

Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Region 10,  
National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW)  
National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)



**Substance Abuse and Child Welfare in Tribal Communities**  
**Substance Abuse Treatment, Child Welfare, and Court Collaboration**

**Thursday, June 26, 2008**

**11:00am – 1:00pm PST**

(12:00pm Mountain, 1:00pm Central, 2:00pm Eastern)

**Webinar Agenda**

**11:00 am Welcome and Introductions**

Presenter: **Janice M. Holt, M.A.**  
ACF, Region 10

**11:10 am Relational Worldview Model and 10 Element Framework of System Linkages**

Presenters: **Nancy K. Young, Ph.D.**  
Director, NCSACW  
**Nadja Jones, M.S.W.** (Comanche/Onondaga)  
Senior Community Development Specialist, NICWA

NCSACW and NICWA have worked together to integrate the Relational Worldview Model and the 10 Element Framework to support administrators in developing and maintaining collaboration in Tribal communities. The Relational Worldview Model incorporates the Tribal thought of balance and harmony in relationships. There are four major factors that must come together in balance: context, mind, body, and spirit. This Relational Worldview Model views family problems as resulting from an imbalance between these factors. NCSACW uses a 10 Element Framework of system linkages to organize planning efforts of substance abuse treatment, child welfare and courts to improve outcomes for families with substance use disorders involved in the child welfare and family court system.

**11:40 am Questions and Answers**

Moderator: **Nancy K. Young, Ph.D.**

**11:55 pm Panel Presentation by Tribes Working to Create System-Wide Linkages**

Presenters: **Deborah Northburg, M.A.**  
Programs Manager, Cook Inlet Tribal Council Child & Family Services Department  
Cook Inlet Tribal Council (Alaska)  
**Elana Shiflea, M.S., L.P.A.**  
Behavioral Health Coordinator  
Native Village of Eklutna  
**Kari Hearod, LCSW (Choctaw)**  
LT, USPHS Commissioned Corps  
Mahli Issuba (Wind Horse) Family Recovery Center  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Oklahoma)

Moderator: **Nancy K. Young, Ph.D.**

- 11:55 pm** | **Panel Presentation by Tribes Working to Create System-Wide Linkages (Continued)**
- The Promoting Safe and Stable Families act recently funded six Tribal community programs under the *Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse*. This panel presentation involves representatives from four of these tribes who are currently working to create system-wide linkages between their Tribal community and State or county level departments of child welfare services and substance abuse treatment services. System linkages to be discussed include screening and assessment of parents with substance use disorders and coordinating the service linkages for parents' treatment and child safety. Particular strategies to be discussed include developing Memoranda of Understanding and staffing meetings to establish and maintain collaborative relationships.
- 12:40 pm** | **Questions and Answers**
- Moderator: **Nancy K. Young**, Ph.D.
- 12:55 pm** | **Wrap up**

## Speaker Bios

### **LT. Kari Hearod, M.S.W, LCSW Director**

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Choctaw Nation Mahli Issuba Family Recovery Center  
100 S. Main, Suite A, McAalester, OK 74501

Kari Hearod is the Director of the Choctaw Nation Mahli Issuba Family Recovery Center, an outpatient counseling center serving children and families affected by substance use disorders. This program is funded through an Administration of Children and Families Regional Partnership Grant. LT. Hearod also serves as an officer in the United States Public Health Service. She received her B.S.W from East Central University in Oklahoma and her M.S.W. from the University of Oklahoma.

### **Janice M. Holt, M.A. Program Specialist**

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Immediate Office of the Regional Administrator, Region 10  
Email: [janice.holt@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:janice.holt@acf.hhs.gov)

Janice Holt serves as a Program Specialist for the Administration of Children and Families (ACF), Region 10, Immediate Office of the Regional Administrator. Ms. Holt's role is in support of the mission of ACF: To promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities through federal programs. Ms. Holt recently joined ACF after 18 years of not-for-profit work in the areas of Child Welfare, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, Affordable Housing and community partnerships working to address issues surrounding poverty, homelessness and incarcerated youth. Ms. Holt received her Master of Arts in Psychology (Existential Phenomenology) from Seattle University.

