

Notes from Meeting with Isabel Blanco, Melissa Carter, and Michelle Barclay
Monday, November 3, 2008

- Isabel stated that if non-fed rec. tribes want something from her in regards to reaching out, they will have to send it in writing.
- What bothers Isabel is that there are no expectations and direction about getting plans approved. She also stated that the responsibility is on them.
- IV-E next September
- If things are going well, we don't want to believe it, but if we're doing badly, they want to highlight it.
- A lot of people are making the same mistakes, a feedback group was created, Melissa and Michelle's office became paranoid along with the judges that this was a convenient excuse for DFCS, but worked well with court orders.
- Tracy and Linda knows about Isabel's idea regarding negotiating a weighted formula that would give us credit for those cases if indeed we could prove that certain cases that were adding months.
- If there is a good SAAG, but a bad supervisor or constant turnover, then you don't do as well. But when you have a decent combo like a good supervisor or a good SAAG and somebody else who cooperates, that makes it a lot better.
- Isabel then asked Melissa and Michelle if they agree from the last bullet point and if they took that away from their reviews, both said yes, based on good case workers and good supervision.
- They will help Isabel on the Casey Project.
- 10 National Casey experts who expertise is permanency.
- Isabel invited and informed Michelle about Dec 9-10 at GA Tech Conference Center
- Tracy Fava and Ann Fontaine met with MB regarding CIP and strategic plan- Feds approved a log to do list but MB feels that things are moving along
- Feds said MB is not doing an acceptable job reaching out to non-federally recognized tribes
- MC said that she talked to Bobby Cagle about this last week

- IV-E audit coming up next September-Judge Hammond and Bobby Cagle are working together on court orders (bad ones)
- Judge Hammond to represent CIP at audit, feds went through budget asking about cold case project, wanted to know why it wasn't added to the PIP
- Isabel stated that a good SAAG provides same supervision, like a supervisory tool
- SAAG conferences not creatively driven
- Jen = deliverable on CFSR then move to next level, Brenda is on board and providing backing
- MB is working on a project-approving appeals to expedite cases-got law changed from direct appeal to discretionary appeal re: TPR orders
- AG's office decided not to respond to any appeals unless it rolls over to a bigger court; appeals easier to file now-SAAGS could have responded and knocked the appeal out
- 5 year plan submitting to feds
- Casey-originally submitted request for help w/family centered model-\$1.2 mil to do permanency instead looking @ cases in Dekalb and Fulton-will have case consultation on 500 cases
- Every region to send a master practitioner, experts from Casey focus on permanency-providing first draft of process to be involved
- MB is concerned that there's an overlap with cold case project
- Dec 9-10, general orientation process @ GA Tech conference center, will discuss expectations and GA's practice and how things will move forward-there needs to be a legal voice-will be videotaped-put on WebEx or internet-not just a staffing, but a way to learn permanency
- MC said agency had needs assessment, spoke to SD and left about doing inventory of community services and what kids in care 24months look like
- Common theme for kids staying in care is disability
- Need education around this issue for foster parents
- IAB has a 5 year plan-due 6/01/09

- IV E issues all rolled into one and must be synced
- MC working with UGA to convene with advocates around 12/5
- Will get work plan on needs assessment