

***Yurok Tribe  
Five-Year Child and Family Services Plan  
Federal Fiscal Years 2010-2014***

***Part I: Final Report for FYs 2005-2009 on services provided under the CFSP***

This report lists the goals of our five-year plan and accomplishments over the past five years. The intent of the Tribe is to offer culturally relevant services as they pertain to the culture and traditions of Yurok People. Our primary focus is to insure the safety and healthy development of children and families and, more inclusively, to promote preventative models based on Yurok traditional values and mores, especially for children at risk and families in crisis.

***I. Accomplishments and Progress of Goals***

Several objectives outlined in the 2005-2009 IV-B Plan were either completed or have been substantially completed by the Tribe during this period. Of particular note is the progress the Yurok Tribe has made in regard to child welfare cases, assumption of Tribal Court jurisdiction over ICWA cases and the negotiation of a Tribal/ State IV-E Agreement.

It should also be noted that dates and wording of our objectives and timelines under the following goals were changed in the 2007 Annual Report due to unaccomplishable objectives in the way that they were written. For example, the Tribe could not Develop a Child Welfare Ordinance by June 30, 2005 when in reality the Tribe was working on a Children's Code instead which took several years to complete.

***II. Goal 1***

Improve services to Indian children and families by assuming direct control and jurisdiction over Yurok families under 25 CFR Part 13

***III. Accomplishments***

From the beginning of the Court, created by a provision in the Yurok Constitution, past years have shown a caseload primarily consisting of violations of the Tribe's fishing ordinance. With the addition of a new Chief Judge and a Prosecutor's division in 2007, the Tribe has taken tremendous advances in the types of cases the Court handles and in the structure of the Court itself. To date, Yurok Tribal Court has taken in approximately 10 family Child Welfare cases.

An objective outlined under this goal was to develop the Yurok Tribe's Children's Code by December 31, 2007. The Tribe has developed a comprehensive Children's Code which was ratified by the Tribal Council in January 2007. The Code was developed

through a process of staff efforts as well as several community meetings and discussions in an effort to develop; a Code that is uniquely Yurok and addresses the needs of the community while providing maximum protections for families and children in need of aid. The development of the Code proved to be a long work of progress, however the Code was ratified in January 2007 thus completing this objective.

Another objective under this goal was to apply to the BIA under 25 CFR for assumption of jurisdiction. With the increased training of the Tribe's ICWA advocates, application for assumption is not necessary. The Tribe intervenes at the State Court level in all Tribal ICWA cases and proceeds with the transfer of those cases as appropriate under the ICWA and Yurok Tribal Law. One barrier blocking complete jurisdiction and transfer of cases in the lack of a State/Tribal IV-E agreement and the inability of Tribes (until recently) to have a direct IV-E Agreement with the federal government.

It should also be noted that the main focus of the Court is in community and family involvement, taking a community style approach to problem solving rather than strictly an adversarial stance.

#### ***IV. Goal 2***

Further development of programs to increase availability of culturally appropriate intervention and services

#### ***V. Accomplishments***

As a Tribal agency serving our own people, we have been able to increase the availability of culturally appropriate intervention and services thus accomplishing goal two in our current plan. We will continue to grow and thrive in our unique ability to run our own successful programs for our people.

In September 2008 we introduced the ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) media project for high school age youth ages 14- 18 in three different sites within the Yurok Reservation boundaries. The ATOD media prevention project completed five PSA's; Alcohol, Meth, Tobacco and other drugs. The media project had a total of 35 students from three tribal service areas. The Yurok Youth Program began ATOD curriculum for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders in January of 2009 at three elementary schools within service area. The curriculum was administered twice a week for a total of eight weeks at each elementary school. The Alcohol and other drug classes reached 44 youth over a three month period. Red Ribbon Week was another event the Yurok Youth Program participated in. There were a total of 12 booths providing education on Domestic Violence prevention to Diabetes. The youth prevention coordinator set up a booth and displayed photos youth activities and distributed pamphlets on ATOD. The Yurok Youth Program reached 50 youth at this health fair by distributing pamphlets and giving information out on upcoming activities. In March 2009 the Yurok Youth Program in collaboration with Yurok TANF hosted their first annual healthy communities healthy choices youth

basketball clinic and tournament. There were a total of 100 youth at this event ages 5- 18. Lastly the Yurok youth program enters two juvenile facilities with the tribal service area weekly to offer cultural visits for Yurok youth. Since August 2008 we have reached 13 students in the juvenile facilities. This is what we have accomplished toward the objective of reaching 100 youth per year and keep them on track learning their culture ongoing throughout the life of this funding after experiencing difficulty with the prior objective of attending all expulsion hearings because it didn't fall in line of being a possibility with our manpower or any of our other programmatic goals and objectives in Yurok Social Services. This change was made during our 2007 annual report and we have been well over our objective numbers since its implementation.

In addition to the Tribe's outreach and prevention program, the Tribe has partnered with several outside entities in efforts to offer support for diversion. Of note is the establishment of the Klamath River Teen Court. A Peer Court based on the principles of restorative justice and designed a diversion to tribal youth becoming entangled in "the system." The Peer Court allows first time misdemeanor offenders the chance to avoid possible jail time by admitting to culpability and submitting to the jurisdiction of their peers. The Court has received start-up funding and is in the process of forming collaborative relationships with local law-enforcement, Courts, schools, and probation. It will be fully running in September 2009.

Yurok Social Services provided a well received training which includes a manual on "Traditional Healing and Social Services, Enhancing Knowledge and Working toward Healing". In past reports, this manual and training was mentioned to be in the works. It feels great to have given the training and the long awaited manual is a finished product which served as a useful tool during the training in November of 2007 and continues to be useful for any individual involved in Social Services and the Yurok Tribe. County and Tribal Social Workers, Judges, Probation Officers, Tribal Attorneys, Tribal Council, Social Services Advisory Committee members, foster parents, Tribal staff and Tribal members were included as participants in this training. There were close to 100 participants at this event.

### ***VI. Goal 3***

Develop internal policies and procedures and external state-tribal agreements for the Title IV-E FFP and other funding streams

### ***VII. Accomplishments***

There has been great progress toward the objective of developing State/Tribal agreements on Title IV-E and other funding streams. The Tribe has been in negotiation with the State of California Department of Social Services for just such an agreement. Negotiations began in August of 2007. The Agreement is expected to be signed in the summer of 2009. Additionally, the Tribe has applied with the federal government for a planning grant to help develop policies and procedures for a direct IV-E funding

agreement with the federal government. If the planning grant is successfully funded it is expected a direct funding agreement will be in place by 2012.

With the State and/or federal Agreement (s) in place, the Tribe's capacity to transfer Child Welfare cases to the Tribal Court will greatly be enhanced.

Another objective under this goal was to develop Yurok Social Services Policies and Procedures ongoing throughout this five year plan. Yurok Social Services continues to work on policies and procedures as needed. Several years ago, policies and procedures for several Social Service Programs were non-existent. The Department has made great strides in ensuring that policies and procedures are in place for all service delivery programs such as Domestic Violence, General Assistance and ICWA/Social Work. Intermittently, the department finds a glitch in an existing policy or discovers something that may work better and goes through the necessary steps to change the existing policy. Development of policies and procedures is something that will be accomplished and perfected on an ongoing basis.

### **Conclusion**

Funding from Title IV-B makes it possible to accomplish these goals and adequately meet the needs of our community. This funding along with funding from the BIA for ICWA Advocates and Social Workers plays an integral role in the delivery of direct services for the Yurok Tribe.

***Part II: Five-Year Child and Family Services Plan for FYs 2010-2014***  
*Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2*

**Name of Tribal Agency**

Yurok Tribe  
PO Box 1027  
190 Klamath Boulevard  
Klamath, CA 95548

**Description of Organization Adminstrating Funds:**

**1. Description of Tribe:**

The Yurok Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe that is located in Del Norte County, California. The Yurok Tribe is the largest Native American Tribe in California with 5,531 members. When the last five year plan was written, we had 4730 members. We have grown substantially in the past five years. The Federally recognized service area includes both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

The Yurok Tribe is governed by a nine-member Tribal Council elected by the general membership. In addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair, there is a member from each of the seven districts located throughout Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Tribal Council has delegated day-to-day tribal operations to Tribal Administration. Departments within the Tribal organization include Social Services, Fisheries, Self Governance, Enrollment/Election, Education, Forestry, Environmental, Economic Development, Planning, Culture, Finance, Human Resources/TERO, Office of Attorney, Public Safety, Watershed, Maintenance, and Information Services. Please see Yurok Tribe Organization Chart attached in appendix for the internal structure of the Yurok Tribe.

**2. Description of Responsible Office:**

The Yurok Tribe's Social Services Department will be the main responsible office for the operation of this plan however. The Indian Child Welfare program and Social Workers play as well as the Office of the Tribal Attorney play a large part in implementing the goals set forth in this plan. Please see the attached Social Service Organization Chart in appendix for structure of Department.

The ICWA program provides advocacy services under the Indian Child Welfare Act for Indian children and families at risk of child abuse and neglect. The ICWA program does not adhere to a designated service area. Any Yurok child at risk is eligible to receive advocacy services. Services include advocacy through court intervention and with Child

Protective Services where the child is located, assisting with services to either prevent placement into substitute care or hasten reunification or permanency planning, or referral and follow up. The primary duties of the ICWA Worker are to ensure compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act by state agencies.

Yurok Social Services employs two Social Workers. Social Workers offer a variety of services for any Yurok Tribal member including ICWA cases. Ideally, together as a team, the plan is to offer the best family preservation and family support services possible.

### **3. Service Programs**

Services currently offered through the Yurok Tribe include but are not limited to:

- Family Preservation Services- which include reunification, services to maintain the safety of children in their homes, follow-up care, respite care, and parenting skills.
- Family Support Services- which include transportation, parenting skills instruction, respite care, parent-child relationship building, and information and referral services to access other community services.
- Time-Limited Family Reunification Services- which include transportation to and from the following services: counseling, substance abuse treatment, DV counseling, and respite child care.
- Preplacement preventive services programs designed to help children at risk of placement to remain with their families.
- Foster care maintenance
- Permanency Planning
- In-home visits
- Information and referral services

The target population to be served includes all children and families of the Yurok Tribe targeting families at risk or in crisis. Additional programs within the Yurok Tribe that service members include General Assistance, Vocational Education, Higher Education, Housing, Environmental Education, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Johnson O'Malley (JOM), and the Tribal Youth Prevention Program.

### **Vision Statement**

*The Yurok Tribe believes the safety and healthy development of all Yurok children is critical to the continuing strength of the Tribe and the Preservation of the culture and lifeways of our ancestors. We believe that strong, stable Yurok families are the best role models for development of our children. The Yurok Tribe is committed to providing*

*program and services, based in traditional/cultural Yurok family values, which foster positive growth of our children and families.*

## **Planning Body and Data Collection**

The Social Services Advisory Committee plays a large part in contributing to the CFSP. Their input is vital to the needs of the community. The members represent various Native American agencies and each member represents one of our seven districts. The purpose of the committee is to advise on the social services programs and community needs. The Social Services Advisory committee meets one time monthly and by special meeting when necessary. The committee members assimilate information discussed at these meetings and then distribute the information at their own monthly district meeting held with the Tribal members of that district. They also bring to the monthly meeting with Yurok Social Services input from the Tribal membership. This is how we address many needs of our Tribal community.

In addition, in recent past years, Social Services staff went to the monthly district meetings at each of the seven districts. We wanted to find out the most prominent needs directly from the Tribal community. Building a sense of community through community events, lack of employment and training for adults and youth, substance abuse, housing, transportation, child care for the more remote areas of the reservation, and more cultural activities for youth were among the needs brought forth and discussed at these meetings.

Information for completing the CFSP was also collected from management staff within our Social Services Department. The plan has been reviewed by and reflects the input of staff and community members.

## **Goals, Objectives and Measures of Progress**

### *1. Goals of the Child and Family Services Plan*

The goals of this plan include the following outcomes:

- To provide assistance to families who voluntarily (Voluntary Family Maintenance-VFM) seek assistance to prevent an escalation to an involuntary placement.
- To assist families who have been referred by outside agencies to prevent an escalation to an involuntary placement.
- To Assist Yurok (or eligible to be enrolled) children whose parents are in reunification or VFM to increase the likelihood of successful family reunification or long term guardianship.

## 2. Objectives

Within this five year plan we intend to accomplish the following objectives under these goals:

OBJECTIVE	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Assist 5 families per quarter who voluntarily seek assistance from having their children involuntarily removed.	Ongoing annually throughout 5 year plan (20 cases annually)	Social Workers ICWA Advocates
Assist 5 families per quarter who have been referred from having their children involuntarily removed.	Ongoing annually throughout 5 year plan (20 cases annually)	Social Workers ICWA Advocates
To maintain a 75% success rate for reunification or long term guardianship	Ongoing annually throughout 5 year plan	Social Workers ICWA Advocates Office of Attorney
Provide additional training and develop resources for extended counseling and therapy for youth	Ongoing annually throughout 5 year plan	Social Services Director Social Workers ICWA Advocates

## 3. Measures of Progress

The Yurok Tribe will collect data that will indicate our progress. Yurok Social Services has recently purchased an entire new database system called TAS. Our TANF Division began their program using this database which has been successful. TAS comes already set up for each Tribal program we already have, including Child Welfare. In addition, it includes the ability to customize to our needs. Staff has been trained to use the system. This new database will be used to measure the results and annual progress toward meeting the aforementioned goals and objectives.

### **Child and Family Services Continuum**

The Yurok Tribe currently utilizes a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach to ensure the most comprehensive staffing and services for cases. This team approach allows for the Tribe to offer all services and approaches available to address the need(s).

Services are directed toward the accomplishment of the following purposes:

- A. protecting and promoting the welfare of all children, including handicapped,



- homeless, dependent, or neglected children;
- B. preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in, the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or delinquency of children;
  - C. preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families by identifying family problems, assisting families in resolving their problems, and preventing breakup of the family where the prevention of child removal is desirable and possible;
  - D. restoring to their families children who have been removed, by the provision of services to the child and the families;
  - E. placing children in suitable homes, in cases where restoration to the biological family is not possible or appropriate; and
  - F. assuring adequate care of children away from their homes, in cases where the child cannot be returned home or cannot be placed for adoption.

Over the recent years, it has become apparent for the additional need of staff in Yurok ICW. The tribe has members involved in the Child Welfare system all throughout Humboldt and Del Norte Counties as well as in many other states. Court requires a constant need for advocacy and there are many times when staff must choose between one or the other because there are not enough staff at this point to cover all the bases. Our Tribal Council is working with us to find a permanent solution to address the need for additional staff to adequately address the needs of our ICWA Program. We began using this funding for a part-time ICWA worker in Humboldt County (it is our larger of the two counties) last year. This staffing has proven both helpful and successful. This staff person takes on all of the juvenile cases we have in Humboldt county in addition to any cases that overlap in court or when the other Advocate is not able to attend. We will continue to use Title IV-B part II funding to retain this part time ICWA Advocate position.

Foster home maintenance and recruitment is another large necessity for our ICWA Program, but tends to get put on the back burner or somewhat neglected because of other priorities for our families and with only two Indian Child Welfare Advocates to carry out our objectives. The additional funding that has been provided for our Promoting Safe and Stable Families grant helps immensely with this important immediate need. In addition, this position along with our other ICWA Advocates and Social Workers can concentrate more on our foster homes and provide high quality, adequate court advocacy.

### **Health Care Services**

The Yurok Tribe interrelates with United Indian Health Services and other tribes for substance abuse, health or mental health services but these services are limited. Most of these services are provided by the state and/or county where the client family resides. The ICW program and Social Workers are responsible for coordinating and interacting with these services including the agency responsible for child protection. The Yurok Tribe has a team of an ICWA Advocate and Social Worker located in both Humboldt and

Del Norte Counties. Each team has their own roles that they are the lead in. Additionally, they guide and assist one another in their cases when needed. YSS Tribal Social Workers and ICWA Advocates will require and uphold that all parents in reunification or VFM share in the responsibility of keeping the children's immunizations up to date and provide regular health and dental check-ups and follow all medical treatment recommendations as part of their case plan. The staff will participate in Interagency Case Management Team Meetings made up of social workers, ICWA advocates, health care providers, mental health counselors, juvenile probation, etc. to monitor and make collaborative decisions in regards to client health care services plans. In addition, any start up or modifications of regular medications must be court ordered and approved.

### **Disaster Plan**

In the event of a disaster the Social Services Department staff will follow the tribes' FEMA Emergency Management Protocols. Social Services staff will be deployed as directed in the plan. The Klamath office will coordinate efforts with the Del Norte Red Cross to establish a 24/7 Shelter Care facility for individuals and families. Humboldt County will do the same.

90% of the current Social Services staff have received training from the Red Cross in the operation of a facility and have had actual experience.

Social Services will coordinate efforts in the Klamath Area to deploy buses to transport clients to the local Red Cross Emergency 24/7 facility.

#### **Narrative:**

The Tribe has a reservation that extends nearly fifty miles from the mouth of the Klamath River to Weitchpec located at the confluence of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. The reservation cannot be traversed by automobile. Some parts of the Reservation can only be accessed by boat. The reservation includes an ocean shoreline to picturesque steep sided canyons. Disasters that have occurred are Flooding, tidal waves and forest fires. The Tribe also has a two county service area that includes large towns such as Eureka, McKinleyville, Trinidad, Crescent City, Smith River and Arcata. The Tribes enrollment is nearly 5,500 members. The reservation and service area is too large and the tribal population too dispersed to develop an effective door to door Emergency Action Plan.

#### **Specific:**

1. Tribal Social workers and ICWA Advocates will distribute to each of their clients households a fact sheet that identifies local emergency phone numbers, contact persons, specific action plan for their area and shelter and other resources.
2. The social workers and ICWA workers will also provide tribal numbers

Of their Tribal Designated Information Officer who will maintain an updated Tribal Specific Web Site and current information about resources.

3. Social Workers and Advocates will maintain lists of addresses and phone Numbers of their clients so they can be contacted during an emergency as A means of conducting welfare checks on clients.
4. In the event of forest fires in the eastern section of the reservation (coast area is generally too wet for forest fires) short term (a few days) evacuation for those elders and person without transportation. Social Services will work with Tribal Transportation, Tribal and County Police Departments and Hoopa Tribal Police Department.
5. The Tribe has purchased HEPA Filters for the elderly, families with small children, and TANF Clients. Yurok Social workers will coordinate with UIHS and county agencies to assist members in disaster zones.

We have credit cards and emergency cards as well as an emergency checkbook on hand to buy necessity supplies for children under our care or who may come under our care. Communication is conducted mainly through cell phones already in our possession.

### **Consultation and Coordination (Including States)**

In order to implement the various goals and objectives of the Child and Family Services plan, the Yurok Tribe has had ample opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue and interaction with the State at various levels. One of the primary areas of consultation/collaboration has been in all areas concerning the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The Tribe continually engages the State in discussions concerning the ICWA. As the largest Tribe in California Yurok has ICW cases in several counties in the State. While some of those counties closer to home have worked closely with the Tribe to develop Tribal specific protocols regarding these cases, there is an ongoing dialogue concerning notice to the Tribe as well as the issues of active efforts, placement and transfer to the Tribal Court. The Tribe intervenes at the State Court level in all Tribal ICWA cases and proceeds with the transfer of those cases as appropriate under the ICWA and Yurok Tribal Law. One barrier blocking complete jurisdiction and transfer of cases in the lack of a State/Tribal IV-E agreement and the inability of Tribes (until recently) to have a direct IV-E Agreement with the federal government.

The issue of proper placement, in compliance with the ICWA, has led to ongoing negotiations with the State over the development of a Tribal/State Title IV-E Agreement. The reasoning for this was to enable the Tribe to transfer cases into the Tribal Court and be able to fund those placements. Through our consultations/negotiations with the State the Tribe has learned that the State is reluctant to fund placements ordered by the Tribal Court. Negotiations on the State IV-E Agreement began in August of 2007. The

Agreement is expected to be signed in the summer of 2009. Additionally, the Tribe has applied with the federal government for a planning grant to help develop policies and procedures for a direct IV-E funding agreement with the federal government. If the planning grant is successfully funded it is expected a direct funding agreement will be in place by 2012.

In addition to the IV-E agreements mentioned above, the Tribe has also entered into negotiations with individual counties on allocation of jurisdiction over child welfare cases, prevention, and diversified response. These agreements will enhance both the Tribe's and the State's ability to respond to Tribal Children in need of aid. The agreements clearly define jurisdiction and appropriate response by each entity as well as specified County/State and Tribal contact information. Additionally, the Tribe is working with the counties and appropriate agencies in finding placements for children in need of aid.

Another interesting development is the incorporation of the Northern California Tribal Courts Coalition. The NCTCC is an inter-Tribal organization aimed at improving Tribal and State child welfare response and court systems. It is a collaborative organization which engages Tribes and the State in a continuing dialogue as to all aspects of best practices in implementing the ICWA and furthering discussion between the State and Tribes. Of special note is the recent formation of the Inter-Tribal CASA of Northern California. This is a Tribal CASA program instated under the NCTCC as a benefit for all the Tribes participating under the NCTCC. It is funded by National CASA and receives technical support from the State CASA Program.

Perhaps most exciting is the negotiations the Tribe has started with two counties centered around true concurrent jurisdiction in child welfare cases. Because these children are indeed citizens of two sovereigns it seems it would be in the best interests of the children to be able to benefit from both worlds and to have true collaboration between the States and Tribes to ensure a better future.

Listed below are internal and external programs and agencies that Yurok Social Services consults and coordinates with on a regular basis:

*1. Internal*

- ICWA Program
- Tribal Youth Program
- Social Workers
- Head Start
- Child Care
- Johnson O'Malley JOM
- Yurok Public Safety
- Social Services Advisory Committee
- Tribal Council

## 2. *External*

- Two Feathers Child Welfare Services
- Harrington House
- Humboldt Women for Shelter
- Humboldt and Del Norte County Social Services
- Humboldt and Del Norte County Mental Health
- Humboldt and Del Norte County Office of Education
- Humboldt and Del Norte County Juvenile Court
- Probation Departments-Humboldt and Del Norte County
- United Indian Health Services (UIHS)

### **Plan Availability**

The CFSP will be made available to all interested parties via our Tribal Website under Departments/Social Services/5 yr. Child and Family Service Plan.

### **Conclusion**

HHS child welfare funds provide means to meet the needs of children and families that are not available to the Tribe from other sources. These funds complement funding from the BIA which provides Indian Child Welfare advocates and Social Workers. Thus the HHS Title IV B funding is an integral part of the Yurok Tribe's Social Service Delivery System.