



Strengthening Tribal Relations to Build Capacity for Culturally Responsive HCBS

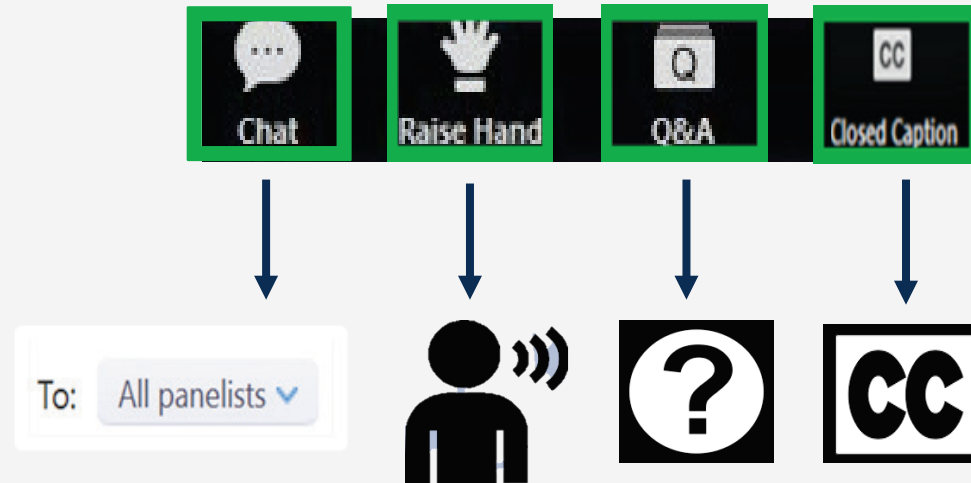
July 29, 2026

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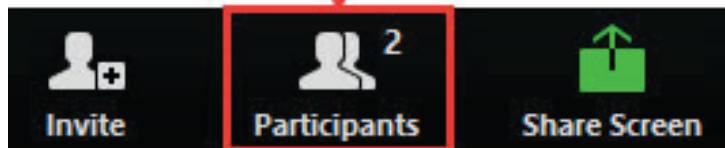


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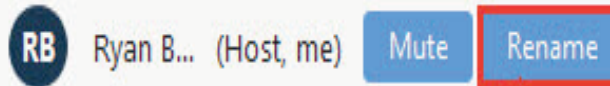
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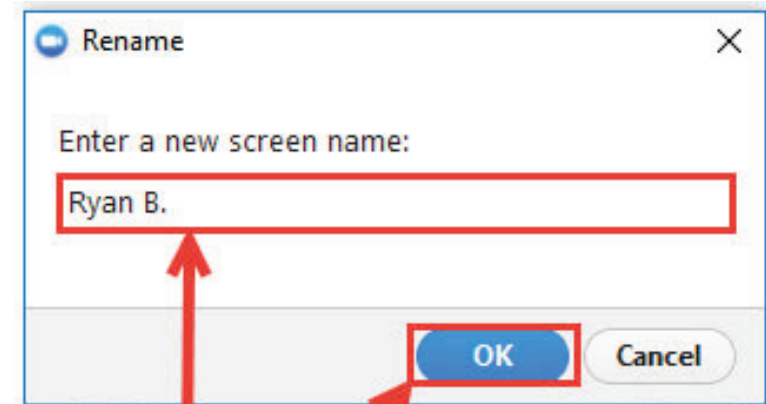
Participants (1)



2

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3

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Webinar Objectives

- Learn more about the role of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Aging and Disability Services Administration's Tribal Collective team in strengthening tribal relations and engagement
- Explore strategies for developing and sustaining respectful, collaborative partnerships with tribal nations to enhance HCBS planning and service delivery
- Identify promising practices that promote culturally responsive HCBS and support systems change

Today's Presenter



Dr. Jasmine Grika (Cheyenne River Sioux/Red Lake Nation)

Tribal Collective Supervisor

Transitions, Tribal, Transformation Division
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Strengthening Tribal Relations to Build Capacity for Culturally Responsive HCBS

Dr. Jasmine Grika | Tribal Collective Supervisor

Tribal Collective Unit: Background

- Disability Services Division Tribal Liaison
- Cultivated and summarized feedback from four tribal nations regarding access, resources, challenges, and barriers relevant to LTSS and HCBS
 - Streamlined connection and navigation
 - Project fatigue



Meet the Tribal Collective



Jasmine Grika, DSW

*Cheyenne River Sioux and
Red Lake Band of
Chippewa Indians*

Tribal Team Supervisor
(Statewide)



Luke Simonett

Tribal Vulnerable Adult
and Developmental
Disability Targeted Case
Management Lead
(Statewide)



Wayne Somes

*Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa
Indians (Michigan)*

Tribal Relations Lead
(Statewide)

Meet the Tribal Collective (cont.)



