

# TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

*Serving Our People, Our Way*

2023

# Conference *Agenda*

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

JUNE 26 - 29, 2023

[tribalselfgov.org](http://tribalselfgov.org)

TULSA, OK

**TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE**  
*A NIGHT OF LAUGHS & MUSIC*

*ROCKS!*

**June 28**  
7:00P

**TATANKA  
MEANS**  
**NATHALIE STANDINGCLOUD**

**ZEBADIAH NOFIRE**  
**AGALISIGA MACKAY**  
AVA ROSE JOHNSON



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## SUNDAY, JUNE 25

2 - 7p      **Registration Open**  
*Sales Foyer*

5 – 6p      **Speaker/Host/Moderator Orientation**  
*Meeting Room 2*

## MONDAY, JUNE 26

7a            **Registration Opens**  
*Sales Foyer*

8a            **Tribal Leaders & Self-Governance Professionals Networking Breakfast**  
*Ballroom 4*

An opportunity for Tribal leaders and Tribal officials to (1) learn about the roles of the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), the DOI Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC), and the Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC), (2) build networks and a community of support, and (3) discuss shared experiences and identify shared challenges.

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut  
Jennifer McLaughlin, Self-Governance Legislative Associate, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Jay Spaan, Executive Director, Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium

9:30a        **Meet Federal Partners in Self-Governance and Self-Determination**  
*Ballroom 3*

Join this networking event intended to meet and learn more about the Federal agencies and offices that are responsible for administering Self-Governance and Self-Determination authority. Participating agencies include Indian Health Service, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

10:30a      **Break**

10:45a      **Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Listening Session**  
*Ballroom 4*

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has jurisdiction over all matters related to the rights and interests of Tribal Nations. The committee's responsibilities include conducting oversight of federal programs and policies affecting Native Americans, holding hearings to receive testimony from tribal leaders and other stakeholders, and crafting legislation related to Indian affairs. The committee also has jurisdiction over the confirmation of presidential nominees to key positions within the

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Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, and other agencies that have responsibilities related to Indian affairs.

Jennifer Romero, Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
Amber Ebarb, Minority Staff Director, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

10:45a **Listening Session: Tribal Involvement in the Naming of Geographic Features**  
*Ballroom 1*

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) maintains uniform usage of the names of geographic features (e.g., mountains, lakes, rivers) for the Federal Government. In 2022, the BGN played a key role in replacing the names for nearly 650 features that contained the word “sq\_\_”—a process that included input from Tribal Nations. The BGN would like to increase tribal engagement in the ongoing process of naming and renaming geographic features. Such involvement recognizes the historical and cultural relationship Tribal Nations have with the American landscape and the rights of Tribal Nations to exercise inherent sovereign powers over their lands. This session will explain how Tribal governments can request name changes for features on lands under their authority, submit proposals for features outside of their lands, and review and comment on new name and name change proposals submitted by others to the BGN.

Chris Hammond, Head of the Office of Tribal Relations, U.S. Geological Survey, and USGS Deputy Member to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

10:45a **Tribal Funding Opportunities at the National Science Foundation**  
*Meeting Room 2*

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports science and engineering. NSF is committed to improving accessibility to NSF's tribal programs and expanding NSF's reach to Tribal Nations. This discussion will focus on funding opportunities for Tribal Nations and learning more about the NSF.

Sandra Richardson, Ph. D., Section Head, National Science Foundation

10:45a **Listening Session and Discussion: VA's Native Reimbursement Agreement Program**  
*Ballroom 2*

The VA Indian Health Services/Tribal Health Programs/Urban Indian Organization Reimbursement Agreements Program provides VA reimbursement to IHS, THP and UIO health facilities for services provided to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. Eligible AI and AN Veterans do not need VA preauthorization to receive health care services at IHS, THP and UIO health facilities.

Hilary Peabody, Deputy Assistant Undersecretary of Health for Integrated Veterans Care  
Kara Hawthorne, Manager, VA-Native Reimbursement Agreement Program, Department of Veterans Affairs

Moderators:

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Alberta Unok, President and CEO, Alaska Native Health Board

11a -5p **Side Meeting: DOD/USDA**  
Meeting Room 1

12p **Lunch Break (on your own)**

## **Plenary Session** (*location: the Cove*)

1p **Native Praise performance**  
Native Praise Choir preserves Indian culture through the native Christian hymns passed down by ancestors. The choir currently has 53 choir members, representing 17 Tribal Nations.

### **Posting of the Colors**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Color Guard (invited)

### **Opening Prayer**

Del Beaver, Second Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

### **Welcome to the 2023 Tribal Self-Governance Conference**

Nathalie Standingcloud, MC for the Tribal Self-Governance Conference

1:20p **Welcome to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation**  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a self-governed Tribal Nation located in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The Nation is the fourth largest tribe in the U.S. with nearly 100,000 citizens. The government side of the tribe is made up of an executive branch, a legislative body, and a tribal court system. Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a diverse entity with many facets, such as: cultural tourism, gaming, businesses, and a higher learning institution.

