



COLORADO

Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera



Minutes

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs 1st Quarterly Meeting

Date: September 8, 2022

Location: Zoom

CCIA Members Present: Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera; Chairman Manuel Heart (UMUT); Chairman Melvin Baker (SUIT); Councilwoman Marjorie Barry (SUIT); Crystal LoudHawk-Hedgepeth (At-Large); Lucille Echohawk (At-Large); Rick Garcia (DOLA); Alice Horgan on behalf of Dan Gibbs (DNR); Rachel Bryan-Auker (CDPHE); Anne-Marie Braga on behalf of Michelle Barnes (CDHS)

CCIA Ex-Officio Members Present: Kathryn Redhorse (CCIA); Brooke Greenky (HCPF); Daniel Steuer (AG); Dawn DiPrince (HC); Julie Constan (CDOT); Katy Anthes, Georgina Owen (CDE); Katie Odonnell (DORA); Marsha Porter-Norton (La Plata County Commissioner); Chris deKay (Ignacio School District)

Agenda Topic/Narrative

Meeting Convened:

Lt. Governor Primavera convened the meeting at 8:20 AM. Chairman Baker provided the invocation.

Quorum Established:

Lt. Governor Primavera established a quorum at 8:26 AM and reviewed meeting materials.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes:

Chairman Baker made the motion to approve the agenda. Rick Garcia seconded the motion. Approval of agenda at 8:26 AM. Rick Garcia motioned to approve the minutes; Councilwoman Barry seconded the motion. Approval of minutes at 8:27 AM.

CCIA Executive Director Report:

Kathryn provided the Executive Director Report at 8:27 AM.

SB21-116 Voting Process

At 8:32 AM, Commissioners reviewed the list of schools currently out of compliance with SB21-116. Commissioners did not motion to enter into Executive Session prior to their discussion.

- **Hinkley High School, Aurora Public Schools**
 - Motion: No motion
- **Arrowhead Elementary, Cherry Creek SD**
 - Motion: No motion
- **Thunder Ridge Middle School, Cherry Creek SD**
 - Motion: No motion
- **Cheyenne Junior High, Cheyenne Mountain SD**
 - Motion: No Motion
- **Shawsheen Elementary, Greeley-Evans SD 6**
 - Motion to removed Shawsheen Elementary School from the list of noncompliance was made by Director Rick Garcia - 8:41 AM
 - Second: Chairman Baker- 8:41 AM
 - Yea: 10- 8:42 AM
 - Nay: 0
- **Thunder Mountain Elementary, Mesa County SD**
 - Motion: No Motion
- **Johnson Elementary, Poudre SD**
 - Motion to removed Johnson Elementary School from the list of noncompliance was made by Chairman Heart - 8:44 AM
 - Second: Rachel Bryan-Auker
 - Yea: 10- 8:46 AM
 - Nay: 0
- **Sangre de Cristo SD**
 - Motion: No Motion
- **Sangre de Cristo SD - High School**
 - Motion: No Motion

Updated List of Schools Not in Compliance with SB21-116

Hinkley High School, Aurora Public Schools

Arrowhead Elementary, Cherry Creek School District

Thunder Ridge Middle School, Cherry Creek School District

Cheyenne Junior High, Cheyenne Mountain School District

Thunder Mountain Elementary, Mesa County School District

Sangre de Cristo Elementary School, Sangre de Cristo School District

Sangre de Cristo Undivided High School, Sangre de Cristo School District

Councilwoman Barry made a motion to ratify updated list; motion seconded by Rachel Bryan-Auker. Motion carried at 8:54 AM, 9-0; Anne-Marie Braga stepped out and was not present for this vote.

At-Large Commissioner Appointments

At 8:55 AM, voting Commissioners reviewed the finalists for the at-large Commissioner position. Anne-Marie Braga (CDHS) and Treasurer Alston Turtle (UMUT) stepped out of the room.

- Rachel Bryan-Auker made the motion to reappoint Lucille Echohawk. Rick Garcia seconded the motion. Lucille Echohawk was reappointed at 9:04 AM with a 7-0 vote.
- Councilwoman Marge Barry made the motion to reappoint Crystal Loudhawk-Hedgepeth. Chairman Baker seconded the motion. Crystal Loudhawk-Hedgepeth was reappointed at 9:07 AM with a 7-0 vote.
- No motion was made to appoint Steven LaPointe.
- No motion was made to appoint Ashley Stiles.

Chairman Baker issued thanks to all those that applied and noted that all candidates are very impressive. Chairman Heart echoed the same thoughts. Chairman Baker congratulated Lucille and Crystal on their reappointments.

