

**From:** White, Carolyn [cwhite@pci-nsn.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2011 6:24 PM  
**To:** ACF CBComments  
**Subject:** Tribal Response to Federal Register Notice - CFSR

I am responding from a tribal perspective and within a very small window of opportunity to provide input. Sorry for the lateness of this email. I hope that this is included with other comments.

This week, I chaired the United South and Eastern Tribes's Social Services Committee in Marksville, LA. Tribal Social Services Directors representing at least 9 of the 26 Tribes, included in the USET membership, discussed the Indian Child Welfare Act and the need for the collection of more data, data analysis, and monitoring as it relates to states' implementation and compliance with the requirement of the law.

Specifically, we submitted a resolution to the USET Board of Directors requesting that there be more data collection and monitoring within the following areas to improve ICWA compliance.

- SACWIS Systems
- Child and Family Service Review
- IV-E Reviews
- any other federal review process

Individual Work with Florida and Alabama:

I have been working closely with Florida and Alabama, in my role as the Family Services Director with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, to improve practice and timely notifications to the Tribes within these states. As part of the Court Improvement Project in Florida, there has been key elements programmed within the SACWIS System to require caseworkers to ask during the front-end investigations about Indian heritage. I forwarded the information to AL for consideration in their SACWIS System.

I have participated in two Child and Family Service Reviews and have asked about the ICWA sections within the CFSR Review Instrument, but it was presented that ICWA was reviewed but not weighted in the compliance process. Without consideration and review, specifically to determine if a state is following ICWA regulations, and having it as a part of the overall review evaluation, there is no opportunity for improvement of practice within the Program Improvement Plan.

I have personally participated in the Alabama IV-E Review. I do not recall any ICWA cases being reviewed. This is another opportunity for the Children's Bureau to review ICWA compliance for those Indian children in foster care. Specifically to determine if Tribes were formally notified about involuntary court actions and whether a Tribe had an opportunity to petition to be a third party to the court proceedings. If Tribes were not properly notified, this could be identified as a IV-E error.

There may be other review processes that could also be used as an evaluation tool for ICWA compliance.

If there is additional opportunity to discuss specific items for change to the Child and Family Services Review, I am interested and available. You may contact me at Office Phone (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2602 or Cell Phone (251) 253-5924 or by email at [cwhite@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:cwhite@pci-nsn.gov)

Carolyn M. White, MSW, LCSW  
Family Services Director  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502