

**Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)
Education Subcommittee**

Tuesday, December 8, 2015
2:30pm EDT

The Education Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 2:35pm.

Commissioners Present: Erin Oliver, Tracy Locke, Sarah Ancel

Commissioners Not Present: Sen. Randy Head, Pete Magnant, Shannon Turner

Staff Present: Kerry Steiner

Volunteers Present: Sally Tuttle, Debra Haza

Sarah Ancel made a motion to approve the minutes of the Oct. 9, 2015 Education Subcommittee meeting. Tracy Locke seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Items: Changes to MOU and Scholarship Application Form

Kerry Steiner reviewed the changes proposed at the Oct. 14, 2015 INAIAC meeting which were noted on the revised MOU and Scholarship Application Form.

Joining the meeting was Doug Poe, executive director of the American Indian Center of Indiana (AICI), the third party administrator for the INAIAC scholarship program. Doug Poe noted that, with respect to the deadline on the INAIAC Scholarship Application Form, he has not seen any students turn in any AICI applications for any of the major colleges and universities in Indiana until July or August. Sally Tuttle responded that most students wait that long because they know the AICI does not get their funding until after July. Doug Poe said he does not usually receive applications before July. Kerry Steiner asked if INAIAC changes the deadline date on the form will that give the AICI enough time to complete their part of the process. Doug Poe mentioned the AICI can usually get the check to the school within 8-10 days.

Doug Poe then asked if students receive the \$1,500 AICI scholarship would they still be eligible for the INAIAC summer school scholarship. Erin Oliver responded yes since these are separate scholarships. Kerry Steiner asked if there was any reason the committee could think of why a student would not be eligible to receive all three scholarships, i.e., the INAIAC academic year, the INAIAC summer school and the AICI scholarships. Erin Oliver said she felt like students should be able to get all three.

Doug Poe asked if INAIAC was planning to include state tribes recognized from other states. Sally Tuttle asked if the AICI does this for their scholarships and Doug Poe responded in the affirmative, adding that the WIA 166 Grant has authorized the AICI to administer scholarships to federally recognized tribes, state recognized tribes and the Miami Nation of Indiana (MNI). Kerry Steiner asked if the AICI would be including the Wea Tribe of Indiana and Doug Poe said yes, but that he needs to see what kind of historical information the Wea Tribe has before he can submit it to the WIA 166 administrator for approval. Erin Oliver asked Doug Poe what process he uses to verify state recognized tribes; he answered that he starts with an internet search. Erin Oliver asked what state recognized tribes the AICI has serviced and Doug Poe said there hasn't been many and he would have to go back and look. Erin Oliver asked if it would be fair to say that 90% of the scholarships the AICI awards are to students who

are members of federally recognized tribes and the remainder would be to state recognized tribes and MNI, and Doug Poe agreed.

Another question that was posed at the Oct. 14, 2015 INAIAC meeting was regarding the security of, and retention policy for the applications. Kerry Steiner explained that all applications received from the AICI would be scanned and retained digitally indefinitely, and the original signature pages would be kept in a locked filing cabinet for two years, per the advice of the Civil Rights Commission's legal counsel. Doug Poe indicated the policy and process at the AICI is similar.

Erin Oliver asked Doug Poe for additional clarification regarding historical tribes of Indiana and non-federally recognized tribes. Doug Poe explained that, for example, with the MNI he had to request their tribal rolls for an external audit through the WIA 166 grant. When Doug Poe first came on board as executive director the participant level at the AICI was low so including MNI helped with his reporting numbers. Sally Tuttle added that the state did acknowledge in the very first conversation to include the MNI.

