



**National Resource Center for
Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning**
at the Hunter College School of Social Work



A Service of the Children's Bureau/ACF/DHHS

Building Positive Collaborations and Relationships Between Tribes and States to Work Effectively with Children, Youth, and Families



May 11, 2006 at 1PM ET

Benefits of Positive Tribal – State Relationships

Better meet the
needs of Indian
children, youth,
and families in
the child welfare
system



Benefits of Positive Tribal – State Relationships

Improve compliance
with the Indian Child
Welfare Act and
federal requirements
to consult on CFSP



Benefits of Positive Tribal –State Relationships

Positive relationships improve worker job satisfaction, retention, and enhance the work environment



Unique Features of Tribal - State Relationships

- Government to Government Status
- Cultural Differences

Government to Government Status

- Sovereign Nation status makes Tribes unique stakeholders
- In some states, P.L. 280 applies
- Some Tribal lands exist in more than one state

Government to Government Issues

- It is important to be sure that you invite Tribal representatives who have authority to state a position on behalf of the Tribe?
- Asking this question demonstrates respect for Tribal sovereignty.

Cultural Differences to Consider in Planning Effective Meetings

- Promising Practices for creating a comfortable work atmosphere
 - Collaborative Planning
 - Inclusion of both Tribal and State meeting norms
 - Clear expectations about the process for participation

Cultural Differences to Consider in Planning Effective Meetings

- Promising Practices for ensuring agreement
 - Take time to establish shared expectations
 - Take time to ensure a common understanding

Promising Practice in Tribal - State Relationships

- Formalized agreements, contracts, or protocols
 - Provide opportunity to clarify roles and responsibilities
 - Provide a mechanism for resolving disputes

Promising Practices In Tribal - State Relationships

- Regular on-going meeting between the State and Tribe are held
- Progress and follow up reports are given
- Decisions made at meetings are implemented, monitored, and evaluated for effectiveness

Promising Practices

- Several States and Tribes are now holding regular shared training conferences
 - ICWA
 - Topical areas

Promising Practices

- Developing a collaborative Indian Child Welfare Act case review process

Promising Practices

- Many States and Tribes are beginning to collaborate on foster and adoptive home recruitment and training initiatives

Developing Positive Tribal –State Relationships Has Many Benefits

Government to Government (G2G)

North Dakota State/Tribal Collaboration



Don Snyder, ND Foster Care Administrator



Commitment of Supportive Services and Funding

Supporting Cultural Awareness

- Supportive 427 Negotiation
- Cultural Encampment
- Foster Teen Conference
- Foster Care Recruitment & Retention
- Native American Themes for State Annual Conference
- Native American Foster Care Youth Group
- Native American Mentors
- Assist in Presenting Native American Parenting Classes
- State Wide Tribal CFSR Representation
- Transitional Living with a Focus on Cultural Sensitivity
- Special Emphasis on Cultural Activities for Native Children





Supporting Cultural Awareness

Cultural Encampment



Supporting Cultural Awareness

Foster Teen Conference



Supporting Cultural Awareness

Foster Care Recruitment & Retention



Supporting Cultural Awareness

Native American Youth Group



Supporting Cultural Awareness

**Native American Themes at
Annual State Conferences**



Supporting Cultural Awareness

Native American Mentors



Supporting Cultural Awareness

Native American Representation on Statewide CFSR



Supporting Cultural Awareness

**Transitional Living with a Focus
on Cultural Sensitivity**



Supporting Cultural Awareness

**Emphasis on Cultural
Activities**



Funding Patterns to North Dakota Tribes:

- Targeted Case Management
- IV-E Administration Dollars
- IV-E State Match
- IV-E Training Dollars
- Program Service Grants
- Adoption
- System of Care Grants
 - Sacred Child
 - Medicine Moon
 - Partnership



State Level Collaboration Efforts:



North Dakota Stipend Program



Collaboration

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

North Dakota Supreme Court Committee
on Tribal and State Court Affairs

Children's Justice Task Force

Court Improvement Project



Collaboration

Tribal Liaison

And

Child Welfare Director



Collaboration

ICWA Compliance Study

ICWA Manual

Guidebook to ND Tribes



Today's Data

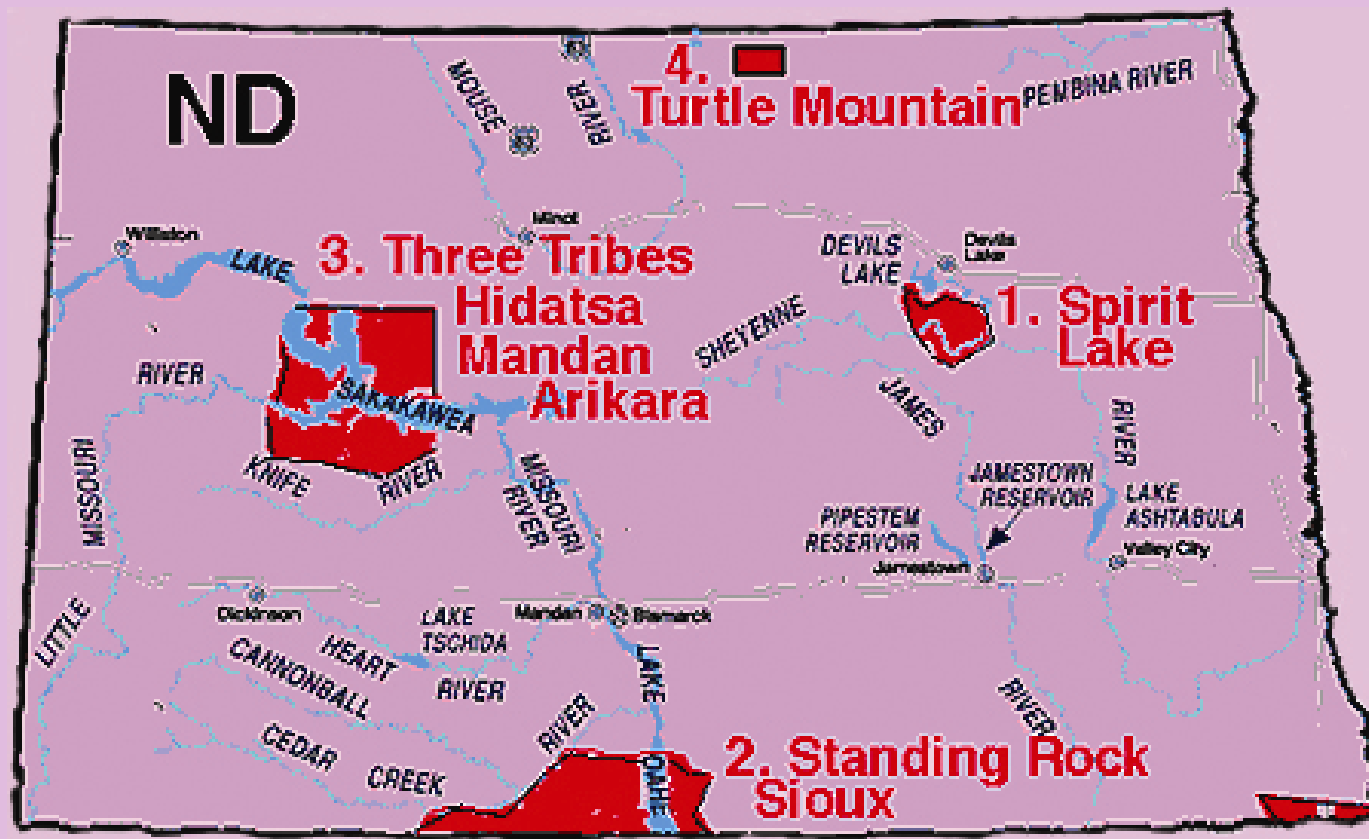
- 2314 Unduplicated count of children in foster care in FFY 2005
- 544 Native children, or 23.5%, in FFY 2005 in state, county and DJS custody
- 161 Native children in FFY 2005 in tribal custody
- ICWA applied to 397 of these children



