

Memo

To: Pat Murdo, Legislative staff for State-Tribal Relations Committee
From: Bonnie Adee, Children's Mental Health Bureau Chief
CC: Mary Dalton, Health Resources Division Administrator
Date: 6/20/2008
Re: Requested information about tribal participation in children's mental health planning and services

Pat,

Most of the questions asked on the April 19th document do not apply to our situation, as the Children's Mental Health Bureau does not directly receive a state block grant. However, the Children's Mental Health Bureau has received a five year SAMHSA grant to develop a children's system of care for Montana. When Montana applied for this grant in the fall of 2003, we applied jointly with the Crow nation. During the following two years when the Kids Management Authorities (KMAs) were developed locally to implement the system of care philosophy and principles, the state used the RFP process to select five sites. The Crow nation received funding to develop the sixth location without an RFP to recognize its partner status. Over the course of the past four federal fiscal years, the Crow nation has had access to more than \$600,000 of federal funds from this grant to develop the Apsaalooke Children's System for high risk Crow children with multi-agency service needs. This amount is greater than the amount any other single community (now there are four other grant funded communities) received.

Two members of the Apsaalooke Children's system are seated on the Children's System of Care (SOC) Community Planning Committee. One member of the Blackfeet nation is appointed to the SOC committee to represent their SAMSHA funded system of care initiative, the Po'Ka project. In-care Network also has a seat to provide cultural training and consultation as needed. At the last meeting in May a Native American youth from the Blackfeet nation was appointed to the SOC Community Planning committee, making the number of Native American representatives on the 30 member committee 5 or 16%.

"Culturally appropriate services" is a strong value of the system of care philosophy and approach to working with families. To assist families and providers in accessing culturally appropriate services, the Children's Mental Health Bureau has used federal grant dollars to develop a matrix (cross walk) that links Native American practices that promote healing with mental health diagnoses to better serve Native American children with serious emotional disturbances. We hope to develop some ability to measure the effectiveness of being able to offer and these additional support to families.

I am happy to offer additional information if you need it.