



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

**I-2**

For the meeting of: February 14, 2017

Date: February 6, 2017

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Connie Beck, Director *for*  
Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) System Review Update

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Hear the presentation by Department of Health and Humans Services (DHSS)-Social Services Director Stephanie Weldon and Child Welfare Services (CWS) Deputy Director Michele Stephens regarding NICWA system review update;
2. Select up to two (2) County Supervisors to participate, on an ad hoc basis, in DHHS/tribal meetings focused on the creation of intergovernmental agreements with tribal governments;
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward one (1) certified copy of the board report to the DHHS-Social Services Attn. Sharon Wolff.

### SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Social Services Fund

Prepared by Sharon Wolff, Staff Services Analyst II

CAO Approval *E. Cashier*

#### REVIEW:

Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Human Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### TYPE OF ITEM:

☐ Consent  
☒ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. C-12; C-6; I-1

Meeting of: 1/14/2014; 7/21/2015; 7/19/2016

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
Upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes  
Nays  
Abstain  
Absent

**SEE ACTION SUMMARY**

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

## DISCUSSION:

On July 19, 2016 (item I-1), the Board received a presentation by David Simmons, MSW and John George from NICWA regarding the Child Welfare Services (CWS) systems review. The systems review was initially contracted on July 21, 2015 (item C-6) to examine the systems that respond to and serve children and families involved with CWS in Humboldt County. The comprehensive systems review report identified areas of strength as well as needed improvements in order to better serve the local population while meeting the mandates of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Recommendations in the NICWA system review included the creation of formal partnerships with local tribes. For example, the Yurok Tribe has been developing their agency plan for implementation of the Social Security Act Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program. This will require clear and concise agreements between the Yurok Tribe, Del Norte County DHHS-Social Services and Humboldt County DHHS-Social Services in order to facilitate the sharing of information, protocols for joint investigations and mutual responsibilities. The framework that is developed for this intergovernmental agreement will be utilized in the creation of similar partnerships with other local tribes. In order to fulfill the recommendation identified in the NICWA system review for the creation of formal partnerships with local tribes, DHHS-Social Services requests the Board to select up to two (2) County Supervisors to participate, on an ad hoc basis, in DHHS/tribal meetings in order to support the department in the development of an intergovernmental agreement with tribal governments.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with hearing today's presentation.

Supporting the work being done by an ad hoc DHHS working group focused on the development of intergovernmental agreements with local tribes supports the Board's Strategic Framework by enforcing laws and regulations to protect residents while protecting vulnerable populations.

## OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

## ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose not to hear the presentation or allow up to two (2) County Supervisors to participate, on an ad hoc basis, in DHHS/tribe meetings focused on the development of intergovernmental agreements, however this alternative is not recommended. The support of the Board in the creation of intergovernmental agreements will be integral to the overall success of the county/tribal partnership.

## ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Humboldt County Child Welfare System Review Report