David Hill, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

1:30p **Discussion with the Secretary of the Interior**

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for upholding treaties with Tribal Nations, protecting Tribal Nations' sovereignty, managing federal lands, protecting natural resources, preserving historic sites and monuments. Deb Haaland is currently serving as the United States Secretary of the Interior, having been nominated by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the Senate in March 2021. Haaland is the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet Secretary in the United States government. Secretary Haaland is an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo. Prior to her appointment as Secretary of the Interior, Haaland served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing New Mexico's 1st congressional district. She was first elected to Congress in 2018, becoming one of the first Native American women to be elected to the U.S. House.

Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior (invited)

#### Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

1:50p

### **Discussion with the White House Domestic Policy Council**

The Domestic Policy Council drives the development and implementation of the President’s domestic policy agenda in the White House and across the Federal government, ensuring that domestic policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President’s stated goals.

PaaWee Rivera, Director, Tribal Affairs, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (invited)

Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

2:10p

### **Staying Ahead of Emerging Technology: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s Advanced Technology Initiatives**

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s (CNO) Department of Advanced Technology Initiatives (ATI) focuses on emerging technology opportunities that can function as a catalyst to attract and grow next generation technology industries to the Choctaw Nation and to provide future manufacturing, business development, and economic development opportunities for the tribe and region. For instance, through combined efforts with the FAA, NASA, the White House’s Office of Technology Policy, and other key stakeholders, CNO is developing a one-of-a-kind aviation test facility in southeastern Oklahoma that utilizes 44,600+ acres of remote land tribally owned by CNO to support innovative RDT&E of emerging manned and unmanned aerial system technologies in a safe and low-risk environment. CNO will leverage all this along with our selection for, and success in, the FAA’s Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program and the FAA’s follow-on BEYOND Program, which validated CNO’s role as a national leader and influencer in emerging aviation technology. The goal of this CNO program is to accelerate the safe integration of UAS and AAM/UAM (Advanced Aerial Mobility/Urban Air Mobility also known as Flying Taxi and Orbs) into the National Airspace System as well as create an aviation technology and innovation cluster in southeastern Oklahoma.

Gary Batton, Chief, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (invited)

Host:

Robert Miguel, Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

2:30p

### **Welcome to Tribal Nations that Recently Negotiated Self-Governance Agreements**

Please join us in welcoming the Tribal Nations that have recently entered into Self-Governance agreements with the US Department Interior, US Department of Health & Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Office of Self-Governance within the Department of Interior has agreements with more than 285 Tribal Nations, the Indian Health Service has agreements with over 380 Tribal Nations, and the US Department of Transportation has entered into its first agreement last year and is working with several Tribal Nations in planning and preparing for negotiations for future agreements.

2:35p

### **Congressional Updates and Priorities**

This panel will provide attendees an opportunity to learn more about legislative priorities and developments that affect Indian Country, including expanding Self-Governance opportunities within the USDA and HHS.

Jennifer Romero, Staff Director and Chief Counsel, Majority, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
Amber Ebarb, Staff Director, Minority, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
Sofia Deiro, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Tom Cole (OK-4), US House of Representatives

Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

3:05p

### **Protecting Sovereignty: Discussions on Recent Court Rulings and Implementation of Decisions, Panel I**

Judicial decisions have a significant influence on the sovereignty of Tribal Nations. The McGirt decision was a landmark ruling by the United States Supreme Court in July 2020 that affirmed the legal jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in eastern Oklahoma. The ruling stated that Congress never explicitly disestablished the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation in Oklahoma and thus the state of Oklahoma did not have jurisdiction to prosecute certain crimes committed by Native Americans within its borders. The decision reaffirmed the sovereignty of tribal nations and upheld the treaties and agreements made with them. The McGirt decision also opened the door for other Tribal Nations to challenge state jurisdiction over their lands. This panel will discuss the implications of the McGirt decision and subsequent court cases resulting from and affecting the McGirt decision.

Sara Hill, Attorney General, Cherokee Nation (invited)  
Geri Wisner, Attorney General, Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Robert Miller, Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, ASU

Host:

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsियोTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film  
Jason Salsman, Press Secretary, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

3:45p

### **Protecting Sovereignty: Discussions on Recent Court Rulings and Implementation of Decisions, Panel II**

Judicial decisions have a significant influence on the sovereignty of Tribal Nations. The Mille Lacs Band filed a federal lawsuit against the county, asking the court to declare that tribal officers can investigate violations of Federal, State and Tribal law on the Mille Lacs reservation and prohibit the county from interfering. In 2023, the U.S. District Court found the county “improperly limited the Tribe’s inherent law enforcement authority” to the land held in trust, when its territory includes all land within the reservation. The county also acted unlawfully in prohibiting tribal officers from investigating violations of state law, even on trust lands.