Danielle DeLong

Ho-Chunk Nation

Region 1 Tribal Relations
Specialist

(Lower Sioux, Prairie
Island, Shakopee
Mdewakanton Sioux,
Upper Sioux, and Twin
Cities Urban)



**Michelle Perrault,
MSW**

*Grand Portage Band of
Lake Superior Chippewa*

Region 2 Tribal Relations
Specialist

(Fond du Lac Band, Grand
Portage Band, Mille Lacs
Band)



Haley Skramstad

White Earth Nation

Region 3 Tribal Relations
Specialist

(Leech Lake Band, White
Earth Nation)



Corey Strong

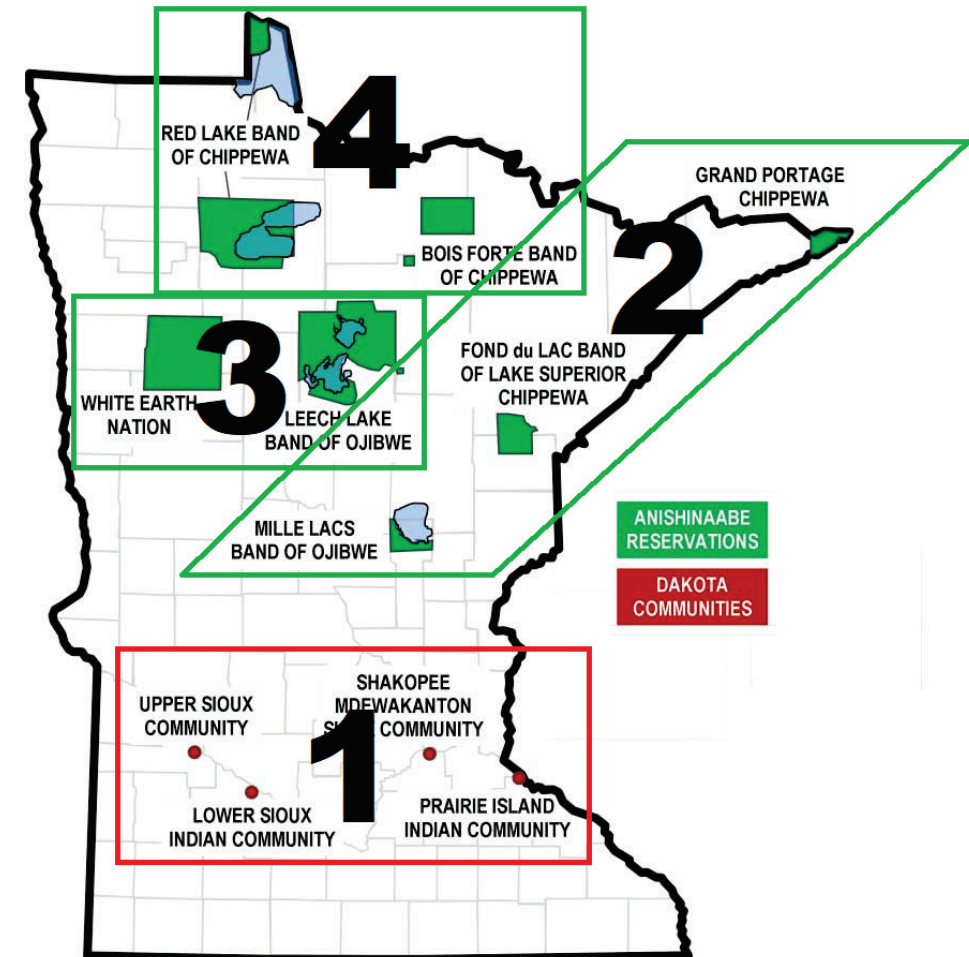
*Bois Forte Band of
Chippewa*

Region 4 Tribal Relations
Specialist

(Bois Forte Band, Red Lake
Nation)

Tribal Nations Served by the Tribal Collective

- The Tribal Collective is a unit within the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- Of Minnesota's 11 federally recognized tribal nations, 8 participate in the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative.
- Our team's work is regional and community-centered.



What is tribal sovereignty?

