

TRIBAL TITLE IV-B CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN
ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICES REPORT
UTE INDIAN TRIBE FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEARS 2016--2017

1. Service Description: Describe the specific accomplishments and progress made toward meeting goals and objectives in the Ute Tribe's CFSP for FY's 2015-2019, including information on outcomes achieved for children and families, and development of a more comprehensive, coordinated, effective child and family continuum.

Ute Family Services ("UFS") continues to expand and strengthen the range of existing services. The tribe's Business Committee recognizes the importance of its children and because of this has approved in excess of \$1,400,000 in tribal funding during the current fiscal year for the responsibility of working with tribal families. The primary focus is to reunify or arrange for permanency for these children through placements that stress the importance of tribal culture, heritage and tradition. UFS has 17 full time employees and another 3 approved positions looking to be filled. Included in these approved positions are Director, 5 Social Workers, 3 Assistant Caseworkers, 3 CPS Workers, Attorney, Registered Nurse, Eligibility Specialist, Adult Protection Worker, LIHEAP Coordinator, Mental Health Specialist and Financial Officer/Title IV-E Specialist. All professional positions that provide UFS with skills that provide a broad spectrum of child welfare services.

UFS continues to upgrade and modernize its current office building to handle the needs of its clients and their families. Security cameras have been installed for the safety of both staff and children, staff training continues to be emphasized through the addition of video conferencing equipment. Staff is expected to participate in weekly training webinars in the area of child welfare services. UFS plans to make a proposal in the upcoming tribal budget process to secure and operate a shelter facility for displaced youths.

UFS annually receives grants for Title IV-B Child and Family Welfare Services, BIA 638 funding for Child Protective Services and Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP"). These programs allow UFS to provide more in depth child and family services and achieve the goals that are set out in the Title IV-B Program. In 2012 UFS applied and was awarded a Title IV-E Development Grant. UFS is finalizing their Title IV-E Plan and Pre-print with expected federal approval prior to October 1, 2016. Title IV-E will provide UFS with funding reimbursement for foster care, guardianship and adoption activities. UFS is continually researching and reviewing other grant opportunities to expand and/or improve services.

The Ute Indian Tribe Social Services 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan identified three goals and three objectives to strengthen and enhance the services offered to Ute Families. Specific accomplishments in relation to these goals and objectives include the following:

Goal 1: Assist children and families at risk or in crisis by providing crisis intervention services that result in improved safety, permanency and well-being.

In FY 16, UFS provided child welfare services to families which include abuse and neglect investigations, in-home reunification services and possibly guardianship & adoption services, if necessary. Child Welfare Services includes creating case plans, setting up family team meetings, arranging visits, locating needed resources for the families and maintaining safety of the children through monitoring and building rapport with the family. As part of child welfare services, financial assistance may be provided to “At Risk Families” to prevent the removal of children from their homes, or to assist in the reunification. For most families this is a \$500 per year limit, however, for some families who are actively involved in their case plan we have provided additional small amounts of financial services so long as it is pertinent to the reunification or prevention of removal of their children. For example, we will assist parents with travel costs to visit their children, attend court hearings, family team meetings, etc. During reunification efforts, we have also provided families with funds to purchase beds, clothing, continued therapy, etc. This money has assisted with critical home repairs, rental assistance, utility payments, food and clothing assistance, medical assistance, transportation costs to attend appointments for mental health needs, costs to attend court hearings, visits with their children, and other identified emergency financial situations etc.

UFS has paid \$17,844.70 in Title IV-B Part II funds on this program during Fiscal Year 2016. These funds have assisted 99 children of “At Risk Families” remain in safe, protected and secured home environments rather than having them placed with other child welfare agencies.

In addition, UFS has referred families to other financial support agencies such as Ute Tribe Victims of Crime Program, Ute Tribe USDA Commodity Food Program, Uintah Basin Association of Governments, State of Utah Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Ute Tribe Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the State of Utah Department of Workforce Services to seek kinship care and medical benefits. Referrals were made to coordinate efforts for maximum financial assistance for the maintenance of safety, protection and security for Ute children and families.

Currently UFS has 113 open cases, 104 children in UFS custody and 9 children receiving protective supervised services through court order, but not in UFS custody. UFS has closed 19 cases since October 1, 2015 resulting in 14 reunifications, 4 guardianship/adoption arrangements and 1 child “aged” out of the system. UFS has conducted 74 CPS investigations involving 185 children since 10/1/15 and 35 of these investigations involving 70 children were supported and the children placed into UFS custody. As a result of community or family contact, CPS in coordination with the UFS Nurse has conducted “Child Well Check” Visits on an additional 10 cases involving 25 children since 10/1/15, it was determined that none of these referrals rose to CPS involvement. These figures are one indicator used to determine how successful UFS is in providing services listed above in the objective of this goal. The expectation is that these numbers will decline as services improve especially preventative programs that UFS would like to initiate.

