

## NATIONAL CHILD CARE CONFERENCE IN KC

Communication, Collaboration & Coordination...Planning for the future”, was the theme of the Seventh National American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care Conference, held in Kansas City, Missouri April 29<sup>th</sup> –May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Delegates gathered from across the United States to listen and participate in workshops designed to help grantees strengthen their Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) programs. Joyce Thomas and Linda Lewis welcomed the 467 conference registrants on behalf of the Midwest Hub. Several of our ACF staff served as workshop facilitators and presenters.

The conference served as an introduction to the Tribal Data Tracker, a specialized data package to help grantees report program data and development of the newly required two-year CCDF plan preprint.

Keynote speaker was Dwayne Crompton, Executive Director of KCMC Development Corporation, who talked about “partnership tools.” The evening reception held at the Historic Union Station featured Dr. Swisher, President of Haskell Indian Nations University, and interpretive native dances by the New Dawn Native Dancers, a youth troupe from Lawrence, Kansas.

## “LINKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

The Midwest Hub (MWH) hosted its’ first Tribal Conference at the beautiful Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in Prior Lake, Minnesota June 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. This conference provided an opportunity for Tribal Leaders, Administrators and Social Service staff from the Midwest Hub Tribes and ACF staff to jointly address important issues regarding ACF programs and program development. It also provided an opportunity for the Tribes to meet each other and explore collaboration and networking possibilities.

The highlight of the opening session was the presentation of the Tribal Flags with the ceremonial drum. Joyce Thomas and Linda Lewis each provided welcome to the 150 participants in attendance and they narrated a powerpoint presentation which colorfully illustrated all of ACF’s programs.

Dr. Eddie Brown gave a very compassionate and informative keynote address, “Nation Building.” Joyce and Linda facilitated a special session for Tribal Chairpersons, while training tracks focused workshops in the areas of Child Support, Child Welfare, Child Care, Head Start/Runaway & Homeless Youth and TANF. Domestic Violence and Fatherhood were also featured workshop tracks. The MWH was honored to have ACF staff from Central Office, West-Central Hub and Pacific Hub participating as workshop presenters/facilitators.



*Jim McCullum, Deputy Hub Director sharing a networking moment with Seattle’s Deputy Regional Administrator, Vince Herberholt.*

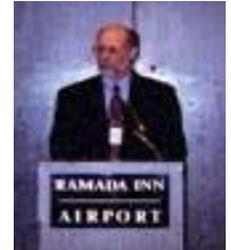
# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Development Conference

Partnering with M.I.N.K (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas) Network of Youth Services, Youth Network Council, Freeport West and the Minnesota Association of Runaway Youth Services, the MWH hosted its' 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Development Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota. Over 160 participants gathered June 27<sup>th</sup> –29<sup>th</sup> to learn, to network and to collect information on a variety of workshop topics.

The theme was “Navigating the Strategies & Practices.” Over 24 workshops were featured with special tracks on Domestic Violence and Fatherhood . The National Resource Center (Tulsa, OK), the National SwitchBoard (Chicago, IL) and the National Network (Washington, DC) were featured workshop guest. Ronald Jeffrey, a motivational speaker and clinical social worker from Cheyenne, Wyoming presented “Food for The Soul” at the opening session.

Joyce Thomas welcomed everyone on behalf of the Hub and she talked about the MWH’s commitment to Youth Development. She introduced Harry McDaniel, Deputy Regional Administrator for Region VII who extended a warm welcome to all participant.

Freeport West sponsored YouthPlace for the entire conference, providing a fun environment for youth attending the conference to meet and share ideas with one another.



*Joyce Thomas and Harry McDaniel welcoming conference participants*

## CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE REVIEW

*by Mary Doran*

The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was conducted in Minnesota May 14 – 18, 2001. Minnesota was the fourth State (after Delaware, North Carolina and Vermont) to participate. The CFSRs were authorized by 1994 amendments to the Social Security Act. They assess information from a variety of sources to make decisions about a state’s performance in providing safety, permanency, and well being to the children in its child welfare system.

