

NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD AND FAMILY CONFERENCE

INDIGENOUS EARLY LEARNING



March
18 - 21, 2024

Isleta Resort & Casino

11000 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM 87105

Room rate: \$141 (plus 6% room tax)

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Hotel Deadline is Wednesday, Feb 14, 2024

Registration Fee

Full: \$425

Early Bird (by 2-23-24): \$375

One-Day: \$250

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday, March 18, 2024

9:00 am – 9:45 am	Opening Session
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Sessions
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break (on your own)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Sessions
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Sessions

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

9:00 am – 9:45 am	General Session
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Sessions
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break (on your own)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Sessions
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Sessions

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

9:00 am – 9:45 am	General Session
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Sessions
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break (on your own)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Sessions
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Sessions
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Banquet

Thursday, March 21, 2024

9:00 am – 9:45 am	General Session
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Sessions
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Sessions
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Closing session



	Monday 3-18-24 9:00 – 9:45	Monday 3-18-24 10:15 – 11:45	Monday 3-18-24 1:00 – 2:30	Monday 3-18-24 3:00 – 4:30	Tuesday 3-19-24 9:00 – 9:45	Tuesday 3-19-24 10:15 – 11:45	Tuesday 3-19-24 1:00 – 2:30	Tuesday 3-19-24 3:00 – 4:30
Grand A	Opening Session	Integrating Native Language and Culture into Early Childhood Literacy Development and Collaboration Candi Running Bear, Wenjie Wang	Back to Basics – Head Start Program Performance Standards for All AIAN Staff and Leaders (Part 1) Ronda Ritchie, Patricia Banks	Back to Basics – Head Start Program Performance Standards for All AIAN Staff and Leaders (Part 2) Ronda Ritchie, Patricia Banks	General Session	Exploring the Dimensions of Wellness Manisha Tare	Elevating Family Engagement Using Indigenous Worldviews: Early Childhood Strategies that Succeed Heidi Kranz, Christina Sedillo	Montessori: Essential for Today's Children Janet Humphryes
Grand B		Learning Social-Emotional Mindfulness & Positive Preventive Skill Building Activities Dr. Michael Hubler, Lillian Hubler	How Leaders Thrive in the Face of Courage, Dignity, and Determination in Problem-Solving Program Situations (Part 1) Roxanne Wells	How Leaders Thrive in the Face of Courage, Dignity, and Determination in Problem-Solving Program Situations (Part 2) Roxanne Wells		How Can Staff Flourish within the Program Team? Roxanne Wells	Language and Culture Curriculum in Early Learning: Designing Learning Environments with Lands and Waters Anna Lees, Sheryl Fryberg	Teaching Social-Emotional Learning to Young Children Dr. Michael Hubler
Grand C		Staff Wellness and Morale Manisha Tare, Ronda Ritchie	Using the Pyramid Model to Respond to Challenging Behavior Lisa Knight, Candace Shelton	Keeping our Children Safe: Active Supervision is our Responsibility Jenifer Lipman, Candace Shelton		Culture of Safety: Classrooms and Playgrounds Lynn Bowen, Linda DiBrito	Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors - Addressing Behaviors that Challenge (Part 1) Linda DiBrito, Patrice Griffin	Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors - Addressing Behaviors that Challenge (Part 2) Linda DiBrito, Patrice Griffin
Rio Grande		Intro to Early Head Start Classrooms Carol Bellamy, Linda DiBrito	Every Interaction Counts: How to Support Children's Heritage Language Pamela Salgado	Practices That Meaningfully Support Children with Disabilities and Their Families Tsitsi Nyabando		Preparing for your Federal Review - Exploring the Latest HS Focus Area Review Protocols Rachel Parsons	Budget Revisions and Carryovers (Part 1) Dr. Betsy McDougall, Racquel Martinez	Budget Revisions and Carryovers (Part 2) Dr. Betsy McDougall, Racquel Martinez
Bosque		The Essential Ingredients of Navajo Thinking and Understanding Joseph Chee	Integration of PFCE and Health Services (Part 1) Alma Sandoval, Rosa Vasquez	Integration of PFCE and Health Services (Part 2) Alma Sandoval, Rosa Vasquez		Compassionate Coaching: Essential for ALL Janet Humphryes	Health Services Advisory Committees: The Backbone of Your Health Component (Part 1) Alma Sandoval	Health Services Advisory Committees: The Backbone of Your Health Component (Part 2) Alma Sandoval
Manzano		Let's Talk the Disability Process Mike Richardson	Building Staff Capacity through Coaching & Reflective Practice (Part 1) Manisha Tare, Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin	Building Staff Capacity through Coaching & Reflective Practice (Part 2) Manisha Tare, Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin		HS Governance 101 For Tribal Leaders and All Staff Darlene Zacherle, Lamont Yazzie, Patricia Banks	Building Belonging (Part 1) Carol Bellamy, Ronda Ritchie	Building Belonging (Part 2) Carol Bellamy, Ronda Ritchie
Sunrise		Head Start 101: Overview for New Tribal Head Start Directors and Leaders Racquel Martinez, Patricia Banks, Dr. Lamont Yazzie	Change in Scope (CiS) Part I PMFO	Change in Scope (CiS) Part II PMFO		Baby Talk - Sign Language for Infant-Toddlers Lillian Tobin	Visual Interactive Learning: Sign Language for Children Birth to Three Years Lillian Tobin	Monitoring, Managing and Reporting Using a Data Management Solution José Martinez
Seminar Rm		Telling a Story through Game Creation Rebecca Goff, Ana Alonso	Addressing and Preventing Child Incidents in Head Start through an Education Lens (Part 1) DTL	Addressing and Preventing Child Incidents in Head Start through an Education Lens (Part 2) DTL		Exploring Indigenous Flavors in Head Start Meals Shonika Kwarteng, Candace Shelton	Fostering Inclusive Play for All Preschoolers DTL	Early Head Start: Promoting Indigenous Language Development in Infants and Toddlers DTL

