

**NIHSDA  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 26 & 27, 2010**

**Call to Order:** Danny Wells, President, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. MST.

**Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by the Secretary, Jacki Haight. A quorum of the Board of Directors was established.

PRESENT	NOTIFIED	NOT NOTIFIED
<b>President – Danny Wells</b> <b>Pres-Elect – Gil Gonzales</b> <b>Treasurer- Mike Williamson</b> <b>Secretary – Jacki Haight</b> <b>Region 1 – Frances Maney</b> - Ann Belleau, Alt <b>Region 2 – John Pavek</b> <b>Region 3 – Sara Young Bird</b> <b>Region 4 – Misty Horne</b> - Colette Berg, Alt <b>Region 5 – Myrna Dingman</b> <b>Region 6 – Pat Foster</b> - Cheryl Encinas, Alt <b>Region 7 – Gayle Johnson</b> - Christi Jacobus, Alt <b>Region 8 – Vikki Bishop</b> - Viola Wood, Alt. <b>Region 9 – Laura Wauckeon</b> <b>Region 10 – Albert Rinehart</b> <b>Amb to Can- Mavany Verdugo</b>	<b>Region 2- Lee Turney, Alt.</b> <b>Region 3 – Hilda Marshall ,Alt</b> <b>Region 5-Steve Honeyestewa, Alt</b> <b>Region 8 – Viola Wood, Alt.</b> <b>Region 9 - Lisa Horn, Alt.</b> <b>Region 10 - Malinda Besett, Alt</b>	

**Others Present:** Toni Dobrec, Kathryn Helsel from the MCS were present.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was reviewed. Additions include E-Mails Between Mike W. and Nina Mc.; Brian Richmond’s Letter; Literacy Survey; ACF Interview (Old Business). Misty H. moved to accept the amended agenda, Frances M. seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Approval of the Minutes of the February 11, 2010 meeting:** The minutes were read and examined for corrections. Pat F. moved to approve the minutes, Myrna D. seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Attendance Report:** NIHSDA Board attendance has been stellar.

**Triennial Update:** Mavany V. reported on her program’s review that occurred this month. The review climate has changed such as program staff being asked to write down answers to questions to turn into reviewers; time constraints and reviewers on their computers most of the time. NIHSDA needs to continue its support of small programs and communicating to OHS regarding purpose of triennial reviews-

improvement or compliance. Action: NIHSDA will survey membership via listserv regarding access to internet and support.

### **Old Business:**

**ACF Interviews:** Ann B. reported her experience in being interviewed by ACF personnel, Paul (contractor from LMI). He followed set questions but varied off with a specific question regarding why the Region XI office is in Washington DC. Danny W. reported on his interview that focused on specific questions outlines without specific question regarding regional office locations. Pat F. has also been requested to participate in the interview process.

Discussion occurred regarding how ACF is the administrative arm of OHS (with a special uniqueness as a discretionary program). Questions were raised regarding why grantees have to apply for the upcoming 1.84% ARRA adjustment to permanent funding. All agreed NIHSDA needs to be in a proactive position to look at opportunities that decrease burden of effort for grantees. Action: Share concerns with White House Indian Liaison (Greg Smith has a forming relationship with this individual).

### **New Business:**

**Strategic Plan Update:** Toni reviewed the NIHSDA 2008-2011 Strategic Plan. In 2010 with the legislative re-authorization approaching the area needing to focus on is advocacy. Tribal Consultation summary indicates that NIHSDA needs to be more active in getting talking points out to grantees prior to the sessions to assure the sessions are meaningful. Action: NIHSDA Committees need to focus on the strategic plan and focus their work on outcomes. Colette B. joins Education , Information and Conference Committee

**E-mails between Mike Williamson and Nina McFadden:** Mike reviewed the e-mail collection that was distributed to all members. The content of the e-mails involved a request from the OIHSDA for training. Discussion occurred examining the details of the e-mails that included Nina Mc. proposing an annual training venue for AIANPB grantees. Mike W. was asked to join a committee led by Donald Wyatt to develop this activity. NIHSDA will follow this development closely and look for opportunities to truly collaborate. Action: Develop a letter written by Danny W. representing the NIHSDA Board addressed to Donald Wyatt regarding the formation of a training committee Myrna D. moved Misty H. and all agreed.

**Literacy Survey:** Mavany reported **on** the e-mail received requesting participation in an early literacy survey being conducted by a college student. Action: All agreed to have MSC put a note out on the listserv to give guidance to directors regarding inappropriate requests of information.

**Summary of Tribal Consultations:** Toni prepared a document for Board members summarizing the 2009 OHS Tribal Consultations. Discussion occurred regarding how to

improve the outcome of these consultations. One strategy is to monitor which Tribes attended in 2008 and 2009 to see if sovereign nations are realizing the zero result factor in attending the sessions- OHS does not produce a written report of what action that has been taken. Action: Develop a letter to DHHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius with appropriate cc list. Jonn P.moved Gil G. seconded. All agreed.

**Refined Questions for Nina McFadden:** The following were discussed:

When will the COLA come out?

Who will oversee the Federal Monitoring System?

