

crb network news

April 2014

newsletter of the citizen review board

Native American Dance Yesterday. Today. Forever.



Photo: City of Beaverton, photographer David Nguyen

The Painted Sky/Northstar Dance Company provides bridge to cultural

Painted Sky, a non-profit organization formed in Portland, Ore., honors the Native American culture by building awareness of traditional and contemporary musical and dance expression through performance and education.

Painted Sky was founded by Mary Hager (French-Canadian Cree/Metis) in 1995 as a cultural performing arts program that emphasized that music as a universal language with the ability to inspire and unite people across cultural barriers. In 2004, Ms. Hager, along with three others, began recruiting Native youth to form a performing arts dance company. In 2005, the Northstar Dance

Company, an affiliate of Painted Sky, was born.

"I dance to possibly change and/or better someone's interpersonal life."

"When I dance, I feel protected, happy and respected."

"When I dance, I forget about my own issues and instead dance with God's spirit allowing my movement to guide and inspire."

These are answers given by Northstar dancers when asked "Why do you dance?" What makes this program possible? **Title VII.**

The No Child Left Behind Act amends Indian Education Programs as Title VII, Part A

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~Anne Frank

In recognition of National Volunteer Appreciation Month, I would like to thank you for your time, commitment, and expertise as a volunteer member of the CRB. You provide a citizen voice regarding how we as a state work with our children and families in the foster care system and oversight in the timely handling of cases to achieve the most positive and permanent outcomes for children. Your service on the CRB is a remarkable gift. Thank you for playing a key role in guarding the safety and well-being of Oregon's foster children!

~Leola McKenzie, Juvenile Court Programs Director

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Welcome new volunteers!

JACKSON COUNTY: Tonya Evanow, Rodney Hinds and Janis Taft

JOSEPHINE COUNTY: Angela Estrada

LANE COUNTY: Jonna Noon and Tamatha Tracer

LINCOLN COUNTY: Kay Dixon and Lauren "Lola" Jones

MORROW COUNTY: Bridgett Alldritt

UMATILLA COUNTY: Wenda Skinner

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Standing in someone else's shoes

According to the mission of the Citizen Review Board (CRB), volunteer board members have a unique opportunity to “provide a citizen voice on the safety, stability, and supervision of children in foster care.” This work is primarily done by conducting independent and impartial reviews of children in the foster care system. Famed football coach Vince Lombardi once said, “The measure of who we are is what we do

with what we have.” One way that we can ensure that we are doing the best with what we have is to make certain that CRB reviews engage participants in the process and provide them

with an adequate opportunity to be heard.

Be Aware of Perspectives and Perceptions

Each of us come from different backgrounds and have had different experiences that impact how we view the case, the families, and the parties. It is crucial that we understand and respect each person's unique culture, bias, and social values. During reviews we encounter a wide range of people with varying lifestyles that we may or may not approve of; however, as volunteer representatives of the Oregon Judicial Department, we must be respectful and professional in our interactions with all parties. We are wise to give careful consideration of how we might see a situation differently if we were in someone else's shoes on the other side of the table.

Create an Atmosphere that Encourages the Participation of the Parties

Effectively engaging parties in the CRB review requires an environment that encourages open communication. It is important to remember that the demeanor of the board affects the quality of the participation by the parties. One study conducted at UCLA indicated that up to 93% of communication effectiveness is determined by nonverbal cues. Avoid negative body language such as crossing arms, rolling eyes, negative facial expressions, and avoiding eye contact.



Jennifer Goff

CRB Field Manager

Another way to create an atmosphere that encourages participation is to maintain an equal playing field. Avoid use of acronyms and legal jargon. Words and phrases that we may be very comfortable with such as ICWA, APPLA and ASFA can cause confusion and fear to those not familiar with the terms.

It is important to prevent one party from dominating the review. When a participant begins to go too long or off track, politely remind them of the focus of the review.

When conducting a review, try to avoid questions that put the responding party on the defensive or cause the individual to become evasive or nonresponsive. Allow the party to respond to the question and listen carefully to their answer. It is also important to avoid inappropriate and unnecessary comments that might create a hostile environment. Remember that a review is not the time to tell a personal story, counsel, or to “preach” to any party.

The Questions and Discussion Should Focus on Gathering the Information Necessary to Make the Findings

First and foremost, we need to ask ourselves if the questions we are asking are necessary and relevant to making the findings. If the answer to that question is “yes,” ask with confidence even if it is a difficult subject. If the answer is “no,” don't ask the question. Remember that what we might want to know is often not what we need to know.