	Wednesday 3-20-24 9:00 – 9:45	Wednesday 3-20-24 10:15 – 11:45	Wednesday 3-20-24 1:00 – 2:30	Wednesday 3-20-24 3:00 – 4:30	Thursday 3-21-24 9:00 – 9:45	Thursday 3-21-24 10:15 – 11:45	Thursday 3-21-24 1:00 – 2:30	Thursday 3-21-24 3:00 – 4:00
Grand A	General Session	Re-envisioning Native Early Childhood Education through Language and Culture Christine Sims, Lana Garcia	Liberating Learning Potential – Scripts, Templates and Tools (Part 1) Layne Kalbfleisch	Liberating Learning Potential – Scripts, Templates and Tools (Part 2) Layne Kalbfleisch	General Session	Celebrating Indigenous Cultures in ECE through Early Literacy Programs Ashley Dixon-Kleiber, Margine Bawden		Closing Session
Grand B		Reconnecting Children to their Human-ness Janet Humphryes	Ongoing Monitoring to Ensure all Children are Safe (Part 1) Ronda Ritchie, Racquel Martinez	Ongoing Monitoring to Ensure all Children are Safe (Part 2) Ronda Ritchie, Racquel Martinez		Establishing Positive Program and Family Connections Kassy Lopez-Sonchar		
Grand C		The When, Why, and How of Developmental Screenings Linda DiBrito, Sheila Sellers	Getting the Most from your Coach! (Part 1) Christine Anderson, Sheila Sellers	Getting the Most from your Coach! (Part 2) Christine Anderson, Sheila Sellers		Culture as Treatment: Improving the Health and Well-being of our Teachers Hilary Gourneau, Deborah Wilson		
Rio Grande		OHS Round Table	Annual Planning Calendar Darlene Zacherle, Patricia Banks	Sensory Processing Disorder 101 Ingrid Kanics		Parents as Advocates and Lifelong Educators: Responding to Child Incidents Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis		
Bosque		Relational Leadership can Cultivate Community Partnership Opportunities for Head Start Programs Roxanne Wells	Empowering Families Experiencing Hardship (Part 1) Rosa Vasquez	Empowering Families Experiencing Hardship (Part 2) Rosa Vasquez		Developing a Sustainable Language Revitalization Program Mike Richardson		
Manzano		Onboarding and Orienting New Family Services Leaders Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis	Leveraging Professional Development to Support Career Pathways for Family Services Professionals Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis	The Power of Listening and Feedback: Retention Strategies Janet Humphryes		Program Re-design in Response to Changing Times Dr. Betsy McDougall, Dr. Lamont Yazzie		
Sunrise		Internal Controls/Fiscal Monitoring & Reporting PMFO	Culture & Language Make & Take for Teachers (Part 1) Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin	Culture & Language Make & Take for Teachers (Part 2) Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin		Utilize Program Goals to Support Indigenous Early Learning Racquel Martinez, Darlene Zacherle		
Seminar Rm		Integrating Traditional Foods Throughout our Programs (Part 1) Dr. Betsy McDougall, Darlene Zacherle	Integrating Traditional Foods Throughout our Programs (Part 2) Dr. Betsy McDougall, Darlene Zacherle	Indigenizing Special Olympics Young Athletes? Tell Me More.. Kassy Lopez-Sonchar		Designing with Sensory Needs in Mind Ingrid Kanics		

MONDAY, 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Integrating Native Language and Culture into Early Childhood Literacy Development and Collaboration

Candi Running Bear, Wenjie Wang

This workshop explores multiple culturally linguistically relevant strategies that create a sense of belonging and connectedness for children with diverse backgrounds, including Native communities and indigenous languages. To develop parent/family-teacher/school literacy partnerships, strategies such as back-to-back reading and culturally relevant books will be focused on. The Cooperative Children's Book Center (2023) reported that roughly 46% of children's books published in 2022 had a significant amount of content about Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Wang and Valentine (2016) emphasized that educators should ensure that books in the classroom represent the cultural makeup of their children and that children should identify with the lessons. The workshop will share the views and experiences of 4 Diné parents of young children regarding culturally relevant books. The workshop facilitators will guide participants in developing an action plan for incorporating Native cultures and languages into literacy instructions and literacy development collaborations. Participants will have opportunities to discuss and exchange their ideas, and suggestions about how quality culturally relevant books can be selected and utilized with young children will be provided.

Learning Social-Emotional Mindfulness & Positive Preventive Skill Building Activities

Michael Hubler, Lillian Tobin

This workshop teaches early childhood methods and practices to augment teacher's capacity to guide their children socially and emotionally through a positive, preventative, and effective instructional approach. We will focus on feelings; self-management; self-awareness; social awareness; responsible decision making; and relationship skills through songs, stories, games and other activities. Some sign language will also be added to enhance skill learning as well.

Staff Wellness and Morale

Manisha Tare, Ronda Ritchie

Staff Wellness and morale are linked together. In this session, we will explore the connections between stress, burnout, and staff turnover. We will also discuss specific leadership and organizational practices recipients can practice to create a culture of belonging and develop a program-wide staff wellness plan.

Intro to Early Head Start Classrooms

Carol Bellamy, Linda DiBrito

Whether you're new to Early Head Start (EHS) or just interested in learning more about EHS, this session will provide an introduction to staffing requirements, setting up infant and toddler classrooms, lesson planning, and continuity of care. Join us in exploring Early Head Start!

