

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

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State Capitol North, 325 Don Gaspar, Suite 200
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Phone: (505) 986-4591 Fax: (505) 986-4338
<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lesc/lescdefault.aspx>

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June 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Education Study Committee

FR: David Harrell

RE: COMMITTEE REQUEST: INVOLVEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ACT*

During the December 2011 interim meeting, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard a presentation about the implementation of the *Early Childhood Care and Education Act* (ECCEA, Laws 2011, Chapter 123). As the discussion progressed, two committee members expressed their concern about the seemingly limited involvement of Native Americans; and the Vice Chair asked a representative of one of the groups making the presentation — the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership, or NMECDP — for an account of the extent to which Native Americans had been involved in the implementation of the ECCEA and the work of the NMECDP.

In response, Ms. Katherine Freeman, Chair, and Ms. Lillian Montoya-Rael, Program Manager, NMECDP, submitted the attached letter. Among other points, this letter:

- notes that diverse representation and participation has been a priority of the work of the NMECDP;
- lists the methods by which the NMECDP recruited Native Americans to serve on the implementation teams and to attend the community meetings;
- identifies a number of participants who represent Native American interests, tribes, or pueblos; and

- identifies three Native American members of the NMECDP Advisory Board and one Native American member of the Early Learning Advisory Council, which was created by the ECCEA to lead the development of a high-quality, comprehensive system of early childhood development and care.



new mexico early childhood development partnership

January 18, 2012

Frances Ramirez-Maestas, Director
Legislative Education Study Committee
325 Don Gaspar, Suite 200
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Ms. Ramirez-Maestas,

This correspondence is in response to the LESC December meeting request for additional information regarding Native American representation in the work of the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership.

As you know, the NMECDP is a public-private partnership. We recognize that when our young children are deprived of quality early life experiences the result is a lack of readiness for school and life, depriving our state of its most precious "potential" resource. The NMECDP is on a mission to create the public awareness and political will for early childhood investment in New Mexico.

Following passage of the SB 120 during the 2011 Legislative Session, we have been utilizing our WK Kellogg Foundation resources to assist the Children, Youth and Families Department in the implementation of the new law, "The New Mexico Early Care & Education Act". This work has included the creation and work of four implementation teams: school readiness, quality standards, financing strategies, and data systems/outcomes. In addition, to share the work of the implementation teams and to obtain community input, we have hosted four community meetings since October 2011 in Taos, Farmington, Las Cruces, and Clovis. Diverse representation and participation has been, and continues to be, a priority for our work. Further, it's a requirement of our WK Kellogg grant...so that our efforts to improve and strengthen the State's early childhood system are to the benefit of New Mexico's diverse populations.

In December 2011, the LESC inquired as to the involvement of Native Americans in our work and the CYFD's Early Learning Advisory Council. The information provided below is based on our knowledge of the individuals in particular as we do not require nor request that individuals disclose their race or ethnicity in order to contribute to the NMECDP work. As such, below are names of people who are "potentially" Native American. We are fairly confident the members listed from the Implementation Team are indeed Native American. The attendees at the Community Meetings are a guess based on name of organization or community.

Native American members of the Implementation Team were actively recruited for their diversity and expertise. We recruited Native American participants for the community meetings in the following ways:

1. email invite to tribal government office to forward to the appropriate people
2. email invite to early childhood contact in each community to forward to their network, including pueblos
3. email invite to head of Native American Education Task Force to forward to members
4. email invite to Native American liaison in PED to forward to network

Native American Representation

Name	Community	Organization	Team
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ECD Implementation Team

Penny Bird		NA Heritage Language Development	School Readiness
Maria Brock	Albuquerque	Native American Professional Parent Resources	Quality Standards
Myrna Dingman	Algodones	San Felipe Pueblo-Headstart Program	Quality Standards
Ruth Kie		PMS	Quality Standards
Jerry Kincade	Santa Fe		Observer
Jenae Sanchez		Katishtya Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	Quality Standards
Alvino Sandoval	Albuquerque	Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS)	Quality Standards

Community Meetings

Melanie Maestas	Taos	Taos Pueblo Head Start and My 1st School	
Ray Begaye	Shiprock	NM Legislator	
Olivia Kien	Shiprock	Central Consolidated School District	
GloJean Todacheene		San Juan County	

NMECDP Advisory Board

Gil Sanchez, NM Community Foundation
 Joe Garcia, All Indian Pueblo Council
 Jerry Kincade, Board, United Way of Santa Fe County

CYFD Early Learning Advisory Council

We understand that the Governor’s office has 5 additional candidates to appoint to the 15 member ELAC. Of those appointed to date, Ruth Kie of PMS has been appointed and is Native American.

Please let us know if you require additional information or if you have any questions about the work of the NMECDP. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the very important issue of early childhood.

Best Regards,



Katherine Freeman, Chair
 NMECDP



Lillian Montoya-Rael, Program Manager
 NMECDP