The Supreme Court is currently considering whether the Indian Child Welfare Act's provisions that give Tribal Nations a role in child custody proceedings and prioritize the placement of Native American children with Native American families are constitutional. The decision is expected to have

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significant implications for the rights of Tribal Nations and the protection of Native American children in child welfare proceedings.

David Simmons, Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy, National Indian Child Welfare Association

Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

### Hosts:

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsियोTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film  
Jason Salsman, Press Secretary, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

4:15p

### **Honoring Treaty Obligations: Seating the Cherokee Nation’s Delegate to Congress**

In 1835, the U.S. government and the Cherokee Nation signed the Treaty of New Echota, which forced Cherokee ancestors to give up their ancestral homelands and move west on the Trail of Tears. This same treaty promised the Cherokee Nation the right to send a delegate to the U.S. Congress. For nearly two centuries, Congress has failed to honor this promise. Yet the obligation to seat a Cherokee Nation delegate remains as binding today as it was in 1835. In August 2019, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. nominated Kimberly Teehee to serve as the Cherokee Nation’s first Delegate to Congress.

Kimberly Teehee, Delegate to Congress, Cherokee Nation (invited)

### Host:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsियोTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

4:30p

### **Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council: Overview and Funding Opportunities for Tribal Nations**

The Permitting Council is a unique Federal agency charged with improving the transparency and predictability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for certain critical infrastructure projects. The Council announced the allocation of \$5 million in funding to be made available to Tribal Nations to enhance Tribal engagement in the permitting review and authorization process for FAST-41 covered projects.

### Panelists:

Christine Harada, Executive Director, Federal Permitting Council  
PoQueen Rivera, Director of Tribal Affairs, Federal Permitting Council

### Host:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation  
Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

4:50p

### **For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty**

*For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty*, is a docuseries dedicated to sharing stories that demonstrate Tribal Nations’ success and innovation improving the health and wellbeing of their citizens, culture, and communities.

**Segment – To Be Announced Soon**



5p



**Performance: Lil Mike & Funny Bone**

Lil Mike and Funny Bone are brothers and citizens of the Pawnee Nation, born in Oklahoma City. The brothers formed a rap duo using their art to spread awareness of issues ranging from homelessness to gang violence. They appeared on America’s Got Talent and have recurring roles on Reservation Dogs.

5:15p

**HOLD: Potential Delegation Meeting with IHS** (*tentative date/time*)  
*Ballroom 2*

## TUESDAY, JUNE 27

### Plenary Session (*location: the Cove*)

9a **Opening Prayer**

9:05a **Discussion with Indian Health Service, Indian Affairs, and Department of Transportation Leadership**

Join a discussion with the Director of the Indian Health Services, the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior, and the Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs at the Department of Transportation. The leaders will engage in a conversation with Tribal leaders focused on the multifaceted relationship between the federal government and Tribal Nations. Discussion topics will include updates on federal initiatives and activities, and implementation of federal programs that serve Tribal Nations and their citizens.

Panelists:

Roselyn Tso, Director, IHS

Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, DOI (invited)

Arlando Teller, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs, DOT

Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

10:00a **For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty**

*For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty*, is a docuseries dedicated to sharing stories that demonstrate Tribal Nations’ success and innovation improving the health and wellbeing of their citizens, culture, and communities.

A Dance of Healing – Scott Siquah, 2023 World Hoop Dance Champion

10:05a **Discussion with Federal Partners in Self-Governance**

Panelists:

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Jennifer Cooper, Director, OTSG, IHS  
Sharee Freeman, Director, OSG, DOI  
Eldridge Onco, Sr. Tribal Affairs Advisor, DOT

### Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation

### 10:45a **PROGRESS Act Rulemaking Status and Next Steps**

On October 21, 2020, the PROGRESS Act was signed into law—amending the Self-Determination authority and DOI’s Tribal Self-Governance Program. The PROGRESS Act called for a negotiated rulemaking committee to develop implementing regulations. The Tribal co-chairs of the committee will provide an update on the status of the negotiated rulemaking process.

### Panelists:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

### 11:00a **Reopening a Cold Case after McGirt – The Girl Scout Murders**

Following the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark McGirt v. Oklahoma ruling in 2020 that confirmed the criminal jurisdiction authority for several Tribal Nations in Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation reopened a 1977 murder investigation of three Girl Scouts that took place on its lands. The State of Oklahoma long considered the case closed following the arrest of a Cherokee man who was later found not guilty by a jury. The reopening of the case was due in part to new information uncovered by Cherokee author Faith Phillips. Faith Phillips and Cherokee filmmaker Jeremy Charles collaborated to create the docuseries “Girl Scout Murders.” Learn how the McGirt ruling and new information uncovered by Phillips could bring justice to the murderers.