Indian Boarding School Update from History Colorado:

In compliance with HB22-1327 Native American Boarding Schools, state archeologist Dr. Holly Norton provided an update regarding the work being completed with the former Teller Indian Boarding School and the former Fort Lewis Boarding School.

In regards to the Fort Lewis Boarding School, RFPs are out for archival research and groundwork. History Colorado will be making offers in the near future. Archival work has already started and History Colorado is committed to honoring and respecting the individuals who attended and perished at the school.

Regarding the Teller Indian Boarding School, CDHS has done a great deal of work. The former task force made 3 recommendations;

1. Formal Tribal Consultations
2. Archival research
3. Disband Task Force

The first multi-nation Tribal consultation in April went well. Groundwork began with Tribal monitors. The methods used take time, and data is analyzed by subject matter experts. CDHS and History Colorado are working closely with CCIA.

Chairman Heart remarked that there needs to be something on the healing process and the impacts of boarding schools including generational trauma. UMUT's Kwiyyagat Community Academy (KCA) is working with children to bring back the language and culture that was taken as a result of boarding

schools. He mentioned that the State and Federal governments need to provide funding in not just identifying, but moving forward in a positive manner. Chairman Heart would like to see a timeline; if Colorado is looking at legislation, funding needs to be considered. At a park in Albuquerque, 119 students were identified, and the city is still looking into funding.

Crystal Loudhawk-Hedgepeth requested Dr. Norton speak about the method of investigating the school.

Dr. Norton replied that there will be no ground-disturbing methods. History Colorado will be using archival work and remote sensing, There are remote sensing options that will not disturb the ground or ancestors. In terms of healing, Dr. Norton stated that reconciliation and healing efforts are not up to History Colorado, and would like to seek the guidance of the Tribes.

Environmental Justice Action Task Force Presentation

Ean Tafoya from CDPHE's Environmental Justice Action Task Force (EJATF) presented on the recommendations from the EJATF's Indigenous subcommittee.

Chairman Heart would like to connect with Ean regarding the White Mesa Uranium mine, and its effects on the White Mesa community

Chairman Baker commented that there are issues everywhere, and he is grateful for the work that the EJATF is doing.

Ean Tafoya remarked that this is also about the future and planning and resources that are now available.

Crystal Loudhawk-Hedgepeth inquired about what recommendations and practices that the EJATF is doing for community engagement.

Ean Tafoya stated that the EJATF can share reports from focus groups that have dozens of recommendations for best practices. The law set out requirements for language justice and requirements for community engagement, as well as compensation for members' time.

Rick Garcia asked how this work fits into the work of CCIA.

Ean Tafoya answered that the work of the health equity commission is parallel, and the EJATF advances the vision of health equity. He remarked that it's a shame that DOLA was not a participant, as housing is a big component in environmental justice because affordable housing is often where the pollutants are and the EJATF recommendations will go to DOLA.

Rachel Bryan- Auker added that some of the recommendations involve direct Tribal involvement and the EJATF would like their feedback. She also mentioned that there are also 2 full-time staff members that will continue the conversations.

Chairman Baker commented that the state has not provided any funding for environmental Tribal projects. SUIT has engaged in many projects and the state has not provided funding and should be using the data from Tribal efforts to bolster their reports. Chairman Baker asked how the task force will ensure funding goes to the Tribes.

Ean Tafoya answered that the goal of the task force is to direct funding and resources.

Commissioner/Ex-officio updates:

Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)

September 9, 2022, is the kickoff for the 100th SUIT Anniversary Fair. Councilwoman Lorelei Cloud reached out to get premium books for the fair for meeting attendees. The celebration will begin with a kickoff lunch at the casino, and the powwow grand entry is on September 9 at 7 PM.

SUIT is also in budget season and getting close to finalizing the budget for the next fiscal year.

School is starting and kids are getting ready to go back. Chairman Baker is thankful that Ignacio School District Superintendent Chris DeKay is in attendance at the quarterly meeting. The district is handing out premium books and the Southern Ute Drum newspaper.

Tribal Council elections will be held on November 4, with Vice-Chair Ramona Eagle and Councilwoman Marge Barry up for reelection. Vice-Chair Eagle announced that she will not be running for re-election.

Councilwoman Barry provided the following updates: On September 15, the SUIT Growth Fund is holding the general Tribal membership meeting. This meeting is an opportunity to update on current projects and to allow for the membership to ask questions.

On September 23, there will be a celebration of Chimney Rock's 10th anniversary. There are behavioral health and housing focus group meetings to address the important needs, and the creation of a substance abuse facility.

Vice-Chair Eagle made the decision not to rerun for Council in order to focus primarily on education. She wants to continue to be aware and know how the Ignacio School District is supporting Native students. Vice-Chair Eagle really appreciated serving with CCIA and the work of Lt. Governor Primavera, and would like to continue to have a good relationship with the State of Colorado. Regular communication between the Tribes and the state is a plus. She wished good luck to the state and the Tribes.