Several tips for effective questioning include the following:

- Design your questions to be friendly, professional and respectful. At the same time, ensure that they address every issue, even if the issue is emotional or hard to discuss.
- Plan your questions to reveal as much useful information as possible.
- Do not ask questions that are already answered in the case material. Instead, ask questions that clarify data, expand on topics, and fill in the gaps of the material.
- Ask the correct person the correct questions. For example, if you are assessing services for a youth, ask the youth.
- Be alert for miscommunication and ask follow up questions to ensure that you and the participant

**MORE ON
PAINTED SKY/
NORTHSTAR DANCE
COMPANY:**

Tyra, a Northstar dancer, states that when she dances she feels “very proud” to be Native American and to honor her heritage while dancing.

Her favorite part of dancing is seeing everyone’s face light up as she dances. Watch Tyra perform the hoop dance [HERE](#).

For more information on Painted Sky/Northstar: www.paintedsky.org

You can also view the company in action [HERE](#).

Northstar: funds come from Title VII

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of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This reform embodies four key principles: stronger accountability for results; greater flexibility in the use of federal funds; more choices for parents of children from disadvantaged backgrounds; and an emphasis on research-based instruction that works. Title VII is funded by a grant from the Office of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Education.

Title VII-funded projects include: culturally related activities; early childhood and family programs; integrated educational services; activities concerning substance abuse and to prevent substance abuse; and activities that incorporate American Indian and Alaskan Native-specific content in to school curriculum.

Northstar Dance Company performed at the January 2014 Hillsboro Title VII Indian Education Board Meeting. Hager explained that the company works to teach team-building efforts to youth and blends traditional Native dance and modern jazz, lyric, tap and hip-hop.

Northstar currently has 16 dancers who combine their urban and Native styles and perform around the country. The dancers who performed in Hillsboro were incredibly gifted and inspirational

and valued their performance. If you have a chance to see the Northstar Dance Company perform, don’t pass it up!

Dances are regionally or tribally specific and performed for a variety of purposes including ceremonies, honor, religion, prayer, and success. Dance is a form of praise and worship.

Some of the commonly known Native American dances include the grass dance, the fancy dance, and the hoop dance. The grass dance represents the “balance of life” and the dancer will perform the same movement on either the right or the left. The fancy dance is usually performed by young men and has fast movement. The dance is colorful and showy and requires a lot of coordination and stamina. In the hoop dance, the hoop is a symbol of “the never ending circle of life” and is used in traditional healing ceremonies. During the dance, hoops are used to make different designs such as butterflies, animals, trees, the sun and the moon.

Dance is a beautiful form of expression that has always been in the lives of Native Americans.

**Story by Rebecca Regello
CRB Field Manager**

2014 Oregon Legislature: Notes in Brief

The 2014 Oregon Legislature concluded on March 7. Several proposals related to issues impacting children were among the nearly 300 bills and resolutions considered during this shortened even-year session.

Bills tracked by the Oregon Judicial Department that passed include:

- House Bill 4008—Revises calculations for state funding as it applies programs for students in Youth Corrections Education and Juvenile Detention Programs. Goal was to create parity with the per-student funding method used to fund schools.
- Senate Bill 1536—Clarifies statutes regarding maintaining and access to “record of the case” and “supplemental confidential file” in juvenile court proceedings. Clarifies that for adoption cases filed before Jan. 1, 2014, a person older than 18 can obtain his or her name at birth, the names of their parents and petitioners to the adoption proceedings.
- House Bill 4156—Authorizes Department of Human Services without the Attorney General in juvenile dependency hearings. This bill will sunset in June 2015. Between now and then, a multi-disciplinary group will be convened by DHS to develop a solution regarding attorney representation for DHS, to be presented during the next legislative session.

Keep incarcerated parents of children in foster care involved

For volunteer board members of the Citizen Review Board, it is important to understand the needs of children who have parents in the Oregon Department of Corrections system.

Research has shown that “children whose parents are incarcerated are five to six times more likely to be incarcerated than are their peers. They are inadvertent victims of their parents’ crimes and many find

themselves deprived emotionally, socially, and financially—particularly when a parent is incarcerated.”



Robin de Alicante

CRB Field Manager

The Department of Corrections has fifteen prisons located in 10 counties throughout the state. Of these prisons, five are located in the Salem area, with the only maximum security prison being the Oregon State Penitentiary.

The only prison where women are incarcerated is at Coffee Creek Correctional Institute in Wilsonville. Coffee Creek is a minimum- and medium security facility through which all Oregon prisoners are processed.

Oregon currently houses around 14,200 prisoners with the population expected to increase to 16,000 by the end of the decade.

Some estimate that there are about 20,000 children of incarcerated parents.

Just like other parents in the child welfare system, parents who are incarcerated continue to have the right to be involved in their children’s lives -- despite whatever the crime the parent has committed and as long as parental rights have not been terminated.

Children maintain their right to have a relationship with their parent, despite the parent’s incarceration.

