

IL Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda

January 20, 2026

11am-12pm

Join from the meeting link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mcf3338b8278537537830d0a48a2d8dae>

I. Welcome and introductions

II. Old Business

New IL ICWA Council mission statement:

- a. The Illinois Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council serves as a platform to advise the DCFS Director and staff in providing culturally sensitive, appropriate and competent services to the American Indian/Alaskan Native clientele, employees and prospective employees while upholding the core values of all AI/AN people and the Department.
- b. Revised Article I and II of the bylaws; ARTICLE I – NAME AND MANDATE The Illinois Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council (IICWA Council) was created pursuant to the request of the Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), hereinafter referred to as the 'Director.' The IICWA Council was created with the mandate to advise the Director how the Department shall:
A. Provide provision of services and Active Efforts to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family.
B. Comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act, such as, but not limited to:
- Active Efforts (a higher standard than reasonable efforts).
- Early identification of Indian families and Indian services.
- Notification of proceedings.
- Placement/Preference of an Indian Child.
- Recruitment, Education and Training of Native American foster parents.
C. Collaborate with the American Indian Community, Tribal organizations and agencies and
D. foster reunification and cultural preservation with community identity.
ARTICLE II – PURPOSE “With Respect and Humility, we the Illinois Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council shall advise, consult and advocate for children and families of all tribes (the legal parameters of ICWA encompasses federally recognized tribes) with the Department to require full and complete implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1901–63) while respecting and honoring the

community. Core Values: Respect, Love, Wisdom, Honesty, Bravery, Humility, Courage, Integrity, Knowledge, Creativity, Openness

- c. Mandy shared a power point highlighting various facts that are pertinent to the Sioux tribe that could be shared with any youth in care to begin building on their cultural knowledge.
- d. Next steps: Continue to revise the old bylaws and expand on the core values of the group

III. New Business

- a. ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP Section 1: COMPOSITION: The IICWA Council shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of fifteen (15) members. A minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the IICWA Council members shall be of American Indian origin. 1. Tribal Affiliation: a. Enrolled member and/or b. Descendant of enrolled member 2. Non-Tribal Affiliation Section 2: MEMBERSHIP TERMS: All members shall be elected to a three year term by a majority of votes of the committee members present and may be re-elected after their initial term expires. Election for retention of members who have completed their three year term shall be held in the month of June. All members shall respect the privacy and confidentiality of the IICWA Council. Section 3: NOMINATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP: Individuals may be nominated for new membership positions of the IICWA Council by submitting names to the Chairperson elect. The Chairperson elect will then present these nominations to the council. At the following meeting, individuals who have accepted the nomination will be in attendance and the election shall be held by roll call. A majority of votes (50% + 1) of the committee members present shall be required for the election of an individual to become a new member. Section 4: RESIGNATION: Any member may resign from the IICWA Council upon written notice to the Chairperson elect. Section 5: REMOVAL: With a 75% majority decision, the IICWA Council may remove any voting member whenever, in their judgment, the best interests of the IICWA Council is being served. Members of the IICWA Council are expected to attend 50% of meetings. Members who cannot attend are required to inform the Chairperson or designated staff of the reason for all absences. No call, no show absences from three (3) consecutive meetings and no direct involvement with IICWA Council activities indicates an inability to serve or disinterest in the IICWA Council. In this event, the Chairperson, after consultation with the members of the IICWA Council and a 75% vote, will notify the individual of their removal
- b. Core Values: Respect, Love, Wisdom, Honesty, Bravery, Humility, Courage, Integrity, Knowledge, Creativity, Openness

- c. Cultural share: Ellen M Williams
- d. Open Forum
- e. Adjournment