



Tribal STAR Drumbeats

Volume VII

Summer 2006

Tribal STAR Completes Training Series!

PARTNERS:

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**YMCA YOUTH & FAMILY
SERVICES**

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PROFESSIONAL
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*"Inspiring Innovative
Solutions in Human
Services"*

The first training was the *Gathering in San Diego*. It was held May 31st and June 1st at the Mission Valley Campus of Point Loma Nazarene University. Trainers were Karan Kolb Williamson and Liz Shear. The training was well received and principles of the training were put into practice during the training. In the course of the training one of the trainees received a call regarding the placement of an Indian child. A culturally appropriate placement was made using new knowledge gained and new collaborative relationships made. This is only one example of the Tribal STAR training having a positive outcome for Tribal youth in the child welfare system.



**Participants at San Diego
Gathering**

San Bernardino/Orange Gathering was held on June 21st and 22nd. The training was highlighted by meeting David Dutcher, one of the trainees who became an observer for the Tribal STAR training held in Imperial County. In the course of the training in San Bernardino a visit was facilitated between one of the trainees who was also a foster mom and a Tribal youth needing placement. Again, the precepts of the training were implemented in a manner that had a positive outcome for a Tribal youth.



**Tom Lidot, making a point
during training in
San Bernardino**

—Contributed by Margaret Orrantia—

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**Tribal STAR is a program of the Academy for Professional Excellence at
San Diego State University School of Social Work**

Tribal STAR Completes Training Series!

A Heartfelt Training for Imperial County Completes Training Series



Dana in Tribal Chambers, at the Imperial Summit

Imagine being at the Southeastern-most corner of California in July! Hot & Windy! But the real heat was inside the building at the **Summit** and **Gathering** held from July 17th through the 19th. Now imagine the training being co-hosted by the Quechan Tribe with none other than

President Jackson Sr. giving an official welcome and blessing to start. Wow! We couldn't believe it either.

By the time the Tribal STAR team reached Imperial County we had evolved our training techniques, which were definitely needed and used. During the **Summit**, it came as a surprise when after the historical portion of the training, local elders illuminated the fact that a boarding school had existed right on the hill where the training was taking place. Suddenly the grief and loss issues came to the forefront of the training — magnified by personal stories, and real emotion. A depth of exchange between Tribal and non-Tribal people was achieved that had not been before. Additionally, the Mayor of Yuma, AZ - the neighboring city to Winterhaven, CA (where the training was held) also attended, and throughout the event representatives from Tribal law enforcement and county law enforcement also came - as a direct result of the needs of the **Summit** participants!



Participants listen at Imperial Summit

The depth of the training continued the next two days during the **Gathering**, as staff was amazed when, by the time the Talking Circle ended it was well past 6pm — and everyone stayed!



Nilla Hamilton teaching at Imperial Gathering

David Dutcher provided a power point presentation on the topic of collaboration, **Nilla Hamilton** and **Robert White** provided experience and technical support for the ICWA segments.

The Tribal STAR team wants to express its gratitude to the Quechan Tribe for co-hosting the event, and for being an example of the collaborative spirit and intent. We want to especially thank Margarita Rubalcaba and Marilyn Swafford of Quechan Social Services, and Mickey Castro and Winn McFadden of the County of Imperial Department of Social Services for partnering with us to plan and implement our final training. We also want to especially acknowledge **Karen Kolb** of the Indian Health Council ICWA Program for co-training with the Tribal STAR team, for being a vital link to the Tribal community, and for being part of the Tribal STAR team since the very beginning.

—Contributed by Tom Lidot—



Tribal STAR Team, Quechan Administration and Social Services Department welcome participants

IL Classes on the “Rez” — a Collaboration in Focus

The opportunity to learn about one another's program has resulted in an innovative collaboration that brings Independent Living (IL) classes to north San Diego county Tribal foster youth. At a Tribal STAR forum held last year the YMCA Youth and Family Services IL coordinator and the Indian Health Council ICWA manager began discussing how to get more Tribal youth into the Life Skills classes, Lara Gamble of YMCA writes, "The idea for the ILS class came out of the presentation the ILS contractors did last year. There was a lot of interest from the Tribal community in our services." At the time, Tribal youth were not accessing or participating in IL programs, partly because of the distance they needed to travel to attend the classes. Also, there wasn't any targeted outreach. Gamble continues, "So I realized that it would be best for us to go to where the rural Tribal youth are livings. After several e-mails and phone calls, my staff and I met with Karan Kolb's (ICWA Manager) team at Indian Health Council and we brought food!"