### Panelists:

Faith Phillips, Novelist, Publisher, Screenwriter  
Jeremy Charles, CEO, Pursuit Films

### Host:

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Nathalie Standingcloud

### 11:25a **Artificial Intelligence in the Delivery of Healthcare**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is being increasingly used in healthcare to improve patient outcomes, streamline clinical workflows, and reduce costs. For instance, AI can analyze patient data from electronic health records to identify patterns and make predictions about patient outcomes. This can help healthcare providers make more informed decisions and develop personalized treatment plans for patients. However, there are also concerns about privacy, bias, and the ethical implications of using AI in healthcare.

### Panelists:

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Dr. John Krueger, Undersecretary of Medical Staff & Quality, Chickasaw Nation Department of Health  
Dr. William D. Paiva, Executive Director of the OSU Center for Health Systems Innovation

Hosts:

Chris Anoatubby, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation

12p

### **Tribal Co-Management of Federal Lands**

In 2021, USDA and DOI signed Joint Secretarial Order 3403, committing to Tribal co-stewardship, including through written co-stewardship agreements with Tribal Nations. The Order recognizes that federal lands were previously owned and managed by Indian Tribes and that these lands and waters contain cultural and natural resources of significance and value to Indian Tribes and their citizens. The Order directs agencies to increase opportunities for Tribal Nations to participate in their traditional stewardship of present-day federal lands and waters and the integration of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledge and sustainability practices into federal management and operations, subject to the interest of each Tribal Nation.

Panelist:

Samuel Kohn, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, DOI  
Tribal Representative TBD

Hosts:

TBD

12:20p      **Lunch Break (on your own)**

## **Breakout Sessions**

1:30 – 2:45p

### **Self-Determination and Self-Governance in the 2023 Farm Bill**

*Ballroom 1*

Indian Country received more funding through U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs than any federal agency in fiscal year 2022. Though Tribal self-determination and self-governance opportunities through USDA are limited, they are possible for your Tribal agriculture and forestry operations. The Native Farm Bill Coalition invites you to join this session to learn how the 2023 Farm Bill can make it happen.

Panelists:

Carly Griffith Hotvedt, Associate Director Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, University of Arkansas School of Law – Native Farm Bill Coalition

Abi Fain, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Intertribal Agriculture Council – Native Farm Bill Coalition

Moderator:

Jennifer McLaughlin, Self-Governance Legislative Associate, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

### **Calculating Tribal Shares and Identifying Inherently Federal Functions**

*Ballroom 2*

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act provides that Tribal governments who decide to administer federal programs using Self-Governance authority are to receive the same funds (tribal shares) that would have been provided had the federal government operated the programs. Generally, the amount of funds available to Tribal governments equals the total amount of funds the federal agency used to operate a program minus residual funds. Residual funds are the funds necessary for the federal government to carry out inherently federal functions that only federal employees may perform. Join this session to learn more about how DOI and IHS calculate tribal shares and the role of inherently federal functions.

Presenters:

Carla Mayo, Deputy Director, Office of Tribal Self-Governance, IHS

Vickie Hanvey, Office of Self-Governance, DOI

Moderator:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

### **Overview of the 477 Program**

*Ballroom 3*

In 2022, 12 federal agencies signed a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to implement the Tribal “PL477 Program,” named for Public Law 102-477. PL477 allows Tribal governments to consolidate important federal funding for job training, workforce development, and other economic development purposes into a single plan, with a single reporting requirement, administered by DOI. Join this session to learn more about the experiences of Tribal Nations that use the 477 program and to learn how the 477 program differs from Self-Governance authority.

Presenters:

Jeremy Arnette, Assistant Director, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Ashawna Miles, Self-Governance Director, Cherokee Nation

Federal Representative

Moderator:

Heather Washington, Self-Governance Coordinator, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

### **Health IT Modernization**

*Ballroom 4*

Presenters:

Mitch Thornbrugh, Chief Information Officer, IHS

Brandy Russell, Technology and Analytics Officer, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Moderator:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation

**2:45p      Break**

## **Breakout Sessions**

**3:00 – 4:15p**

## **ACA/IHCIA 101**

*Ballroom 1*

The IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee receives funding to provide outreach, education, technical, research, and analytical support nationally to Tribal Nations on the ACA/IHCIA. Join this session for an overview of resources that are available for Tribal Nations, discuss ways to increase third party revenues (Medicare/ Medicaid/ Other Resources), and to learn more about Tribal Sponsorship opportunities.

