

## POLICY AND RESOURCE ROUNDTABLE

ALIGNING FEDERAL AND TRIBAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS WITH ALLY ORGANIZATIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

NOTES

### AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30am	<b><u>WELCOME &amp; OPENING REMARKS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Meeting overview</li><li>- Chairman’s welcome remarks</li></ul> <b><u>NATIVE YOUTH PERSPECTIVES</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Native youth priorities</li><li>- Perspectives on engaging Native youth in efforts that impact them</li></ul>	<b>CNAY Staff</b> <b>Senator Byron Dorgan (ret.)</b> , CNAY Founder & Chairman  <b>Sarah Schilling</b> , Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, 2013 Champion for Change <b>Lauren McLester-Davis</b> , Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, 2014 Champion for Change
9:30 – 9:45am	<b><u>WHITE HOUSE &amp; ADMINISTRATION’S EFFORTS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Broad multi-agency prioritization of Native youth through Generation Indigenous</li><li>- Importance of public-private partnerships and bringing in new stakeholders</li></ul>	<b>Alison Grigonis</b> , Senior Director, White House Cabinet Affairs <b>Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes</b> , Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, US Department of the Interior
9:45 – 10:45am	<b><u>OVERVIEW OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Brief introductions of organizations, including missions and programs/services</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>--BREAK--</b></p>	<b>All</b> <i>Moderated by Ryan Ward, Senior Program Assoc</i>
10:55 – 11:45am	<b><u>STRATEGIC DISCUSSION – BROADENING ENGAGEMENT IN NATIVE YOUTH</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What information do ally organizations need to have/know to increase prioritization of Native youth issues?</li><li>- Where are the synergies between ally organizations, tribal organizations, and federal partners?</li><li>- What should be the next steps?</li></ul>	<b>Discussion/All</b>
11:45 – 12:00pm	<b><u>CLOSING</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- General participant updates</li><li>- Survey evaluation</li></ul>	<b>Discussion/All</b>

## ATTENDEES

### *CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH*

- Senator Byron Dorgan (ret.), Chairman and Founder
- Erin Bailey, Executive Director
- Ryan Ward, Senior Program Associate
- Josie Raphaelito, Program Manager
- Amber Richardson, Program Assistant
- Teddy McCullough, Fellow

### *YOUTH PRESENTERS*

- Sarah Schilling, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, 2013 CNAY Champion for Change
- Lauren McLester-Davis, Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, 2014 CNAY Champion for Change
- Joan McLester, Parent, Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin

### *YOUTH ATTENDEES*

- Vance Home Gun, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, 2013 CNAY Champion for Change

### *FEDERAL AGENCY PARTICIPANTS*

- Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Pamela End of Horn, Public Health Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service
- Alison Grigonis, Senior Director, Cabinet Affairs, The White House
- Kim Vigue, Program Analyst, Bureau of Indian Education, Department of the Interior

### *NATIONAL TRIBAL ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS*

- Kimberly Dutcher, Executive Director, Association on American Indian Affairs
- Tyler Owens, Project Staff Assistant, National Congress of American Indians
- Dimple Patel, Federal Policy Associate, National Indian Education Association
- Leah Salgado, Membership Recruitment Manager, National Indian Education Association
- Rudy Soto, Policy Analyst, National Council of Urban Indian Health

### *ALLY ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS*

- Kisha Bird, Director of Youth Policy, Center for Law and Social Policy

- Jocelyn Bissonnette, Director of Government Affairs, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
- Michelle Castagne, Public Health Project Coordinator, National Indian Health Board
- Jon Clifton, Managing Director, Global Analytics Gallup
- Kristi Craig, Senior Director, Public Policy, Casey Family Programs
- Carmen Daugherty, Policy Director, Campaign for Youth Justice
- Kaissa Denis, Outreach Manager, Young Invincibles
- Samantha Eldridge, Senior Program and Policy Analyst, Minority Community Organizing and Partnerships, National Education Association
- Kali Grant, Program Assistant, Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality
- Ian Hudson, Public Policy Associate, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Zachary Laris, Legislative Assistant, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus
- Yulia Manyakina, Communications and Events Manager, The Language Conservancy
- Sarah Moore, Public Policy Associate, Public Policy Office, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Kelly Murphy, Research Scientist, Youth Development, Child Trends
- John Sciamanna, Consultant, Government Affairs, Child Welfare League of America
- Stefanie Sprow, Deputy Director, Child Welfare and Mental Health, Children’s Defense Fund
- Trevor Summerfield, Manager of Federal Policy, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Erik Stegman, Director, Field Outreach and Advocacy, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress

## KEY MEETING TAKE-AWAYS

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Many organizations are doing work that aligns with or is complimentary to efforts underway to support Native youth.
- The federal government – through Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) – is making investments to improve outcomes for Native youth through the budget and policy.
- Native youth want to be engaged in broader efforts.