The Essential Ingredients Of Navajo Thinking and Understanding

Joseph Chee

The presentation/workshop will be done in both the Navajo and English languages. It will provide significant information on Navajo Human Development for parents, students, staff, and administrators using traditional Navajo teaching methods through the Navajo Traditional Values. The presentation will also require participation from the audience for best practice and practical learning. Learning, Interactions and Application will be Key to this Professional Development. The information will help individuals in many areas that we are confronted with on a daily basis at home, school, social gatherings, and the community. It also increases the philosophical development, developmental skills and cognitive thinking skills with positive results. By infusing Navajo traditional teaching and knowledge on Navajo learning styles it will allow students, parents and staff to bridge Navajo cultural and traditional values with their Western credentials that will help them develop a solid effective and efficient learning environment. When a positive environment is reached healing begins and productivity becomes evident for everyone. The information that will be provided in the presentation/s will have extreme significant meaning for all the audience due to the use of Navajo Traditional Songs and Core Values.

Let's Talk the Disability Process

Mike Richardson

We will look at Head Start, School, State, Staff and Tribe at providing services for children with a disability from their perspective. What is the IEP process and who should be involved? The responsibility of the LEA and how the tribe can lend support while holding the LEA accountable to the IDEA Law. Developing Interim and 504 plans to support children that may not have an IEP in place yet or may need additional support due to behavior. Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) what does it mean to you and to the LEA/ We will have open discussions on these topics to help find ways to improve the disability process.

Head Start 101: Overview for New Tribal Head Start Directors and Leaders

Racquel Martinez, Patricia Banks, Lamont Yazzie

Are you a brand new tribal Head Start/Early Head Start Manager or Director? Welcome to the AIAN Head Start family. Please join us to learn about the structure of Head Start, regulations and key management systems. We will review annual tasks and introduce you to an annual planning calendar tool. We will also make sure you know who your support team is and where to located resources on ECLKC and My Peers. To top it all off you will meet other new AIAN directors and managers and have an opportunity to network. Bring your questions-this is a safe place to ask!

Telling a Story through Game Creation

Rebecca Goff, Ana Alonso

Story telling allows for young learners to become engaged in the language and allows for opportunities of interactivity. Early childhood instructors and families will walk away with an activity that will leave students engaged, and excited about their culture and language experiences. Instructors will learn through an example story how to create a board game from a story with their students and teach them key vocabulary words inside the story. Including phrases and action words!

MONDAY, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Back to Basics – Head Start Program Performance Standards for All AIAN Staff and Leaders (Pt. 1)

Ronda Ritchie, Patricia Banks

Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) provide a clear blueprint for designing and operating high-quality early learning programs. Participants will learn how the HSPPS are divided into five distinct sections and what the focus is for each specific area. Participants will discuss how the HSPPS supports recipients in designing programs that reflect local demographics, needs, language, and culture. We welcome all Head Start stakeholders, staff, and Tribal leaders to join us as we get “back to basics” with the HSPPS.

How Leaders Thrive in the Face of Courage, Dignity, and Determination in Problem-Solving Program Situations (Pt. 1)

Roxanne Wells

Leaders who join this session will apply actionable relationship-building strategies and problem-solve staffing communication conflicts by creating conversational messages and associating supportive resources to address complex and varied program situations.

Using the Pyramid Model to Respond to Challenging Behavior

Lisa Knight, Candace Shelton

In this training session, participants will explore what challenging behavior looks like in young children while focusing on prevention from a trauma-informed lens. Presenters will share a variety of strategies that will support and teach young early learners in our care about feelings and self-regulation.

Every Interaction Counts: How to Support Children's Heritage Language

Pamela Salgado

To help children, start by supporting their families in the home, and in their heritage language. When parents promote and participate in their child's learning, adults talk more and children increase their language skills. Join us to learn more about the current research on conversational turns and its groundbreaking data on its impact on brain development and interaction. Presenter will also share case studies and data on how EHS/HS programs incorporating an increased focus on early language have seen not only more equitable interaction in the classroom, but increased confidence among parents and caregivers in the home as well.

Integration of PFCE and Health Services (Pt. 1)

Alma Sandoval, Rosa Vasquez

If you are a Family Service Professional, come to this session to learn strategies to improve the quality of health services provided to children and families enrolled in your program.

Building Staff Capacity through Coaching & Reflective Practice (Pt. 1)

Manisha Tare, Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin

Practice-Based Coaching and Reflective Practice have been shown to support effective teaching practice, build emotional capacity, and strengthen relationships with children and families. In this session, we will review the principles of coaching and reflective practice and explore what they look like in day-to-day practice. We'll discuss how integrating reflective practice principles into coaching strengthens relationships between the coach and coachee, impacts staff well-being, and improves child and family outcomes.

Change in Scope (Pt. 1)

PMFO

The decision to submit an enrollment reduction or conversion request should be based on the needs of the community served and not solely on the fact that the program is under-enrolled. Programs should regularly update their community assessment to reflect current needs, trends, and characteristics of Head Start-eligible children and families as well as the community within their designated service area. In this session participants will explore the necessary data elements that should be considered when submitting a CiS.

Addressing and Preventing Child Incidents in Head Start through an Education Lens (Pt. 1)

DTL

“Approximately one in four Head Start grant recipients received an adverse finding from ACF for child abuse, lack of supervision, or unauthorized release” (DHHS Office of Inspector General 2022). Early learning leaders are in a unique position to create systems of support education staff need to create responsive, nurturing, and safe learning environments for all children. This two-part session for education managers, coaches, and Directors, discusses environmental considerations and adult-child interaction strategies that build responsive relationships with children through clear and developmentally appropriate expectations, engaging environments, and intentional teaching of social and emotional skills.