UFS requires Family Team Meetings (“FTM”) as an integral part of its services which involves Family Group Decision Making (“FGDM”) protocols in dealing with child welfare cases. Families determine what is in the best interests for the children involved with the assistance of a UFS Facilitator, families create their own reunification or permanency plans with the assistance of specialists from other agencies such as Ute Tribe Education, Ute Tribe Victims of Crime, the Ute Tribe Alcohol Substance Abuse Program, Indian Health Service and other tribal, state and local agencies if the case requires involvement from any of these agencies. UFS feels this practice improves safety, reduces reunification timelines and achieves permanency for the children involved.

UFS is working towards collecting more detailed data regarding child welfare cases as it completes the implementation phase of a new database management system (“OUTCOME”). OUTCOME gathers all relevant case information relating to each child that is in the custody of UFS and children that Ute Tribe Juvenile Court has ordered UFS to provide support services. The system captures and reports all CPS investigations, children in custody, costs of service, avg. length of stay in care, etc. UFS is able to use this data to assist in the evaluation of its services.

UFS is in the final stages of completing and implementing a policy and procedures manual that is Title IV-E compliant. The manual will also assure that all families and children who are brought to the attention of the agency receive a consistent set of services. The manual will support UFS social workers to better understand the expectations of the tribe as they assist children and families. Accessing Title IV-E funds will assist the tribe in providing foster care, adoption and guardianship services for children in its custody.

Goal 2: Support Ute Tribe Kinship Care Program

Children removed from their home and placed in the care and supervision of UFS will be placed in tribally licensed kinship homes or other tribally licensed foster care settings. UFS continues to actively recruit foster homes on or near the reservation by advertising the need in the tribal email list serve, tribal newspaper, hanging up flyers in the community, etc. UFS also provides a foster parenting class to help the foster/kinship families understand the needs of the child, their role and the role of child welfare.

Kinship placements who are unwilling or not interested in becoming licensed will be assisted by UFS through tribal funds and/or collaborate with the State of Utah to get “Specified Relative” funding. UFS employs safety and background checks for placements prior to placing children in a home as directed recently by Presidential directive, unless the situation is deemed to be an emergency. All of the UFS Emergency Placements have already been licensed and background checked.

UFS supports caregivers by providing financial assistance and supplement caregiver costs of maintaining children in their homes. The associated costs include food, clothing, shelter, educational, medical or any costs associated with financial assistance for the children. Children placed into the care and custody of

UFS through either the Ute Tribe Juvenile Court or Voluntary Placement are the primary beneficiaries of this goal.

UFS is utilizing a new database management system (“OUTCOME”) that gathers all relevant case information relating to each child that is in the custody of UFS and children that Ute Tribe Juvenile Court has ordered UFS to provide support services. OUTCOME is now fully operational and is maintained by the Ute Tribe Information Technology Department. The software vendor, 12Bravo, is engaged on a contract basis to provide updates and modifications to meet UFS standards. OUTCOME captures and reports all costs of services provided to each child and family. Reports that clarify what services are provided, who is impacted and associated costs are being developed. Benefits are already being realized with the centralization of all child welfare data into one database as opposed to the previous situation of using programs that are not designed for child welfare practices. Information such as placement, location and provider are now contained in a single record for each child in UFS custody. Measurement of progress is difficult to quantify, however, improvement in services is creating efficiencies allowing staff to reduce caseloads through reunification or permanency in a timely manner.

In the latest month available, May 2016, UFS had 73% of the children in their custody placed with kinship homes. This is an increase from 62% in FY15 for the same period. Not all of these placements are currently licensed but UFS is actively working towards getting them licensed according to tribal licensing standards.

UFS has also started monitoring the stability of placements by reviewing the number of times children are relocated to different kinship/foster care settings.