## PRESENTATIONS

## CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH

- **Welcome from CNAY:** Brief overview of CNAY, the resource roundtable series and the agenda for the morning.
  - Purpose of the Policy and Resource Roundtable series:

- Provides a closed-door, safe space for open dialogue that can catalyze cross-collaboration between agencies to support Native youth-led youth-influenced efforts.
  - Resources provided: Federal Matrix, report on sequestration, Senator Dorgan's most recent op-ed on ICWA.
- **Welcome from Senator Dorgan:**
  - Inspired that you're all here to talk about prioritizing Native youth.
  - Worked 30 years in the Senate and wanted this work to have great relevance, and this is true of CNAY's work.
    - Worked with Allison Binney, Lucy Calutti, Erin Bailey and others to create this organization with leftover campaign funds.
  - Only way to address Native youth issues is with constant focus - like adjusting a camera lens for perfect focus.
  - We want to shine all spotlights on one place to see what's going on with Native youth and what can we do to improve their lives:
    - There are 2.1 million Native youth living in the United States.
    - Imagine if we got them all together in a stadium and said, "We're behind you. We want you to put all the other stuff behind you and look forward. We want you to succeed. We know about the overcrowded housing, inadequate law enforcement, healthcare challenges, and other issues that you face, but you have a great future in front of you. Ignore what's in that backpack you carry all the time. Ignore the history."
    - They may say, "why not provide us the opportunity, shelter, housing, healthcare, food, good schools, and safe neighborhoods that we need to succeed?"
      - On Dec 25, 1862 in Mankato, Minnesota, there was the largest mass execution in US history.
        - 38 Indians were hung, as residue and result of the 1850 Indian uprisings in MN.
      - Then came the massacre at White Stone ND, Massacre at Pine Ridge, Battle at Killdeer Mountains, the Indian Removal Act passed by Congress to take 5 great tribes in the US and remove them, giving us the trail of tears.
      - It's impossible for those 2.1 million kids to forget that history. We have to understand the promises, treaties, and trust responsibilities this country made to those people.
    - Just this year, 10 Indian children have died in Pine Ridge by their own hand. There are so many challenges and issues that it is critically important to drill down and provide singular focus on this issue. CNAY is the only organization that does that – working on the future of Native youth.
    - In addition to talking about challenges, we're spotlighting Native youth doing extraordinary things, but you will never hear or read about them unless we lift them up.

- That's why we created the Champions for Change program. We have three Champions here today!
  - The issue of Indian children is not just a story in the NY Times or Washington Post. It's about unique, special people doing great things to be mentors and supports to each other. Let's lift those up and celebrate success, even as we work on these unbelievable challenges.
- I wish serious people would talk about serious things.
- We can't do everything, but you all can do something. The world might be a better place because we were important in the life of one child.
- I published a response to George Wills' article on ICWA. It's full of misinformation – it's important to read and respond to these things.
- We feel that that's part of our role at CNAY – but you all can have an impact, too.
- Especially the organizations who are here for the first time today. You have a big part to play in this work.

## NATIVE YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

**Sarah Schilling**, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, 2013 Champion for Change

- The Champions for Change program (CFC) elevates young people doing positive work within their communities.
- My community priority was the need for an outlet for young people to voice and form opinions on what was going on within communities and tribal politics, and to find value in their voices. As a youth council, suicide prevention is a top priority for us. Thankfully, it is not an issue for us in the way that it is for Pine Ridge. However, that doesn't mean we shouldn't remove stigma of mental health and importance of having and providing help.
  - Our youth council had a small retreat, where the dialogue was groundbreaking. The adults working with the youth got to see the struggles young people were facing. They saw that they were navigating thoughts of suicide. These are kids who seemingly have it together and wouldn't need these types of resources.
  - I thought to myself "If the young people who were involved and engaged were thinking about suicide, what about the kids who aren't here after school and don't feel welcome here? How do they cope and know about the resources we can offer?"
  - Since then, mental health has been a big priority for me. When you talk to young people, they're faced with so much stress and I think a lot of that relates back to historical trauma and things our people are healing from. It's hard to grow up in dysfunctional families and become functional adults. We have to work to help them heal and grow.
- Education and sharing resources is another big priority. I was always told that education was the most important thing but it really sunk in when learning about my tribe and my people. Learning those things helped me to feel more worthy. It's such an amazing experience and has pushed me in my own educational path.