Target audience: education managers, coaches, and supervisors of education staff

MONDAY, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Back to Basics – Head Start Program Performance Standards for All AIAN Staff and Leaders (Pt. 2)

Ronda Ritchie, Patricia Banks

Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) provide a clear blueprint for designing and operating high-quality early learning programs. Participants will learn how the HSPPS are divided into five distinct sections and what the focus is for each

specific area. Participants will discuss how the HSPPS supports recipients in designing programs that reflect local demographics, needs, language, and culture. We welcome all Head Start stakeholders, staff, and Tribal leaders to join us as we get “back to basics” with the HSPPS.

How Leaders Thrive in the Face of Courage, Dignity, and Determination in Problem-Solving Program Situations (Pt. 2)

Roxanne Wells

Leaders who join this session will apply actionable relationship-building strategies and problem-solve staffing communication conflicts by creating conversational messages and associating supportive resources to address complex and varied program situations.

Keeping our Children Safe: Active Supervision is our Responsibility

Jenifer Lipman, Candace Shelton

When a program embraces a culture of safety, everyone prioritizes safety, in everything they do. Using the injury prevention framework, we will explore how children’s unique age and development; the different environments where they live, learn, and play; and the adults responsible for them, impact children’s health and safety. Participants will explore the six strategies of active supervision, an essential element in a culture of safety and preventing injury. Join us in this interactive session, and take this opportunity to apply sample injury data, examine case scenarios, and share successes and challenges related to systems and practices that support keeping children safe and strategies that can be used by staff in all aspects of the program.

Practices That Meaningfully Support Children with Disabilities and Their Families

Tsitsi Nyabando

This session is an introduction to the Division for Early Childhood and their no-cost Recommended Practices that are known to support children with disabilities and their families. This session will engage participants using evidence-based adult learning practices by beginning with an introduction and illustrations of the DEC Recommended Practices, then move to scenario-based learning in which participants will apply the practices to everyday situations. Finally, the session wraps up with self-reflection and consideration for how new or enhanced knowledge will be applied post conference.

Integration of PFCE and Health Services (Pt. 2)

Alma Sandoval, Rosa Vasquez

If you are a Family Service Professional, come to this session to learn strategies to improve the quality of health services provided to children and families enrolled in your program.

Building Staff Capacity through Coaching & Reflective Practice (Pt. 2)

Manisha Tare, Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin

Practice-Based Coaching and Reflective Practice have been shown to support effective teaching practice, build emotional capacity, and strengthen relationships with children and

families. In this session, we will review the principles of coaching and reflective practice and explore what they look like in day-to-day practice. We’ll discuss how integrating reflective practice principles into coaching strengthens relationships between the coach and coachee, impacts staff well-being, and improves child and family outcomes.

Change in Scope (Pt. 2)

PMFO

In the wake of the pandemic and recovery, Head Start programs are exploring ways to open classrooms, hire teachers, and maintain full enrollment. A strategy that could be a workable solution is a change in scope. Join us as we explore useful community, self-assessment, and other data sources to inform decision-making. Participants will walk away with an enhanced understanding of what is necessary to successfully implement a CiS.

Addressing and Preventing Child Incidents in Head Start through an Education Lens (Pt 2)

DTL

“Approximately one in four Head Start grant recipients received an adverse finding from ACF for child abuse, lack of supervision, or unauthorized release” (DHHS Office of Inspector General 2022). Early learning leaders are in a unique position to create systems of support education staff need to create responsive, nurturing, and safe learning environments for all children. This two-part session for education managers, coaches, and Directors, discusses environmental considerations and adult-child interaction strategies that build responsive relationships with children through clear and developmentally appropriate expectations, engaging environments, and intentional teaching of social and emotional skills.

Target audience: education managers, coaches, and supervisors of education staff

TUESDAY, 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Exploring the Dimensions of Wellness

Manisha Tare

There is more than one path to well-being. If you’re not well, supporting the children and families you work with is difficult. This session will help you identify which areas of your life you want to focus on to improve your overall health and energy for the important work you do. You’ll be invited to participate in written, mindful, and movement activities and create a personalized wellness plan that works for you too.

How Can Staff Flourish within the Program Team?

Roxanne Wells

Head Start leadership teams meet unexpected program challenges every day. Join others in this session to explore how program staff can thrive when they respect differences, positively challenge ideas, build self confidence, trust each other, and work through conflicts by using communication strategies to build stronger teams.

Culture of Safety: Classrooms and Playgrounds

Lynn Bowen, Linda DiBrito

In this session, participants will review the six components of Active Supervision, with an extended review of classroom and playground safety guidelines. Participants will learn strategies to keep children safe in classrooms and on the playground and be introduced to a variety of resources that can be used upon return to classrooms and centers.

Preparing for your Federal Review - Exploring the Latest HS Focus Area Review Protocols

Rachel Parsons

This session is geared toward directors and managers and presents information on the FY 2024 review protocols. This session will enhance the attendee's knowledge and understanding of the Office of Head Start requirements in providing quality services to children and families. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of compliance and risk factors in preparation for the review as well as gain a understanding the focus area 1 and 2 protocols.

Compassionate Coaching: Essential for ALL

Janet Humphries

In the traumatized world today, how can we support both ourselves and others around us to build resilience and become wholly human? How are educators and other HS staff coping with all that is being expected of them? What can coaching to each human potential do to relieve stress and retain staff? This is a time offering us a great opportunity to reinvent ourselves, our program & our community. Join us in learning some coaching strategies that can support this effort for adults and children!