"At the first meeting there were only a few teens but they liked it!", said Kolb, a Luiseno from the Rincon Band. "We can do much better with advertising and getting other interested parties involved. Our plan with ILS was to have a get acquainted meeting with the workers. After that, dates were decided on and rooms were reserved."

Collaboration and Protocol Tip: Schedule meetings around a meal and bring food if you are a guest. Eating together helps break down barriers often raised by institutional policies that conflict with cultural protocol. As we know, collaboration begins with a few steps and requires patience and steadfastness. Tribal STAR wishes to acknowledge the contribution and leadership of Indian Health Council and the YMCA Youth and Family Services program for taking the next step in addressing the needs of rural Tribal foster youth. For more information about this collaboration you can contact Karan Kolb at kkolb@indianhealth.com and Laura Gamble at lgamble@ymca.org.



Imperial County Brainstorms Solutions

On July 19, 2006, Tribal STAR participants brainstormed the 6 most important issues that needed to be addressed to increase collaboration for the benefit of Tribal foster youth. Each Clan group was assigned the task for identifying solutions to address one of the issues. During the full-group reports, more input was provided to strengthen the solutions and in some instances specific collaborative entities were identified for future success. The top 6 areas are listed below, and are not in any specific order:

1. Building Trust between Tribal and Non-Tribal Entities to support
 - Transportation
 - Increased communication
 - Stronger relationships

Break down stereotypes (ex. Tribal people are not apathetic)

2. More foster homes on the reservations
3. Increase Mentors / CASAs / Tribal advocates
4. Family involvement / Tribal involvement and community families being served
5. Sharing responsibility for the needs of Tribal youths (increase flexibility)
6. Increase knowledge of Quechan history

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Solutions

1. Building Trust between Tribal and Non-Tribal Entities

The Turtle Clan

- Constant visibility (show your face)
- Host non-business activities (Participate)
- Find an advocate (Elder) to build a relationship
- FYI: Share info, keep Tribal members involved and updated
- Keep your word, Be honest & patient

2. More foster homes on the reservations & recruitment

The Deer Clan

- Utilize tribal resources to assist in recruitment
- Advertise on the Quechan web site and "outreach" in schools, etc.
- Utilize current licensed parents and Quechan S. S. for recruitment purposes.
- Invite Quechan to the Foster Parent Awards
- Have special award for Native American license foster parent.

3. Increase Mentors/CASAs/Tribal Advocates

The Bear Clan

- Contact tribes and ask for a contact person to discuss proposal for "Tribal mentor"
- "Contact person" would approach tribal council and return with feedback & referrals
- Place notices in the Tribal newsletters, request "mentors" and offer training & referral
- Link to Tribal program such as "Caring Hearts"

4. Increase Family/Tribal involvement and families being served

The Raven Clan

- More communication face to face, telephone contact and family visits
- Participation in tribal events, community events and youth events
- Assist transportation for family to visit in placement
- Facilitate "unity meetings"
- Participation of non-tribal in "family conferencing"

5. Sharing responsibility for the needs of Tribal youths

The Wolf Clan

- Both agencies need to establish documentation, guidelines, procedures, attend meetings scheduled.
- Communicate the needs; for each youth by feed back (survey-specific to tribe)
- Education that is needed and resources for transportation (ie, share information)
- AND help each other, by taking turns. "Just do it!"

6. Increase knowledge of Quechan history

The Eagle Clan

- Organize a "club" of Quechan youth and Invite elders to educate club.
- Organize trips to local Quechan events and reservation sites
- Bring youth to "elders" for history (stories, etc.).
- Organize a cultural awareness Day food, arts, crafts, etc.
- Collaborate with probation, juvenile hall, and group homes.