- One thing that concerns me is that for some reason, young people aren't fully taking advantage of the resources available.
- How can we bridge the gap, encourage them, share the resources, and help them go to school or get vocational training?
- It's important for agencies, organizations and others to make sure youth are involved in their efforts, are actually receiving/learning about the resources that are being offered and benefiting from any policies and advocacy taking place.

**Lauren McLester-Davis**, Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, 2014 Champion for Change

- I'm currently studying Biology and Classical Studies.
- I care deeply about our health issues, and am going in to medical school. Eventually, I want to work closely with my tribe and other Native communities.
- I'll share a story: I flew in with my mom and forgot my traveler card that they use in the TSA line. When I got to the front, the TSA Officer asked "Where's your green card?"
- He had made a mistake and I asked, "Are you asking for the red card that shows that I'm pre-checked?"
- Meanwhile, my mom had a discussion with him, told him that we're Native, and explained a bit of our history.
- This funny story reminds me of our unique place in this country as Native peoples, as well as our diversity.
  - Issues vary from tribe to tribe, and that's important to remember.
- I was recognized as a Champion for Change after I founded a chapter of First Book, which has donated over 20,000 books to kids in my and other Native communities.
  - My grandmother always told me that education could never be taken away from me.
  - Education should be a right, but instead it is a privilege. I'm hoping to be able to help tribes across the country more thoroughly. Some children just don't have opportunities. Just don't have it because of their circumstances.
- I'm also involved a lot with our language preservation and spirituality. Being able to incorporate that into my literacy work has been great and I think that connecting culture and education will enable youth to be successful.
- I'm happy to be partnering with outside organizations like the Green Bay Packers.
- People like them and all of you help us do this work and make an impact in our communities.

**GEN-I HISTORY AND UPDATES**

**Alison Grigonis**, Senior Director, Cabinet Affairs, White House

- Last summer, the President and First Lady visited Standing Rock in North Dakota where they listened to group of young people like Sarah and Lauren.
- When they returned, they told their Administration that they need to do more.
- They saw that these kids are so strong and resilient, but were up against many challenges.
- As a result, Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) was created and announced at the White House Tribal Nations Conference in December 2014. There are three components to Gen-I: Budget, Policy and Engagement.

- **Budget:**
  - \$1.5 billion increase in budget (especially significant since this allocation was made during sequestration, amongst many budget cuts).
    - Budget Coordination – breaking down siloes in federal agencies. When we fund programs, want to make sure programs/agencies are working together. (ex: teacher housing is a cross-agency issue)
    - Agencies have been prioritizing things in budget requests that involve Native youth. Use the budget allocations and coordination as leverage to ask the Administration to do more.
- **Policy:** Focus on place-based efforts.
  - **Education** (DOE: NYCP, Native youth community projects) Tribes should have more control over educational programs. Not every tribe is same, and no one thing will work for every single community. We’re telling Tribes to tell us what their kids need and where they feel like they can move the needle.
  - **DOI:** TIWAHE Initiative. Social services delivery, more tribal access to 4E dollars. Community-based approaches. Tribes, you tell us what you can do better to protect your kids who are most vulnerable in the social services system, and we will fund that project for you. I was just in Alaska, where a tribal community got a grant and really felt ownership. They’re able to say “This is our way of addressing discrepancies. We get to say how we’ll do better for our kids.”
  - **Pine Ridge:** Pine Ridge has been designated as Promise Zone. This designation is supposed to increase coordination and open more opportunities and there is a team that works weekly, across agencies to talk specifically about what’s being done in Pine Ridge. It will serve as a model.
- **Engagement:**
  - Native youth issues are not getting the right amount of attention or being discussed with the right tone.
    - If key stakeholders knew about what’s going on in Indian Country, they’d be galvanized to act.
  - **Connecting Youth:** Native youth are so disconnected across the country - How can we get them together and get them to speak to and mentor each other? How can we lift their voices collectively and share best practices?
    - CNAY is doing this through the Network, especially the Ambassadors program and through the Network Map.
  - **Funders Convening on April 8:** Less than 1% of philanthropy is invested in Indian Country. The convening brought together funders, thought leaders, and Native youth to make the case for increased investment.
  - **White House Tribal Youth Gathering:** The Gathering was part of efforts to connect Native youth with each other.
    - **It also served to connect youth with key federal officials.**
      - Through panels and 12 breakout sessions, federal representatives, including Cabinet members, heard lots of positive feedback and had a

unique, special opportunity to spend an hour with these kids and see how their work in DC actually affects them on the ground.

