



# *Developing Culturally Relevant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health supports in WA Tribal Communities*

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Dawn A. Yazzie, MA, NCC

Consultant

Dził Nitsaa Consulting and Services, LLC

# WA State Tribal Proviso Language

- PROVISO LANGUAGE:
- *\$260,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 is provided solely for the department to implement an infant and early childhood mental health consultation initiative to support tribal child care and early learning programs. Funding may be used to provide culturally congruent infant and early childhood mental health supports for tribal child care, tribal early childhood education and assistance program, and tribal head start providers. The department must consult with federally recognized tribes which may include round tables through the Indian policy early learning committee.*

Dzil Nitsaa Consulting and Services, LLC  
contracted by Childcare Aware by  
Washington and DCYF

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Dawn A. Yazzie, MA, NCC  
[dawn.a.yazzie@dzilnitsaacs.org](mailto:dawn.a.yazzie@dzilnitsaacs.org)

Kim Kee, Special Projects Coordinator  
[kim.kee@dzilnitsaacs.org](mailto:kim.kee@dzilnitsaacs.org)

Memarie Tsosie  
[Memarie.Tsosie@dzilnitsaacs.org](mailto:Memarie.Tsosie@dzilnitsaacs.org)



Memarie

## Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Tribal Proviso Advisory Workgroup

- The advisory group meetings every other week on Thursdays from 9am - 10:30am PT -- Next meetings are Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and every other week thereafter
- Members include Early Learning Directors, Behavioral Health Clinicians, Mental Health Consultants at Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers.
- RECRUITING additional IECMHC Tribal Proviso members to co-create the system. Email [Megan.Tady@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:Megan.Tady@dcyf.wa.gov) , or [dawn.a.yazzie@dzilnitsaacs.org](mailto:dawn.a.yazzie@dzilnitsaacs.org) to be included in listserv.

# Update on Current Tribal IECMHC Work:

- Co-created with Advisory Group and sustainability of this IECMHC system state-wide for Tribal communities is a goal of this work. Coordination with members of the Advisory Group to schedule ECE visits to learn about their center.
- Site visits to Yakama Nation, Port Gamble S'Kallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Chehalis Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Makah Tribe, Lower Elwha Tribe, Nisqually Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Colville Tribes.
- Sustainability includes "growing your own" IECMH Consultants from the communities to stay long-term. Will include training program to be developed.
- 1) Program Structure w/Cultural Considerations, 2) Workforce, 3) Equity, 4) Policy & Finance, 5) Data/Research/Evaluation
  - Current focus is on 1 and 2.

# Update on Current Tribal IECMHC work (continued)

- May 24<sup>th</sup> IECMH Tribal 1 Day Workshop, Legends Casino, Toppenish, WA.
- Onsite presentations provided for several communities
- Regional tribal gatherings to support goals around Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Supports/Consultation
  - January, February, March, April 2025
  - Theory of Change and Logic Model development to build out long term sustainability and trainings
- Partnering with UW Barnard Center Advanced Clinical Training (ACT) Program: Infant Mental Health Training program that will be adapted for this initiative
- The TELF Grant could potentially pay; tuition, books/materials, a small living stipend, and laptop.

# Questions?

## Contact Information:

- Dawn A. Yazzie, Consultant
  - [dawn.a.yazzie@dzilnitsaacs.org](mailto:dawn.a.yazzie@dzilnitsaacs.org)
- Kim Kee, Special Projects Coordinator
  - [kim.kee@dzilnitsaacs.org](mailto:kim.kee@dzilnitsaacs.org)
- Megan Tady, DCYF IECMHHC Coordinator
  - [megan.tady@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:megan.tady@dcyf.wa.gov)

**Thank you!**