### Presenters:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker

Betsy Barron, TSGAC Project Intern

## **Tribal Consultation: Non-BIA PSFAs**

*Ballroom 3*

### Presenters:

Kelly Titensor, Bureau of Reclamation

Eldred Lesensee, Associate Deputy Director, Appraisal and Valuation Services Office

Byron Loosle, Bureau of Land Management

Dorothy Firecloud, National Park Service

Scott Aikin, Fish and Wildlife

Jason Bruno, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

Elizabeth Shollenberger, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

### Moderator:

Vickie Hanvey, Office of Self-Governance, DOI

## **Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development's Electrification Program**

*Ballroom 4*

The Inflation Reduction Act authorized the Department of Interior to create a Tribal Electrification Program intended to increase the number of Tribal homes with zero emission electricity. DOI was provided \$150 million to distribute to Tribal Nations through this program. Join this session to learn more about the Tribal Electrification Program.

### Presenter:

Sean Henderson, Infrastructure and Economic Development Coordinator, Office of Indian Economic Development

### Moderator:

Travis Jansen, Deputy Director, SGCETC

## **Tribal Trust Evaluations**

*Ballroom 2*

The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) will present an overview of the trust evaluation process for tribes that compact trust programs. This session will cover recent changes, updates to the process, and how the trust evaluation feedback can help tribes improve trust operations.

Presenters:

Elizabeth Wells Shollenberger, Director, Trust Evaluation and Review, BTFA  
Jason Bruno, Director, Office of Trust Risk, Evaluation, and Compliance, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

## **Side Meetings**

### **FDPIR Consultation**

8a – 5p

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

### **HOLD: Potential IHS side meeting (TBD)**

4:30 – 5:30

*Ballroom 4*

# **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28**

## **Breakout Sessions**

9 – 10:15a

### **Improving Access to the Strategic National Stockpile – Update on Tribal Consultation**

*Ballroom 4*

The Strategic National Stockpile is a national repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items managed by HHS. HHS recently initiated Tribal Consultation on a strategy that describes how IHS and Tribal health departments can access the lifesaving federal repository of drugs and medical supplies to support Native communities, prevent supply shortages, and reduce health disparities. Join this session to learn more about the strategy and updates from the Consultation.

Presenters:

HHS Representative

Moderator:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation

### **Training on Pay Costs Data**

*Ballroom 2*

What is pay cost? What determines the amount of pay cost a Tribal government receives? What Tribal data is necessary? How does the absence of data impact Federal pay costs funding for Tribal governments? This session will answer these and many more questions about funding and pay cost data.

Presenters:

Melissa Fortney, Budget Analyst, Office of Budget and Performance Management, BIA  
Jeannine Brooks, Office of Budget and Performance Management, BIA

Moderator:

Jennifer McLaughlin, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

### **Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association & Data Sovereignty**

*Ballroom 1*

This session will provide an update on OICWA, with a focus on how tribal sovereignty can be protected and promoted in the face of ongoing challenges. Speaker will also discuss current tribal partnerships grants, tribal best practices and the increasing need to expand Indigenous data governance and sovereignty as it correlates to advocacy of tribal self-determination.

Presenter:

Te’Ata Loper, Executive Director, OICWA

Moderator:

Jessica Imotichey, Chickasaw Nation

### **Using a Section 105(l) Lease Agreement to Help Address Infrastructure Needs**

*Ballroom 3*

Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) allows Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations to be compensated for costs incurred while carrying out programs, services, functions, and activities (PSFAs) administered under Self-Governance agreements with Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Indian Education at Tribal facilities.

If a Tribal Nation uses its own facility, regardless of whether it holds the title, has a leasehold interest, or has a trust interest in the facility to operate IHS, BIA, and/or BIE programs, it may be beneficial to negotiate a Section 105(l) lease agreement.

Presenters:

Judith Wilson, Director, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management, BIA  
Jillian Curtis, Chief Financial Officer, IHS  
Tribal Representative

Moderator:

Ashawna Miles, Self-Governance Director, Cherokee Nation

### **Economic Development Partnerships**

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

Presenters:

Zechariah Harjo, Secretary of the Nation and Commerce, Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
City of Tulsa  
City of Jenks

Moderator:

Heather Griffin, Director of Development and Outreach, Muscogee Nation Department of Health

## 10:15a Break

## Breakout Sessions

10:30 – 11:45a

### Expanding Health Care Infrastructure

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

Infrastructure is critical for healthcare programs. As Tribal Nations expand their healthcare systems to offer more services to their citizens, they continuously outgrow their infrastructure. Join this session to learn more about two different approaches that Tribal Nations used to address infrastructure needs—one through an acquisition of an existing healthcare facility and one through ground up construction. Attendees will also learn about one Tribe's efforts to mitigate construction challenges—efforts that resulted in on time completion, lessening the burden on facility's internal management team, and reducing the overall risk associated with delays.