Councilwoman Dr. Stacey Oberly provided the following updates. The Oklahoma vs. Castro-Huerta decision has been a challenge to Tribal sovereignty. The state has a government-to-government relationship and the Tribes' treaty rights need to be upheld. She would like to work on legislation to codify Tribal sovereignty into law and would like to work on sports gaming. Councilwoman Dr. Oberly recognizes that the issues with sports betting and gaming is not this administration's fault, but believes that the Department of Gaming is

restricting access, and has been acting in bad faith. Dr. Oberly believes that this issue can be resolved legislatively, and would like to work with the state for this legislation.

Chairman Baker stated that while we are all here together in overcoming obstacles, we need to support each other in similar goals and have a better government-to-government working relationship.

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT)

UMUT is currently going through budgets and is trying to get it passed by the end of the month.

White Mesa hosted their Bear Dance over Labor Day weekend, in which the Utah Lt. Governor participated.

On September 9, UMUT will have a 30-year anniversary celebration for the Casino. There will be speakers and local leaders. UMUT invites Lt. Governor Primavera to attend.

The Tribe remains in a declaration of emergency but has moved to color code green. UMUT sends their thanks to the state for sending the vaccination bus down with the next booster shot, and will continue to provide those vaccinations.

Tribal members are gearing up for their hunting season in the Brunot Area for the upcoming winter.

UMUT is working on water allotments in New Mexico and quantifying their water rights.

The Tribe will be holding its biggest election in 4 years. Chairman, 2 Councilmembers for Towaoc, and 1 Councilmember from White Mesa. Council members up for election include: Chairman Heart; Vice-Chair Archie House Jr.; Councilman Darwin Whiteman Jr.; and Councilman Malcolm Lehi. The election will take place on October 14, and the swearing-in ceremony will be on November 4.

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)-

Director Michelle Barnes was unable to attend and sends her regards.

CDHS would like to thank Dr. Norton and History Colorado for their update on the Fort Lewis Indian Boarding School bill.

The new Department of Early Childhood has launched, under the direction of Alice Cohen.

The Office of Behavioral Health has announced new leadership. Laura Joseph will be taking over for incarceration and behavioral health.

The Behavioral Health Administration has launched.

The CDHS Tribal Liaison role is being upgraded to a higher level of decision-making and will be posted soon. CDHS would like a robust and open applicant pool.

CDHS will be holding their Tribal consultations on Friday, October 23.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is working on a book regarding the history of state parks and requests Tribal input. CPW is drafting the forward about historical stewardship of the lands by Tribes.

The Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board is seeking naming proposals for Redskin Creek and Redskin Mountain. The current naming proponents are open to name suggestions from Tribes.

CPW has been working on the introduction of gray wolves into the state. CPW is meeting tomorrow for updates to the process and recommendations from stakeholder advisory groups and would love to have the Tribes listen in.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

CDPHE expressed their appreciation to the Tribes for their exemplary COVID response. The Tribes in Colorado were strong partners and led the way for COVID response in Colorado. The average life expectancy has fallen by 7 years due to the COVID pandemic.

In August, CDPHE sent out notifications to parents and guardians for children for 0-4 to notify that those children may not be up to date on routine vaccines.

CDPHE has published a monkeypox vaccine database with an online dashboard.

In March, CDPHE staff presented to CCIA for feedback on initial reports from SB21-181 Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities. The first report will be released soon, and the Commissioners may review. Contact Rachel Bryan-Auker (rachel.bryan-auker@state.co.us) if you have any questions.

CDPHE is elevating the importance of staying up to date on routine cancer screening, and will be launching awareness for Women Wellness Connection Program.

CDPHE is looking to offer \$65 million in funding for electric school bus and vehicle adoption. The legislation is drafted to include schools as eligible grantees, as emissions are damaging to young children with developing lungs.

CDPHE has hired two new Tribal data health specialists in the Office of Health Equity. Kimberly Blackhorse and Jerad Kozey have been working hard to educate communities on the importance of data sovereignty.

Department of Local Affairs (DOLA):

Director Rick Garcia has really enjoyed staying at the Sky Ute Casino.

DOLA would like to credit SUIT for their active role in broadband. The middle mile infrastructure project in partnership with other organizations signed an MOU so funding can go straight to SUIT from DOLA. SUIT, Region 10, La Plata county, and Archuleta county signed the MOU.

In terms of housing, DOLA is creating new funding sources which will be available shortly. HB22-1304 State Grants Investments Local Affordable Housing will assist in addressing the housing crisis by providing direct funding to pursue affordable housing development projects. This funding will roll out in the next few months.