Kerry Steiner brought up another question that was posed in the Oct. 14, 2015 INAIAC meeting about whether a student needs to be an Indiana resident at the time they apply for a scholarship. Doug Poe said it's only happened once at the AICI where a student was not a resident and it was because the family was moving from another state to Indiana. Doug Poe said he called the employer to confirm the family was indeed moving to Indiana so he allowed the student to receive the scholarship. Erin Oliver added that if the university considers the student a resident then INAIAC could as well, and Sarah Ancel confirmed this saying residency is where the family lives. Erin Oliver asked Sarah Ancel what determines residence and she responded that it's determined by the school as to whether a student has in-state or out-of-state residency. Kerry Steiner added that if we open the scholarship to out-of-state students it reduces the number of opportunities for Indiana students and since the Commission is a state entity it should go to Indiana students. Sally Tuttle agreed.

Erin Oliver asked what the process looks like for including the Wea Tribe and Doug Poe responded he would need to get historical information from Chief John Boyd and see what their tribal rolls look like, adding that MNI has kept their roles current. If the Wea Tribe have also kept their rolls current then there would likely be no problem getting the WIA 166 grant administrator to approve the Wea Tribe. Erin Oliver asked if Doug Poe was looking to add the Wea Tribe to the AICI's services and Doug Poe responded yes. Sally Tuttle added that the Wea Tribe would also have to have a governing body and a tribal office. Erin Oliver asked if INAIAC wanted to wait until the AICI has completed that process before including the term "historical tribe" on the scholarship application form. Doug Poe added that should we decide to include the Wea Tribe now, he would not be able to include the Wea Tribe in the Beartracks reporting database until he gets the federal approval. Erin Oliver asked the purpose of Beartracks and Doug Poe responded it tracks services and contact frequency with the student over time and triggers when there has been no contact with the student for a period of time; it tracks the students for 18 months after graduation. Erin Oliver added this would be great information for INAIAC to have. Kerry Steiner suggested INAIAC wait until the AICI has federal approval for the Wea Tribe in that the approval would act as a safety net; Erin Oliver agreed that it was a sort of "stamp of approval."

Erin Oliver asked if the AICI would still enter the student in Beartracks if the student received the INAIAC scholarship but not the one from AICI and Doug Poe responded they would not because the AICI could not count them as a participant. Erin Oliver reiterated that Beartracks would be good data to have.

Doug Poe said the regional director for the WIA 166 grant was very on board with the collaboration between the AICI and the INAIAC, and added that the AICI's performance has saved them from some of the larger budget cuts. Sally Tuttle asked if students received the INAIAC scholarship would that affect their being eligible to receive anything from AICI and Doug Poe said he didn't think it was fair that students get scholarship from both organizations at the same time and that maybe they apply for one scholarship one year and the other scholarship the following year. Sally Tuttle said she thought they could apply for both and asked for clarification and Erin Oliver added she was concerned if a student could not receive both scholarships because that was less money they were having to borrow. Tracy Locke and Sarah Ancel agreed and the consensus was that students could apply for both scholarships.

Erin Oliver asked Doug Poe if he was having to turn any students away and he said no, and that even though the budget was really tight this year in the area of unrestricted funding (the Indiana Minority Health surveys), he has been able to award scholarships to all the students who have applied. He added that when it comes to students, he is typically looking at the brightest of the bright and the most economically challenged. Erin Oliver noted that the INAIAC scholarship will rely a lot on the essay component and the contributions a student has made to their tribal communities, overall, what are they doing that betters their community.

Kerry Steiner explained the approval and selection process in that the AICI will gather the documentation noted on the application and indicate whether they are approved or not, then turn all applications over to the INAIAC's scholarship selection committee (yet to be formed) to determine who will be awarded the scholarships. Doug Poe clarified that approval just means having the paperwork, which includes the essay, and Kerry Steiner agreed noting that the INAIAC will review the essay, the AICI just has to ensure it's included.

Erin Oliver confirmed the language in the INAIAC Scholarship Application Form would be changed to remove the term "historical tribes of Indiana" and replaced with state recognized tribes and the MNI.

With respect to the application original signature pages, Kerry Steiner clarified that these would be kept for two years and Doug Poe mentioned he would also have copies of the applications should we need copies of them.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.