



## Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children

### **Great Plains/Midwest Regional Hearing** (States Represented, ND, SD, MN, IA, WI, and MI)

#### **AGENDA**

##### **Location:**

***United Tribes Technical College***  
***James Henry Gymnasium***  
*3315 University Drive*  
*Bismarck, ND*  
*June 23 – 24, 2022*

*\*All start times listed in Central Time*

#### **Agenda Overview**

- **Thursday – June 23**
  - Regional Hearing Tribal Welcome (afternoon)
  - Regional Hearing Panels 1 and 2 (afternoon)
- **Friday – June 24**
  - Regional Hearing Tribal Welcome
  - Regional Hearing Panels 3 and 4
  - Youth and Community Panel to include time for public comments

#### **COVID-19 Considerations**

United Tribes Technical College guidance related to COVID-19 will be encouraged and followed. All hearings will be hybrid (in-person and virtual) however, the Commission may decide to move to virtual-only for hearings and events depending on COVID-19 related developments and. Participants will be notified in advance.



## Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children

### Thursday, June 23rd – Regional Hearing

**Location:**

**United Tribes Technical College**

**James Henry Gymnasium**

3315 University Drive

Bismarck, ND

*\*All start times listed in Central Time*

Zoom link: [https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqduqj8oGNevri5iT9A\\_1-Nk8iBOOjV](https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqduqj8oGNevri5iT9A_1-Nk8iBOOjV)

The public is welcome to attend and listen to the Regional Hearing. The dialogue will be between the panelists and the Commissioners only.

**12:40 pm**      **Doors Open to the Public (30 min)**

**1:10 pm**      **Tribal Welcome (1 hour)**

*(10:10 am AK, 11:10 am PT, 12:10 pm MT, 1:10 pm CT, 2:10 pm ET)*

Color guard to post the colors and opening prayer. Remarks from Commission Chair around Commission goals and each Commissioner will briefly introduce themselves.

- **Posting of Colors**, United Tribes Technical College Color Guard
- **Fort Yates Singers**, Drum Group
- **Charles Walker**, Councilman from Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (Opening Prayer)

The goal of this session is to provide a general overview of current issues faced by Native children and youth (both on reservations and in urban communities) in the region, covering all topics to be studied by the Commission. Speakers will highlight common systemic challenges and discuss programs and strategies that have been effective in tribal communities in the region (including trauma informed and culturally based strategies). Opening remarks:

- **Chairwoman Janet Alkire**, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- **Ruth Ann Buffalo**, North Dakota State Representative
- **Councilman Fred Fox**, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation

**2:10 pm**      **Break (15 min)**



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*(11:10 am AK, 12:10 pm PT, 1:10 pm MT, 2:10 pm CT, 3:10 pm ET)*

**2:25 pm**

### **Panel 1: Physical, Mental and Behavioral Health (1.5 hours)**

*(11:25 am AK, 12:25 pm PT, 1:25 pm MT, 2:25 pm CT, 3:25 pm ET)*

The goal of this session is to increase the Commission's understanding of the systems of health services provision available for Native children in the region (including physical, behavioral, and mental health, and traditional and cultural services). Panelists will discuss the strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improvement within the current health system. Each panelist will provide 15 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 15-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Jerilyn Church**, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board
- **Dr. Justin Douglas (Doug) McDonald**, University of North Dakota

**3:55 pm**

### **Break (15 min)**

*(12:55 pm AK, 1:55 pm PT, 2:55 pm MT, 3:55 pm CT, 4:55 pm ET)*

**4:10 pm**

### **Panel 2: Education and Early Childhood Development (1.5 hours)**

*(1:10 pm AK, 2:10 pm PT, 3:10 pm MT, 4:10 pm CT, 5:10 pm ET)*

The goal of this session is to explore two issues. The first topic will be around supporting Native students by incorporating Native language and culture into educational systems at all levels of education, from early childhood to higher education. Panelists will discuss the characteristics of Native students in their systems, the ways that their systems incorporate Native language and culture, and the factors that support and hinder the health and well-being of Native children and youth. The second topic will be a discussion about the importance of early childhood programming serving children 0-5 in Native communities. Panelists will discuss programs like Head Start, childcare, pre-kindergarten, and home visiting and share results that have been shown to have positive impacts on child and family development, supporting increased child and family health, improved school readiness and academic achievement, and improved family economic self-sufficiency. Each panelist will provide 15 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 10-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.



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- **Dr. Ace Charette**, Director of Research, Assessment, and Accreditation, Turtle Mountain Community College
- **Dr. Martin Reinhardt**, Professor, Northern Michigan University, Center for Native American Studies
- **Lucy Fredricks**, Director, Office of Indian/Multicultural Education, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction  
Co-Panelists:
  - **Sashay Schettler**, Director of Bismarck Public Schools Indian Education

**5:40 pm**

### **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

*(2:40 pm AK, 3:40 pm PT, 4:40 pm MT, 5:40 pm CT, 6:40 pm ET)*

The Commission will provide closing remarks for the day.



## Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children

### Friday, June 24th – Regional Hearing

**Location:**

**United Tribes Technical College**

**James Henry Gymnasium**

3315 University Drive

Bismarck, ND

*\*All start times listed in Central Time*

Zoom Link: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/91234567890>

The public is welcome to attend and listen to the Regional Hearing. The dialogue will be between the panelists and the Commissioners only for the morning session.

**8:00 am**      **Doors Open to the Public** (30 min)

**8:30 am**      **Tribal Welcome** (1 hour)  
(5:30 am AK, 6:30 am PT, 7:30 am MT, 8:30 am CT, 9:30 am ET)

The Commission will provide remarks to the audience around Commission goals.

The goal of this session is to provide a general overview of the current issues faced by Native children and youth (both on reservations and in urban communities) in the region, covering all topics to be studied by the Commission. Speakers will highlight common systemic challenges and discuss programs and strategies that have been effective in tribal communities in the region (including trauma informed and culturally based strategies). Opening remarks:

- **Chairman Michael Fairbanks**, White Earth Tribe
- **Chairman Ronald Corn Sr.**, Menominee Nation
- **Chairwoman Cathy Chavers**, Bois-Forte Band of Chippewa

**9:30 am**      **Break** (15 min)  
(6:30 am AK, 7:30 am PT, 8:30 am MT, 9:30 am CT, 10:30 am ET)

**9:45 am**      **Panel 3: Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Violence** (1.5 hours)  
(6:45 am AK, 7:45 am PT, 8:45 am MT, 9:45 am CT, 10:45 am ET)

The goal of this session is to explore two issues. First, to increase the Commission's understanding of issues around child welfare in Native



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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. Second, to discuss 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. Research is generally agreed that a more behavioral health approach to juvenile delinquency is better for youth, especially in light of increasing mental health challenges, greater suicide risk, challenges accessing education, and feelings of isolation and disconnection from culture and community. Each panelist will provide 10 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 10-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Justice Ann McKeig**, Minnesota Supreme Court
- **Sandy White Hawk**, Elder in Residence, Indian Child Welfare Law Office
- **Nina De La Cruz**, Cristian Alliance for Indian Child Welfare

**11:15 am**      **Break** (15 min)  
*(8:15 am AK, 9:15 am PT, 10:15 am MT, 11:15 am CT, 12:15 pm ET)*

**11:30 am**      **Panel 4: Systems Innovations and Best Practices in Native Communities** (1.5 hours)  
*(8:30 am AK, 9:30 am PT, 10:30 am MT, 11:30 am CT, 12:30 pm ET)*

The goal of this session is to highlight cross-system models, innovations, and best practices to meet the needs of Native children in a seamless and coordinated way. Each panelist will provide 10-15 minutes of testimony, followed by a 5-minute opportunity for questions from the Commissioners. After all panelists have spoken, there will be a 15-minute period of general conversation and discussion with the full panel.

- **Anita Frederick**, President, Tribal Nations Research Group
- **Wendell Waukau**, Superintendent, Menominee Indian School District  
Co-Panelist
  - **Jerry Waukau Sr.**, Health Administrator of the Menominee Tribal Clinic
- **Jon Eagle Sr.**, Sung Nagi Kici Okiju; Spirit of the Horse



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**1:00 pm**      **Lunch – on your own** (1 hour) (detailees to preorder NLT 11:00 am)  
(10:00 am AK, 11:00 am PT, 12:00 pm MT, 1:00 pm CT, 2:00 pm ET)

**2:00 pm**      **Panel 5: Youth and Community Panel** (2.5 hours)  
(11:00 am AK, 12:00 pm PT, 1:00 pm MT, 2:00 pm CT, 3:00 pm ET)

The goal of this session is to explore two issues. First, to provide an opportunity for youth from the region to provide a general overview of current issues faced by youth (both on reservations and in urban communities), covering all topics to be studied by the Commission. Second, the community session is open to everyone and offers people with diverse backgrounds a chance to express their views.

- **Opening remarks** (15 mins)
- **Youth Panel** (1.15 hours)

**3:30 pm**      **Break** (15 min)  
(12:30 pm AK, 1:30 pm PT, 2:30 pm MT, 3:30 pm CT, 4:30 pm ET)

**3:45 pm**      **Community/Public Panel** (1 hour)  
(12:45 pm AK, 1:45 pm PT, 2:45 pm MT, 3:45 pm CT, 4:45 pm ET)

The Commission invites Native children, their families, tribal leaders, and community members to share their thoughts on issues that are important to protecting Native children served in the various communities. The Commission will provide an introduction and ask for those assembled in the room to comment. Witnesses will register ahead of time (or will sign up onsite) and will be given five (5) of minutes each to speak. Testimony will be facilitated and open to any topic related to the health, education, and well-being of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children (age prenatal-24).

**4:45 pm**      **Closing Remarks/Prayer/Color Guard/Adjourn** (30 min)  
(1:45 pm AK, 2:45 pm PT, 3:45 pm MT, 4:45 pm CT, 5:45 pm ET)

The Commission will provide closing remarks, remarks from local tribal leaders, prayer, and color guard will retire the colors. Meeting adjourned.



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- **Drum Group**, Fort Yates Singers
- **Closing Prayer**
- **Retiring of the Colors**, United Tribal Technical College Color Guards