### **Nadja Jones, M.S.W., (Comanche/Onondaga) Senior Community Development Specialist**

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National Indian Child Welfare Association  
Email: [nadja@nicwa.org](mailto:nadja@nicwa.org)

Nadja Jones, M.S.W., a Comanche Indian, has worked throughout her career in the field of Indian Child Welfare. As a direct services provider in an urban Indian agency, she developed skills in reunification and preventive case management. Ms. Jones was integral in establishing a network of tribal relative care emergency placements throughout the upstate New York region. When Ms. Jones received her MSW from Arizona State University, she proceeded to work for the state serving under the state ICWA specialist. As a manager, she was able to direct both reunification and preventive services for the urban tribal populations of central Minnesota. While supervising family services programming, Ms. Jones collaborated with urban American Indian organizations that provide mental health services, substance abuse treatment and youth at risk shelters. Currently, Ms. Jones provides the direction for several contracts and grants that provide information and training to tribal and public constituents. Ms. Jones provides advisory and planning committee resources to various initiatives specific to systems improvement and capacity building. Ms. Jones provides in-depth technical assistance to federally recognized tribes and states specific to systems collaboration between child welfare, substance abuse services and the court system through the In-Depth Technical Assistance funded by the NCSACW.

**Deborah Northburg, M.A.**  
**Programs Manager**

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Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) (Alaska)  
CITC Child & Family Services Department  
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Deborah Northburg manages Cook Inlet Tribal Council's Child & Family Services Department who provides a continuum of child welfare support services to families that are at risk of or are involved in the child protective services system. CITC's Child & Family Services Department supports the agency mission that is 'to work in partnership with Our People to develop opportunities that fulfill Our endless potential' by providing families with opportunities to learn and apply skills that enhance safety and preserve relationships. Ms. Northburg received her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Gonzaga University and provided child welfare and home-based family preservation services over the course of 17 years in Washington and Alaska. Ms. Northburg has provided clinical supervision and project management during the last 10 years, and became a part of the CITC team in 2002.

**Elana Shiflea, M.S., L.P.A.**  
**Behavioral Health Coordinator**

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Native Village of Eklutna  
nve.bhc@eklutna-nsn.gov  
edshiflea@yahoo.com

Elana Davis Shiflea, M.S. has worked for the Dena'ina Athabaskan Native Village of Eklutna in Alaska for the past three years as the behavioral health coordinator, and as the former acting director of the Eklutna Child Advocacy Center for a year and a half. She received her undergraduate degree in 1976 in psychology and anthropology, with a minor in art, from the University of California, Sacramento before moving to Alaska in 1977. In social service and mental health agencies, and for the Anchorage School District, Ms. Shiflea worked with Alaska Native families and students to facilitate cross-cultural communication and appreciation, and to support and promote their success in education. After completing a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Multicultural Counseling and Education) at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Ms. Shiflea opened Denali Counseling in 1988, and was licensed as a psychological associate in 1991. Under contracts with the State of Alaska child protective services agency, she has provided in-home services and counseling for families at risk, children in foster care, and adoptive parents. The Native Village of Eklutna has provided an excellent opportunity to collaborate with State, Federal and other Alaska Native organizations to help change policies, procedures and attitudes that have not been helpful to Alaska's first people.

**Nancy K. Young, Ph.D.**  
**Director**

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4940 Irvine Blvd, Suite 202, Irvine, CA 92620—714-505-3525—ncsacw@cffutures.org

Nancy K. Young is the Director of Children and Family Futures, a California-based research and policy institute whose purpose is to improve outcomes for children and families affected by substance use disorders. Dr. Young also serves as the Director of the federally-funded National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, which provides technical assistance to States in support of their efforts to enhance cross-system collaboration for the benefit of affected families, and develops and disseminates information on advances in policy and practice in this field. She received her Ph.D. and M.S.W. from the University of Southern California, School of Social Work