New Initiatives

- US Search (RELATIVE SEARCH)
- TANF Kinship Care
- Family Group Conferencing
- Placement Preference Form
- Qualified Expert Witness Training
- Native Foster Care Recruitment Initiative

North Dakota Reservations



State and Tribal Relationship

North Dakota is one of ten states that are state supervised – county administered systems in the nation

Indian Nations in North Dakota

- Three Affiliated Tribes
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
- Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Cooperative Working Relationships

- Dept of Human Services
- County Social Services
- Child Supports Units
- Human Service Centers
- Tribal Nations
- Native American Training Institute

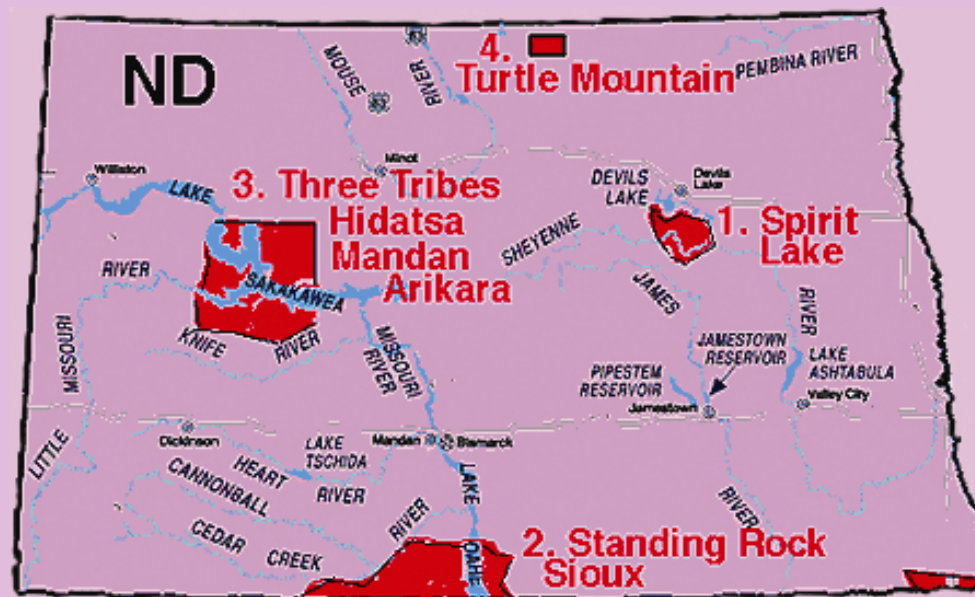
Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

Mandan, Arikara & Hidatsa Nation
New Town ND



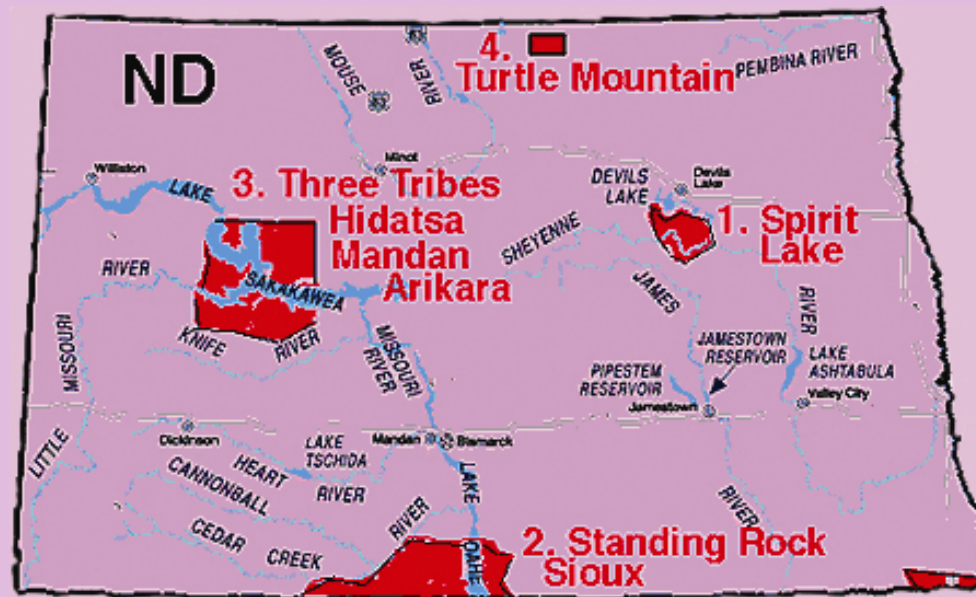
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Chippewa, Cree & Metis Tribes
Belcourt ND