Goal 3: Enhanced Collaboration with the Courts

UFS continues to inquire with other Tribes about their relationships with their tribal, local and State court systems, to better understand the resources that could be available to the Ute Tribe through collaborative efforts. Opportunities to learn from other Tribes has occurred through attending the National Indian Child Welfare Association Conference, Title IV-E Grantees Meetings and Casey Family Program Title IV-E Summits. This networking is important, as UFS is currently meeting with the State of Utah to negotiate a new MOU between the Tribe and State that will address numerous issues including child welfare matters, ICWA, case management services and information sharing. The UFS Director has continued to participate in the state CIP Tribal Committee that worked on issues such as ICWA, training for state & tribal courts, and foster care recruitment. UFS has collaborated with the tribal court on the development of its Title IV-E plan, and included the tribal judge and attorneys in various Title IV-E Summits and Title IV-E Grantee Conferences. The UFS Attorney is reviewing the tribal juvenile code and is working with the Ute Tribe Juvenile Court and Ute Tribe Business Committee on a revision.

Tribes who have placement and care responsibility for its children in foster care, must provide an update on the activities that the Tribe has or will undertake in FY 2017 to reduce the length of time that young children under age five are without a permanent family; and an update of the activities the Tribe undertook to address the developmental needs of children under the age of five who receive services under the Title IV-B or IV-E programs.

UFS Staff continually receives in-service training related to Trauma and Attachment. The purpose of this training is to educate staff about the effects of Trauma and how staff can coach families to facilitate attachment with the children in their homes. This training helps to give caseworkers guidance when developing Case Treatment Plans with families towards reunification. UFS continues to work with the Ute Tribe Juvenile Court to ensure that Review Hearings are heard every 3 months to review what is being done towards Permanency Planning and Concurrent Permanency Plans. UFS holds internal monthly case staffing meetings during which each case is reviewed. During this review all cases involving children under age 5 are identified and the caseworker is required to address issues that ensure bonding and attachment to the reunifying parent.

When creating case plans with families for reunification, UFS works with the family for up to one year. UFS also prepares a concurrent case plan for the possibility that reunification is not a viable option or the family is not participating in reunification. If the family is not actively participating in reunification, UFS will assist the kinship/foster family in seeking guardianship of the child (ren) to ensure stability and permanency of the child. The kinship/foster family makes a request for guardianship, and UFS submits an updated home study and court report supporting its recommendation to the court.

UFS utilizes The Little Blossom Early Intervention Program located on the reservation. The program provides early intervention developmental services prior to Head Start. All children in the custody of UFS receive a health assessment to determine any health needs or developmental delays that need attention. All children under the age of 5 years old in UFS custody, who are living on or near the Reservation will be assessed by the Little Blossom Early Intervention Program (or other child development specialist in their area) to ensure that developmentally children are where they need to be or that they are under their advisement of the program to make corrections. The UFS Health Care Specialist ensures that these assessments are completed. Currently UFS has 43 children in its custody who are 5 years of age or less. UFS is developing a program in OUTCOME to identify the length of time these children are in its custody.

For those children who are in the care and custody of UFS, a case plan is established to provide reunification services to assist the family in meeting the safety concerns that prompted the removal. However, in an effort to reduce the amount of time that children are without a permanent family, a concurrent plan is created to look for permanency should the parents decide that they do not want to follow through with the case plan for reunification. UFS's first priority is to place children in kinship homes with extended family members and these placements typically seek a more permanent guardianship when the parents do not make efforts to regain care of their children. UFS will support

these guardianship petitions once a sufficient amount of time has been given to the family of origin and they are not making any effort to regain care of their children, thus creating permanence for the child.

The Ute Tribe Business Committee has directed UFS to assist families with young children who are involved with substance abuse issues and that these children are the greatest risk of maltreatment. UFS works in collaboration with the Ute Tribe Alcohol Substance and Abuse Program (“ASAP”) and the tribe’s alcohol and substance rehabilitation program (“Red Pine’) to locate and/or provide services.

How the Tribe will monitor and treat emotional trauma associated with a child's maltreatment and removal, in addition to other health needs identified through screenings.

UFS’s Training program is being developed in conjunction with Title IV-E implementation. One of the key components of this training program will be focused on the emotional trauma of both the child and his/her parent(s). UFS has recently met with the State of Utah in regards to allowing UFS staff to participate in the state’s DCFS Practice Model, monitoring and treating emotional traumas is covered in these sessions. As a result of this meeting the state has agreed to provide access to UFS to attend future training sessions it will hold in October and November 2016.

All children over the age of 3 receive a mental health and/or development assessment to identify any mental health or emotional support that would be in the child’s best interest, and any recommendations received are a factor in developing a Case Treatment Plan for the child and the family. These assessments are required within 30 days of the child being placed in UFS custody. Recommendations from a Mental Health Evaluation will be a main focus of the treatment plan to ensure that the child’s mental health needs are being addressed and treated. Typically mental health needs are managed by local providers such as Indian Health Service, Ute Tribe Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (“ASAP”) or the local Medicaid mental health provider, North Eastern Counseling Services. All of these agencies have qualified mental health providers with training in trauma and have a good working relationship with UFS.