- **Cabinet Youth Listening Tour:** The President felt that his whole Cabinet needed to have the same experience he had on Standing Rock. Oftentimes people are brought to DC, but need to go to where they are.
  - The reaction from folks who have participated in these visits has been great. The EPA Administrator said, “This is an experience I’ll never forget and a trip I never wanted to end.” Engagement continues beyond the trip. It’s fun to see how life-changing it is for senior officials.

**Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs**

- When Gen-I was announced in 2014, we had to figure out how to do this and we did – in 9 months. And huge thanks to Senator Dorgan for establishing CNAY and for his response to the ICWA article.
  - Your leadership and ability to speak honestly and purely about what’s happening is critical. And thank you to the youth leadership in the room. Thank you for your voice before and since Gen-I.
- The White House Council on Native American Affairs was created by Executive Order in 2013 because President Obama believed that we can coordinate better on Native American issues.
  - All of the federal government has that responsibility. To be effective, we need to coordinate better. Sec. Jewell chairs the Council.
  - It gets agencies talking to one another about agency and tribal priorities.
- The White House Tribal Nations Conference was also created via Executive Order. There, tribal leadership shares with the President and Cabinet officials about issues of importance.
  - Priority topics have included health, natural resource/environment, international issues, and economic development, among others.
  - The TNC is another avenue for agencies to be responsive to what tribes are asking for.
- Gen-I is being rolled into the efforts of the White House Council. We’re making sure information is shared across agencies.
  - Even with the increased budget, we still don’t have enough to do all we want/need to do.
  - How do we accomplish this? By relying on each other, coordinating on resources and programming, being connected and delivering best product we can with limited budgets.
  - Public-private partnerships will be where we make strong progress.
- Over the summer, we had 1000 youth in DC for the first-ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering.
  - The event was trending on Twitter and got lots of attention. The lead agencies were DOJ and HHS.
  - As a young person growing up on small reservation in NE Nebraska, I never would have imagined that kind of attention.
- The Council is supporting the Cabinet Listening Tour.

- Many Principals haven't been to Indian Country, but we're equipping visitors with the information they need to really hear the priorities and working to make the experience as positive as possible.
  - We're sharing stories with agencies and press.
- Typically, when we talk about community development and nation building, we focus on economic development and health and welfare, which are all critically important. When the President visited Standing Rock, there was a strong economic development message shared in advance.
- Gen-I is really about connecting youth to each other and to the federal government. CNAY is THE partner on connecting youth to each other.
- So much of our history is looking backward and all the wrongs and harm. We need to wipe the slate clean – not in the sense of forgetting our history, but pressing restart to think about what's most important, and that's our youth.
  - Not just those who are eloquently sharing their concerns, but the hard to reach ones.
- Gen-I community events are a start toward that clean slate and we are hearing from Challenge Acceptors about language, suicide prevention, and other work they want to do.
- Now we are looking at nation building from an investment in Native youth perspective. This has only happened because of the public-private partnership with CNAY and partnerships with you all.
- The First Lady said it best at the April 8 convening: "If we take chance on these young people, I guarantee you we will save lives." Link to full prepared remarks here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/08/prepared-remarks-first-lady-michelle-obama-white-house-convening-creatin>.

## ALLY ORGANIZATION INTRODUCTIONS

- **Zachary Laris**, Legislative Assistant, [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
  - There are 64,000 pediatricians practicing across the country and there is a committee that focuses on Native American child health. They've worked for decades with IHS and Tribes or have since moved on to private practice, but have remained dedicated to advocacy on these issues and caring for Native children.
    - Through AAP, they're advocating for federal and legislative changes on those issues.
  - AAP has a grant contract with IHS whereby each fall, AAP sends 4 teams of pediatric staff and students to do a "soup to nuts" review of pediatric services and to identify and elevate best practices within IHS.
    - They help identify partner organizations to ensure they get the resources they need, get interesting perspectives.
    - Site visits help AAP understand priorities.
  - AAP also focuses on recruitment and retention, since continuity of care is important for children.