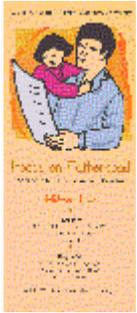
After months of planning, a review team of 44 conducted the review in three Minnesota counties. The review team consisted of federal staff from Regions 5, 7 and 8; cross-State reviewers from Kansas, New Mexico and North Dakota; and consultants and State personnel. Joyce Thomas, Midwest Hub Director, participated as a reviewer on the Olmsted County team. Each two-person review

team was made up of a state and federal person who made joint decisions about the cases they reviewed. Reviewers read three case records and interviewed persons relevant to the case, which included child, parents, foster parents, and social workers.

State and local stakeholders interviews were conducted which included county social services staff, community leaders, tribal leaders, attorneys, the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the State Child Welfare Director, and others who were familiar with the child welfare system and could provide additional information.

The exit conference was held on Friday in which the State was given a preliminary description of the review findings. Although intense, the review process was extremely valuable to understanding the State’s system.

# FATHERHOOD



A committee was formed and has met monthly to develop a Hub plan that will map out strategies and explore ways the Hub could enhance fatherhood initiatives throughout its programs and services. As a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> goal of enhancing fatherhood initiatives through ACF's own work force policies, Team Leaders have been asked to share the plan with their team and solicit input as to ways fatherhood can be incorporated into

individual work plans. Plans are currently underway to offer fatherhood training at each regional offices.

As a way of promoting and encouraging father involvement through our partners and program services, the committee created an attractive brochure to be disseminated at Hub events. The brochures were featured at the Hub Tribal Conference and at our Hub Youth Development Conference. Each conference also featured a special fatherhood workshop. The brochure highlights our Hub's commitment to fatherhood and encourages providers by offering father-friendly tips to the readers. Its essential that we get information out to our partners. If you haven't seen one, be sure to pick up a few for your grantees.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Midwest Hub is committed to increasing the awareness and raising community consciousness of the impact of domestic violence throughout the Hub states. Its our goal to:

- build and establish on-going collaborative partnerships,
- gather and disseminate information,
- identify community needs and help recommend best practices and initiatives,
- facilitate and encourage conference training and ACF staff workshops,
- offer research, analysis, and leadership on emerging policy issues relevant to domestic violence.



At the recent Hub Tribal Conference and the Youth Development Conference, domestic violence training was offered to participants. Plans are in the works to offer ACF staff more training so they are equipped to offer and promote prevention practices. The Midwest Hub has created a brochure which will assist in broadening our efforts of disseminating domestic violence information. Brochures are available for distribution.

# CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS MEETING

The Midwest Hub hosted the Child Welfare Directors meeting in Chicago, IL., July 9 – 11<sup>th</sup>. "Beginning With The End In Mind: Focus on the Future" was the theme which brought together ACF staff, National Resource Center personnel and State Directors. Minnesota representatives shared their recent CFS review experiences and Kansas discussed on-going preparations for its review in August 2001. Illinois, Ohio and Kansas discussed lessons learned from the IV-E Foster Care reviews of the past year.

A Highlight of the conference was the presentations of certificates by Joyce Thomas to ACF and State staff who were involved in Minnesota process and participated in Care Eligibility the CFS review those who the Foster Reviews.



*Sue Bradford (R7), Rosalyn Williams (R7), Barb Putrya, Ron Stevens, Jennifer Gardner, Don Siltberg (MN), Dorothy Renstrom (MN), Mary Doran and Joyce Thomas.*

# REGION V RECEIVES SECRETARY'S AWARD

Region V ACF, CMS, and OGC staff, along with the not-for-profit Center for Law and Human Services (CLHS) comprised a team that was the recipient of the DHHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service at a June 15<sup>th</sup> ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award was for the team's efforts in pursuit of self-sufficiency for low-income working families through the utilization of

available tax benefits, such as the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit. In addition, Region V ACF provided an updated, annual informational mailing on tax benefits to State, Tribal partners and grantees. Twenty-one ACF, CMS, and OGC staff served as trained volunteer tax preparers at CLHS tax counseling sites throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.