- Refers to the legal recognition in U.S. law of the inherent sovereignty of American Indian nations (treaties do not create tribal sovereignty)
- Establishes that tribal nations have the inherent right and authority to govern themselves
- Is broad, deep, and quite complex... but also very simple
- Consists of our “**systems of knowledge and ways of being**”—i.e., spiritual ways, culture, language, social and legal systems, political structures, and inherent relationships with lands, waters and all upon them

About Us: How We Honor Tribal Sovereignty

- We represent the communities we serve.
- We share power with tribal nations through collaborative government-to-government relationships as we co-create policy and programs.
- We partner with tribal nations to promote health equity, access, and justice for American Indian people, their families, and their communities.
- We change systems so tribal nations are centered.
- We actively practice American Indian traditions in community engagement activities.

About Us: Our Purpose

The Tribal Collective exists to strengthen relations with tribal nations so that:

- Tribes are respected as government entities
- Tribal leaders are included in decision making
- Native people have services that honor their cultures

About Us: What We Do

- Strengthen tribal relations
- Provide training and technical assistance
- Give presentations and host trainings to deepen understanding of the Tribal Collective (internally and externally)
- Provide technical assistance to teams in our division and across DHS to help ensure they understand and can appropriately support tribal nations and their members

About Us: What We Do (*cont.*)

Systems change

- Conduct needs analyses and assessments to identify gaps in programs and services for American Indian people across the state
- Create new services and advocate for equitable and accessible resources that are culturally centered
- Create and change state policies to honor tribal traditions and practices

Grant administration

- Issue grants to support tribal nations and urban American Indian communities' goals around expanding programming for community members

Highlights and Challenges

Highlights

- Expanded array of culturally accessible services
- Contractual relationships with 8 of the 11 tribes in Minnesota
- Strengthened tribal relations
 - LTSS Tribal State Work Group
 - Monthly check-ins
 - Streamlined contracting
 - Trainings

Challenges

- A system based upon county authority
- Existing structural barriers within regulations and administrative practices
- Siloed, complex, bureaucratic structures

Highlights: What Tribal Nations in MN Are Doing

- Developing a healing center
- Developing billable services
- Establishing villages of tiny homes for elders
- Doing outreach that connects citizens to needed resources, including medical assistance
- Establishing a culturally responsive assisted living facility on a reservation
- Pursuing a joint powers agreement with the state to further expand HCBS duties
- Collaborating with the state to develop a process to license their own adult foster care facility/program
- Pursuing options to provide services in urban areas

Addressing Challenges: Shared Responsibility

- LTSS Tribal State Work Group
- Monthly check-ins
- Streamlined contracting
- Tribal engagement needs assessment

Strategies and Practices

- Have a workforce that reflects the communities being served
- Look for opportunities to strengthen cultural humility, as that helps build trust with the communities you are serving
- Co-design: Create a dedicated and consistent space for tribes to be heard, and honor their voices by showing up and demonstrating action
- In discussions, bring up tribes: How does this impact Indian Country? Is this honoring tribal sovereignty? Have tribes been invited?
- Exercise your innovation muscle when you hear:
 - “This is how it’s always been done.”
 - “We have never done that.”
 - “Better safe than sorry.”

The Journey Continues



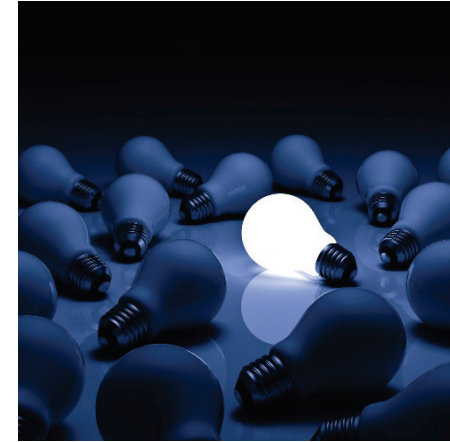
Internal

- Update progress as per Aging and Disability Services Administration's needs assessment
- Coordinate grants and contracts
- Strengthen cultural humility
- Provide policy and legislative analysis



In Collaboration

- Continue co-developing (with tribal nations) targeted case management for vulnerable adults and people with developmental disabilities
- Build pathways for guidance if tribes are seeking support
- Uphold tribal data sovereignty
- Support HCBS for American Indians in urban settings



External

- Honor tribal sovereignty
- Support the development of culturally-centered and accessible services
- Offer technical assistance and streamlined connection for easier navigation of state systems

- States who share geography with tribes should seriously consider establishing a tribal initiative.
- This is exciting, relevant, and important work.

Miigwech // Pidamayaye // Pilamayaye // Thank You

Jasmine Grika

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Questions?