- AAP partnered with CNAY a youth presentation on Capitol Hill on the topic of toxic stress.
- **Bruce Lesley**, President, [First Focus](#)
  - First Focus is an advocacy group working on cross-sector issues to support the Commission’s Bill on Child Health.
    - We fight for outreach funding that is set aside for Native American kids and work on some IHS issues – and we’d like to do more in that area.
  - On child welfare, we’re concerned about equity and we are supporters of ICWA, having recently held a recent webinar on ICWA.
    - We educate those in our state-based advocacy network about ICWA and its importance.
  - A bill is being introduced on equity, finance education and establishing a child poverty target and First Focus is trying to get that passed in the House.
    - This method was tried in Britain and cut child poverty by half and reduced racial disparities.
- **Samantha Eldridge**, Senior Program and Policy Analyst, Minority Community Organizing, [National Education Association](#)
  - NEA has 3 million members and 14,000 affiliates at the local and state levels.
  - NEA oversees AI/AN outreach and are focused on making sure our schools and educators are being inclusive of unique Native youth issues, closing the achievement gap, lowering dropout rates, and providing more opportunities to post-secondary education.
  - NEA works with schools and teachers on providing resources and increasing access to curricula that are more representative of AI/AN history.
    - We work on increasing AI/AN teachers and administrators to be more reflective of the student body.
  - NEA also works on social justice issues such as the Voting Rights Act, school discrimination, and the school to prison pipeline.
  - We partnered with NCAI on the Native Vote campaign to engage Native youth in civic engagement. NCAI is a close partner on advocacy and education around Native youth demographics. We have a roundtable next week for Native youth.
  - Hearing youth stories is really important for policymakers to hear.
  - We partnered with UNITY on their annual national conference, youth leadership workshops, promotion of literacy, and increasing more diverse books and supplementing current curricula with Native authors and stories.
- **John Clifton**, Managing Director, Global Analytics, [Gallup](#)
  - In addition to tracking how the President is doing, the presidential race, and other major elections, Gallup is working to quantify how people are doing in general.
  - Historically, quality of life was evaluated based on income but Gallup has added life expectancy, absence of disease and other factors. Now Gallup is surveying people to respectfully ask “how your life is going?” and calling it a *happiness* survey.
  - Gallup surveys 330k randomly selected Americans per year, including a few thousand were Native American.

- The five biggest indicators of a good life are:
  - 1) ability to serve your purpose (most people do this through their job);
  - 2) social well-being;
  - 3) physical well-being;
  - 4) community well-being;
  - 5) financial well-being.
- Native Americans are not doing as well as their non-Native peers in terms of physical and financial well-being.
  - This, however, is buoyed by social and community wellbeing. Native Americans are on par with rest of US on ability to serve your purpose.
- Gallup – and folks in the room – need to dig deeper on this data.
- **Carmen Daugherty**, Policy Director, [Campaign for Youth Justice](#)
  - CYJ works on keeping kids out of the adult criminal justice system through research and advocacy.
  - Native youth fall under 3 jurisdictions: state, federal tribal.
    - This makes it difficult to track them from year to year. Native youth are often prosecuted in federal system, which is more severe.
    - There isn't enough information on these youth.
  - There remains a need to keep producing more materials on Native youth in the criminal justice system, state campaigns, *adulthood* of youth.
  - We're building coalitions to expand our reach, but they lack the Native youth perspective and we need to work together here.
- **Kali Grant**, Program Assistant, [Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality](#)
  - We partner with Center for American Progress, Center for Social Law and Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
  - Main Buckets:
    - 1) Opportunities through the Affordable Care Act for further innovation for populations with multiple barriers to employment, health
    - 2) Youth employment opportunities, connecting disconnected youth
  - Our policy development usually focuses on urban populations, but we want to be more inclusive.
- **Kristi Craig**, [Casey Family Programs](#)
  - CFP is a private operations foundation focusing on foster care. Our mission is to reduce the number of foster care kids by 50 percent in 2020. We are based in Seattle, WA.
  - CFP has teams that work with state child welfare leaders and tribal welfare leaders to educate and provide resource information on what helps kids thrive best.
    - In that, we work with communities, parents, and child welfare leaders.
  - Anita Fineday heads our tribal team, and CNAY is one of our partners. We've recently increased the staff of that team by 3-4 people.
  - That work is so important and effective. Anita and team see variances from tribe to tribe.
  - We have a public policy office in DC that educates and is a resource for federal agencies. Anita worked with BIA and Congress to educate members on what Native kids' needs