HB22-1377 Grant Program Providing Responses To Homelessness was passed to connect people experiencing homelessness to resources and treatment to support permanent treatment and solutions.

DOLA has released a housing toolkit, which will be a program to bring in a consultant to Tribes and local governments to put together housing projects and deals.

DOLA is working with Community Enterprise Partners who are working to engage the Tribes and offer support and determine how directly the resources can be made available.

Commissioner Lucille Echohawk

Lucille would like to thank the Commission for re-electing her to another term and will continue to work hard on behalf of Colorado Native people.

Lucille offered her congratulations to CDHS on hiring Reyan Sutherland as the new ICWA specialist for CDHS.

The Native American Housing Circle has submitted documentation to IRS to become a non-profit 501c3 and are hoping for quick and positive action so they can continue their work in the Front Range to support housing for AI/AN community members.

Lucille is continuing to work on the CCIA housing priority work group.

Lucille's brother advises Utah's Lt. Governor and Attorney General. Hewas with Utah's Lt. Governor when she visited White Mesa Bear Dance.

Lucille offered good luck to the Tribal Council candidates, and sends her congratulations for the celebration at SUIT this weekend.

Commissioner Crystal Loudhawk-Hedgepeth

Crystal continues to help with the Health and Wellness Committee and housing work.

In her work with NAHC, Crystal is working on recording data and the data needs of the community, and from there will provide recommendations and principles.

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)

CDOT has hired a Chief Equity Officer, and the department is looking forward to working with them.

CDOT and SUIT had a great celebration for the wildlife crossing.

On November 2, CDOT will be hosting a Tribal transportation summit, and will be sending surveys for feedback from Tribes to ensure that it is a good use of everyone's time.

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

The 22-23 school year is starting and CDE is wishing students the best.

CDE has been working with Kwiyyagat Community Academy (KCA) and the department is very excited about that.

CDE has had a very busy summer, and would like to thank Dustin Weaver and Ed Box Jr. for their support in the creation of the Four Corners Institute.

CDE is developing kindergarten and first-grade curricula for KCA and for Colorado educators and hosted their first workshop on August 1-2, 2022.

CDE met with UMUT regarding ESSR funds and provided ELO grant info in meeting packets. CDE would like to have a similar meeting with SUIT.

CDE provided more information on adult education and classes. The Adult Education Office met with UMUT regarding the Education Department Work Innovation and Opportunity Act, which created a learning management system for online resources and support.

The US Department of Education provides funding for academic support, and that information is provided in the meeting packets.

Attorney General's Office (AG)

The opioid settlement distribution will start soon in the oncoming month, and the AG's office will be in touch as soon as it begins. The AG's Office has launched a [public dashboard](#) to track settlement money. The Office of Financial Empowerment has reached out to Tribes as well.

Secretary of State (SOS)

SOS continues to offer election support and work with the State of Colorado and Tribes.

There was an incredible turnout in Tribal voters in 2020, marking a 20% increase for both SUIT and UMUT. SOS would like to continue that trend and increase the Native vote. Voters can vote in person 2 weeks prior to the election at the SUIT Tribal Center and the UMUT Recreation Center. Mail-in ballots are also being sent, and SOS is hiring election outreach coordinators from both Tribes; Raymond Baker has been hired from SUIT and SOS is looking to hire from UMUT. SOS is working to expand voter registration, and is looking for recommendations to include the AI/AN communities in voting.

Colorado Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)

DVA is looking for collaboration on how veterans services officers can engage Tribes and include Tribal representation on the Veterans Services Board. DVA believes that the Tribes can be involved in changing bylaws to get a new seat on the board to add a Tribal member.

Health and Human Services (HHS)

No updates at this time.

Colorado Broadband Office (CBO)

No updates at this time.

History Colorado (HC)

The Ute STEM project and grant are nearing completion. This project is pairing STEM with traditional Ute knowledge. The project can be viewed [here](#).

[The Sand Creek Massacre Exhibit](#) is set to open on November 19. This exhibit is important for Coloradans to understand the multi-generational trauma stemming from the massacre.

La Plata County

No updates at this time.

Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)

OEDIT is developing a comprehensive economic development strategy. OEDIT has appointed 5 states to develop strategies. OEDIT is looking for participation across the state and would like to have both Tribes represented in the focus groups, which will look at several topics from local and international competitive perspectives

Healthcare Policy and Financing (HCPF)

HCPF is hosting their annual consultation with SUIT this afternoon, and UMUT tomorrow afternoon.

Public Comment:

- No public Comment

Next Meeting Date: December 15, 2022

Adjournment:

Lt. Governor Primavera reads a proclamation honoring the Southern Ute 100th Annual Fair. Rick Garcia made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Barry. Meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.