HS Governance 101 For Tribal Leaders and All Staff

Darlene Zacherle, Lamont Yazzie, Patricia Banks

Effective Governance is an essential part of all successful Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Join other Tribal Leaders to explore Head Start's vision, values and mission. Consider how Head Start's vision aligns with your tribal vision and mission. Learn about Head Start laws and regulations that guide local program decisions. Review the rights and responsibilities of all three entities that work together to provide inclusive leadership to govern HS programs (Tribal Council, HS Policy Council and Management Team). Meet and network with other Tribal Leaders and Head Start managers.

Baby Talk - Sign Language for Infant-Toddlers

Lillian Tobin

This program teaches American Sign Language (ASL) to parents and/or caregivers of young children ages birth to 3 years to be used in the home or classroom. This interactive learning experience promotes all 5 Central Learning Domains for young children. Journey into sign language by joining us to learn how to enhance our youngest children's communication, language, and literacy skills, cognitive, and physical development.

Exploring Indigenous Flavors in Head Start Meals

Shonika Kwarteng, Candace Shelton

Join us on a cultural adventure that celebrates the rich tapestry of indigenous cultures and flavors within our Head Start community. In this informative session, we will explore incorporating indigenous ingredients and traditional cooking methods into reimbursable Head Start meals. This session will empower Foodservice staff with the knowledge and inspiration to create culturally rich, nutritious, and appealing meals for our young learners.

TUESDAY, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Elevating Family Engagement Using Indigenous Worldviews: Early Childhood Strategies that Succeed

Heidi Kranz, Christina Sedillo

This interactive presentation will provide effective strategies to enhance family engagement using relationship-based practices based on traditional Indigenous worldviews that highlight family and child strengths beginning in early childhood, Head Start, and Pre-K programs. Participants will have opportunities to learn and practice strategies that can help build stronger relationships, leading to positive child outcomes. Using shared observations to describe the child's behavior can deepen understanding and create opportunities for conversation with parents and family, resulting in deeper engagement. Participants will have opportunities to practice specific strategies that increase understanding about how to support families and how to recognize shared opportunities to observe a child/student's behavior while gaining skills in responding to parents. Participants will gain skills in using Indigenous worldview strategies to help parents recognize child cues and respond appropriately through observation, suggestions, and ongoing feedback.

Language and Culture Curriculum in Early Learning: Designing Learning Environments with Lands and Waters

Anna Lees, Sheryl Fryberg

In this workshop, we depict how early learning educators in a Tribal language department and early learning program developed a land and season-based curriculum for children birth-to-age-5. We emphasize the importance of developing and understanding processes toward decolonization for Tribal Nations to (re)claim their children's education. Our development of a land-based language/culture curriculum for Indigenous resurgence fosters children's holistic development connected to their community values and ways of knowing and being. The development of this curriculum emphasized children's developing relationships with land, water, and place with a goal of community wellness for generations to come (Deloria & Wildcat, 2001; Simpson, 2017). We share the process of developing, implementing, and revising the curriculum through examples of curriculum units which follow a seasonal calendar, and our understandings of how teaching Indigenous language through a land and season-based curriculum increases the authenticity of language learning within a classroom setting. Finally, we offer time for session attendees to consider how our process may take place in their own Tribal Nation settings. While the specific curriculum

examples are not transferable to other lands and places, they offer concrete examples for others to then adapt and expand on for their particular needs.

Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors - Addressing Behaviors that Challenge (Pt. 1)

Linda DiBrito, Patrice Griffin

Behaviors that challenge adults can be a difficult part of working in an early learning environment...but they don't have to be. Our job as early childhood professionals includes tapping into constructive ways to support children as they learn to process their big emotions and deal with the challenges of peer relationships in a group environment. This workshop session will focus on preventative and responsive strategies participants can use when responding to behaviors that challenge us as adults.

Budget Revisions and Carryovers (Pt. 1)

Betsy McDougall, Racquel Martinez

Do you need help doing Budget Revisions? What about Carryovers? Right before the end of the grant, are you seeing unobligated funds and need support? Creating a timeline with dates for monitoring and oversight is an essential part of fiscal. In this session, we will be making action plans to take home to set in place systems to help create systems that work. This will be a hands-on session; bring your computers! Interactive and fun!

Health Services Advisory Committees: The Backbone of Your Health Component (Pt. 1)

Alma Sandoval

Don't have an HSAC in your program? Come and join us: At the end of this session you will be able to: clearly articulate an action plan for your HSAC, develop a representative membership and implement responsive recruitment strategies, provide an orientation to HSAC members, monitor effective operations, and evaluate HSAC activities in your program.

Building Belonging (Pt. 1)

Carol Bellamy, Ronda Ritchie

It is an innate human need to feel accepted, included, and valued. A sense of belonging within the workplace impacts well-being, job satisfaction, engagement, and productivity. But how does a program leader create and sustain a workplace culture that prioritizes belonging? Do practical strategies and tools exist that help build relationships across a diverse team? Join this workshop to discuss answers to these questions and explore staff engagement tools to help all staff feel, "I belong here!"

Visual Interactive Learning: Sign Language for Children Birth to Three Years

Lillian Tobin

This program teaches American Sign Language (ASL) to parents and/or caregivers of young children ages birth to 3 years to be used in the home or classroom. This interactive learning experience promotes all 5 Central Learning Domains for young children. Journey into sign language by joining us to learn how

to enhance our youngest children's communication, language, and literacy skills, cognitive, and physical development.