- are, in addition to working with the Finance Committee, Senate Committee of Indian Affairs, and caucuses on the issues.
  - o We do briefings on the Hill and worked with CNAY to connect with all those youth coming in for the White House Tribal Youth Gathering in July 2015.
    - We co-hosted an event with CNAY and Nike N7 to connect youth with members of Congress.
    - We also invited Vance Home Gun (Champion for Change) speak to our Board.
- **John Sciamanna, [Child Welfare League of America](#)**
  - o CWLA is a coalition of 400-500 nonprofit, state, local agencies.
  - o Mission is to provide practices and standards.
    - CWLA works with most vulnerable populations in the country.
    - The first child welfare action found its roots in the 1880s in NYC with animal rights activists.
  - o It was federal policy in 1968 to remove Native children from their families and CWLA was a part of that.
    - A formal apology was issued at the beginning of this century.
  - o Those attitudes still persist with some policymakers.
  - o The 2008 Fostering Connections to Success Act increases 4E funds for adoption, care and assistance.
  - o Regarding Senator Dorgan's ICWA article – those tragedies exist in the system, not just for any one (Native) population.
  - o Reminding people when making policy that tribal communities are represented is a goal of CWLA.
  - o CWLA supports ICWA and knows that there must be continued support of ICWA.
- **Stefanie Sprow, [Children's Defense Fund](#)**
  - o CDF works to improve outcomes for children and families with a focus on health, education, and poverty, the juvenile justice system and child welfare systems.
  - o CDF advocates for all kids in America, but have a particular focus on kids of color, those affected by poverty, and the disabled.
  - o Historically, this meant CDF focused on Black and Hispanic children, but CDF is currently trying to lift up and include children in Native American when we can and raise their unique needs.
  - o CDF organized a child welfare mental health coalition with CLASP and others to raise awareness of issues on the Hill, new reports, data, etc. Talked about new ICWA proposed guidelines and regulations. Encouraging people to submit comments for clarification and improvement. Talking about some of the data pieces in child welfare systems. Working with ICWA, being involved directly.
  - o Freedom Schools Program is a summer after-school reading program that targets low-income students, schools, and works to counter summer reading loss. We provide books/curriculum that reflects kids' backgrounds/histories. Last year, had first 100% Native American Freedom School in MN. Want to expand that. Peggy Flanagan was a lead on that.

- **Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
  - We have Native One-Stop, which is meant to be a one-stop center for all agency resources of tribal programs.
    - The audience for that is Native youth and it includes scholarships, fellowships, internships, etc.
    - Another set of resources is available to tribal governments.
  - The federal government is looking for partnerships with agencies and the Native One-Stop is a good resource for everyone here, so you can see what agencies are doing and offering.
    - You can then identify tribes to partner with.
  - **Native One-Stop Link:** <http://www.benefits.gov/nativeonestop>
- **Yulia Manyakina**, Communications and Events Manager, [The Language Conservancy](#)
  - TLC has worked with Crow in MT, Three Affiliated in ND, and Lakota in ND.
  - TLC provides resources to preserve language and encourage language learning.
    - Focuses mostly on youth, but also works to close gap between youth and others.
    - We have summer institutes for teacher trainings, provide dictionaries, and mobile apps. We've translated the Bernstein Bears into Lakota.
  - Our new Rising Voices documentary shows the journey a community goes through to preserve a language (challenges, successes).
    - Heard from tribes that the documentary is relatable across tribes.
    - Describes linguistic issues in communities that are trying to save languages.
  - Language is inherently tied to communities, physical and mental well-being.
    - Studies show lower suicide, dropout rates, when people are connected to language and culture.
- **Kisha Bird**, Director of Youth Policy, [Center for Law and Social Policy](#)
  - CLASP has a youth policy team with an anti-poverty focus.
  - CLASP believes in applying racial equity lens in all policy work.
    - Explicit focus on federal policy impact on people/men of color.
    - Also has a focus on Income/work supports.
  - CLASP has been working with CNAY since last summer to be more inclusive of Native youth in work.
  - There is lots of MBOC data/info is focused on black men, but there is a need to include needs and voices of Native youth.
    - One of the ways we do that is by recommending Native youth when given opportunities to suggest speakers.
    - We are doing outreach round Native youth issues and convene for cross-issue/sector conversation.
  - CNAY staff Ryan Ward and Champion for Change Joaquin Gallegos will attend the Gathering of Leaders conference in New Orleans.
- **Jocelyn Bissonnette**, Director of Government Affairs, [National Association of Federally Impacted Schools](#)