Panelists:

Carrie Sarnicky, CEO, Laguna Health  
Rhonda Beaver, Chief Administrative Officer, Muscogee Nation Department of Health  
Lee Waller, Partners Healthcare Group

Moderator:

Karen Fierro, Self-Governance Director, Ak-Chin Indian Community

### Combatting Human Trafficking

*Ballroom 1*

Human trafficking occurs across the globe and in our own tribal communities. To help combat this epidemic, Tribal governments and gaming facilities are using their unique positions and tools to become an active part of the solution. Learn more about human trafficking and proactive measures that tribal gaming operators and government officials are taking to prevent trafficking.

Panelists:

Jeannie Hovland, Vice Chair/ Director of the Office of Self-Regulation, National Indian Gaming Commission

Moderator:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation

### Implementing the Infrastructure Reduction Act at the Department of Treasury

*Ballroom 2*



The Inflation Reduction Act provides more than \$720 million for programs dedicated to Tribal lands and Native communities. Learn more about these funding opportunities and the Department of Treasury's role implementing the Inflation Reduction Act.

Presenter:

Josh Jackson, Policy Advisor, Office of Tribal and Native Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Moderator:

Heather Washington, Self-Governance Coordinator, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

### **Incorporating Indigenous Food into Food Distribution Programs**

*Ballroom 3*

Menominee Indian Tribe and Oneida Nation successfully incorporated Indigenous foods into their Food Distribution Program because of authority offered in the FDPIR Self-Determination. Join this session to learn of their experiences with the project, positive impacts on their communities and food systems, lessons learned, and how attendees can support efforts to permanently expand this program nationwide.

Panelists:

Gary Besaw, Director of Agriculture and Food Systems, Menominee Tribe of Indians

Vanessa Miller, Food and Agriculture Area Manager, Oneida Nation

Daniel Guzman-King, Councilman, Oneida Nation

Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

### **Self-Governance for Finance Professionals: Understanding Reprogramming Authority, Accountability, and Reporting Requirements**

*Ballroom 4*

Panel I:

Linda Austin, COO, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo

Kasie Nichols, Director, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Panel II:

Rufina Villicana, Office of Self-Governance, DOI

Moderator:

TBD

11:45a      **Lunch (on your own)**

## Plenary Session (*location: the Cove*)

### 1:00p Discussion with the U.S. Department of Treasury

The US Treasurer plays a crucial role in managing the US government's finances, promoting financial education and literacy, and advocating for policies that promote economic growth and stability, including policies that address the unique challenges experienced by Tribal governments. For instance, dual taxation on Tribal lands (i.e., taxes levied by both state and Tribal governments on the same persons, properties, or transactions) inhibits Tribal economic development and economic sustainability because it diverts tax revenue from Tribes to non-Tribal governments and deters private sector capital investment in Indian country. The Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC) issued a report in 2021 that documented the effects of dual taxation and provided recommendations for federal partners. In 2022, President Biden appointed the first Native American, Chief Lynn Malerba, to serve as Treasurer. Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Malerba is the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe and is the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history.

Panelists:

Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba, Treasurer of the United States and Chief, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut  
W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and Chair of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee

Host:

Chris Anoatubby, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation

### 1:40p Discussion with the ANA Commissioner

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) is a division within the United States Department of Health and Human Services that promotes the social and economic well-being of Tribal communities. ANA supports Tribal Nations and organizations through a variety of grant programs and technical assistance. These programs focus on a range of issues, including language revitalization, economic development, health and wellness, and education.

Panelist:

Patrice Kunesh, Commissioner, ANA

Hosts:

Robert Miguel, Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community  
Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

### 2:10p For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty

*For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance & Sovereignty*, is a docuseries dedicated to sharing stories that demonstrate Tribal Nations' success and innovation administering governmental programs and taking actions that improve the health and wellbeing of their citizens, culture, and communities.

Segment – To Be Announced

2:20p

### **Healing Our Communities from Substance Abuse**

In recent years, Tribal Nations across the country have seen a significant increase in overdose deaths and addiction associated with the use of fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that is many times more potent than heroin, and opioids. Fentanyl is often mixed with other drugs, including heroin, cocaine, and counterfeit prescription pills, without the user's knowledge, making it extremely dangerous. Tribal Nations have increased efforts to combat the crisis, including increased access to addiction treatment, harm reduction strategies, and law enforcement efforts to crack down on the illicit fentanyl trade.