—Contributed by Tom Lidot—



Tribal STAR Training News

Tribal STAR will be Hosting a Trainer Think Tank

In an effort to build upon the experience of the Tribal STAR cadre of superior trainers the project is hosting a Think Tank to discuss how best to pass on the torch as we launch our Training 4 Trainer phase throughout California.

The newest trainer to the team is **David Dutcher**, whose experience in education, collaboration and working with foster youth were immediately evident when he attended training as a participant at the San Bernardino training series. He joins existing trainers **Paul Gonzalez** of the Santa Ysabel band of Diegueno Indians, **Linda Ruis**, also of Santa Ysabel, **Karan Kolb** of the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians and Quechan Tribe, **Robert White**, Eastern Band of Cherokee, **Marilyn Robinson**, Cayuga, **David Casey** of the Qawalangin Tribe, **Nilla Hamilton** and **Liz Shear**.

Upcoming Training 4 Trainers

Training 4 Trainers will begin early 2007 and serve five regions in California: north, south, central, bay area, and Los Angeles. If you have an interest in hosting or attending any of these T4T's - please contact Ana Friesema at afriesema@projects.sdsu.edu or call her at 619-594-8511.

Tribal STAR Presentations

The Tribal STAR Team will be presenting at the CWDA (County Welfare Directors Association of California) 2006 Conference on Thursday, October 12, 2006. The Conference is being held at Westlake Village in Ventura County.

Tribal STAR will be presenting, "***Creating Connections: Effective Approaches for Collaboration Between Child Welfare and the Tribal Community***".

The presentation will be from 2:15 to 3:45pm. We hope to see you there!

Tribal STAR Produces Digital Stories

As part of technical assistance that is offered to the communities it serves and as part of the training package, Tribal STAR is in the process of developing, with the help of Tony Tran, a series of digital stories.

It is planned that there will be a series of stories representing the varied Tribal community and centered around the experiences of foster youth who have been in the system and others who have had contact with and experience in the child welfare system.

The first story, ***Forever Hurt***, is completed and in the process of being finalized for use in training. This story is told by Paul G., and describes his experience when his daughter was removed from his custody and what ensued in the aftermath.

The second story is told by a former foster child and details her experience in foster care. This story is currently in production and will soon join the other materials as part of the training package.

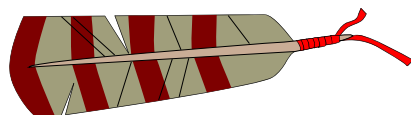
Also planned are additional stories told by foster youth and their experiences in foster care and with the emancipation process. As story told by elders and the importance of maintaining Tribal culture and the place culture has in the lives of children who are removed from their biological families will also be filmed for use in training.

**Ana [Cristina Antonia Gutierrez] Friesema:
a combo plate.**
You can call me Ana (rhymes with Donna).



I don't think I've ever had the opportunity to feel as proud about my involvement in a program as quickly as I have with Tribal STAR. I know I'm not alone in feeling the warmth and gratitude shared by Dana, Margaret, Tom and our partners. I am proud to help expand the efforts of Tribal STAR into its latest incarnation. As Program Assistant I hope to bring to the table an educational background in Visual Arts and a varied career primarily in non-profit administration. Thank you all for this chance to give my energy to such a worthwhile endeavor.

To give is best.



**Black Elk:
Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux
(And All Tribal People)**

You have noticed that everything that an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round....The Sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars.

The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nest in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours....Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were.

The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves.



Tribal STAR invites you to submit dates, times and locations of events your Reservation or Agency is sponsoring and we will include that information in our "Grapevine" section of the newsletter. Please send the announcements for your events to: marrantia@projects.sdsu.edu. The newsletter is published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. If you have questions call or e-mail the editor, Margaret Oarrantia.



<http://theacademy.sdsu.edu/TribalSTAR>

This document was made possible by grant 90CT0110 from the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views or policies of the funding agency. Publication does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services.