



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

www.courts.ca.gov/forum.htm
forum@jud.ca.gov

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

December 10, 2020
12:15-1:15 p.m.

Advisory Body Members Present: *Hon. Abby Abinanti, Co-chair*, Hon. Erin Alexander, Hon. Gail Dekreon, Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.), Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Kristina Kalka, Hon. Lawrence King, Hon. Patricia Lenzi, Hon. Devon Lomayesva, Ms. Merri Lopez-Keifer, Hon. Delia Sharpe, Hon. Cindy Smith, Hon. Sunshine Sykes, Hon. Mark Vezzola, Hon. Christine Williams.

Advisory Body Members Absent: *Hon. Suzanne Kingsbury, Cochair*, Hon. Richard Blake, Hon. April Attebury, Hon. Hilary Chittick, Hon. Leona Colegrove, Hon. Gregory Elvine-Kreis, Hon. Patricia Guerrero, Ms. Heather Hostler, Commissioner Jayne Lee, Hon. Gilbert Ochoa, Hon. Michael Sachs, Ms. Christina Snider, Hon. Robert Trentacosta, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Hon. Claudette White, Hon. Joseph Wiseman.

Others Present: Ms. Vida Castaneda, Ms. Audrey Fancy, Ms. Ann Gilmour, Ms. Andi Liebenbaum, Ms. Amanda Morris

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

Judge Abby Abinanti called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Forum approved the October 8, 2020 meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)

Info 1

Co-Chairs Report

The Forum approved the October 8, 2020 meeting minutes

Info 2

Planning for Virtual Meetings in the Spring & Annual Agenda Discussion

Presenters: All

The committee members were updated on the 2021 Tribal Court – State Court Forum annual agenda. This year’s annual agenda will be more narrowly focused on projects that address

problems that arose from the COVID 19 pandemic and not on projects that may take up more court resources.

In-person meetings of the Tribal Court – State Court Forum have been suspended for the foreseeable future. Plans of holding several 2-hour virtual meetings instead of one all-day meeting are taking place.

Several members suggested contacting Greg Rose to speak at one of these 2-hour meetings to speak on the Family First Act.

Info 3

California Social Work Education Center: Title IV-E ICWA Modules

Presenter: Vida Castaneda, Senior Analyst, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Judicial Council of California

Vida Castaneda updated the committee members on modules created to help social worker students to understand Title IV-E ICWA. Resources included professors include lesson plans and handouts. The modules provide a foundation for students to understand the history of Native Americans within the system and allows them to approach Native American families with cultural/historical sensitivity.

Info 4

Tribal State Programs Staff Updates: ICWA Best Practices Guide, Podcasts

*Presenters: Vida Castaneda, Senior Analyst, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Judicial Council of California
Ann Gilmour, Attorney, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Judicial Council of California*

Discussion was deferred for a later date.

Info 5

San Diego County Tribal Collaborative Initiative

Presenters: Hon. Ana Espana, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego; Hon. Devon Lomayesva, Chief Judge of the Intertribal Court of Southern California

Judge Ana Espana and Judge Devon Lomayesva informed the committee members about the San Diego County Tribal Collaborative Initiative they created two months ago with the first meeting set to occur in January 2021. Data collected by the initiative is already showing results on identification efforts of native youth in the system. While this initiative is specific to San Diego County, once the program is up and running there is hope of expanding statewide.

Next Forum call is February 11, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on February 11, 2021.