Panelists:

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation (invited)  
Captain Karen Hearod, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, SAMHSA  
Geoffrey Standing Bear, Principal Chief, Osage Nation

Hosts:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation  
Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsiyoTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

3p

### **The Greyson Initiative: Increasing Organ and Tissue Donation in Tribal Communities**

Greyson Parisien's time on earth was short but his impact on Indian Country will be monumental and long-lasting. Greyson's difficult journey to correct an irregular heart led to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians becoming the first Tribal Nation to include organ and tissue donation designation on its Tribal IDs.

Panelists:

Jamie Azure, Chairman, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians  
Joan Azure, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Host:

Nickolaus Lewis, Councilmember, Lummi Nation  
Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsiyoTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

3:25p

### **Discussion with the Office of Management & Budget (OMB)**

The OMB plays a crucial role in the budget process and management of federal programs. It is responsible for developing the President's budget proposal to Congress. This involves working with federal agencies to develop budget requests and making decisions on how federal resources should be allocated. OMB is also responsible for tracking the implementation of the President's budget proposals and reviewing and approving regulations proposed by federal agencies. This involves ensuring that regulations are consistent with the President's policy priorities and that the costs and benefits of regulations are appropriately balanced.

Panelists:

Elizabeth Carr, Tribal Advisor to the Director, Office of Management and Budget

Hosts:

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

4p

### **Tribal Self-Regulation of Gaming Operations**

Tribal self-regulation is an innovative and logical approach when gaming is conducted pursuant to Secretarial procedures instead of a Tribal-State gaming compact. Self-regulation directly promotes Tribal sovereignty by vesting primary authority for the regulation of gaming with the Tribe. Self-regulation applies for both Class II and Class III gaming. The flexibilities found in NIGC regulations also exist in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act which provides for a multijurisdictional regulatory framework (federal, state and Tribal) that recognizes the inherent sovereignty of Tribes.

#### Panelists:

Jeannie Hovland, Vice Chair/ Director of the Office of Self-Regulation, National Indian Gaming Commission

Kathy Clenney, Executive Director, Barona Gaming Commission

#### Host:

Robert Miguel, Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

4:20p

### **Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Massacre**

Greenwood became a prosperous community in Tulsa due to the oil boom in Oklahoma and the growth of the black population. The community thrived and became a symbol of black economic success during a time of widespread discrimination and segregation. Black Wall Street was the name given to the thriving black business district located in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma in the early 20th century. The district was home to many black-owned businesses, including grocery stores, banks, restaurants, and other types of shops. It was a stronghold of black economic prosperity, a symbol of resilience and strength. However, on May 31 and June 1, 1921, a violent racial massacre occurred in Tulsa. A white mob attacked the Greenwood neighborhood, killing an estimated 300 black residents and destroying many of the buildings and businesses in the area. The exact number of casualties is still unknown, as many bodies were never recovered or were buried in unmarked graves.

The Tulsa Race Massacre, as it came to be known, had a devastating impact, including the destruction of the Black Wall Street district. Many black residents were displaced and left homeless, and the economic prosperity of the community was severely set back. It took decades for the community to recover from the massacre and rebuild the businesses and institutions that had been lost. The massacre and its impact were largely ignored and suppressed by the white community for many years, but in recent years, efforts have been made to acknowledge and address the historical trauma of the event.

#### Panelists:

Nehemiah D. Frank, Founder and Editor-In-Chief, Black Wall Street Times (invited)

Q Ali Lansana, Director of the Center for Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation, Oklahoma State University – Tulsa (invited)

Michelle Brown Bordeaux, Program Coordinator, Greenwood Cultural Center

#### Hosts:

Lincoln Cochran, Black Wall Street Alliance

Jennifer Loren, Executive Producer/Host of OsiyoTV and Sr. Director of Cherokee Film

7p **Evening Reception**



## THURSDAY, JUNE 29

9a **Tours** (sign up in advance to participate in tours – registration for tours opens in late May)

Option 1: Black Wall Street (departs at 2:15, estimated return of 4:30)

Option 2: Cherokee Nation's Durbin Feeling Language Center and Cultural Center (departs at 8:30am, estimated return of 3:00)

Option 3: Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Health Care Facility (prior Cancer Treatment Center of America) and location of planned economic development project (departs at 2:15, estimated return of 4:30)

Option 4: Cherokee Nation Film Studio (departs at 2:15, estimated return of 4:30)

Option 5: Chickasaw Nation Medical Center (departs at 8:30am, estimated return of 3:00)

## Breakout Sessions

9 – 10:15a

### Negotiating Self-Governance Agreements

*Ballroom 3*

Panelists:

Terri Parton, President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Karen Fierro, Director of Self-Governance, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Matt Kallapa, Northwest Field Office Manager, DOI

Lindsay King, Director, Office of Tribal Self-Determination

Moderator:

Terra Branson-Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Clause Law P.L.L.C.