Fostering Inclusive Play for All Preschoolers

DTL

Everybody plays, but play does not look the same for everybody. In this session, learn how play varies across individuals, families, cultures, and communities. Explore the importance of moving away from a 'one size fits all' approach to play. Discover ways to make play accessible, culturally relevant, and meaningful to all children. Come play with us!

TUESDAY, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Montessori: Essential for Today's Children

Janet Humphries

What might a Montessori HS/EHS program look like and how could it benefit our children? This is a question popping up around the country as programs seek how best to support children's development in the most humanistic manner. Montessori = Follow the Child. Simple, concrete, and responsive to the culture and individual need of each child. Both presenters are Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Certified with over 65 years' combined experience. Join us in discovering what Montessori looks, sounds and feels like for our youngest children, and what steps you could take to implement at least some of its features into your program.

Teaching Social-Emotional Learning to Young Children

Michael Hubler

Participants will learn about children's social-emotional development and how to use music and games that provide a powerful foundation to enhance children's learning and behavior.

This workshop will teach teachers, home visitors, and specialist's methods and practices to augment their capacity to guide their children socially and emotionally through a positive, preventative, and effective instructional approach.

Participants will also learn techniques to bring young children out of their emotional brain into their logical brain to increase peer relations, expressing their feelings in a positive manner, and to improve self-regulating behavior.

Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors - Addressing Behaviors that Challenge (Pt. 2)

Linda DiBrito, Patrice Griffin

Behaviors that challenge adults can be a difficult part of working in an early learning environment...but they don't have to be. Our job as early childhood professionals includes tapping into constructive ways to support children as they learn to process their big emotions and deal with the challenges of peer relationships in a group environment. This workshop session will focus on preventative and responsive strategies participants can use when responding to behaviors that challenge us as adults.

Budget Revisions and Carryovers (Pt. 2)

Betsy McDougall, Racquel Martinez

Do you need help doing Budget Revisions? What about Carryovers? Right before the end of the grant, are you seeing unobligated funds and need support? Creating a timeline with dates for monitoring and oversight is an essential part of fiscal. In this session, we will be making action plans to take home to set in place systems to help create systems that work. This will be a hands-on session; bring your computers! Interactive and fun!

Health Services Advisory Committees: The Backbone of Your Health Component (Pt. 2)

Alma Sandoval

Don't have an HSAC in your program? Come and join us: At the end of this session you will be able to: clearly articulate an action plan for your HSAC, develop a representative membership and implement responsive recruitment strategies, provide an orientation to HSAC members, monitor effective operations, and evaluate HSAC activities in your program.

Building Belonging (Pt. 2)

Carol Bellamy, Ronda Ritchie

It is an innate human need to feel accepted, included, and valued. A sense of belonging within the workplace impacts well-being, job satisfaction, engagement, and productivity. But how does a program leader create and sustain a workplace culture that prioritizes belonging? Do practical strategies and tools exist that help build relationships across a diverse team? Join this workshop to discuss answers to these questions and explore staff engagement tools to help all staff feel, "I belong here!"

Monitoring, Managing and Reporting Using a Data Management Solution

José Martinez

Struggling to ensure compliance with Head Start regulations while effectively managing and reporting their agency's data? This workshop is designed to equip attendees with the knowledge and skills needed to efficiently use a data management solution to achieve compliance and reporting. This workshop will explore how a data management solution streamlines data collection and analysis to simplify compliance-related tasks. The audience will benefit from practical tips and best practices to maximize productivity and reduce administrative burdens.

Early Head Start: Promoting Indigenous Language Development in Infants and Toddlers

DTL

Do you ever wonder how a tiny human can learn not only one but two or more languages? Explore infants' and toddlers' amazing capacity to learn multiple languages by joining us to examine research findings about how children learn language. Discover how learning multiple languages influences that process, and the cognitive benefits of bilingualism. Explore strategies and resources that support children who are learning more than one language from birth to three years.

WEDNESDAY, 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Re-envisioning Native Early Childhood Education through Language and Culture

Christine Sims, Lana Garcia

Workshop presenters will provide an introduction to the importance of Native language and culture development in the lives of young children as well as the current challenges facing many tribal language communities regarding the maintenance and transmission of their mother tongue to younger generations. The session will also provide an overview of the journey taken by one Head Start Program to transition to a full Native language immersion program and the reasons why this was important to the life of the community. Opportunities for participatory discussions between the audience and the presenters will be facilitated during this session.

Reconnecting Children to their Human-ness

Janet Humphries

A 20-year veteran teacher recently declared that she had used every trick up her sleeve to no avail with a group of preschoolers. Studies coming in from all over the world are showing that children are minimally one year behind in all developmental domains. What is going on? How can we support these children and those supporting their development to engage in humane behaviors in such challenging times? Join this session to explore what can be done to provide for children's needs AND provide for the educators' needs in serving them.

The When, Why, and How of Developmental Screenings

Linda DiBrito, Sheila Sellers

Questions about developmental screenings? Attend this session and have your questions answered! We will review the purpose and processes for developmental screenings for children birth to three and preschoolers and discuss your role and responsibility with developmental screenings, including timelines. Participants will practice ways of observing and listening that will support accurate screening results.

OHS Round Table

Relational Leadership can Cultivate Community Partnership Opportunities for Head Start Programs

Roxanne Wells

Participants will explore how leaders can learn to leverage a team member's relationship strengths with confidence, learn why program quality services can win community confidence, clarify how to increase your program's image, and develop action steps defining the skills of potential community partners and recognizing benefits to recruit program staff and community partners.

Onboarding and Orienting New Family Services Leaders

Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis

Leadership onboarding and orientation are critical processes for introducing new PFCE leaders to an organization while ensuring a smooth transition into their roles. Effective onboarding can set

the tone for a PFCE leader's tenure as well as help them understand the organization's culture, goals, and expectations, while accelerating their ability to contribute effectively. Join this session to explore PFCE resources that can contribute to the success of new Family Services leaders through orientation and onboarding.