Redesignation

When will the change from 3 year to 5 year cycle occur?

Restructuring

1. How will restructuring of OHS effect AIANPB?
2. Describe your plans for restructuring AIANPB?

Proposed AIANPB Conference

1. Describe the details of the conference – where? when?
2. Where is the money coming from to support the proposed conference?
3. Will we expect to see the same amount of funds that migrants receive for their conference
4. Who is on the planning committee?
5. Who will be invited?
6. What are the expected outcomes?
7. Will the grantee expenses to attend be paid for by OHS?

T/TA Funding

1. Why are there discrepancies in notification and explanations across Indian Country in the reduction of funds.
2. Why were some programs notified and others not until the January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 form letter?
3. Is there a change in the protocol for grantees to request training from ICF?

**Brian Richmond's Letter:** Danny shared information regarding the decision made by Brian Richmond to include AIAN issues in a white paper being developed for MSHS addressing professional development to be used for educating decision makers on the need for additional resources. Action: Prior to letter Danny make contact with Mr. Richmond via phone to have a conversation by 3/3. Develop letter to Mr. Richmond, Director National American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start Collaboration Office; Denise Borders, AED Project Supervisor and Carmen Bovel-Chester, OHS Advisor on State Collaboration in response to not following a protocol with the NIHSDA for permission to include AIAN issues with Migrant and Seasonal Programs with a cc to Nina Mc. Draft by 3/11 with final out by 3/16. Gil G. moved. Myrna D. seconded. All agreed.

**T/TA Funding Reduction:** Kathryn H. distributed a summary of AIAN grantees information shared regarding initial and reduced t/ta levels. A brief discussion occurred. A number of variables are involved in this situation. NIHSDA has sent a letter to OHS regarding the situation and asking for all the funds to be returned to grantees.

**2010 Conference Planning:** Discussed NIHSDA 20<sup>th</sup> Management Training Conference. Gil G. led the group through the conference items. Mavany will be working on the artwork and fund raising. Pre-intensives-we do not know if Ann Linehan will be able to conduct the monitoring session; CLASS-will not be offered; Tools for Success-need to find trainer; Jeff G. (new materials). Annual membership meeting- Monday at 4:30- 6pm. Keynote speakers-Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes; Mavany will look into local welcome; Closing on cruise ship(dinner)- Mitch Factor, NA Comedian (and have him at opening to send folks off to sessions); Registration fee-no changes; Vendor fees- no changes; Children Dance Group at opening/ Traditional Dancers will bring in flags; Gayle will sing flag song; Mavany's group will sing Lord's Prayer in native language; Circle Dance out to sessions; Reviewed topics for sessions; Recognitions; Gifts/Give away-will work with committee

**Reconvene Meeting 2/27 at 8:05am**

### **Committee Reports:**

*Budget-* John/Pat/Mike/Albert: Membership and cost per child rates are steady (no changes). Ideas shared- commitment to serve 1-2 hours per week on committee work; apply directly to administer t/ta grants; succession plan needs to be a priority (it is also a responsibility of executive committee). Mike W. will provide info back to committee regarding applications for t/ta, etc prior to next meeting. John P. will gather info regarding funding sources outside our current scope. Brief discussion occurred. John P. focused on \$10m funds that were "stolen" from AIAN children/families from Republican administration. Our advocacy agenda needs to include a strong request for these funds being returned to AIAN services through a technical amendment/change-no application process just disseminated. Committee also reviewed effectiveness of Training Conference. Brief discussion of changing the venue to offer more (with more income to support).

*Education-* Gil/Mavany/Danny/Vicki: Group reviewed conference offering- adding other resources to venue- Heart Association. Exploring relationship building with Joan Lombardi (executive committee). Researching providing ceus to participants at conference. Brief discussion occurred. Working on 2011 Conference soon and building towards generating a list for 2012 conference locations. Other tasks include: creating an IT policy/procedure- that includes vendor policy/procedure; focus on website with naming site where shared materials e-site; establishing links from website. Brief discussion occurred. Professional development opportunities and mentoring services were reviewed. No formal mentoring program except for conference. Recognition- at conference of new directors (on name tag)

*Membership-* Frances/Misty/Gayle- Marketing strategies were discussed. Reviewed survey distributed to 29 grantees who were not members to see why they did not join NIHSDA. Only 4 grantees responded. Discussed the opportunity to support the eleven new directors (to date) through varied resources. Brief discussion occurred. Discussed not making any changes to the fee structure. Committee discussed varied options- making resources available for new director's- "survival packet; free listserv during membership drive. Will explore corporate sponsorship.

*By-Laws-* Jacki/Laura/Christi/Myrna- Group reviewed operation manual needs in areas of policies & procedures for marketing & promotions/ management & consulting services. Action.-Include the technical amendment change to By-Laws occurring annual or as needed at the next teleconference meeting. In addition the committee shared ideas for board development at the San Diego meeting in June.

