

Tribal Court State Court Forum (TCSCF) Quarterly Meeting Summary

10/8/2021

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

The purpose of the Tribal Court State Court Forum is to enhance tribal court and state court relationships, provide an opportunity to address issues arising from the courts' concurrent jurisdictions, collaborate on development and delivery of judicial education and training, recommend revisions to Minnesota's procedural rules of court, and work on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Tribal Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Chris Anderson and Hon. Vanya Hogen

State Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Denise Reilly and Hon. Sally Tarnowski

1. Blessing and Welcome

The meeting began with a blessing and was followed by a welcome from TCSCF Tribal Court Co-Chair, the Honorable Vanya Hogen. Introductions were made by forum members as well as from special guests who were in attendance.

2. Review and Approve July 16, 2021, Meeting Summary



Meeting Summary -
TCSCF 7-16-21.pdf

Approved without change.

3. Announcement Regarding Upcoming Event – Blood Memory Documentary

The Honorable Stephen Smith from Ramsey County shared that the Second Judicial District Equal Justice Committee, in conjunction with Twin Cities Public Television, the Ain Dah Yung Center, and First Nations Repatriation Institute, is hosting a panel discussion of the documentary *Blood Memory* on November 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It's free, but you do have to [register](#).

4. Update from CJI ICWA Subcommittee

The Honorable Anne McKeig from the MN Supreme Court shared an update from the CJI ICWA Subcommittee. As part of her update, she shared information about the upcoming ICWA Courts Summit and the [REDress Project](#), an outdoor exhibition at St. Kate's.

5. Continued Conversation Regarding the Native American Children’s Safety Act

As a follow-up from the July 16, 2021, meeting, TCSCF State Court Co-Chair, the Honorable Sally Tarnowski, facilitated more conversation about the [Native American Children’s Safety Act](#).

Panelists included:

The Honorable BJ Jones, Leech Lake Tribal Court of Appeals, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court, Chief Judge of Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Court, and White Earth Nation Tribal Court

The Honorable Stephen Smith from Ramsey County District Court

Catherine (“Katie”) Ryan, Background Studies Legal Manager, Legal Counsel’s Office, Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General

Joshua Quigley, Background Studies Human Services Manager, Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General

During the conversation, an update was provided about the efforts that have occurred following the last panel discussion. See the attached letter from the Minnesota Department of Human Services regarding the TCSCF’s request for maltreatment determination summary data.



Data Request for
Maltreatment Deterri

6. Rethinking our System: Building a New Way Together

Dr. Amelia Franck Meyer, LISW, Chief Executive Officer of Alia, presented an overview of what Alia is doing around child welfare reform and facilitated a discussion about what TCSCF members and special guests can do to further improve the child welfare system.



Building a New
Way Together_Cour

7. Updates and Future Plans

TCSCF Tribal Court Co-Chair, the Honorable Chris Anderson, facilitated a conversation about possible topics for the next meeting agenda and whether to proceed with an in-person or remote meeting format.

Future topic suggestions included:

- Training proposals for judge conferences

- Criminal jurisdiction – intersection between law enforcement and tribal sovereignty – recent MN legislation, U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in U.S. vs. Cooley and other developments that may be producing better outcomes for MN tribes and their members (recent MSBA Appellate Practice Section CLE on the topic)
- Check-in regarding TCSCF strategic priorities
- Follow-up conversation regarding the flip side of the issues presented by Dr. Amelia Franck Meyer
- IV-E reimbursement – an overview of how it works and resources available to support the work.

8. Closing Remarks & Adjourn

TCSCF State Court Co-Chair, the Honorable Denise Reilly, shared information with everyone about upcoming trainings, conferences, and other outreach events. She also indicated that the co-chairs would meet to discuss a proposed meeting schedule for 2022 that they can bring back to this group for review and consideration later in the fall.

Meeting adjourned.

[Click to see agendas and summaries from past meetings](#)

Next Meeting: 12/2/2021 – State Court Host: Annual Conference of Judges Breakfast Meeting