



National Tribal Child Support Association 4th Annual Training Conference by: Tami Lorbecke / NTCSA Secretary

The National Tribal Child Support Association (NTCSA) sponsored their fourth annual tribal child support training conference July 18 – 22, 2004 in Albuquerque, New Mexico hosted by the Navajo Nation Department of Child Support Enforcement.

Each year the conference grows in numbers of attendance, and this year was no exception. Over 200 people attended the training conference held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Albuquerque. Numerous tribes were represented along with staff from state and federal programs.



Registration Table: Navajo Nation Dept of Child Support staff.



Navajo Nation Code Talkers

The conference opened with welcoming remarks by Jerry Sweet, President of NTCSA, a prayer by Sammie Largo of Navajo Nation, and posting of colors by the honored Navajo Code Talkers.

Dr. Sherri Z. Heller, Commissioner of the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement presented the opening keynote address. Commissioner Heller expressed her joy that the Final Rule regarding tribal child support enforcement was published in March 2004 and discussed some key points for tribal child support professionals. She stated that the program's principle goal is to ensure that all children, and Indian children in particular, have the financial and emotional support of both parents and that with the publication of the Final Rule more Tribes will have access to funding to develop or enhance child support programs in their tribal communities.



Dr. Sherri Z. Heller – Commissioner/OCSE, Jerry Sweet – NTCSA President, Pierette Baldwin-Gumbrecht – Tribal IV-D Director / Navajo Nation Department of Child Support

The conference was formatted in categorical tracks including *Program Development*, *Judicial*, *Case Management*, *Collaborative Services* and *Cultural*. Experts in their fields from across the nation provided insightful, educational and interactive workshops ranging from how to develop a program and handle daily case management to non-cash child support payments and traditional talking circles.

Workshops Scrapbook



Organizational Development
Misty Gibney & Tami Lorbecke



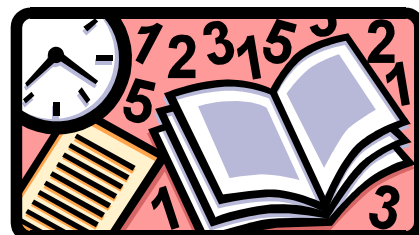
Meet Your Regional Reps
L-R: Sally Kolanowsk - Reg 5; Sherri Larkins - Reg 7;
Jan Jensen - Reg 10; and Carl Rich - Reg 6.



Writing Tribal Codes
Kate Christnot



Case Initiation
Carol Nunway-Tyler & Jennifer Walker



NTCSA, as customary each year, honored numerous professionals for their contributions to the enhancement and expansion of tribal child support issues locally, regionally and nationally.

The *Partnership Award for Professional Excellence* was awarded to Director Joyce Thomas, Administration for Children and Families, Region 5 (Chicago office) for her strong support and tireless efforts in promoting tribal child support enforcement programs regionally and nationally.

Sally Kolanowski accepted the award for Joyce Thomas who was unable to attend.



Judge Nadine Naff & Jerry Sweet



Tribal Judge Nadene Y. Naff of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation was presented with the *Outstanding Judges Award* for exceptional efforts in tribal child support enforcement.

The NTCSA's *President's Award* was given to Misty Gibney, Unit Coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Enforcement. Ms. Gibney received this award in recognition of her efforts in tribal child support enforcement above and beyond the norm.



Jerry Sweet & Misty Gibney



The *Lucille Dawson Award for Professional Excellence* was presented to Tami Lorbecke, Program Manager for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Enforcement and Secretary of NTCSA for her commitment, visionary guidance and unwavering leadership in tribal child support and within the NTCSA.



Tami Lorbecke & Jerry Sweet



And last, but not least, the *Outstanding Tribe Award* was presented to the Chickasaw Nation to recognize their continued, outstanding leadership role in tribal child support enforcement in OK and on a national level.

L-R: Phil Gover, Dawn Gray, Tami Lorbecke, Jerry Sweet, Jennifer Walker, Cheryl Wilson, April Bick, Misty Gibney, & Tiffany Hopper (Piereete Baldwin-Gumbrecht- Navajo Nation in background).

The awards and bountiful evening banquet was punctuated with an uproar of laughter in response to the talented entertainment by the well-known Navajo comedy team, James and Ernie. (James Junes and Ernest Tsosie III). James and Ernie entertained the crowd with their Indian humor about their lives and growing up on the rez. The evening ended with Navajo Dancers demonstrating different dances along with stories of the origin of the dance and the drum songs.



James & Ernie

The week-long conference closed with the NTCSA General Membership meeting which included updates, announcements, the election of new officers and the re-election of incumbent officers. Jerry Sweet, incumbent President, was re-elected as President for a 2-year term and incumbent Secretary, Tami Lorbecke was re-elected. Misty Gibney, an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation was elected Vice President and Linda Tresaugue, Tribal IV-D Director of the Puyallup Tribal Child Support Program was elected Treasurer. All officers will serve a two-year term. In addition, at the request of the President, 7 members volunteered to comprise a Board of Directors.

The Lummi Nation Department of Child Support volunteered to host the 2005 Annual Conference that will be held at the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, WA June 26 – 30, 2005.

We cordially invite new people interested in tribal child support issues to attend next years conference while we encourage everyone who attended this year to come on back!