
Memorandum of Partnership

Between the National Indian Head Start Directors Association and the National Indian Child Care Association October 2005

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Partnership is to promote, coordinate and collaborate at the national, regional and community levels in order to:

1. Advocate on behalf of Native American/Alaskan Native children and families at the national, regional, state and local levels for quality early childhood development services;
2. Encourage collaborative relationships between Child Care programs and Head Start/Early Head Start programs in Tribal communities for promoting full-day, full-year programs for meeting the needs of families;
3. Support tribal government in implementing Health and Safety Standards which protect and safeguard children, parents, volunteers and staff;
4. Facilitate the oversight and review of laws, regulations, standards and policies affecting the delivery of comprehensive early childhood development and educational services;
5. Conduct professional development, leadership enhancement and training programs for Child Care and Head Start staff.

Background

There is a need for improved and expanded early childhood services in "Indian Country." Child Care Programs and Head Start/Early Head Start Programs must continue to seek opportunities for quality improvement of their service delivery and for professional development of their staff. The National Indian Head Start Directors Association and the National Indian Child Care Association are two groups advocating for improved and expanded services for Tribal communities. These two Associations are in commanding positions to coalesce into a substantial partnership. The partners within this agreement serve as key groups in articulating the wants, needs, concerns and issues of Child Care and Head Start/Early Head Start programs. The entities will enter into collaborative efforts on behalf of young Indian children, their families, and staff.

Collaborative Strategies

The parties to this Memorandum of Partnership will:

1. Routinely identify issues and concerns for delivering early childhood services, develop joint strategies for resolving the issues and concerns and establish joint legislative and regulatory advocacy agendas;
2. Support training events and activities, certification programs and other professional development activities offered jointly or singularly by each party;
3. Maintain an open communication system facilitated by the leadership of each Association for sharing information, linking to each others web pages, and keep each partner informed as to their advocacy agendas, legislative activities and training program;
4. The Board of Directors of each party to this Memorandum of Partnership or their representative(s) will meet at least once every calendar year for the purpose of establishing joint efforts for improving quality early childhood development and educational services. The leadership of each party will jointly plan the agenda the meetings conducted;
5. No entity shall represent or speak on behalf of the other Association unless prior written approval has been granted.

Review and Dissemination

This Memorandum of Partnership will be reviewed annually, beginning October 2005 by representatives of the Board of Directors of the National Indian Child Care Association and National Indian Head Start Directors Association, with recommendations for modifications to accommodate changing circumstances.

It will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors of each Association to disseminate this Memorandum of Partnership to their memberships.

Authorization

The Memorandum of Partnership will be effective immediately upon the signatures of the Associations' designated officer. This Memorandum of Partnership can be modified as indicated by either party. Any modifications will be discussed and agreed to by all involved parties.

National Indian Head Start
Directors Association

National Indian Child Care Association

Lee Turney
President

Lori Hand
Chairperson

Date

Date