- Represent public school districts across the US that receive impact aid. Aid is meant to compensate for tax loss there is a federal non-taxable property in a community. The majority of a school's budget comes from property taxes.
- Students educated in those areas shouldn't be at inherent disadvantage. Focus on making sure schools have resources they need, and the needs the federal government is not meeting. Many of our schools serving mostly Indians have the highest need. There are 635 public school districts eligible under this program that serve Native American students. Impact aid can make up to 40% of that school's budget in some cases.
- Laws require public school district to do outreach to tribal leaders and others to ensure opportunity for input and collaboration. More collaboration between government and community is better for students. Partnered with CNAY as event speakers to do internal education. Work with NIEA, NEA, NCAI to ensure our budget request includes natives.
- **Trevor Summerfield**, Manager of Federal Policy, [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)
  - Largest nonprofit dedicated to preventing suicide thru education, research, advocacy. Headquartered in NYC with field staff across country. 10s of thousands of volunteers run chapters, participate in walks, and conduct events.
  - Partnered with CNAY to host SafeTalk training for individuals to help spot warning signs, and what to do if/when you spot those, where to go for help. There's lots of opportunity for partnership with our volunteers and advocates on the ground.
  - Policy level – looking for more ideas about how to help. We encourage our advocates to reach out to Congress and state legislatures to enact supportive legislation.
  - One program is a model school policy for suicide prevention. We're working with the federal government to get a bill passed to mandate suicide prevention training. Our volunteers are already active via PTAs, school Boards, etc. We educate people on what you can do for free to prevent in your school district. We organize walks throughout country to raise money for volunteers.
  - In WY and MT our volunteers have worked with Native youth. We provide SafeTalk trainings so others can do the trainings in their communities.
  - We welcome collaboration. We're one of the largest funders of suicide research.
  - We have the Congressional Spouses for Suicide Prevention and Education.
  - Suicide is nonpartisan, as are we.
- **Erik Stegman**, Director, Field Outreach and Advocacy, Poverty to Prosperity Program, [Center for American Progress](#)
  - Founded by John Podesta 12 years ago, CAP is 501(c)3 think tank to build a larger progressive umbrella.
    - We push back on the large, well-funded set of research that has been driving policy.
    - We do direct outreach and advocacy, and build support and political will around our issues.
  - CAP is starting to do more work in American Indian space
    - For example, CAP worked with CNAY and national youth leaders on mascot issues and how they impact school environments.

- The report was called ***Missing the Point*** regarding the DC pro football team name – it’s not about the polls set up to determine how offensive the name is; it’s about the experience.
  - Together we reframed tribal issues for a different constituency. There are a lot of non-Native folks who care about these issues but don’t really understand them.
    - Used DC football as hook to reframe the issue and talk about suicide and other things impacting native youth.
  - Dakota Brown is helping to get a bill signed in CA senate to get rid of public school R word imagery racist mascot imagery.
- **Kaissa Denis**, Outreach Manager, [Young Invincibles](#)
  - Founded by law students, YI’s focus is on expanding opportunity for “our generation” 18-34 year olds through efforts related to higher education, jobs, healthcare.
    - Efforts include work around student loan wealth, divestment.
    - Work with both 4 year and community colleges.
      - Launching larger Student impact 2.0 campaign.
      - Hope to engage more students, including non-traditional (most underserved).
  - Recently focused on workforce development.
    - Work with Year Up on different models for sharing stories, and the impact of programs for them.
  - Healthcare: Focused on issues around ACA.
    - We have a unique perspective as trainers and Healthcare Navigators, because of our direct assistance.
    - We have state-based exchanges in NY and DC and a federal facilitated marketplace in VA.
    - We have a Healthy Young America train-the-trainer campaign.
    - We’ve reached over 2M young people in the past 2 years. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> open enrollment season.
  - Building out more comprehensive outreach strategies, including Medicaid expansion campaign and health literacy campaign.
  - Started with focus groups in regional offices.
  - Developing the content for health literacy and Medicaid expansion campaigns and training materials for effective young adult messaging.
- **Kelly Murphy**, Research Scientist, Youth Development, [Child Trends](#)
  - Child trends improves lives and prospects of children and youth both domestically and abroad.
    - If you have a question about what is good for children, we’re the place to ask. We use data to see what works for who and when.
    - We translate that information and get it into the hands of the people who can actually use it – practitioners, parents, community members.
  - We’re not an advocacy organization, we’re a bunch of “data geeks.” We have non-partisan non-profit research centers. We use theory and rigorous research method,

and then translate that information into something accessible. Our website has free resources that are simple and easy to understand.