Internal Controls/Fiscal Monitoring & Reporting

PMFO

Internal fiscal controls are necessary and required to ensure that Head Start funds and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition. This session will emphasize the pivotal role that accurate financial reporting plays in determining the fiscal health of a grant recipient as part of their financial quality environment. In addition, participants will explore the process for realigning and modifying budgets and submitting carry-over requests.

Integrating Traditional Foods Throughout our Programs (Pt. 1)

Betsy McDougall, Darlene Zacherle

Local, traditional, and indigenous foods are not only healthy for the body but also provide a deep cultural connection that promotes the overall health of young children and their families. Traditional foods nurture and support overall community well-being. Join us to explore how we can integrate traditional foods and culture throughout our programs while meeting requirements.

WEDNESDAY, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Liberating Learning Potential – Scripts, Templates and Tools (Pt. 1)

Layne Kalbfleisch

Teaching to Every Kid's Potential: Simple Neuroscience Lessons to Liberate Learners, by Dr. Layne Kalbfleisch, invites any person who tends, mentors, teaches and supports children to improve learning and life quality for children using practical, evidence-based strategies.

Focusing on four big concepts from neuroscience—flexibility, readiness, connection, and masking—Dr. K shows how to apply them to build on the strengths of children. Each chapter unpacks the science; shows how talents can compensate for neural processing issues; includes the story of real-life individuals who embody these talents; and suggests small but powerful adjustments in how you support or teach that allow natural gifts and skills to emerge. Dr. K will extend offerings from each of the 4 teachings, providing scripts (what do you say and do?), templates (how do these teachings fit into routines and learning requirements and goals), and tools (timeless and new strategies to animate learning potential).

Her website is www.the2e.com. Find her on social media - Facebook: 2E Consults LLC, @DrLayneK, and Instagram: [drlaynekalbfleisch](https://www.instagram.com/drlaynekalbfleisch)

Ongoing Monitoring to Ensure all Children are Safe (Pt. 1)

Ronda Ritchie, Racquel Martinez

Calling all Tribal Leaders, Management Staff, Teachers and parents: Your voice is important in designing, implementing and

monitoring systems that ensure the safety of every Head Start Child. Utilizing the Head Start Management Systems Wheel, we will explore ways to strengthen individual systems to ensure all employees understand the "culture of safety" in our programs. Our discussions will focus on some of the systems that can trip up programs: annual training for staff in active supervision strategies, ongoing monitoring of established systems, onboarding new employees including substitutes to ensure child safety, updating of policies and procedures dedicated to active supervision, and documentation of incidents.

Getting the Most from your Coach! (Pt. 1)

Christine Anderson, Sheila Sellers

Coaching systems are being implemented in Head Start programs and many teachers are "getting a coach." If you are a teacher who has or is going to have a coach, you may have asked yourself questions like these: Why am I getting a coach? How will I benefit from having a coach? What role do I have in this coaching process?

If so, this workshop is for YOU! Join us to hear what we share with coaches as well as learn strategies to help you get the most benefit from your coach.

Annual Planning Calendar

Darlene Zacherle, Patricia Banks

The Head Start Annual Planning Calendar is a helpful tool for directors and managers to use to understand the Head Start planning process and related requirements in the Head Start Performance Standards. Participants will be introduced to the calendar and the program activity list that includes the leadership and administrative functions, requirements of the grant development and oversight process. Hats off to using tools that help us work smarter and save time!

Empowering Families Experiencing Hardship (Pt. 1)

Rosa Vasquez

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of families experiencing hardships? Do you want to learn how to support and empower them right from the first point of contact through the journey to goal setting? If so, our "Empowering Families Experiencing Hardship" workshop is perfect for you! Join us for an engaging learning experience as we navigate through the eligibility process to setting goals with families.

Leveraging Professional Development to Support Career Pathways for Family Services Professionals

Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis

Family services professionals attend numerous professional development activities that support their work in Head Start programs. However, this critical part of our workforce has larger professional aspirations and career goals. The opportunity to scaffold these career goals alongside Family Services Professionals builds human capital and positively impacts recipients' recruitment and retention of qualified family services staff. Join us to discuss using existing professional development opportunities as a platform to identify career goals and support Family Services Professionals moving forward on their career pathway.

Culture & Language Make & Take for Teachers (Pt. 1)

Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin

Culture and language are the heart of every classroom. During this session, teachers will create activities to use in their classrooms that embrace their community's unique culture. These activities will help programs intentionally connect culture and language to their classroom activities.

Integrating Traditional Foods Throughout our Programs (Pt. 2)

Betsy McDougall, Darlene Zacherle

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WEDNESDAY, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

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If so, this workshop is for YOU! Join us to hear what we share with coaches as well as learn strategies to help you get the most benefit from your coach.

Sensory Processing Disorder 101

Ingrid Kanics

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is a term we are hearing more and more in our world today. In this presentation, we will explore what sensory processing disorder is, explore the causes, prevalence within indigenous communities, describe the different types of SPD and how they are expressed in everyday behaviors in the classroom. The presentation will focus on how to design the environment and provide activities that will benefit all children in the classroom.

Empowering Families Experiencing Hardship (Pt. 2)

Rosa Vasquez

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of families experiencing hardships? Do you want to learn how to support and empower them right from the first point of contact through the journey to goal setting? If so, our "Empowering Families Experiencing Hardship" workshop is perfect for you! Join us for an engaging learning experience as we navigate through the eligibility process to setting goals with families.