### **EMS Telemedicine Initiative**

*Ballroom 2*

Rosebud Sioux Tribe is the first Tribal Nation to implement a Telemedicine in Motion program in South Dakota. The initiative mitigates a critical shortage of experienced paramedics by connecting a doctor or nurse via video and audio to the paramedic in the back of the ambulance.

Panelists:

Eric Emery, EMS Director, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Moderator:

Heather Washington, Self-Governance Coordinator, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

### **Identifying Community Needs & Priorities**

*Ballroom 1*

Many Tribal Nations that administer programs to their communities through Self-Governance have found that identifying the needs and priorities of the community is key for the delivery of services that meet the needs of their citizens. This session will share the experiences of two Tribal Nations that effectively engaged with the community and how the results of the community input guides the delivery of governmental programs.

Panelists:

Debra Danforth, Division Director, Oneida Comprehensive Health

Shawn Duran, Chief Operations Officer, Taos Pueblo

Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

### **Unwinding Medicaid**

*Ballroom 4*

This break-out session will include a discussion with Tribal and Federal representations surrounding the current status and activities that Tribes and States are engaging in to prepare for and operationalize the unwinding of the continuous coverage requirement to minimize coverage losses. States are on different timelines for initiating Medicaid eligibility redeterminations following the end of the continuous coverage requirement on March 31, 2023 and therefore in different stages of the process. Panelists will share the latest information, steps for Tribes to engage in and best practices.

Panelists:

Yvonne Myers, ACA/Medicaid Consultant, Citizen Potawatomi Health Services

Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker

Wendy Hildt, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Division of Tribal Affairs (invited)

Moderator:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

**Administering Tribal Appraisal Programs Through a Self-Governance Agreement: Understanding AVSO's Workload-Based Formula**

*Meeting Rooms 1&2*

Presenters:

Eldred Lesansee, Associate Deputy Director, Appraisal and Valuation Services Office

Moderator:

TBD

10:15a      **Break**

## Breakout Sessions

10:30 – 11:45a

### **Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals**

*Ballroom 1*

Rural communities often face challenges in maintaining an adequate health workforce, making it difficult to provide needed patient care or to meet staffing requirements for their facilities. Recruiting health professionals and students to open positions or to future positions is challenging and retention is even more of a daunting task given surrounding urban area competition and incentives that are not available to rural locations or small facilities. Successful efforts in both can minimize the number and duration of staff vacancies. How does recruitment affect retention? Hear how some Tribes and Federal partners are being innovative to balance the scales to minimize turnover.

Panelists:

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Stephen Stake, CEO, K'ima:w Medical Center

Jennifer Fry, Deputy Director, Office of Human Resources, IHS

Moderator:

Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist, SENSE Incorporated

### **Background Checks: Complying with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act**

*Ballroom 2*

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (ICPA) is a federal law that was enacted in 1990. The purpose of the law is to protect Native American children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by requiring background checks for individuals who work with or have regular contact with Native American children in federally-funded or Tribal programs.

Under the ICPA, individuals who seek employment or volunteer opportunities in these programs are required to undergo a background check that includes a review of their criminal history, child abuse and neglect registries, and other relevant records.

Panelists:

Debra Danforth, Division Director, Oneida Comprehensive Health  
Shirl Eastep, Deputy Director, Office of Human Resources, IHS

Moderator:

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

**Tribal Sovereignty in Community Based Participatory Research**

*Ballroom 3*

Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) is a collaborative research approach that involves community members, researchers, and other stakeholders in the research process from start to finish. The goal of CBPR is to produce knowledge that is relevant to the needs and priorities of the community and to empower community members to use that knowledge to make positive changes in their lives.

Panelists:

Jami Bartgis, Ph. D., President/CEO, One Fire Associates, LLC

Moderator:

Terra Branson-Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Clause Law P.L.L.C.

**Contract Support Costs**

*Ballroom 4*

In amending the 1975 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Congress in 1988 observed that the single greatest impediment to successful implementation of the Indian Self-Determination Policy was the consistent failure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service to pay full fixed contract support costs associated with the administration of transferred programs. Since 2014, Congress has fully funded Contract Support Costs (CSC) with an indefinite appropriation. Tribal efforts to reclassify this funding as mandatory, remains a priority as both the IHS and BIA CSC workgroups continue to collaborate on the guiding policies for more than two decades.

Panelists:

Linda Austin, Chief Operating Offer, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo  
Vickie Hanvey, Office of Self-Governance, DOI  
Johnnita Tsabetsaye, IHS Director, Division of Contract Support Costs  
Rebecca Patterson, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman, LLP

Moderator:

Jennifer McLaughlin, Self-Governance Legislative Associate, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

**What the FACA?**

*Meeting Rooms 1 & 2*

Presenters:

TBD

Moderator:



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## FOR OUR PEOPLE

*Stories of Tribal Self-Governance  
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