**GAO Study:** Follow up on previous contact with Anna B. regarding gathering information from newly funded ARRA recipients for HS/EHS. Six grantees will be interviewed. This will be conducted at the SW Consortium Conference. The focus will be on how ACF administered the process. The interviews will be included in the final GAO Report is completed. Further discussion occurred regarding the AIAN Arra EHS grants that were submitted. Action- Inquire of Joan Lombardi's availability to present at NIHSDA in San Diego

**Letter to Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes:** A letter was sent 2/22/2010. We are still awaiting response from Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes, OHS Director.

**AIANPB Update with Nina McFadden via phone conversation:** The following text in *italic* are responses to questions:

When will the 1.84% COLA come out? *Within a couple of weeks. At last meeting of RPMs they discussed how to disperse. It will be an application process to become a permanent part of the grantee's base. Six tribes did not apply for the ARRA Funds-they will not be able to apply for the permanent funds.*

Who will oversee the Federal Monitoring System? *We do not know. Yvette will be focusing on this issue closely. NIHSDA should be active in submitting suggestion for*

*improving the Federal Monitoring System. A new division will be formed-contracts and grants/ budget (this is Craig T.'s former position).*

*Upcoming meeting with OHS Director- Approximately 8 participants have responded for this 3/2 from 2-4pm meeting.*

*Redesignation? There is no organizational chart; however, there is a new Redesignation Department with Valarie Pels-Kohout and Stanley Thompson as staff. The OHS Director will publish this in Federal Register-this year.*

*Revised Performance Standards: Tentatively projecting spring/summer.*

*Tribal Consultations: Schedule is tentatively set with 10 sessions located across the country. Preliminary plans include: Region 1-6/24 Seneca Nation; Region 2-6/27 Kataba/ Isla/ Onedia; early June- Citizen Potawami/ Praire Band & Meeta/ Rapid City; Region 9 -6/16 At NIHSDA Conference in San Diego, CA; Region 10-5/27 Muckleshoot (Auburn, WA) & Anchorage, Alaska, 5/15 . OHS Region XI Office trying to give 60 days notice to tribal leaders.*

*When will the change from 3 year to 5 year cycle occur? Will get back to us.*

*EHS Tool Kit- Nina will follow up and let us know. (Linda Brooker and Donald Wyatt are assisting Nina with EHS). Nina will assure that Region XI be together at these orientations.*

#### **Restructuring**

- 1. How will restructuring of OHS effect AIANPB? Deputy position will be closed in the next two weeks (Renee is acting). What is our role in the branch? Not much of a difference-elevates it more. At management institute in wash dc yvette's speech referenced perception of AIAN as "step child" and how she will ensure that this changes. AIAN will be leader in Culture Center.*
- 2. Describe your plans for restructuring AIANPB? Nina feels it will elevate status. Proposed new staff and alignment. Donald Wyatt (temporarily over t/ta & oversee Region 9 & 10; Cynthia Walker eastern seaboard; WJ- (monitoring & risk management)TX. Program Specialist need to develop more expertise and competencies.*

#### **AIANPB Conference**

- 1. Describe the details of the conference – where? when? This year (2010) will be focusing on state associations/clusters, etc*
- 2. Where is the money coming from to support the proposed conference? In ICF contract there is \$ (\$250,000)*
- 3. Will we expect to see the same amount of funds that migrants receive for their conference. YES*

4. Who is on the planning committee? *Donald W, developing a planning committee.*
5. Who will be invited? *Up to planning committee./ Building competencies.*
6. What are the expected outcomes? *Important to have clear charge- a lot of direction coming from planning committee- strengthen programs to sustain programs.*
7. Will the grantee expenses to attend be paid for by OHS? *Scholarships...*

#### T/TA Funding

1. Why are there discrepancies in notification and explanations across Indian Country in the reduction of funds. *Administrative error- in spring 2009 a formula was used, Craig T. who developed the formula left, spreadsheet was developed based on Coleen's (November); in early December Nina was checking in system and notice Southcentral was still in and needed to come out so \$ would be distributed to other NA; another change with a grantee from HS to EHS slots; therefore, a change in the calculations/ Needed to correct funding level guidance letters- NO ONE GOT AN INCREASE! BUT FORMULA ADJUSTED (**09base plus \$7000 plus equitable portion bases on funded enrollment**) Nina is suggesting a more transparent way of giving budget figures. 1000 plus equitable amount based on funded enrollment*
2. Why were some programs notified and others not until the January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 form letter?
3. Is there a change in the protocol for grantees to request training from ICF?

#### **Legislative Update:** Greg Smith

Greg reported that he met with Yvette on March 1 and hand carried the NIHSDA letter. With Yvette was Colleen (Craig replacement). Mainly the meeting centered around the cuts in T/TA money. Greg's understanding was the same that Nina had presented during her report.

On February 18 Greg represented NIHSDA at a combined meeting of HHS and DoE to hear and discuss the administration's priorities and interagency initiative for early childhood programs. After the meeting was over Joan Lombardi and Greg had a semi-private meeting when Joan told him that the AIAN EHS applications were poorly written. Greg feels the NIHSDA leadership need to get to DC and meet with Joan within the next month or so.

Things are pretty quiet on the Hill right now. Greg left the call.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. MST. John Pavek moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike Williamson seconded. The motion carried.