While it is often a first reaction of some that children not be allowed to visit a parent who is in prison, it is important to remember that children will be experiencing separation issues, fear for the parents’ situation, and a need to understand and process their relationship with the incarcerated parent.

It is equally important for Citizen Review Board members to understand the needs and rights of the parents themselves. It occurs too often that Department of Human Services fails to maintain contact with incarcerated parents, provide for visitation as is appropriate, and to inform parents as to expectations and timelines in the form of an **Action Agreement** or a **Letter of Expectation**.

Knowing what services are available to incarcerated parents, when they can access those services, how best to communicate with them, and what is offered by the Department of Corrections when inmates are being released are all issues crucial to providing reasonable efforts.

It is recognized that contact, especially direct visitation, can be difficult and sometimes nearly impossible.

Implementing services which are commensurate with the basis of jurisdiction can also be especially challenging, as they may not exist in prison.

DHS must still make reasonable efforts in the event that a parent will be released within a reasonable time frame and in order to make a case for termination of parental rights if such a plan becomes necessary.

The Citizen Review Board will present a workshop session at this year’s Spring Conference which will feature two officials from the Department of Corrections and Judge Patricia Sullivan from Malheur County.

The focus will be on services to parents, visits between children in foster care and their parents, and the mission and structure of the Department of Corrections. Please feel free to join us.

Engagement: it leads to enhanced decision-making

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are talking about the same thing.

- Let the answers to the questions be a springboard for follow-up or additional questions.

General guidelines and examples of appropriate questions may be found on the CRB website or by clicking [HERE](#).

Buddhist monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh has said, “The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention.” As volunteer board members and representatives of the Court, you have a special op-

portunity to offer your attention to Oregon’s most vulnerable children and families through the review process. Engaging participants in the review and providing an adequate opportunity to be heard not only empowers CRB participants, it ultimately provides better information which leads to better findings and recommendations. And better findings and recommendations help ensure each abused or neglected child has a permanent, safe, and nurturing home as expeditiously as possible.

CRB BULLETIN BOARD

In the landmark [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\)](#) study, 17,000 adult participants were asked to retroactively answer questions related to their childhood trauma. Researchers were able to show a link between a person's ACE score and their physical and mental health as an adult. Prevention programs are working to incorporate ACEs information into their parent education services. The [Parent Trust for Washington Children](#) began administering ACE screenings to parents enrolled in their families recovery program. With awareness of the link between childhood experiences and life choices, the **Trust** is working to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences for parents and their children.

The [FRIENDS National Resource Center on Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention \(CBCAP\)](#) recently released new online learning course — *Effectively Engaging Tribes: Effective Strategies for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Engagement with Tribes*.

The course is available free of charge via the [FRIENDS Online Learning Center](#). Narrated by American Indians, this interactive course is designed to provide users with information and resources on the historical experiences of the tribes, its impact on children and families, and the importance of engaging tribes in your work. To view this and other online courses and tutorials, create a free **FRIENDS** account for yourself [HERE](#).

A recent story in [The Oregonian](#) newspaper highlighted a nationwide survey of 20,000 teachers who said the most helpful way for parents to support their child’s education is to make sure their child misses as little school as possible. The survey was conducted online at the behest of Scholastic and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Check out the full survey [HERE](#).

[The Children's Bureau](#) debuted the launch of a new website for its [Children's Bureau Express \(CBX\)](#). Published monthly, **CBX** covers news, issues, and trends of interest to professionals and policymakers in the interrelated fields of child abuse and neglect, child welfare, and adoption. Recent editions have spotlighted LGBTQ youth involved with child welfare and resources focused on achieving permanence for youth.

[The Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio](#) in Cleveland works to improve the connection between adopted children and their parents by reworking early life experiences that interfered with normal developmental processes. Researchers Gregory Keck and Arleta James recently produced a five-minute video explores how past trauma can impact the development of children who have been adopted, including the impact on cause and effect thinking. To view “**The Impact of Trauma on Child Development: The New Arrival is Younger than Anticipated,**” click [HERE](#).



Oregon Judicial Department Citizen Review Board



2014

Annual Training Conference

"Every Day Counts..."

May 2 - 3, 2014
Hilton Eugene and Conference Center
Eugene, Oregon

Register Now!

Online registration available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CRB2014EveryDayCounts>

Juvenile Dependency Court Stakeholders are invited to attend. CLE credits are available!

The registration fee for child welfare stakeholders will be \$45.00, and includes refreshments, breakfast, lunch, and CLE credit (if applicable). Dinner on May 2, 2014 is reserved for CRB Members and their guests, OJD staff, and presenters.

Send checks payable to: "Oregon Judicial Dept., CRB" Attn: Volunteer Resource Coordinator, 1163 State St, Salem, OR 97301 .

Registration Deadline is April 22, 2014