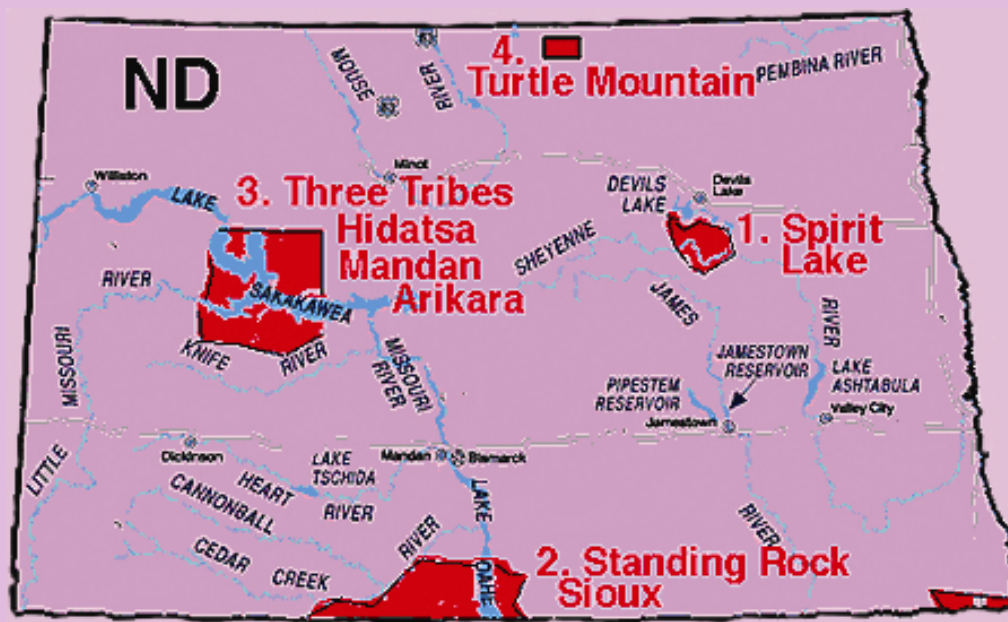
Spirit Lake Sioux Nation

Cuthead Band of the Yanktonai
Fort Totten ND



Standing Rock Sioux Nation

Hunkpapa, Teton, Blackfoot
Fort Yates ND



G2G

The ND Dept of Human Services has been developing a relationship with tribal nations since 1980.

G2G Milestones 1980 - 2000

- Implemented ICWA
- Established Children & Family Services Training Center
- Helped fund the Native American Training Institute
- Statewide Cultural Competency

G2G

2001 - Present

- Medicaid Targeted Case Management Dollars
- Administrative IV-E Dollars
- Established ICWA Conference
- Tribal IV-E Match

Suggestions to establish a working relationship

- Do it face to face and not over the phone.
- Give yourself some time. It's not going to happen overnight.
- If it doesn't work the first time, don't be afraid to try again.
- Be very aware of the political atmosphere on the reservation.

Do your homework

- Know how the reservation works.
- Know something about the tribal affiliation.
- Never pass on a chance to make a connection.
- Never allow someone to talk you out of a good idea.

Men With a Vision

- Don Schmid
- Paul Ronningen

Additional Resources

New Issue Brief from the Clearinghouse
“Tribal-State Relations”

[http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/
issue_briefs/tribal_state/tribal_state.pdf](http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/issue_briefs/tribal_state/tribal_state.pdf)



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