



## MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact:  
September 1, 2022

Commissioner Carlyle Begay  
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### THE COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN WILL CONVENE IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, OCTOBER 6–7 FOR SOUTHERN PLAINS/EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGIONAL HEARING

**Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regional Hearing** — The Commission on Native Children will hold its Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regional Hearing October 6–7 both virtually and in-person in Oklahoma, City, OK, at the First Americans Museum – Oklahoma located at 659 First Nations Blvd. The Commission will hear from respected researchers, experts, and the public on the successes and challenges in supporting Native children. This Regional Hearing will inform the Commission’s recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native children.

#### Hearing Details

The Southern Plains/Eastern Oklahoma Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually on October 6 and 7. Both days comprise a series of expert panels on topics relevant to the Commission. There will be an opportunity for public comment following the panel on the morning of October 7.

Please register for each day’s proceedings by clicking on the links below. Once registered, you will receive information on how to participate virtually and in-person.

- October 6, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Central Time  
<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl0fuiqrjoqGNawcCjSX9-qPGtavVeRgD3X>
- October 7, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Central Time  
<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlVce6hrDsjHtfa1kzxhDx3u1WpNg601dfe>

In-person hearing location:

**First Americans Museum - Oklahoma**  
**659 First Americans Blvd.**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73129**

*\*Thursday’s hearing will be held in the Five Moons Theater*

*\*Friday’s hearing will be held in the Hall of the People*

Expert testimony will be given from the following panelists on four key topics:

- **Physical, mental, and behavioral health:** This session will increase the Commissioner’s understanding of the systems of health services provisions available for Native children in the

region (including physical, behavioral, and mental health, and traditional and cultural services).

- **Education and early childhood development:** This session will explore supporting Native students by incorporating Native language and culture into educational systems at all levels of education, and discuss the importance of early childhood programming serving children 0–5 in Native communities. like Head Start, childcare, pre-kindergarten, and home visiting.
- **Child welfare, juvenile justice, and violence:** This session is to explore the issues around child welfare in Native communities in the region, including addressing jurisdictional issues related to the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act by improving state-local-tribal collaboration, and building tribal capacity to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and related issues, and the efficacy of the juvenile justice system for Native children, youth and communities and the disproportionate rates of arrest, detention and incarceration among Native youth compared to non-Hispanic Whites.
- **Systems innovations and best practices in Native communities.** This session will highlight cross-system models, innovations, and best practices to meet the needs of Native children in a seamless and coordinated way.

To learn more, please visit <https://commissiononnativechildren.org/>. For media inquiries, contact Regina Gilbert: [regina.gilbert@bia.gov](mailto:regina.gilbert@bia.gov).

The public can submit oral and written testimony, as well as questions, at any time to [email@commissiononnativechildren.org](mailto:email@commissiononnativechildren.org). Follow the Commission on Facebook at: [Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children](#), or on Twitter: [@asbwscnc](#).

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**About:** The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children was established by Congress as an independent federal entity charged with conducting a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and developing recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native Children.

