Full Keynote and Workshop Session Descriptions

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26

General Session A (9:15 am): Opening Remarks (Alex Cleghorn)

• Room: Fairbanks/Anchorage

We open with remarks led by Alex Cleghorn, COO of the Alaska Native Justice Center, and respected leaders from the Native Village of Eklutna. Centered around the conference's theme, "It is within us, our culture protects and heals us," this inaugural session aims to orient and ground attendees in the vital link between our Alaska Native cultures and our children's well-being. Acknowledging the crucial work being done in our communities, this session sets the stage for days of inspiration, learning, and collaboration. Come ready to connect and to embrace the empowering narrative that our culture is our strength.

General Session B (10:30 am):

For the Love of Our Children: Re-centering Indigenous Relational Knowledge (Jessica Saniguq Ullrich)

• Room: Fairbanks/Anchorage

Jessica will share what has been learned through research efforts involving the development of an Indigenous Connectedness Framework and the application of it to intervention development, language revitalization work, and child welfare/education systems change. All communities have their own sacred knowledges to harness and implement in exponentially powerful ways.

Workshop C1 (1:30 pm):

- Continuity and Survivance: Overview of Alaska Native History and Culture (Maria Shaa Tlaa Williams)
 - Room: <u>Kenai/Denali</u>

Attendees will be provided a brief history of Alaska Native people from the 17th to the 20th century and have an understanding of the diversity of the first peoples of Alaska. Additionally the attendees will have an understanding of the impacts of the Russian and American periods, as well as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 and how that has influenced contemporary societies.

Workshop C2 (1:30 pm):

Parent Advisory Committee (Lindsay Bothe Culverhouse, LMSW)

• Room: <u>Juneau</u>

In this workshop, we will discuss a new initiative of the Office of Children's Services (OCS): creating a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). Participants will learn about OCS efforts to engage parents with lived experience in the child welfare system, discuss the benefits of Parent Advisory Committees, and consider how PACs may positively impact disproportionality. In addition, participants will engage in a brainstorm session about what works in recruitment of Alaska Native parents and how OCS can support Alaska Native parents who join the PAC.

Workshop C3 (1:30 pm): ICWA Case Stages (Josh Ahsoak)

Room: <u>Skagway/Valdez</u>

Join us for a comprehensive walk-through of the Child in Need of Aid legal process in Alaska. From the initial probable cause hearing to the final permanency hearing, we'll break down each stage and clarify the roles of both the Tribe and the State. Gain valuable insights to effectively navigate these legal proceedings.

Workshop C4 (1:30 pm):

Elder Abuse Prevention: A Legal Toolbox (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)

Room: <u>Haines</u>

Mr. Kidd and Ms. Ouzts will explore a range of tools aimed at preventing elder abuse, with a specific focus on financial abuse protective orders. They will guide participants through the situations that call for these tools, the relief they can provide, and the process of completing the required court forms. Following the presentation, they will be available to answer questions and assist with form completion.

Workshop D1 (3:30 pm):

Supporting Communities with Limited Resources (Sheri Patraw, Jason Bavilla)

• Room: Kenai/Denali

This session will introduce participants to the Alaska Tribal Health System and the role that Behavioral Health Aides play in helping bring behavioral health care closer to home. BHAs are employed by regional Tribal Health Organizations and are a valuable part of the continuum of care for community members needing behavioral health resources and services. BHAs provide direct services to those living in their community or region. If needed, BHAs make referrals and coordinate services for a higher level of care outside of the community. They also provide aftercare to ensure that clients returning to their home community have continued access to care. Participants will be able to:

- Describe how the Alaska Tribal Health System works
- Recognize what a Behavioral Health Aide is and their role in communities
- Recall how to access behavioral health services for parents and children

Workshop D2 (3:30 pm):

The Role of Tribes in the CAC Process (Traci McGarry)

Room: <u>Skagway/Valdez</u>

This session will explain what a Child Advocacy Center is and how Tribal Child Welfare Workers can be involved. The use of a Multidisciplinary Team will be explained including the members and their different roles in a child abuse case.

Workshop D3 (3:30 pm):

Everything You Need to Know (Plus More!!!) To Feel Prepared and Confident for Court (Chad W. Holt, Karen Hawkins, Corey Gillespie)

Room: <u>Juneau</u>

Hear from 3 practitioners with a combined 60 years of experience working in the field of child protection. Learn their tips, tricks, and techniques used to bring about the best outcome for Alaska Native families. From pre-court best practices to advice for each part of a child-in-need-of-aid-case, you will learn all that you need to know to be prepared for these court proceedings.

Workshop D4 (3:30 pm):

A Desk Reference for Alaska Tribal Workers in ICWA Cases (Holly Handler, Casey Groat)

• Room: <u>Haines</u>

This workshop offers a preview of the Alaska Native Justice Center's "Desk Reference for Alaska Tribal Workers in Indian Child Welfare Cases." The reference booklet was developed to support both new and experienced workers in their challenging and important role in the state child welfare system. This guide includes information on state and federal laws, court rules, and OCS policy to help Alaska Tribal staff work effectively with families and legal parties. Attend this workshop to provide feedback on this Alaska-specific resource before it is published and made available to Tribes across the state! Let us know how this will help meet your Tribe's training needs and what more is needed for your staff.

Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27

General Session E (9:00 am):

Outcome of Brackeen - Now what? (Erin Dougherty-Lynch)

• Room: *Fairbanks/Anchorage*

The Supreme Court's 7-2 ruling in Haaland v. Brackeen affirmed ICWA's constitutionality, a pivotal moment for tribal sovereignty and child welfare. Join Erin Dougherty-Lynch to explore the case's immediate and long-term implications for Native families and tribal governance. Learn how this landmark decision paves the way for enhanced ICWA compliance and what it means for the future of Native children and communities.