- Try not to operate from “Mesearch” (it’s not about you and your academic interests), but “Wesearch”, thinking about young people served by these programs, the programs themselves, and communities. Think about what they want to know and how you can help track effectiveness and trends.
- Topic areas: child welfare, early childhood, youth development (negative – risky behavior; positive – social and emotional learning,) education, family formation, reproductive health (teen pregnancy work).
- We look at traditional and community-based research and study implementation, and program management. We use trauma-informed approach.
- Native youth priorities are by definition our priorities. We’ve identified Native youth as a priority area, like President and First Lady.
- If you need data, contact us. We’re good at finding funding for it.

#### DISCUSSION – ACROSS AGENCIES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Kisha Bird, CLASP:**
  - Concerned about cross-agency efforts living beyond this Administration
- **John Sciamanna, CWLA:**
  - Youth mental health (ages 0-5 and 13-15) should be part of a national agenda, and especially post-adoption services. If there’s no discussion or incorporation of mental health services, we then hear about them via shootings, suicides, etc. There’s a lack of availability of services and we need to build an agenda across that.
- **Zachary Laris:** I agree on having a cross-agency mental health agenda.
  - Trauma and mental health issues are what drive social problems.
- **Yulia Manyakina:** Accessibility is important. Providing youth activities and resources, and transportation to those activities. Youth live in communities that are below the poverty level and hard to get to.
- **Lauren McLester-Davis:** Efforts need to be tailored to each tribe – or at least sensitive to the differences between tribes.
- **Erik Stegman:** There is a need to combine efforts around improving data sets, we are currently talking about this with LGBT team at CAP.
- **Jocelyn Bissonnette:** In addition to data, there is a need to elevate practices and services that have proven really well. We don’t do that research, but NAFIS hears about things that are going well in some districts.
  - For example, schools doing JAG program or that have work or internship component have. NAFIS is also interested in the “grow your own” concept (retention, recruitment) and we want to make sure teachers and leaders look like their students.
- **Erin Bailey:** Are there spaces where you’re coming together to brainstorm collaboratively? Is it helpful to have this space to focus only on that collaboration? Or does it seem duplicative?
  - **Bruce Lesley:** On the Hill, there are lots of opportunities to raise awareness. It is important in legislation and policy to have the ITU structure in place.

- We need to have certain language, otherwise grants go to states exclusively.
  - We have to make all language inclusive of Native and urban Indians.
  - Example: Urban Indian Center in Albuquerque couldn't get an implementation grant because of such language issues and Hill staff need to be aware of this.
  - All of us need to be in tune with it.
  - Takeaway: always ask "Is there a unique kid issue here? Is there a unique Native American issue here?"
- **Sarah Schilling**(CFC): When talking about mental health resources for Native youth, Native American mental health may differ from your idea of mental health. Our cultural values, sometimes even on an individual basis, are really important. For instance, I want to go into art therapy as an alternative to traditional methods for treating mental health issues.
  - **Zachary Laris**: Be intentional about not having bubble conversations here. We need policy tools elsewhere that won't always fit into various communities.
  - **Pamela End of Horn**: When working with federally recognized tribes, you often encounter lack of technical assistance to be able to translate those practices that are at the cultural level to fit granting specifications.
  - Tribes lose out on funding because what they're trying to do and convey doesn't meet those standards.
  - Tribes have difficulty translating activities into language to convey successes/outcomes. It's a huge barrier.
  - **Kimberly Dutcher**: In juvenile justice work, we need tribal models for nationwide initiatives. There's a lack of infrastructure in government and social service agencies and we need to get folks educated and trained, and be able to replicate and implement best practices.

#### FOLLOW-UP

Please visit the CNAY's Dropbox website to view and download presentations, handouts, participant lists, and other items shared during the September 10 roundtable.