

**Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)
Education Subcommittee**
Tuesday, September 29, 2015
2:00pm EDT

The Education Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 1:05pm.

Commissioners Present: Shannon Turner, Tracy Locke, Pete Magnant

Commissioners Not Present: Sen. Randy Head, Sarah Ancel, Erin Oliver

Staff Present: Kerry Steiner

Kerry Steiner introduced Sally Tuttle and Debra Haza as volunteers to the Education Subcommittee.

Agenda Items: Items #4 and #5 on AICI Eligibility Form

Kerry Steiner provided clarification on Items #4 and #5 on the AICI Eligibility Form, in that Item #4 refers to Verifiable Birth Certificates and Item #5 refers to Other Documents proving lineage or heritage. She explained that Item #4 refers to Birth Certificates that are issued where it states the child is Native American. Item #5 would be, for example, where the child's parent is on the tribal rolls but the child may not be, yet they can show by way of a birth certificate or letter from the tribe that they are related to the parent.

The topic of State Recognized Tribes was brought up and it was decided that only members of Federally Recognized Tribes and historic tribes of Indiana would be eligible for the scholarships.

Sally Tuttle stated it should include historic tribes of Indiana, such as the Miami, but she's not sure if other tribes have rolls.

Shannon Turner asked where the money come from that we are using for the scholarships and whether it was state or federal money. Sally Tuttle responded that it's the money generated from the sale of license plates and Shannon Turner asked whether that was considered state money. Kerry Steiner explained that the license plate money is in a public trust and is not considered state money because it's not part of the state budget, and that the only language connected to the use of the license plate money is that it must be used in a lawful manner.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Shannon Turner asked what the MOU is for and Kerry Steiner explained it is the document that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the American Indian Center of Indiana (AICI) as the third party administrator for the scholarships. AICI will collect the applications and accompanying paperwork, ensure that all the required documents are included, then submit them to the INAIAC so the scholarship committee can select the awardees.

Tracy Locke asked if AICI was charging a fee for this and Kerry Steiner explained they are not due to the fact that they already offer a similar program and students will be coming to them anyway. The benefit to AICI will be that it could help increase their number of participants.

Shannon Turner asked what documents will be used for students who are from non-Federally Recognized Tribes and Kerry Steiner responded that's where Items #4 and #5 come into the equation. Shannon asked what those were and Kerry Steiner responded they are links to the tribal rolls. Shannon Turner asked the Wea Tribe and Sally Tuttle responded that if they are a historic tribe of Indiana and have rolls in Indiana they would be eligible. Shannon Turner asked what the verification process was for confirming someone is qualified and Kerry Steiner explained that AICI confirms their lineage. Shannon Turner asked how that was done and Kerry Steiner stated she would contact AICI and confirm the process they use.

Kerry Steiner asked whether INAIAC wanted to include trade schools since AICI reports a large number of their participants attend school for truck driving and airplane mechanic trade skills. Tracy Locke suggested we limit it to colleges and universities for now and that we could always add trade schools later.

Scholarship Application form

Kerry Steiner reviewed the contents of the Scholarship Application form and two small edits were made, one being a typo and the other was to reverse two questions so like items were kept together, i.e., tribal information and financial information. Sally Tuttle said she saw no other changes that needed to be made. Kerry Steiner noted that qualifications included someone being an Indiana resident and asked whether the Subcommittee wanted that to mean a student who already was an Indiana resident or also a student who would become one during the time they were in school. For example, if a student comes to Indiana from another state then becomes a resident while they are attending an Indiana college or university, and she added that the intent of the Commission is to serve Indiana's Native American population. The Subcommittee agreed that the student needs to be an Indiana resident prior to applying for the scholarship so a change was made to the Scholarship Application Form in that the student must provide either their own previous year tax return or that of their parent/guardian which denotes the student as being a dependent.

Debra Haza suggested the Employment Subcommittee consider creating a scholarship program for the trade schools.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47pm.