



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE (707) 476-2390

November 3, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader,

The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) - Child Welfare Services (CWS) is continuing its efforts to change processes, procedures, and organizational culture to better serve Native American children and families. DHHS-CWS is developing an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program, which will specialize in serving Native American families, working with tribes, adhering to ICWA, and following current and prospective Memorandums Of Understanding between Tribes and the County of Humboldt. Initial discussions about an ICWA unit began over eight years ago; in the last three years, DHHS-CWS has increased the number of social worker positions by over a third, enabling DHHS-CWS to make thoughtful organizational changes.

DHHS-CWS has been meeting with Humboldt tribal social services directors to discuss the DHHS-CWS ICWA Program and wishes to ensure it is providing an opportunity for Tribal Chairs to request and receive information. I respectfully request that DHHS Director Connie Beck and DHHS-CWS Director Amanda Winstead be able to attend a council meeting to provide an update on the development of the ICWA unit and establish a protocol for communication to continue to provide updates.

I am also sending a letter to the Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association.

If you have questions please contact DHHS Director Connie Beck at CBeck@co.humboldt.ca.us or (707) 441-5400.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell
Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors