NATIVE COMMUNITIES HOME VISITING MEETING 2026

Full Agenda

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Rooted in Traditions | Nurturing our Families | Nourishing our Future

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Wear traditional attire!

9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	**CIRCLE–HV Pre-NHVM Meeting,** *by invitation only*	**Palm 8/ Pacific E**
	ACF THV Team meeting, *by invitation only*	**Sunset 2**
5:00-7:00 p.m.	**Building Connections: An ASTHVI Reception for Tribal Home Visiting Teams**	**Pacific C/ Lookout Point**
7:00–8:30 p.m.	**Opening Celebration and Gathering** **Master of Ceremony – Chance Rush (*Hidatsa, Arapaho, Dakota, Oneida, Otoe*)** **Welcome and Blessing – Kim Marcus (*Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians*)**	**Pacific A**

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Rock your mocs or favorite jewelry!

All day: **Wellness Room**, **Sunset 3** | 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: **TA Room**, **Sunset 2**

9:00–9:30 a.m.	**Welcome and Opening** **Moushumi Beltangady, Director, Tribal Early Childhood Division, Office of Early Childhood Development, ACF** **Kim Marcus (*Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians*)** **Mark Cruz (*Klamath Tribes*), Director, Indian Health Service**	**Pacific A**
9:30–10:30 a.m.	**Opening Plenary: Mariah Gladstone (*Blackfeet, Cherokee*), Indigikitchen** **A Recipe for Resilience** Mariah Gladstone will share the history of Indigenous food systems and the relationship between cultural identify, health, and native plants and animals to support child and family health.	**Pacific A**
10:30–11:00 a.m.	**Break** *(light refreshments provided)*	
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	**Community Connections Café (Peer Sharing Session)**	**Pacific A**
12:00–1:30 p.m.	**Lunch On Your Own**	

1:30–
3:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Building Tribal Early Childhood Systems: Home Visiting as the Foundation for Coordinated, Culturally Grounded, Family-Led Systems

Pacific F&G

Presenters from the Tribal Early Learning Initiative (TELI) will share what practical early childhood systems-building looks like on the ground and how it can build stronger, more culturally grounded, and more aligned support for young children and families. Attendees will have an opportunity to develop an action plan for establishing systems alignment in their community.

Presenters:
Kimber Olson, Administration for Children and Families
Chelce Finch, Seneca Arts and Learning Center
Jaclyn Gray, Riverside San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc

Rooted in What Works: Nurturing a Culture of Quality in Home Visiting Programs

Pacific A

This session will support program leads in establishing a culture of quality in their program by understanding and identifying systems-level supports that help quality take root and flourish over time. Attendees will have an opportunity to create an action plan to apply to their program.

Presenters:
Robin VanDerMoere, Michigan Public Health Institute
Angela Precht, Michigan Public Health Institute

How Cost Modeling Can Support and Strengthen Home Visiting Services in Native Communities

Palm 7

Cost modeling is a key tool for planning, implementation, and growth, supporting programs and funders in understanding both the current costs of home visiting and the costs of different models, expansion, and/or adding components that provide additional supports for families and staff. Working together attendees will use the Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies free online cost model to understand the unique costs of Native communities' cultural and community-focused home visiting, enabling them to tell the story of their costs and develop more accurate budgets.

Presenters:
Jeanna Capito, Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies
Sarah Walzer, Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies

1:30–
3:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (cont'd)

Using a Peer Network to Support MIECHV Implementation

Sunset 2

In this session, Tribal MIECHV project directors and evaluators who are leaders in the Association of State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives (ASTHVI) will talk about the benefits and contributions they have made to Tribal MIECHV through their membership in ASTHVI. Attendees will learn more about how they can become more engaged with peer home visiting leaders to build capacity in their own teams.

Presenters:
Nicole Hunter, Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Kehaulani Fernandez, Lake County Tribal Health Consortium, Inc.
Ramona Danielson, White Earth Tribal Home Visiting Program
Marisa Wang, Southcentral Foundation
Catriona Macdonald, Association of State & Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives

Sustaining the Helpers: Advancing Well-Being in Tribal Home Visiting through Culturally Informed Promotion

Palm 8

This session will introduce the Institute for Home Visiting Workforce Development's "Making the Case for Home Visitor Well-Being" suite of resources. Attendees will then have the opportunity to share Indigenous and community-rooted perspectives on workforce well-being.

Presenters:
Amy Huffer, Education Development Center
Roselia Ramirez, Education Development Center

Using Research to Support Culture and Language Integration in Native Home Visiting

Pacific E

This session will introduce attendees to the Tribal Early Childhood Research Center's Community of Learning approach to developing and testing culturally responsive tools and strategies that strengthen early childhood programs serving Native children and families, including Tribal home visiting. Attendees will have an opportunity to engage with curriculum materials and tools, and reflect on how these approaches might inform their own work.

Presenters:
Deana Around Him, Child Trends
Jessica Barnes-Najor, Michigan State University
Nancy Asdigian, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Chelsea Wesner, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

1:30–
3:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (cont'd)

Recipe 4 Success: Supporting Family Health and Well-Being in Native Communities

Pacific C

This roundtable session will share strategies from an evidence-based parent curriculum, Recipe 4 Success, that improves children's self-regulation skills and healthy eating habits. Attendees will have a hands-on opportunity to practice coaching four core parenting strategies.

Presenters:
Sarah Braaten, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Amber Heggie, Bad River Family Foundations Home Visiting Program

Relationship Before Recruitment: Creating Multiple Pathways to Home Visiting Through Storytelling and Community Engagement

Pacific D

This session will explore how relationship-first engagement strategies—such as storytelling, open community gatherings, and flexible entry points—can serve as welcoming pathways into home visiting programs serving Native families. Attendees will leave the session with a practical framework, engagement pathway model, and actionable strategies that can be adapted for their community.

Presenters:
Danielle Nieto, Native Health
Tasheena Shay, Native Health

New Insights from the Multi-Site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting: Turning Findings into Action

Pacific H&I

Participants will explore new findings from the MUSE study and collaborate with peers to identify practical ways to apply these insights to strengthen home visiting services in Native communities.

Presenters:
Nichole Sturmfels, James Bell Associates
Kate Lyon, James Bell Associates
Melina Salvador, James Bell Associates
Nancy Whitesell, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Aleta Meyer, Office of Planning Research and Evaluation

3:00–
3:30 p.m.

Break *(light refreshments provided)*

3:30–
4:10 p.m.

Lightning Sessions

Family and Father Stories Driving Tribal Home Visiting Futures

Pacific H&I

Presenters will share practical ways to embed storytelling and family voice into program design to strengthen partnerships and ensure that home visiting systems reflect the families they serve based on learnings from the Tribal Home Visiting System Building Project.

Presenters:
Mina Harvier, LANL Foundation
Katerie Martinez, San Ildefonso Pueblo
Ryan Gonzales, Father from San Ildefonso Pueblo
Jerome Martinez, Father from San Ildefonso Pueblo
Markose Pacheco, Father from San Ildefonso Pueblo

Hand in Hand: Tribal and State Partners for Home Visiting

Palm 8

Presenters will discuss how a state MIECHV program has partnered with Tribal communities, managing two funding streams to support home visiting services, integrating culture across programs, and supporting staff retention.

Presenters:
Amy Gourneau, Turtle Mountain Home Visiting Program
Allison Mahoney, Families Flourish ND

Advancing Nutrition and Wellness through Tribal Home Visiting

Palm 7

Presenters will highlight practical and culturally grounded nutrition strategies that Tribal Home Visiting programs have used to promote healthy growth and well-being for their children, families, and communities.

Presenters:
Deborah Stark, Deborah Roderick Stark and Associates
Cilcilio Goodlance, Future Generations Collaborative

Indigenous Home Visitor Competencies: Strengthening Support to Families with Children 0-5

Pacific C

Presenters from the Seattle-based Pilimakua Home Visiting Program will describe an emerging model of Indigenous Home Visitor competencies that weaves together practice-based and ancestral expertise; and engage attendees in reflecting on how they can use this model in their own work.

Presenters:
Kamalei Brandon, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services
Koa Beck, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services
Olivia Morgan, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services

3:30–
4:10 p.m.

Lightning Sessions (cont'd)

Strengthening the National Home Visiting Workforce Through Tribal Leadership and Input

Pacific E

This session will focus on how the National Strategy for the Home Visiting Workforce plans to advance and support workforce well-being; and, how the culture and practices of Native communities can advance the well-being of the home visitor workforce.

Presenters:
Amy Huffer, Education Development Center
Katari Coleman, Education Development Center
Allison LaMont, Education Development Center

Strong Connections, Stronger Outcomes

Pacific F&G

This session will describe practical strategies used by a Navajo home visiting program, in partnership with technical assistance staff and families, for identifying resources and facilitating connections that uplift traditions and reflect family priorities.

Presenters:
Alfreda Bahe, Rough Rock Community School FACE Program
Esmerelda Yazzie, Rough Rock Community School FACE Program
Courtney Nelson, Parents as Teachers National Center

Cultural Activities in Home Visiting

Pacific A

Presenters from the Ch'anik'en ("Little Ones" in the Dena'ina Athabascan language) Home Visiting program will share how to individualize child development activities to incorporate Indigenous culture into home visits while meeting model fidelity.

Presenters:
Victoria Nathaniel, Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Juleesa Caldwell, Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Nicole Hunter, Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Tribal MIECHV Reporting in Visit Tracker

Pacific D

Attendees will learn how the Visit Tracker system can support Tribal MIECHV data reporting requirements from the perspectives of evaluators from two grant recipients and a Visit Tracker representative.

Presenters:
David Tisdale, Data Keeper Technologies
Marc Bolan, Marc Bolan Consulting
Debra Heath, Ways of Knowing LLC

Indigenous Food Systems and Home Visiting

Sunset 2

Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss the relationship between Indigenous food systems and home visiting services in Tribal communities with opening plenary speaker, Mariah Gladstone.

Presenters:
Mariah Gladstone, Indigikitchen

4:10–
4:20 p.m.

Lightning Session Transition Time

4:20–
5:00 p.m.

Lightning Sessions

Nourishing and Nurturing Healthy Fathers and Healthy Families

Palm 8

The session will explore Indigenous fatherhood leadership through wellness, traditional values, and the lived experiences of Native fathers participating in a local Fatherhood Support Group and Fatherhood Is Sacred® classes offered by Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board, Tribal MIECHV program in Rapid City, SD.

Presenters:
Joe Tyon, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board

Family Engagement: Centering Culture, Community, and Connection

Pacific H&I

This session will highlight Project KEVA's outreach strategies and retention practices within the context of a small Pueblo community.

Presenters:
Daretia Candelaria, Project KEVA Home Visiting (San Felipe Pueblo)
Valentia Sanchez, Project KEVA Home Visiting (San Felipe Pueblo)
Chyanne Quintana, University of New Mexico

Braiding Birthwork and Home Visiting: Supporting Indigenous Families Across Pregnancy, Birth and Early Childhood

Pacific A

This session will share perspectives from a home visitor who is also a community birthworker and will explore how home visiting relationships can support families throughout the perinatal period while honoring Indigenous cultural teachings and community knowledge.

Presenters:
Amaris Andrews-DePerry, Indigi-Kwe Wellness LLC/ZHV
Nicholas DePerry Sr., Father, Husband, Community Member, and Family Wellness Advocate

Rise of the Phoenix

Sunset 2

Presenters will share how the Unci Makha Tribal Home Visiting Program developed and rebuilt relationships within the community and with community partners and funders to improve staff retention and their ability to provide quality services to families after a transition.

Presenters:
Roberto Reyna, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Nimo Ibrahim, United Indian of All Tribes Foundation

4:20–
5:00 p.m.

Lightning Sessions (cont'd)

Adapting Continuous Quality Improvement for Tribal MIECHV: Lessons Learned from Redesigning a Family Engagement Collaborative

Pacific F&G

This session will share lessons learned from Tribal MIECHV partners as a Tribal Home Visiting CQI Collaborative (CQIC) focused on family engagement was redesigned to better align with Tribal values, cultural practices, and community priorities.

Presenters:
Jesse LaSarte, Administration for Children and Families
Kristyn Yepa, James Bell Associates

Honoring Our Traditions and Nurturing Our Children

Pacific C

This session will explore the Healthy Families Aiga Manuia of the American Samoa MIECHV Program's approach to home visiting, which is deeply rooted in the Samoan tradition of honoring children and integrates cultural practices into modern literacy interventions.

Presenters:
Tina Ioane, Aiga Manuia Program of the American Samoa MIECHV
Fuaselela Moea'i-Taaseu, Aiga Manuia Program of the American Samoa MIECHV
Temukisa Aneterosa, Aiga Manuia Program of the American Samoa MIECHV
Solia'aanaileafi Judith Salave'a, Aiga Manuia Program of the American Samoa MIECHV
Fefaloai Aliiaana, Aiga Manuia Program of the American Samoa MIECHV
Apotala Faiai, Aiga Manuia Program of the American Samoa MIECHV
Fiapa'ipa'i Kelemete, Aiga Manuia Program of the American Samoa MIECHV

Partnering to Support Native Families: Findings from the Multi-Site Study of State-Tribal Collaboration in Home Visiting

Pacific D

Presenters will share findings from the Multi-Site Study of State-Tribal Collaboration (MUSE-STC) regarding the ways State MIECHV program awardees and Tribal organizations successfully partnered by honoring Tribal sovereignty and maintaining effective communication, and engage attendees in thoughtful discussion on the findings.

Presenters:
Melina Salvador, James Bell Associates
Erin Geary, James Bell Associates
Nancy Whitesell, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Advancing Nutrition and Wellness Through Tribal Home Visiting

Palm 7

Presenters will highlight practical and culturally grounded nutrition strategies that Tribal Home Visiting programs have used to promote healthy growth and well-being for their children, families, and communities.

Presenters:
Deborah Stark, Deborah Roderick Stark and Associates
Darion Roan, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Shelaya Landers, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

4:20–
5:00 p.m.

Lightning Sessions (cont'd)

Using a New Measure of Reflective Supervision to Enhance Reflective Supervision Practices

Pacific E

This session will describe a new, free self-report measure of reflective supervision practices and discuss how attendees can use the measure to help plan for, document, and reflect on their own reflective practice and supervision.

Presenters:
Nancy Asdigian, University of Colorado Denver

5:00–
8:30 p.m.

Lawn Games and Ribbon Skirt/Jewelry Swap

(Optional Networking Event)

Flamingo Lawn

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Represent your program by wearing your program shirt!

All day: **Wellness Room,** **Sunset 3**

9:00 a.m.–
12:00 p.m.

Workshop Sessions

Honoring, Developing, and Sustaining the Tribal Home Visiting Workforce

Pacific E

This workshop will explore the key drivers of workforce recruitment, support, growth and retention, including hiring practices, compensation, staff well-being and organizational systems that support a stable and thriving home visiting workforce in Tribal communities.

Presenters:
Allison LaMont, Education Development Center
Amy Huffer, Education Development Center

Reflective Supervision: Building Your Understanding and Practice

Pacific D

This workshop will focus on the importance of reflection when working with infants, young children and families, and provide an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding and skills in the provision of reflective supervision.

Presenters:
Hannah Schottenfels, ZERO TO THREE

9:00 a.m.–
12:00 p.m.

Workshop Sessions (cont'd)

Making the Most of Your Money

Palm 7

This workshop will bring together experts from Administration for Children and Families' Office of Grants Management and Tribal Home Visiting Program, and budget consultant to support programs with budget planning and understanding how to make the best use of your funding for your home visiting program.

Presenters:
Susan White, Consultant
Jessica Cawthorn, Office of Grants Management, ACF
Carrie Peake, Office of Early Childhood Development, ACF

Growing Your Reach: Outreach, Messaging, and Engagement Strategies

Pacific C

This workshop will explore strategies for strengthening community awareness, building trust, and developing effective outreach and messaging approaches that support recruitment and engagement in home visiting programs serving Tribal communities.

Presenters:
April Tinhorn, Tinhorn Consulting

Family Engagement that Works: Practical Strategies for Home Visiting Programs

Pacific A

This workshop will share strategies for strengthening family engagement in home visiting programs in Tribal communities. Participants will practice applying a reflective approach to assess current engagement strengths and identify opportunities for growth, and develop concrete action plans to implement with their teams after the meeting.

Presenters:
Robin VanDerMoere, Michigan Public Health Institute
Angela Precht, Michigan Public Health Institute

Moving Beyond Extracting: Indigenizing and Empathizing the Data Collection Approach

Pacific F&G

This workshop will focus on resilience informed approaches to data collection around sensitive topics. The presenter will share a human centered approach that can empower families when conducting screenings and assessments. Participants will practice strategies using real world scenarios and develop plans for incorporating a resilience framework into their data collection policies, practices, and systems.

Presenters:
Christopher Sharp, Arizona State University, School of Social Work, Office of American Indian Projects
Chahta Inchukka Team

9:00 a.m.–
12:00 p.m.

Workshop Sessions (cont'd)

Using Qualitative Methods in Needs Assessments and Data-Driven Decision Making

Sunset 2

This workshop will provide an introduction to qualitative approaches that can support community needs assessments, program planning, continuous quality improvement, and data-informed decision making. Participants will explore practical tools and strategies for collecting, analyzing and interpreting qualitative data in ways that are manageable, meaningful, and support program needs. These include interview and focus group approaches, coding and theme development, and considerations for integrating qualitative findings with quantitative data.

Presenters:
Cary Waubanascum, University of North Dakota

Listening Before Leading: Motivational Interviewing for Relationship-Centered Home Visiting

Palm 8

This workshop will introduce participants to the Indigenous Instructional Practice™ (Belonging, Observing, Doing, Symbolizing, Ceremony) demonstrating how culturally grounded adult-learning methods enhance Motivational Interviewing (MI) skill development, family engagement, and Continuous Quality Improvement implementation. Participants will learn the foundations of MI, understand how to strengthen motivation for change through strategic conversations, and recognizing the elements of change talk. Participants will practice these applications through activities and developing a personal learning plan.

Presenters:
Kevin Simmons, University of Oregon

Nurturing through Attunement: An Indigenous-Centered Approach to Facilitated Attuned Interactions (FAN) in Home Visiting

Pacific H&I

During this workshop, participants will learn how to use the Indigenous-centered adaptation of the Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) model to support engagement and empowerment for Native families, including Mindful Self-Regulation, as an intentional pause that helps home visitors stay grounded and present. FAN positions attunement as the central mechanism for strengthening engagement and trust in home visiting.

Presenters:
Crystal Austin, JHU Center for Indigenous Health
Linda Gilkerson, Erikson Institute

12:00–
2:00 p.m.

Lunch On Your Own

2:00–
3:00 p.m.

Plenary: Tess Abrahamson–Richards *(Spokane Tribe)*, Assistant Professor of Native American Community Health, University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare

Pacific A

Centering Native Knowledge in Home Visiting through Community-Led Data Storytelling

Tess Abrahamson-Richards will highlight Native communities' unique contributions to home visiting knowledge and the potential for data sovereignty to advance family well-being and community self-determination.

3:00–
3:30 p.m.

Break *(light refreshments provided)*

3:30–
5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

From the Land to the Next Seven Generations: Advancing Food Sovereignty & Family Wellness Through Tribal Programs and Partnerships

Pacific F&G

This session will highlight the Seneca Nation's approach to advancing food sovereignty by integrating Gakwi:yo' Farms, Tribal Home Visiting, Early Childhood Programs, and the Language NEST to promote family health, cultural identity, and traditional knowledge. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for integrating food sovereignty into home visiting programs, early childhood programs, and community partnerships, reconnecting families with traditional foods and land-based practices.

Presenters:
Chelce Finch, Seneca Nation
Mary Ann Dusza, Seneca Nation
Levi Thomas, Seneca Nation

Culturally Grounded Approaches to Holistic Home Visitor Safety

Palm 8

This session will explore five interconnected dimensions of home visitor safety—physical; psychological and emotional; professional; legal and ethical; and operational—and how these dimensions uniquely show up in Tribal home visiting contexts. Attendees will gain practical ideas for strengthening safety conversations, policies, and supports within their own programs.

Presenters:
Roselia Ramirez, Education Development Center
Amy Huffer, Education Development Center
Jennifer Zawislak, Education Development Center

3:30–
5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (cont'd)

Indigenous Play as Medicine: A Global Collective's Approach to Healing, Cultural Resurgence, and Family Wellbeing Through Indigenous Play

Pacific A

This session will share findings from the SPIRIT (Supporting Play and Intergenerational Relationships with Indigenous Traditions) collective, an Indigenous global partnership spanning over 20 organizations across the United States, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and Canada that weaves Indigenous play into practice. Participants will be invited to reflect on the themes presented by the panel through play-oriented activities involving LEGOs and other simple tools.

Presenters:
Sophia Taula-Lieras, Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health
Kimberly Belone, Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health
Tamara Littlesalt-Butler, Coconino County Health & Human Services
Amanda Harris, Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health

The Circle of Fatherhood: Engaging Native Fathers and Male Role Models in FACE Programs

Pacific H&I

This session will explore culturally relevant strategies for recruiting Native American fathers and male caregivers into home visiting and family programs. Participants will leave with ideas and strategies they can apply in their own communities to strengthen father engagement.

Presenters:
Geneva Johnson, Parents as Teachers
Roessel Jackson, Kayenta Community FACE Program
Dewayne Sells, Wide Ruins FACE Program

Gathering, Summarizing and Using High Quality Data to Support Tribal Home Visitation Programs

Pacific D

This session will provide guidance and insights to home visitation programs across the spectrum, from collecting program data to summarizing and sharing these data to using these data to improve and enhance service delivery efforts. Attendees will have an opportunity to share challenges with their data collection process and brainstorm possible solutions to these issues in small groups.

Presenters:
Marc Bolan, Marc Bolan Consulting
Sanda Mba, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Nimo Ibrahim, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation

3:30–
5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (cont'd)

Positive Indian Parenting: A Community Engaged Approach In Serving Native Parents and Communities

Pacific E

During this session, attendees will learn about the key components of Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) and discuss community-engaged approaches to implementing PIP in programs serving Native families. Attendees will also experience a brief PIP activity designed to encourage reflection on the ways that cultural identity shapes parenting and family relationships.

Presenters:
Tara Reynon, National Indian Child Welfare Association
Deana Around Him, Child Trends
Michele Scott, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Help Us Improve HomVEE's Tribal Review! A Roundtable to Gather Input from Programs Serving Native Communities

Sunset 2

In this interactive session, presenters will gather feedback to update the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness' (HomVEE) Tribal Review so that its products and resources are more relevant for people working in and with Native communities.

Presenters:
Erin Geary, James Bell Associates
Brandie Buckless, James Bell Associates
Cassandra Baxter, Mathematica

Innovations in Native Home Visiting Supported through Collaborative Research-Practice Partnerships

Palm 7

Presenters from the CIRCLE-HV cross-site study and research-practice partnership projects will share about their studies of Native Home Visiting programs and how their research approaches are informed by community contexts.

Presenters:
Nancy Whitesell, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Chelsea Wesner, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Michelle Sarche, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska
Rachel E. Wilbur, Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH), Washington State University
Tess Abrahamson-Richards, University of California, Berkeley, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services
Koa Beck, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services
Olivia Morgan, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services
April Frake, Michigan Public Health Institute
Jennifer Torres, Michigan Public Health Institute
Maddy Thompson, Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Services Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
Jonathan Miles, Searchlight Consulting, LLC
Angela Trombley, School of Nursing, Western Carolina University

3:30– 5:00 p.m.	**Breakout Sessions (cont'd)**	

Cultural Integration in Parents as Teachers: Adaptations to Support Indigenous Family Well-Being — **Pacific C**

In this session, panelists will share how the Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum can be implemented in ways that support Indigenous cultural preservation, family well-being, and community health; and how the PAT Indigenous Learning Community has supported cultural integration in PAT implementation across four Indigenous programs. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for adapting curriculum activities and strategies for strengthening family engagement.

Presenters:
Melina Salvador, James Bell Associates
Tiedra Marshall, Parents As Teachers National Center
Preston Benally, Parents as Teachers National Center
Alex Patricelli, Start Early Washington
April Shiraishi, Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE)
Dorothy Henry, Turtle Mountain Tribal Home Visiting

Friday, September 25, 2026

Wear your ribbon skirts and shirts to celebrate California Native American Day

9:00– 10:30 a.m.	**Rooted in Reflection and Connection: A Celebration Showcase**	**Pacific C/D/E**
10:30– 11:00 a.m.	**Break** *(light refreshments provided)*	
11:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.	**Closing Remarks** **Moushumi Beltangady, Director, Tribal Early Childhood Division, Office of Early Childhood Development, ACF** **Kim Kovol, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs and Principal Deputy Director of the Administration for Native Americans, ACF** **Closing Plenary: Dorene Waubanewquay Day *(Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe)*** **Cultural Reclamation and Healing** Dorene Waubanewquay Day will discuss how families and communities can create access to Cultural Reclamation and Indigenous healing modalities for living "Mino biimaadiziiwin," our "Good Life." **Closing Ceremony: American Samoa Cultural Presentation**	**Pacific A**

Plenary Speakers

Tess Abrahamson-Richards, PhD, MPH, *(Spokane Tribe)*, Assistant Professor of Native American Community Health, University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare

Tess Abrahamson-Richards, PhD, MPH, is a citizen of the Spokane Tribe. Dr. Abrahamson-Richards serves as Assistant Professor of Native American Community Health at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. She also works closely with Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services, where she previously served as the Director of Data Sovereignty. Hummingbird Data Sovereignty's community-led data and evaluation work focuses on Indigenous home visiting, doula services, guaranteed income, and other related issues in the Western Washington region and nationally. Tess also works on research projects outside of Hummingbird focused on Indigenous reproductive justice, maternal health and economic policy, data justice, and holistic family wellbeing. Tess is a mother of two and is enjoying getting to know her new home in California with her family.

Moushumi Beltangady, Director, Tribal Early Childhood Division, Office of Early Childhood Development, ACF

Moushumi Beltangady is Director of the Tribal Early Childhood Division in the Office of Early Childhood Development within the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, she oversees the Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and efforts to support the coordination of tribal early childhood programs across the government, including the Tribal Early Learning Initiative. Moushumi has a Masters in Social Services Administration from the Crown Family School and a Masters in Public Policy from the Harris School, both at the University of Chicago.

Mark Cruz *(Klamath Tribes)*, Director, Indian Health Service

Mark Cruz, a citizen of the Klamath Tribes, currently serves as the 12th director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The IHS operates as the 18th largest health care system in the nation and serves as the principal federal health care advocate and provider of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

In his role as director, Cruz oversees a nationwide health care delivery program that is responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community health care to approximately 2.8 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in hospitals, clinics, and other settings throughout the United States. He assumed his role with IHS in August 2026 and also continues to serve as the senior advisor to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. on the department's Tribal programs.

Cruz has a well-established career in Indian Country, starting as a high school English teacher on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota and holding several key positions in the State of Oregon and the U.S. House of Representatives. He worked extensively on Tribal policy issues as chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita and legislative fellow in the office of U.S. Rep Tom Cole. During the first Trump Administration, Cruz served as deputy assistant secretary–Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Cruz holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Pepperdine University and earned a master's degree in urban education policy from Brown University.

Kim Kovol, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs and Principal Deputy Director of the Administration for Native Americans, ACF

Kim Kovol serves as Principal Deputy Director for the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, she supports ANA's mission by advancing Tribal and Native community-led solutions that strengthen Native families and communities, promote self-sufficiency, expand economic opportunities and support cultural vitality.

Kovol brings more than 25 years of executive leadership experience across the private sector and public service. Most recently, she served as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Family and Community Services. In that role, she led work spanning child welfare, juvenile justice, psychiatric care, elder care and complex care. Her leadership focused on challenges that directly shape community stability. She worked side-by-side with communities to strengthen prevention, improve coordination across systems and expand culturally responsive, community-based resources. A consistent priority has been housing stability, grounded in her belief that a safe place to live is foundational to health, safety and long-term opportunity.

That experience supports ACF's A Home for Every Child initiative, which focuses on strengthening foster home availability and improving outcomes for children in foster care. It also advances HHS' Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) agenda through a prevention-focused approach that strengthens community conditions tied to health, safety and family stability. Together, these priorities align with President Trump's Executive Order, Fostering the Future for American Children and Families and First Lady Melania Trump's whole-of-government commitment to improving outcomes for children in foster care.

Previously, Kovol served as Special Assistant to Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy with a broad social services portfolio which encompassed homelessness, domestic violence and sexual assault, missing and murdered Indigenous persons, human trafficking, substance use and suicide prevention. That work reinforced her commitment to service and advocacy. It aligns closely with ANA's focus on supporting Native communities as they build capacity and determine their own solutions.

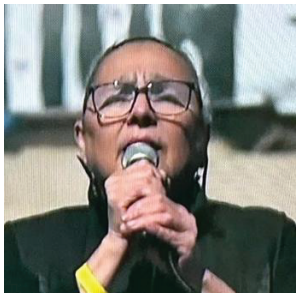
Kovol earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and studies (K–8 Education) from San Diego State University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She is a former Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Fellow with a focus on navigating autism services in Alaska. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education in Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services at Houston Christian University.

A long-time Alaskan, Kovol is a proud mom of four. She stays connected to her community through service focused on children, hunger relief and homelessness. Outside of work, she enjoys bow hunting and is a longtime Star Wars fan and cosplayer.

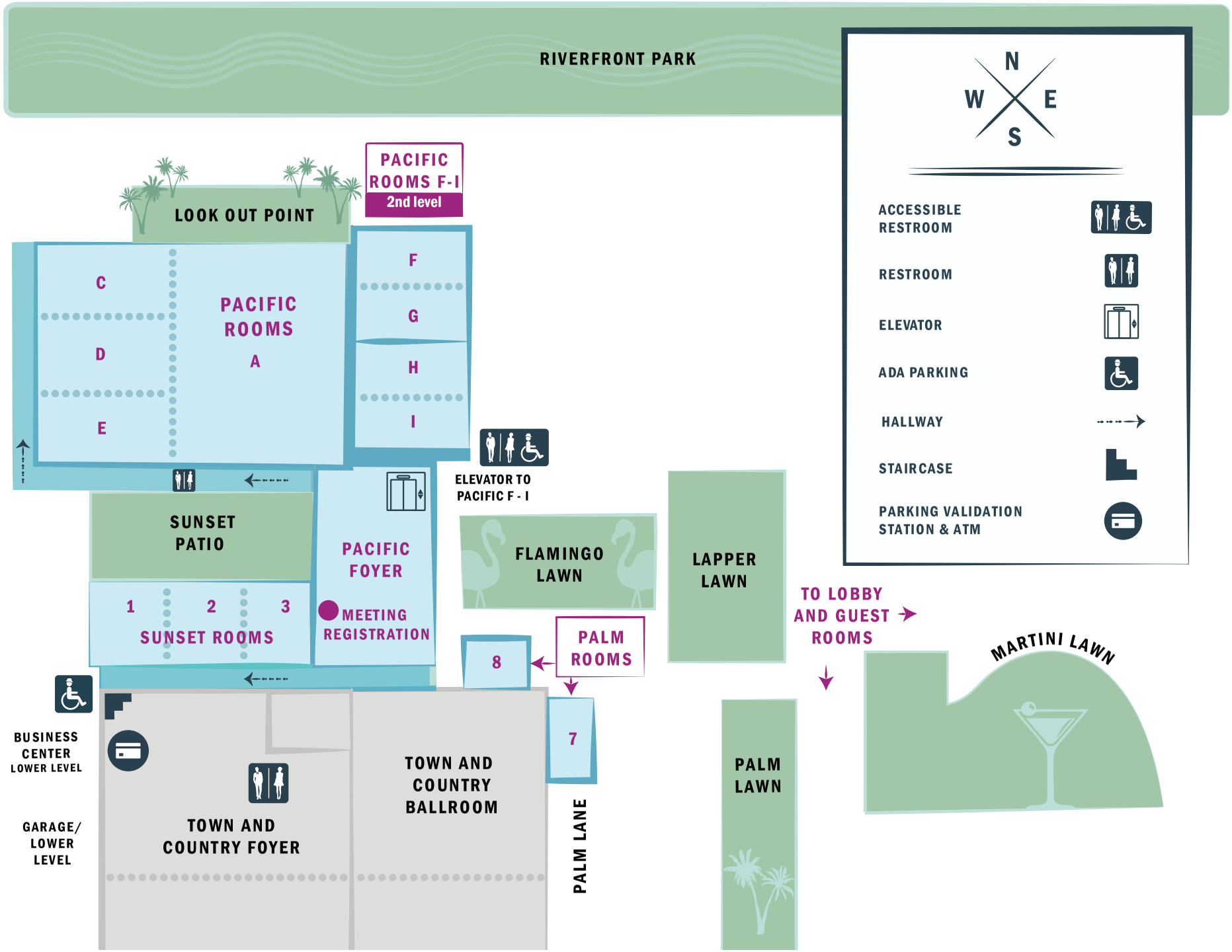
Mariah Gladstone *(Piikuni/Blackfeet and Tsalagi/Cherokee)*, Founder of Indigikitchen

Mariah Gladstone, Piikuni (Blackfeet) and Tsalagi (Cherokee), grew up in Northwest Montana on and near the Blackfeet Reservation. She graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Environmental Engineering and returned home where she began her work on food advocacy. She developed Indigikitchen, an online cooking platform, to revitalize and re-imagine Native foods. She then earned a Master's degree at SUNY-ESF in the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. Mariah has been recognized as a Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellow by the First Nations Development Institute, as well as a 2025 Castanea Fellow by the Earth Island Institute. She has shared the importance of reconnecting to traditional foods at events throughout North America and abroad, as well as through appearances on the Today Show, CBC, and numerous podcasts. In addition to all this, Mariah offers a variety of cultural experiences for visitors to the Blackfeet Nation and Glacier National Park. Mariah released her first book, *Mountains to Oceans: Kids' Recipes from Native Land,* in January 2025. In April 2026, Mariah appeared on Food Network's *Chopped* Indigenous chefs' challenge.

Dorene Waubanewquay Day *(Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe)*



Dorene Waubanewquay Day is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe and an Indigenous knowledge holder and midwife for the past 48 years. Waubanewquay has dedicated her life to reclaiming traditional birth and healing practices. As a midwife trained in Indigenous birthing, she is committed to bringing together traditional healing and western medicine training to gatherings such as the Native Communities Home Visiting Meeting. Providing Indigenous Doula training, Cultural Safety training, and Spiritual/Cultural supports in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota for the past 11 years has increased access to informed care and traditional practices, greatly encouraging healthier birth outcomes for Indigenous communities. Efforts such as these have strongly aided our efforts of cultural reclamation and the healing for our future generations.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SUNSET PATIO
PACIFIC FOYER
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SUNSET ROOMS
MEETING REGISTRATION
FLAMINGO LAWN
LAPPER LAWN
TO LOBBY AND GUEST ROOMS
MARTINI LAWN
8
PALM ROOMS
7
PALM LANE
PALM LAWN
BUSINESS CENTER LOWER LEVEL
GARAGE/ LOWER LEVEL
TOWN AND COUNTRY FOYER
TOWN AND COUNTRY BALLROOM