Workshop F1 (10:30 am):

Limits of Motivational Interviewing (Lenora Walker)

Room: <u>Haines</u>

Join us as we explore the importance of incorporating cultural values to build trust and rapport with families. Learn how to adapt interview techniques to serve families in ways that honor their culture. We'll leave the session equipped with practical strategies to improve interviewing skills in culturally-appropriate ways.

Workshop F2 (10:30 am):

Navigating the Front Lines: ICWA Worker's Role in Investigations (Eva Kapotak, Collette Meraz, Maria Guerra, Shawnda Cutcher-Griechen)

Room: <u>Kenai/Denali</u>

Join a panel of seasoned ICWA workers as they delve into the crucial role they play during the investigative stages of child welfare cases. This session aims to provide insights into effective strategies, common challenges, and best practices for ensuring the well-being of children and families.

Workshop F3 (10:30 am):

Strengthening Families Alaska: Promoting 5 Protective Factors in Child Welfare Practice (Valerie Dudley, Olivia Shears)

Room: <u>Juneau</u>

Strengthening Families is a research-informed, strength-based approach to help families reduce stress, address risk factors, and promote healthy child development. Participants will be introduced to the 5 Protective Factors and identify ways to apply them in prevention services, child abuse investigation & assessments, and case planning.

Workshop G1 (1:30 pm):

Transforming Child Welfare: Impact of OCS and Tribal Partnerships (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Robin Charlie)

Room: <u>Kenai/Denali</u>

We will discuss the history of collaborations between Alaska Tribes and the Office of Children's Services from the Tribal State Collaboration Group's many accomplishments since 1994, to the implementation of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact. Join us as we have a conversation about ways to transform the child welfare system and improve outcomes for children and families.

As a result of attending this presentation, participants will:

1. Gain knowledge of some of the collaborative outcomes between Alaska's Tribes and the Office of Children's Services to transform child welfare outcomes for Alaskan Native children.

- 2. Learn about the Cultural Resource Guide, Cultural Support Mentor Program and the role it plays in case planning with families.
- 3. Hear how the distribution of Protective Service Reports to Tribes is an opportunity to provide early intervention and prevention services.
- 4. Discuss components of the Indian Child Welfare Act including the need for preference placement homes.

Workshop G2 (1:30 pm):

What Are Active Efforts? (Ali Wykis, Lenora Walker)

• Room: <u>Skagway/Valdez</u>

Let's discuss how "active efforts" are different from "reasonable efforts" when it comes to child welfare cases. We'll go over how to create plans that really understand and respect a child's culture, family, and Tribal background. We'll also share tips on how to make sure this higher standard is actually met in ICWA cases.

Workshop G3 (1:30 pm):

Asserting Tribal Sovereignty: Intervention, Transfers, and Child Permanency (Maggie Massey)

Room: <u>Juneau</u>

Explore the vital role Tribes can play in State ICWA cases, from intervention to asserting Tribal sovereignty by transferring cases to Tribal jurisdiction. This workshop also covers the different options available for achieving permanency for children in child welfare cases. Learn key strategies to navigate these legal options effectively.

Workshop G4 (1:30 pm):

Guardianships of Grandchildren and Advanced Care Directives (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)

Room: <u>Haines</u>

In the second part of this workshop, Mr. Kidd and Ms. Ouzts will shift their attention to adult and grandchild guardianships and advance health care directives. They will discuss the appropriate circumstances for utilizing these tools, what they can achieve, and how to navigate the legal forms necessary for implementation. Following the presentation, they will be available to answer questions and assist with form completion.

General Session H (3:30 pm):

Alaska Blanket Exercise: Indigenous Storywork of Healing Trauma (Jaclynne Qalukisaq Richards, Amber Frasure)

• Room: Fairbanks/Anchorage

The Alaska Blanket Exercise (ABE) is Indigenous storywork, a healing methodology of story listening and storytelling. Story is a space created by the interaction to create meaning in relation to context. Storywork is a dynamic dialogic interaction in which cocreation of meaning is developed imbedded in local and cultural context. Indigenous storywork is key to knowledge transmission, identity development and healing from traumatic experiences. This presentation will cover the development, adaptation, and evaluation outcomes of the ABE as well as an in depth process of the Photovoice project, an evaluation method that is grounded in advocacy.

- Participants will be able to explain two key themes of the Alaska Blanket Exercise evaluation findings.
- Participants will understand Photovoice in the context of the Alaska Blanket Exercise program.

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28

General Session I (9:00 am):

State Court and Tribal Court Collaboration: A conversation with Chief Judge Abby Abinanti, Yurok Tribal Court

• Room: Fairbanks/Anchorage

Before Judge Abby Abinanti founded the Yurok Tribal Court, she served on the San Francisco Superior Court for two decades. Come hear from Judge Abinanti how The Yurok Tribal Court has become a model for Tribal Courts throughout the United States. Judge Abinanti will share her views on restorative justice and the strengths and impacts of the Yurok Tribal Court being rooted in the culture values of fairness and responsibility.

Workshop J1 (10:30 am):

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Mary Johnson, Lou Johnson, Maria Guerra)

• Room: Juneau

Over the past five years, tribes and the Alaska Office of Children Services have stayed the course to focus on what is best for Alaska's tribal children and families, empowering tribal communities to redefine community wellness and embrace how Alaska cultures heal from over 44 years of institutional racism in the State of Alaska's child welfare system. The landmark Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, the first of its kind in the nation, is on the cutting edge of law and policy.

Workshop J2 (10:30 am):

Cultural Support Services (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Diane Selanoff)

Room: <u>Haines</u>

We will discuss the implementation of the Cultural Resource Guide and coordination of Cultural Support Services. Workshop attendees will learn how Cultural Support Service Providers are identified through collaboration between the Tribe, parent, and OCS, and are compensated through the Request for Funds process at OCS. Join us as we have a conversation about ways to link parents to Cultural Support Services in their community!

Workshop J3 (10:30 am):

Partnering for Resource Family Recruitment and Retention (Yurii Miller, Aileen Mcinnis, Christine Edwards, Kirstie Henry)

Room: <u>Kenai/Denali</u>

Through the usage of data, an overview of the licensing process, current resource family recruitment and retention strategies, as well as interactive dialogue, participants will gain an understanding on how to better recruit and retain resource families in their communities.

General Session K (1:30 pm):

Why We Hurt – Healing For The Next 500 Generations (Amber Webb)

• Room: Fairbanks/Anchorage

Why We Hurt - Healing for the Next 500 Generations brings us into our ancestral community structure through genocide then into ancestral healing. Through this process, we invite participants to feel supported by the genius of our ancestral teachings about community and connection as we reclaim that structure to heal the next 500 generations. In this presentation we walk participants through the Yupik Community Structure Exercise inspired by Calricaraq teachings with permission from Rose Domnick. We discuss systemic factors that have separated us and continue to limit access to connection and healing in our communities. We consider the list of physiological responses to trauma based on the 21 Behavioral Characteristics complied by Jane Middleton Moz and reframed by Christina Love as survival tactics that kept us alive until we could find better ways. Finally, we think collectively about how survival roles show up in community and invite participants to share ancestral approaches to supporting people in healing.

General Session L (2:45 pm):

Nurturing Futures: Healing-Centered Practices in Indigenous Child Welfare (Christina Love)

• Room: Fairbanks/Anchorage

Christina's remarkable journey of survival and rise to internationally renowned speaker, educator, consultant, recovery/addiction coach, and human rights advocate embodies the spirit of transformation and authenticity, testifying to the strength of relationships, culture, and communal bonds. In this captivating session, Christina will lead us through a profound exploration of the transition from trauma-informed approaches to making healing the center of our practices and way of being. Realize how every interaction, conference, and connection holds the potential for healing. Discover how traditional values and innovative practices intertwine to create a foundation of support for children and families. This keynote aims to spark meaningful conversations, inspire collaboration, and equip attendees with actionable tools to drive positive change in tribal child welfare, ensuring a brighter future for many generations to come.

Speaker Biographies

Chief Judge Abby Abinanti, Yurok Tribal Court

The Honorable Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribe is an enrolled Yurok Tribal member, holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of New Mexico School of Law, and was the first California tribal woman to be admitted to the State Bar of California. She was a State Judicial Officer (Commissioner) for the San Francisco Superior Court for over 17 years assigned to the Unified Family Court (Family/Dependency/Delinquency). She retired from the Superior Court in September 2011 and on July 31, 2014 was reappointed as a part-time Commissioner for San Francisco assigned to Dependency, and Duty Judge for that Court where she served until 2015. She has been a Yurok Tribal Court Judge since 1997 and was appointed Chief Tribal Court Judge in 2007, a position she held in conjunction with her Superior Court assignment until 2015.

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | General Session I (9:00 am): State Court and Tribal Court Collaboration: A conversation with Chief Judge Abby Abinanti, Yurok Tribal Court

Aileen Mcinnis

Aileen McInnis, Ed.M, is Director of the Alaska Center for Resource Families which is a statewide network of offices that train, support, recruit and prepare foster, kinship, guardianship and adoptive families in the state of Alaska. She is located in the Anchorage office.

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J3 (10:30 am): Partnering for Resource Family Recruitment and Retention (Yurii Miller, Aileen Mcinnis, Christine Edwards, Kirstie Henry)

Alex Cleghorn

Alex Cleghorn is the Chief Operating Officer of the Alaska Native Justice Center, where he champions justice initiatives for Alaska Native communities. He has devoted his 20 years of legal practice to representing Native people, Tribes, and Tribal Organizations. In particular, he has served as General Counsel for Southcentral Foundation, Assistant Attorney General and a Special Assistant to the Alaska Attorney General. Of Sugpiaq descent, Alex is a tribal citizen of Tangirnaq Native Village, a shareholder of Natives of Kodiak, Koniag Incorporated and Cook Inlet Region Inc, and he is also a Director of Koniag Corporation. He also presides as President of the Woody Island Tribal Council, the governing body of the Tangirnaq Native Village. Based in Anchorage, Alex balances his professional life with his role as a husband and father.

• Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | General Session A (9:15 am): Opening Remarks (Alex Cleghorn)

Ali Wykis

Ali Wykis, born and raised in Soldotna, Alaska, specializes in child welfare and tribal law. She is a graduate of Penn State Law and Purdue University. Since returning to her home state, Ali has held various roles in child welfare, including as a parents' and children's attorney and as an ICWA worker. Currently, she works as the Child Welfare Attorney at Kawerak, Inc. In this role, she provides comprehensive support to Tribes, including guidance on state court cases, direct representation in Superior Court and Alaska Supreme Court cases, and assistance with Tribal Court proceedings and development.

• Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop G2 (1:30 pm): What Are Active Efforts? (Ali Wykis, Lenora Walker)

Amber Frasure

Amber Frasure is graduate research assistant at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). Amber has worked with ANTHC for 3 years in the behavioral health department on programs related to addiction, stigma and historical oppression focused on promoting healing centered systems and breaking histories of harm. Notably, she works on programs including the Alaska Blanket Exercise and the Addiction Medicine ECHO training series. She is passionate about her clinical work with adults from diverse cultural backgrounds who experience co-occurring severe mental illness and substance use disorders. She moved to Dena'ina lands in 2017 where she earned her Masters of Science in Clinical Psychology and is a third-year doctoral student in the Clinical-Community Psychology program at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

 Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | General Session H (3:30 pm): Alaska Blanket Exercise: Indigenous Storywork of Healing Trauma (Jaclynne Qalukisag Richards, Amber Frasure)

Amber Webb

Amber Webb is a Yup'ik and Scandinavian tribal member who resides in Aleknagik, Alaska and grew up between Anchorage and Dillingham. She is an artist and has worked as the OUD Peer Support Coordinator at BBAHC since 2022. She was awarded the Choggiung LTD Shareholder of the year award, the BBNC shareholder of the year award and the Walter Soboleff Warrior of Light Award in 2019 for her advocacy to end violence against native women. In 2018, she was awarded a Rasmuson Foundation Individual Project Award for the Qaspeq Project in honor of MMIWG2S+ that she hopes to bring to more communities in Canada and the US. Her artwork visually explores the evolution, strength and sovereignty of indigenous people as we continue to survive genocide and racism. She is deeply invested in community healing from lateral and internalized oppression and protecting native land and people from exploitation by building on our strengths using Yupiaq teachings from elders across Southwest Alaska.

 Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | General Session K (1:30 pm): Why We Hurt – Healing For The Next 500 Generations (Amber Webb)

Casey Groat

Casey Groat, Baayin, is a Tribal citizen of Naknek Native Village where she was raised before attending Western Washington University to receive her degree in Human Services and minor in American Cultural Studies. Casey spent over 16 years working for the State of Alaska and served as the Statewide ICWA Coordinator for several years. Casey has worked for ANJC since March of 2022 and is grateful for the opportunity to provide training and technical assistance to Tribes.

 Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D4 (3:30 pm): A Desk Reference for Alaska Tribal Workers in ICWA Cases (Holly Handler, Casey Groat)

Charlie Kidd

Charlie Kidd is an attorney with the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) in Anchorage. He is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and the University of California, Berkeley. He has been in Alaska since 2017, when he moved to Juneau to clerk for Superior Court Judge Philip Pallenberg. He subsequently worked at Sonosky Chambers. He has been primarily working with victims of domestic violence on protective orders and family law matters since joining ANJC in 2020.

- Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop C4 (1:30 pm): Elder Abuse Prevention: A Legal Toolbox (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)
- Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop G4 (1:30 pm): Guardianships of Grandchildren and Advanced Care Directives (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)

Chad W. Holt

Chad Holt is a lifelong resident of Alaska graduating from West Anchorage High School in 1982. He has a BA in Political Science from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and a Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona. Chad was an attorney in private practice for ten years before joining the State of Alaska Office of Public Advocacy in 2004 as a Supervising attorney. Chad was promoted to Deputy Director and ultimately appointed as the Director of the agency by the State Commissioner of Administration. Chad is considered an expert in certain legal areas including the Indian Child Welfare Act and Child In Need of Aid cases. He currently trains and advises professionals and Tribes in these areas of law. Chad joined the Alaska Native Justice Center in 2019 and supervises its Legal Representation programs.

 Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D3 (3:30 pm): Everything You Need to Know (Plus More!!!) To Feel Prepared and Confident for Court (Chad W. Holt, Karen Hawkins, Corey Gillespie)

Christina Love

Christina Love, a proud Alutiiq/Sugpiaq woman (she/her), brings authentic voice and transformative her spirit as an internationally acclaimed speaker, educator, consultant, recovery coach, and human rights activist. Born in Fairbanks, with ancestral ties to Egegik and Chitina, Alaska, Christina embodies the strength of her heritage and each community that shaped and grew her. Committed to systems change and advocating for marginalized populations, her journey stems from experiences as an adult and child survivor, formerly incarcerated individual in recovery, and overcoming homelessness and disabilities. As an educator and storyteller, Christina focuses on trauma, substance use, and mental health's intersection, emphasizing individual and community healing. She leads a movement to end violence, oppression, and stigma through the liberation of education, community healing, and storytelling.

 Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | General Session L (2:45 pm): Nurturing Futures: Healing-Centered Practices in Indigenous Child Welfare (Christina Love)

Christine Edwards

Christine Edwards is the Office of Children's Services (OCS) Foster Care Licensing Manager for the Anchorage, Southeast and Western regions. Ms. Edwards has worked for the State of Alaska for 20 years. She has worked for the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs prior to coming to OCS 7 years ago. While at OCS Ms. Edwards has supervised or managed four of the five regions and has extensive experience working with rural Alaska, the Tribes, and Child Placement Agencies.

 Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J3 (10:30 am): Partnering for Resource Family Recruitment and Retention (Yurii Miller, Aileen Mcinnis, Christine Edwards, Kirstie Henry)

Colleen Ouzts

Colleen Ouzts is a paralegal at the Alaska Native Justice Center in Anchorage. She has lived in Alaska all her life and graduated from the University of Alaska, Anchorage with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, 1998 and Certificate in Paralegal Studies, 1997. She worked as a paralegal for Jermain, Dunnagan & Owens, P.C. in Anchorage after performing well through an internship program. Colleen has worked for many law firms, and attorneys in Anchorage and Wasilla in the past 26 years. She has been working over the past 4 ½ years with Elders at ANJC to assist them with reporting fraud and maltreatment, filing petitions for financial abuse protective orders, guardianships and guardianships of grandchildren.

- Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop C4 (1:30 pm): Elder Abuse Prevention: A Legal Toolbox (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)
- Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop G4 (1:30 pm): Guardianships of Grandchildren and Advanced Care Directives (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)

Colette Meraz

Colette Meraz is a Caseworker III for ICWA at the Bristol Bay Native Association. Known for her unwavering dependability, she brings a compassionate approach to her work, consistently maintaining strong relationships with those she serves.

• Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop F2 (10:30 am): Navigating the Front Lines: ICWA Worker's Role in Investigations (Eva Kapotak, Collette Meraz, Maria Guerra, Shawnda Cutcher-Griechen)

Corey Gillespie

Corey Gillespie is a staff Guardian ad Litem (GAL) with the Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) in Anchorage. Corey has been working in child welfare for nearly 19 years, the past 17 have been as a GAL with OPA.

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D3 (3:30 pm): Everything You Need to Know (Plus More!!!) To Feel
 Prepared and Confident for Court (Chad W. Holt, Karen Hawkins, Corey Gillespie)

Diane Selanoff

Diane Selanoff hails from Port Graham, Alaska, and currently resides in Valdez, Alaska. She is a Sugpiat Cultural bearer and teaches fur and intestine sewing, beading, and carving. Over the past few years, Diane has served as an adjunct instructor for the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and is also a member of Chugachmiut's Elders Council. Her interests lie in teaching cultural processes and subsistence practices. Diane is deeply committed to working with foster children, aiming to help them heal and grow through traditional ways.

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J2 (10:30 am): Cultural Support Services (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Diane Selanoff)

Erin Dougherty-Lynch

Erin Dougherty-Lynch is the Managing Attorney of NARF's Anchorage office, specializing in federal Indian law. She leads NARF's efforts to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and recently served as counsel of record in the landmark Haaland v. Brackeen case. Erin also advocates for Alaska Native subsistence rights and tribal sovereignty. She joined NARF in 2009 and is a member of multiple federal and state bars.

 Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | General Session E (9:00 am): Outcome of Brackeen – Now what? (Erin Dougherty-Lynch)

Eva Kapotak

Eva Kapotak is a Caseworker III, ICWA with Bristol Bay Native Association.

 Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop F2 (10:30 am): Navigating the Front Lines: ICWA Worker's Role in Investigations (Eva Kapotak, Collette Meraz, Maria Guerra, Shawnda Cutcher-Griechen)

Holly Handler

Holly served as the supervising attorney for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation's Southeast offices for 13 years, representing low-income clients in housing, health care, public benefits, elder law and domestic violence cases. She has also represented Alaska tribes and tribal organizations in matters regarding sovereignty and child protection, and represented Tlingit & Haida in the successful Alaska Supreme Court appeal to recognize tribal jurisdiction over child support matters with former Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) Attorney Jessie Archibald. Holly received her Law degree from Harvard Law School and Bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago. She is the proud mother of twin boys.

 Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D4 (3:30 pm): A Desk Reference for Alaska Tribal Workers in ICWA Cases (Holly Handler, Casey Groat)

Jaclynne Qalukisaq Richards

Jaclynne Qalukisaq Richards is Iñupiaq from Kiana. Her professional background includes nine years of service at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Jaclynne works as a Program Manager in the Behavioral Health Department, where she oversees strategic development for the Alaska Blanket Exercise (ABE) Program. Jaclynne holds her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Alaska Anchorage and her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Alaska Pacific University.

 Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | General Session H (3:30 pm): Alaska Blanket Exercise: Indigenous Storywork of Healing Trauma (Jaclynne Qalukisag Richards, Amber Frasure)

Jason Bavilla

Jason Bavilla is a Yupik who was born in Dillingham but raised in Tuntutuliak and is bilingual in Yupik and English. Jason lives in Tuntutuliak with his wife Ferdinanda and their 4 kids, Nolan, Kira, Danica, and Blake. Jason is working as a Behavioral Health Aide-II for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Jason lives a subsistence lifestyle year round on the Kuskokwim River. He enjoys fishing for salmon in the summer, hunting for waterfowl, moose, caribou, musk ox, and seals.

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D1 (3:30 pm): Supporting Communities with Limited Resources (Sheri Patraw, Jason Bavilla)

Jessica Saniguq Ullrich

Jessica Saniġuq Ullrich, MSW, PhD, is a Tribal citizen of Nome Eskimo Community, and a proud mother of 2 teenage daughters. Jessica worked in the Alaska child welfare system in various positions before obtaining her PhD from University of Washington. As an Assistant Professor at Washington State University in the Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH) program, she focuses on the promotion of connectedness, wellbeing, relational healing, and social/environmental justice.

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | General Session B (10:30 am): For the Love of Our Children: Re-centering
 Indigenous Relational Knowledge (Jessica Saniguq Ullrich)

Josh Ahsoak

Joshua was born in Utqiaġvik (Barrow), AK. He is of Iñupiaq descent, a tribal citizen of the Native Village of Barrow, and a shareholder of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation. Joshua graduated from Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University in 2006 and since then has represented businesses, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native non-profits, Tribes, and Tribal organizations. He is a licensed attorney in Alaska.

• Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop C3 (1:30 pm): ICWA Case Stages (Josh Ahsoak)

Karen Hawkins

Karen Hawkins serves as an Assistant Public Advocate in the State of Alaska's Office of Public Advocacy, within the Adult and Juvenile Representation Section. She began her legal career in 1994 as an Assistant Municipal Prosecutor, focusing on prosecuting domestic violence assaults. In 1998, she transitioned to an Assistant Attorney General role in the Human Services Section, where she was responsible for prosecuting juvenile delinquency cases. She later moved to the Commercial and Fair Business Section in 2005, where she prosecuted professional licensing matters. In 2011, she joined the Child Protection Section, representing the Office of Children's Services in child-in-need-of-aid cases. Since 2019, Karen has been with the Office of Public Advocacy, where she represents parents in child-in-need-of-aid cases.