The Power of Listening and Feedback: Retention Strategies

Janet Humphries

Long gone are the days when listening with half an ear and feedback was just a once a year dreaded evaluation. We live today in such a diverse world encompassing such extensive needs, with part of that diversity including four generations in the workforce. Our listening to them and the feedback we offer to them make a difference in their decision to stay or leave the program. It also sets the model for them listening and offering meaningful feedback to children and families. Join this session to explore more about these essential strategies for supporting staff.

Culture & Language Make & Take for Teachers (Pt. 2)

Carol Bellamy, Patrice Griffin

Culture and language are the heart of every classroom. During this session, teachers will create activities to use in their classrooms that embrace their community's unique culture. These activities will help programs intentionally connect culture and language to their classroom activities.

Indigenizing Special Olympics Young Athletes? Tell Me More..

Kassy Lopez-Sonchar

Join us for an interactive overview of the ongoing efforts to Indigenize the Special Olympics Young Athletes program. This single-session workshop will offer valuable insights and hands-on activities to enhance your ability to support young children with intellectual disabilities and promote their physical, social, and emotional well-being through the implementation of indigenous games, language, and food. Be ready to see some amazing work of the first AIAN Head Start programs to pilot this groundbreaking initiative.

Why not spend some time finding out a way your program can receive FREE materials and support that engages all children in activities that reflect your community?

Get ready to be inspired!

THURSDAY, 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Celebrating Indigenous Cultures in ECE through Early Literacy Programs

Ashley Dixon-Kleiber, Margine Bawden

We live in a nation of extreme diversity, yet we may not see ourselves or our children represented. This lack of representation is especially apparent in children's literature, including the absence of different cultural practices/traditions, racial disparities, gender norms, and beyond. To truly create an environment rich in culturally responsive and appropriate materials, where children are accurately portrayed in the books they read, there must be specific efforts made. This cannot just be a passive option but rather a conscientious choice by the providers.

Children want to see themselves and those around them in books they read. Sadly, many children are underrepresented and see stereotypical or negative depictions of people that look like them. To combat this disparity and working closely with community advisory boards, we have developed two early literacy programs: Gowa: Teachable Moments for Apache Children for the San Carlos Tribal Lands and Baby College 101: Courses for Ałchíní Yázhí for four communities on the Navajo Nation. These comprehensive, research-based and sustainable programs aim to promote young children's early literacy by expanding parents', grandparents' and other caregivers' use of five early literacy practices (reading, talking, writing, singing, and playing) with children from birth to six years old. We have developed seven coordinated program components that address the multiple contexts where young children develop.

Establishing Positive Program and Family Connections

Kassy Lopez-Sonchar

Creating opportunities and experiences that bring program staff and families together is critically important. In this session participants will further their knowledge on ways to create a welcoming, nurturing environment for all program members. Everyone will leave with ways to develop family events that are engaging, inclusive and culturally responsive. Walk away with tools and strategies to establish relationships built on trust, respect, and understanding...with a dash of SASS and fun.

Culture as Treatment: Improving the Health and Well-being of our Teachers

Hilary Gourneau, Deborah Wilson

Utilizing a culturally based intervention to buffer stress and support the well-being of reservation-based teachers has showed promise in helping Native Head Start teachers recognize their cultural strengths, stress, and need for ongoing support. Healthy teachers promote the emotional well-being and academic success of the children. In this workshop we will discuss ways we implemented culture as treatment for the teachers and our study results, explore and share ways that you have all worked to implement culture into your classrooms and discuss some of our more surprising findings during our research project in connection to the student-teacher relationship scale and the intervention pretest posttest results.

Parents as Advocates and Lifelong Educators: Responding to Child Incidents

Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis

Parents and families observe, guide, promote, and participate in the everyday learning of their children at home, school, and in their communities to improve children's safety, health, development, and learning experiences. Join this group discussion to support recipients in making connections with parents as advocates and lifelong educators while developing strategies for preventing and responding to child incidents. Explore a compilation of existing PFCE resources to use when partnering with recipients when supporting a family's healing journey following a child incident.

Developing a Sustainable Language Revitalization Program

Mike Richardson

The pandemic has had huge impacts on moving forward with our language revitalization plans. With so many new staff and fewer resources, many are asking how do I even get started. This presentation will be on how do I plan for and put together a sustainable language program from development to implementation. We will look at sustainable pathways that will not only look at how we survey current language practices to support language in our classroom and community, but also how to develop a sustainable language plan inclusive of culture. Sustaining our tribal languages is a lifetime commitment. It will take time, a lot of effort, frustration, but the future language legacy for our young children and communities is priceless!!! Let's always strive to make language FUN!!!!

Program Re-design in Response to Changing Times

Betsy McDougall, Dr. Lamont Yazzie

Program Resdesign with Conversions and Reductions - Data Diving in Tribal Communities and Writing the Narrative.

Utilize Program Goals to Support Indigenous Early Learning

Racquel Martinez, Darlene Zacherle

Strategic long term goals set the direction for each Head Start Program and are a core Strategic long-term goals for ensuring programs are and remain responsive to community needs as identified in their community assessment as described in subpart A of this part.

Goals for the provision of educational, health, nutritional, and family and community engagement program services as described in the program performance standards to further promote the school readiness of enrolled children.

Designing with Sensory Needs in Mind

Ingrid Kanics

Sensory related disabilities are the fastest growing disability category among children today. In this presentation we will define this spectrum of childhood disabilities that is much broader than autism. Design strategies will be presented on how to create play spaces so that these children and their families can successfully GET there, PLAY there and STAY there and have tons of fun. Concepts will be wrapped together in a real-life case study.