grants for Indian children under the elementary and secondary act. Her department is working with Ms. Ely to bring back the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council again that will meet in August at the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN).

Ms. Pasqua asked if ITCN is still licensing for daycare. Ms. Acosta reported that ITCN works with sixteen of the twenty-seven tribes in Nevada. Each tribe will dictate what services they want. They are meeting with all the tribes that they service to ensure they have an accurate child count. This child count is used to determine what each tribe will receive. The more children that the tribes report, the more funding they will receive.
Ms. Costa reported that since the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) runs their own program, the ITCN program cannot offer services to them because it would be considered double dipping. They met with Pam Abercrombie at RSIC and Ms. Acosta suggested that when she conducts her child camp that they come to an agreement so they could have access to her program.

Ms. Romero commented about ITCN and working with Sherry Ely regarding the beaded caps. Is this a different group or a group under the Nevada Indian Commission’s Indian Education Advisory Committee? Ms. Acosta replied that this one didn’t get started.

Rupert commented that the committee did start under ITCN. It was moved over to the Nevada Indian Commission’s Early Childhood Advisory Committee. It was combined with the Indian Education Advisory Committee. The Early Childhood Advisory Committee is a sub-committee. The by-laws talk about this as well.

Ms. Mendes had wanted to get involved with the program that Cindy Johnson runs for the state. She wanted to be involved with the Quality Ratings Improvement Systems (QRIS) as an evaluator. She was trained in this area when she was with the Children’s Cabinet. She wanted to update her training so she could work with the tribes. ITCN was looking at becoming involved with the QRIS program. There wasn’t a standardized document for the tribes. Once this was standardized, she wanted to get this out to the tribes to use to license their daycare centers.

D. County School District Programs

Ms. Frank reported for Clark County School District. Indian education in Clark County is under new leadership. They are under the community engagement unit. The Executive Director is Joe Caruso. They are under a program called Family and Community Engagement under Cheryl Adler Wells, the Director.

There is a new portable in Las Vegas for Indian Education. Indian Education is servicing six hundred and forty two students. Four hundred and thirty nine are in the Johnson O’Malley grant. The extended academic instruction for tutoring received one hundred ten requests. They have serviced a hundred of these requests. Cap and gowns for fifty five students were paid for through the Johnson O’Malley grant. SAT vouchers went out to seven students. The Education Support Center had 32 students out of the 110 are from the Moapa area. The ITCN Head Start students will come out for a Kindergarten and parent night gathering. They have partnered up with 4-H for additional activities with the students. The local principals with the education committee will be out in Moapa. The Drumline was out in December. The student recognition is twice a year in January and June. They sent five students to Nevada Bound at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV). The senior ceremony took place in April. They sent four parents and Stem students to the National Johnson O’Malley conference in Las Vegas. Three parents, four students, and staff members attended the American Indian Summit in Reno. There was a community linkage meeting with the Board of Trustees and the Superintendents in Las Vegas. There were three tribal consultations with the Moapa River Indian Reservation, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, and the Navajo Nation. Summer school is paid for this year. The planning is under way for a Native youth conference in June. The back-to-school picnic will be in August. School supplies will be distributed at that time.
Ms. Adler-Walls reported about Families and Communities Empowerment for Success (FACES) and what they do. They support families with finding resources for learning to support their students at home. They offer services around family stability. They are trying to increase the diversity of what they do. They look forward to more collaboration with the Indian Advisory Committee.

Ms. Hunt commented about their Paiute Language Bowl coming up for 6th through 13th grades. There was an annual grant budget meeting. PAC decided where the funds will be spent. They spent 100% of their resources. They put funding into another student graduation advocate. Most of their students are urban.

E. Universities & Community Colleges

There were no comments.

F. Other Indian Education Programs

There were no comments.

VIII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Director Rupert commented on the upcoming Stewart Father’s Day Powwow June 14-16th. Volunteers are needed. She mentioned the 5K Color Fun Walk/Run on June 15th.

Ms. Pasqua announced that there will be arts and craft at the Native Casino opening in May.

Ms. Acosta commented about ITCN job openings. She asked for qualified leadership.

Director Rupert commented about the Nevada India Commission position for an Executive Director. Agenda items should be sent to Diane Buckley at the Nevada Indian Commission.

IX. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2019.

X. Final Public Comment

Director Rupert thanked everyone on the committee for all their years of service on the Indian Education Advisory Committee.

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Acosta made a motion to adjourn the IEAC meeting. Seconded by Ms. Romero. The meeting adjourned at 11:04am.