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D3 (3:30 pm): Everything You Need to Know (Plus More!!!) To Feel
 Prepared and Confident for Court (Chad W. Holt, Karen Hawkins, Corey Gillespie)

Kirstie Henry

Kirstie Henry is a Foster Care Recruiter with Kawerak, serving the Bering Strait Region. Originally from White Mountain, she is a dedicated mother to two sons, Wayne the 3rd and Hudson Henry. Having grown up in the region, Kirstie takes great pride in assisting local families in becoming licensed foster care providers with the State of Alaska. Her work involves guiding families through various processes such as fingerprinting, reviewing regulations and statutes, and ensuring compliance. Most importantly, Kirstie is committed to ongoing support, offering valuable resources to families caring for children and teens in the foster system.

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J3 (10:30 am): Partnering for Resource Family Recruitment and Retention (Yurii Miller, Aileen Mcinnis, Christine Edwards, Kirstie Henry)

Lenora Walker

Lenora Walker traditionally comes from Yakutat and is Kwaashki kwaan (Raven/Owl). Her fathers people come from Angoon, and her passion is in Juneau serving tribal families. Lenora has four children and twenty-two grandchildren. She has been with Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska for ten years where she is currently an Indian Child Welfare Act Specialist. Her previous work includes providing behavioral health services in Angoon and Juneau. Her goal is to continue working with tribal families to help build stronger and healthier tribes.

- Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27
 - Workshop F1 (10:30 am): Limits of Motivational Interviewing (Lenora Walker)
 - Workshop G2 (1:30 pm): What Are Active Efforts? (Ali Wykis, Lenora Walker)

Lindsay Bothe Culverhouse, LMSW

Lindsay Bothe Culverhouse is a Child Welfare Consultant with a passion for social justice and system transformation. She specializes in program design and implementation. She has a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage, with a specialization in Social Work Management. She volunteers leading a Greenspace Equity Collaborative, and she is the Ethics Chair for NASW - Alaska Chapter. She enjoys hiking in the wilderness with her husband, three daughters, and dog.

 Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop C2 (1:30 pm): Parent Advisory Committee (Lindsay Bothe Culverhouse, LMSW)

Lou Johnson

Director of Family Services Department, Bristol Bay Native Association; Tribal Co-Lead of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

Lucille (Lou) Johnson, MSW was born in Dillingham, Alaska and is of Yu'pik, Inupiaq, and Filipino descent. Lou is a Tribal member in the Bristol Bay Tribe of Curyung. Lou obtained her three college degrees from the University of Alaska Anchorage (Human Services AAS, BSW, and MSW). Lou started at BBNA as a Social Worker October 15, 1990 and has worked her way to the department director status in May of 1998, where she continues to work in that status.

Lou has been an elected Tribal Council Member for her Tribe and an elected Board Member for the regional domestic violence shelter. Lou served on the Judiciary Committee for her Tribe and assisted in developing the ordinances and protocols for the developing Tribal Court. Lou continues to be an elected Tribal Co-Chair of the Alaska Tribal/State Collaboration Group since 1996 and an elected Tribal Lead Negotiator of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact since 2020.

Lou celebrates 43 years of marriage to husband William, has raised 3 adult children- Michael, 42; Clinton, 39, and Sarah, 38. We have spoiled 7 grandchildren- Shania, 21; Tierra, 19; Peyton, 16; Anthony, 15; Katalina, 13; Jaiden, 10; and Alyssa, 8. They have gained 2 more grandchildren recently- Payton, 11 and Zander, 9. Lou's favorite volunteer and pastime has been the almost 30 years at the scorer's table in the Dillingham High School Wolverine Den officiating the Varsity, Junior Varsity, Middle School, and sometimes the Elementary School basketball games for both the boys and girls teams!

 Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J1 (10:30 am): Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Mary Johnson, Lou Johnson, Maria Guerra)

Maggie Massey

Maggie is a staff attorney at the Alaska Native Justice Center where she is fortunate to support Tribal justice systems throughout Alaska. She also represents Tribes in Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases in the State court system. Maggie has previously worked at the Native American Rights Fund and as a judicial clerk for the Alaska Supreme Court. She is a gardener and reader who really loves ice cream.

Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop G3 (1:30 pm): Asserting Tribal Sovereignty: Intervention, Transfers, and Child Permanency (Maggie Massey)

Maria Guerra

Director, Na'ini Family and Social Services Division, Kenaitze Indian Tribe; Tribal Co-Lead of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

Maria Guerra has resided and worked in the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska for the last 8 years. Maria is a lifelong learner, after attending college and the university in Arizona, she continues to pursue more knowledge and regularly attends continuing education courses in the social work field specific to Domestic Violence/ Sexual Abuse and impacts on children, families, and communities. Additionally, she completed coursework at Kenai Peninsula College on Dena'ina Language to support the local community and the culture best.

Maria has 22 years of work experience in working with low-income groups with culturally diverse backgrounds who were impacted by domestic violence and sexual abuse. She has also completed training and received certification as a Forensic Interviewer through Child First Alaska and the Department of Justice: The Principles of Forensic Interviewing Seminar. She has managed grants for the Family and Social Services Departments with Kenaitze Indian Tribe for 7 years. Her administrative preparation is supported by her certification as a Frontline Supervisor from Frontline Leadership Institute with the Alaska Training Cooperative, ongoing Financial Management Trainings (certified) through the Department of Justice and Internal Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Trainings.

Maria's administrative management experience of 7 years is in the social services and child welfare fields. She has participated in the Child Welfare Tribal State Caucus for the past 7 years and serves as a Tribal Co-Lead in the current year of 2023. Maria works to support the mission of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe "To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever" by working with her teams and local resources in developing a supportive network, with a whole person-centered approach in addressing shelter, food, and safety along with self-sufficiency planning for the un'ina (those who come to us).

- Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop F2 (10:30 am): Navigating the Front Lines: ICWA Worker's Role in Investigations (Eva Kapotak, Collette Meraz, Maria Guerra, Shawnda Cutcher-Griechen)
- Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J1 (10:30 am): Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Mary Johnson, Lou Johnson, Maria Guerra)

Maria Shaa Tlaa Williams

Maria Shaa Tláa Williams Maria received her M.A. and PhD from UCLA. The title of her dissertation is Alaska Native Music: The Spirit of Survival. She has been teaching at the University of Alaska Anchorage since 2011 in the department of Alaska Native Studies. Her publications include The Alaska Native Reader: History, Culture & Politics (2009); a documentary film on Athabascan Basket maker Daisy Stridzatze Demientieff (A Beautiful Journey 2009). Research interests include Alaska Native history, the impact of colonialism and cultural revitalization.

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop C1 (1:30 pm): Continuity and Survivance: Overview of Alaska Native
 History and Culture (Maria Shaa Tlaa Williams)

Mary Johnson

Senior Director of Family Services, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; Tribal Co-Lead of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

Mary Johnson is employed as the Sr. Director of Family Services at Tlingit & Haida, and happily lives in Juneau with her husband John Carrion and their youngest son, Gustavo. Mary has two older sons that she proudly shares about, and a 7-year-old granddaughter. Her parents are Ralph Johnson from Scammon Bay, Alaska and the late Jill Johnson from Southwest Montana. She was born and raised in Sitka, Alaska and is a member of Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Native Village of Scammon Bay.

Mary has been working in social services in Alaska since 2000, when she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work and continued to complete her Master of Arts in Community Psychology. Mary believes there is a need to help heal communities to have a long-term impact in children and families' lives. She is an elected Tribal Co-chair of the Alaska Tribal/State Collaboration group and elected Co-Lead Negotiator for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact.

Mary enjoys a quiet life with her family, while helping to provide care for her Elderly father who lives in the Juneau Pioneer Home. She also has an early inheritance of her father's 2 pups that provide the family with much entertainment.

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J1 (10:30 am): Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Mary Johnson, Lou Johnson, Maria Guerra)

Olivia Shears

Olivia Shears is from Anchorage, where she currently trains with the UAA Child Welfare Academy. She began her career in child welfare in 2006, working in child protection, foster care licensing and training resource families. She worked for the State of Alaska, Office of Children's Services for seven years. Olivia has a special interest in training topics around trauma, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and maintains a passion for supporting child protection staff and resource families.

Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop F3 (10:30 am): Strengthening Families Alaska: Promoting 5
Protective Factors in Child Welfare Practice (Valerie Dudley, Olivia Shears)

Robin Charlie

Robin (Cuukvak) Charlie has been with the Office of Children's Services since 2015. Robin began her journey in child welfare in 2009 working for the Tribe in Bethel. Robin transitioned from Tribal to State child welfare in 2015 and moved to Anchorage in 2016. She grew up in Tununak and Bethel and is a tribal member of the Native Village of Tununak. As the Anchorage Region ICWA Specialist, she is passionate about ICWA law while building and maintaining positive relationships with Tribes for the families we serve.

Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop G1 (1:30 pm): Transforming Child Welfare: Impact of OCS and Tribal
 Partnerships (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Robin Charlie)

Shawnda Cutcher-Griechen

Na'ini Family Services Supervisor – Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Shawnda has lived in Alaska since 1993. Her career focuses on vulnerable populations and child welfare. Her academic achievements include Magna Cum Laude recipient, Clinical Trauma Professional, and WBU Oral History Honoree commemorated in the Library of Congress. She has connections through her husband and grandchildren to Alaska Native tribes. She enjoys assisting families with healing from their traumatic experiences through holistic and traditional methods.

• Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop F2 (10:30 am): Navigating the Front Lines: ICWA Worker's Role in Investigations (Eva Kapotak, Collette Meraz, Maria Guerra, Shawnda Cutcher-Griechen)

Sheri Patraw

Sheri Patraw has a BA degree in Psychology and has worked in the behavioral health field for more than 30 years. She has worked in family preservation, child protection, psychiatric hospital intake and child mental health case management. She has worked with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for close to 9 years. Her goal as Program Manager of the Behavioral Health Aide Program is to elevate the profession of village-based behavioral health providers and to provide them with a network of support that enables them to address a wide array of behavioral health issues with confidence. Sheri was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska and is of Yup'ik, Dena'ina, Norwegian and Irish/Scottish decent. She enjoys gardening, sewing, and spending time with her husband and cat.

 Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D1 (3:30 pm): Supporting Communities with Limited Resources (Sheri Patraw, Jason Bavilla)

Tasha Yatchmeneff

Tasha Yatchmeneff has been dedicated to working in Child Welfare for the last 9 years, she has been with the Office of Children's Services for the last 5 years. She has experience with ICWA from both Tribal and State perspectives. Tasha is an Unagax and tribal member of the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, AK. She attended Western Washington University receiving her bachelor's degree in Sociology with a focus on family, social organization, equality and equity and received a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Washington.

- Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop G1 (1:30 pm): Transforming Child Welfare: Impact of OCS and Tribal
 Partnerships (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Robin Charlie)
- Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J2 (10:30 am): Cultural Support Services (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Diane Selanoff)

Traci McGarry

Traci McGarry is originally from Iowa and attended Beloit College in Wisconsin for her undergraduate studies in psychology and religious studies. She earned her master's in education and school counseling at Western Washington University. After spending a summer in Alaska's Denali National Park and teaching English in Korea, Traci and her husband Bryant settled in Nome, Alaska. Traci initially worked as a school counselor for Bering Strait School District's NACTEC program and is now the Child Advocacy Center/Children & Family Services Program Director at Kawerak.

• Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26 | Workshop D2 (3:30 pm): The Role of Tribes in the CAC Process (Traci McGarry)

Valerie Dudley

Valerie is from Bethel where she started her work in child welfare as a trainer of the Indian Child Welfare Act in 2004 for the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP). Since then, she has been involved in child welfare in many capacities ranging from running a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer program to currently acting as her Tribe's representative in a Child in Need of Aid case. She now lives in Wasilla with her husband.

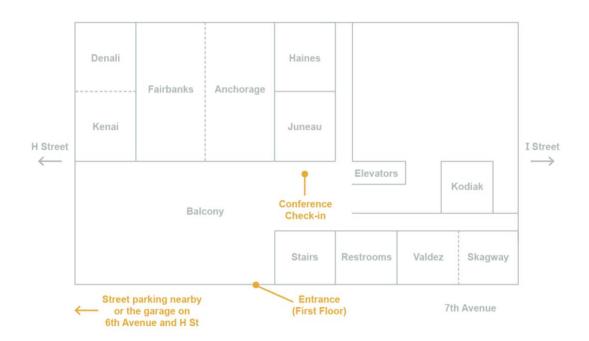
Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27 | Workshop F3 (10:30 am): Strengthening Families Alaska: Promoting 5
Protective Factors in Child Welfare Practice (Valerie Dudley, Olivia Shears)

Yurii Miller

Yurii Miller is the Office of Children's Services (OCS) Foster Care Licensing Manager for Northern and Southcentral Alaska. Mr. Miller has worked for OCS for 18 years all in foster care licensing. Mr. Miller brings a wealth of experience to foster care licensing as a former foster parent, Juvenile Probation Officer and a Child Placement Agency manager for therapeutic foster care/residential care.

 Day 3 | Thursday, September 28 | Workshop J3 (10:30 am): Partnering for Resource Family Recruitment and Retention (Yurii Miller, Aileen Mcinnis, Christine Edwards, Kirstie Henry)

Session Rooms



Main Ballroom

Fairbanks/Anchorage

Failbail	NS/AIICHUIdye					
Day 1 Tuesday, September 26		Day 2 V	Day 2 Wednesday, September 27		Day 3 Thursday, September 28	
9:00 am:	Cleghorn) m: For the Love of Our	9:00 am:	Outcome of Brackeen – Now what? (Erin Dougherty- Lynch)	9:00 am:	State Court and Tribal Court Collaboration: A conversation with Chief Judge Abby Abinanti, Yurok Tribal Court	
10.30 am.		3:30 pm:	Alaska Blanket Exercise: Indigenous Storywork of Healing Trauma (Jaclynne Qalukisaq Richards, Amber Frasure)			
				1:30 pm:	Why We Hurt – Healing For The Next 500 Generations (Amber Webb)	
				2:45 pm:	Nurturing Futures: Healing- Centered Practices in	

Indigenous Child Welfare

(Christina Love)

Workshop Rooms

Kenai/Denali

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26

- 1:30 pm: Continuity and Survivance: Overview of Alaska Native History and Culture (Maria Shaa Tlaa Williams)
- 3:30 pm: Supporting Communities with Limited Resources (Sheri Patraw, Jason Bavilla)
- Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27
- 10:30 am: Navigating the Front Lines: ICWA Worker's Role in Investigations (Eva Kapotak, Collette Meraz, Maria Guerra, Shawnda Cutcher-Griechen)
- 1:30 pm: Transforming Child Welfare: Impact of OCS and Tribal Partnerships (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Robin Charlie)
- Day 3 | Thursday, September 28
- 10:30 am: Partnering for Resource Family Recruitment and Retention (Yurii Miller, Aileen Mcinnis, Christine Edwards, Kirstie Henry)

Haines

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26

- 1:30 pm: Elder Abuse Prevention: A Legal Toolbox (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)
- 3:30 pm: A Desk Reference for Alaska Tribal Workers in ICWA Cases (Holly Handler, Casey Groat)
- Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27
- 10:30 am: Limits of Motivational Interviewing (Lenora Walker)
- 1:30 pm: Guardianships of Grandchildren and Advanced Care Directives (Charlie Kidd, Colleen Ouzts)
- Day 3 | Thursday, September 28
- 10:30 am: Cultural Support Services (Tasha Yatchmeneff, Diane Selanoff)

Juneau

Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26

- 1:30 pm: Parent Advisory Committee (Lindsay Bothe Culverhouse, LMSW)
- 3:30 pm: Everything You Need to Know (Plus More!!!) To Feel Prepared and Confident for Court (Chad W. Holt, Karen Hawkins, Corey Gillespie)

Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27

- 10:30 am: Strengthening Families Alaska: Promoting 5 Protective Factors in Child Welfare Practice (Valerie Dudley, Olivia Shears)
- 1:30 pm: Asserting Tribal Sovereignty: Intervention, Transfers, and Child Permanency (Maggie Massey)

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28

10:30 am: Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Mary Johnson, Lou Johnson, Maria Guerra)

Skagway/Valdez

- Day 1 | Tuesday, September 26
- 1:30 pm: ICWA Case Stages (Josh Ahsoak)
- 3:30 pm: The Role of Tribes in the CAC Process (Traci McGarry)

Day 2 | Wednesday, September 27

- 10:30 am: No session scheduled
- 1:30 pm: What Are Active Efforts? (Ali Wykis, Lenora Walker)

Day 3 | Thursday, September 28

10:30 am: No session scheduled