Is there a plan to revise the use of title IV-B, subpart 2 Funds to support new activities, consistent with the changes in the definitions of family support services and time-limited reunification services?

No changes at this point.

2. Collaboration: Describe activities in the ongoing process of coordination and collaboration efforts conducted across the entire spectrum of the child and family service delivery system. Include a description of stakeholder or partner involvement in the review of progress made in the past fiscal year and expected updates for the coming year.

UFS continues to work with our tribal attorneys to have an approved MOU with the State of Utah that would define inter agency responsibilities so that UFS and DCFS can provide services to families to maintain safety and protect all children in the child welfare system. Another meeting is planned for

June 2016 with the tribal attorneys and in July 2016 with the State of Utah. UFS has arranged for staff to attend the DCFS Practice Model in October and November 2016. This base skill training is needed by UFS Caseworkers. The Practice Model involves 80 hours of training per session over a three week period. This training will be in addition to another 40 hours during the second week of the session that will be structured around in-house training incorporating traditional and cultural practices as they relate to social services. The state has offered to assist the tribe in developing this training program using their model.

UFS regularly has meetings with the State of Utah 8th District Juvenile Court and Juvenile Justice Services (“JJS”) to work towards providing more consistent services to tribal youth who are coming before the judge for delinquency matters. In addition, UFS staff continues to attend meetings and communicate with 8th District Juvenile Probation Officers to staff cases of mutual concern. UFS meets with JJS Case Managers to create case plans for re-entry into the community from the custody of JJS.

UFS regularly meets with ASAP and the Ute Tribe Juvenile Court to develop child welfare practices that better serve our mutual child welfare clients and families.

In addition UFS communicates with other agencies that can provide resources to the clients we serve, such as Utah Youth Village, Northeastern Counseling, Little Blossom Early Intervention Program, Ute Indian Tribe Head Start Program, private clinicians and prevention programs.

UFS also participates in regularly scheduled Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings where UFS works with Ute Tribe Victims of Crime, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ASAP, Ute Tribe Education, Red Pine and BIA Law Enforcement. UFS provides an annual department report to the Ute Tribe Business Committee on child welfare activities.

Update the Tribe’s demonstration of substantial, ongoing and meaningful collaboration between the child welfare agency and the Tribal or State courts, as appropriate with regard to the development of the APSR and any Tribal actions being undertaken in response to a State’s Child and Family Service review of Title IV-E program improvement plan.

The Ute Indian Tribe collaborates with Ute Tribe Juvenile Courts and DCFS regarding families UFS provides services to and children in foster care. UFS does not receive any Title IV-E funds as of yet, but expects to have a Title IV-E plan approved by September 30, 2016. UFS participates in meetings with various agencies in State of Utah such as the Department of Health and Human Services, the State ICWA Director and the Utah Court Improvement Committee. Because the state has a title IV-E waiver, they will not be having a title IV-E review and the state CFSR is not scheduled until 2018.

3. Program Support: Discuss any updates to the Tribe's child welfare services staff development and training plans. Discuss the child and family services program's research, evaluation or management information systems and quality assurance systems that will be updates or implemented in the upcoming fiscal year. Specify any additions or changes in services or program design due to the Tribe's own evaluation of programs that the Tribe has found particularly effective or ineffective.

Currently all Social Workers have a Bachelor's Degree and are either working towards or currently hold a State of Utah Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing Social Worker license that must be renewed every two to three years. These standards require that staff attend and receive Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) to maintain and gain new knowledge regarding new and changing social work standards. Newly hired UFS Staff in the past have attended the DCFS Practice Model training to ensure that caseworkers are providing the best care possible to the families that they serve. There are arrangements in place that all caseworkers will attend the Practice Model Training during the next twelve months. During this past year, we sent the UFS attorney to the State of Utah Children's Justice Symposium-Domestic Violence Conference, the UFS Nurse to the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Training Program and the CPS Supervisor to the Casey Family Program Conference on Risk Assessment and to the National Juvenile Endangered Children Conference on Multi-Disciplinary Teams. In addition the entire staff is trained and certified on CPR/First Aid and AED. It is anticipated that within the next year, staff will attend additional in-house trainings and receive CEU's. The UFS Administrative Assistant is responsible for tracking training hours for the staff and this information is included with each staff members personnel file.

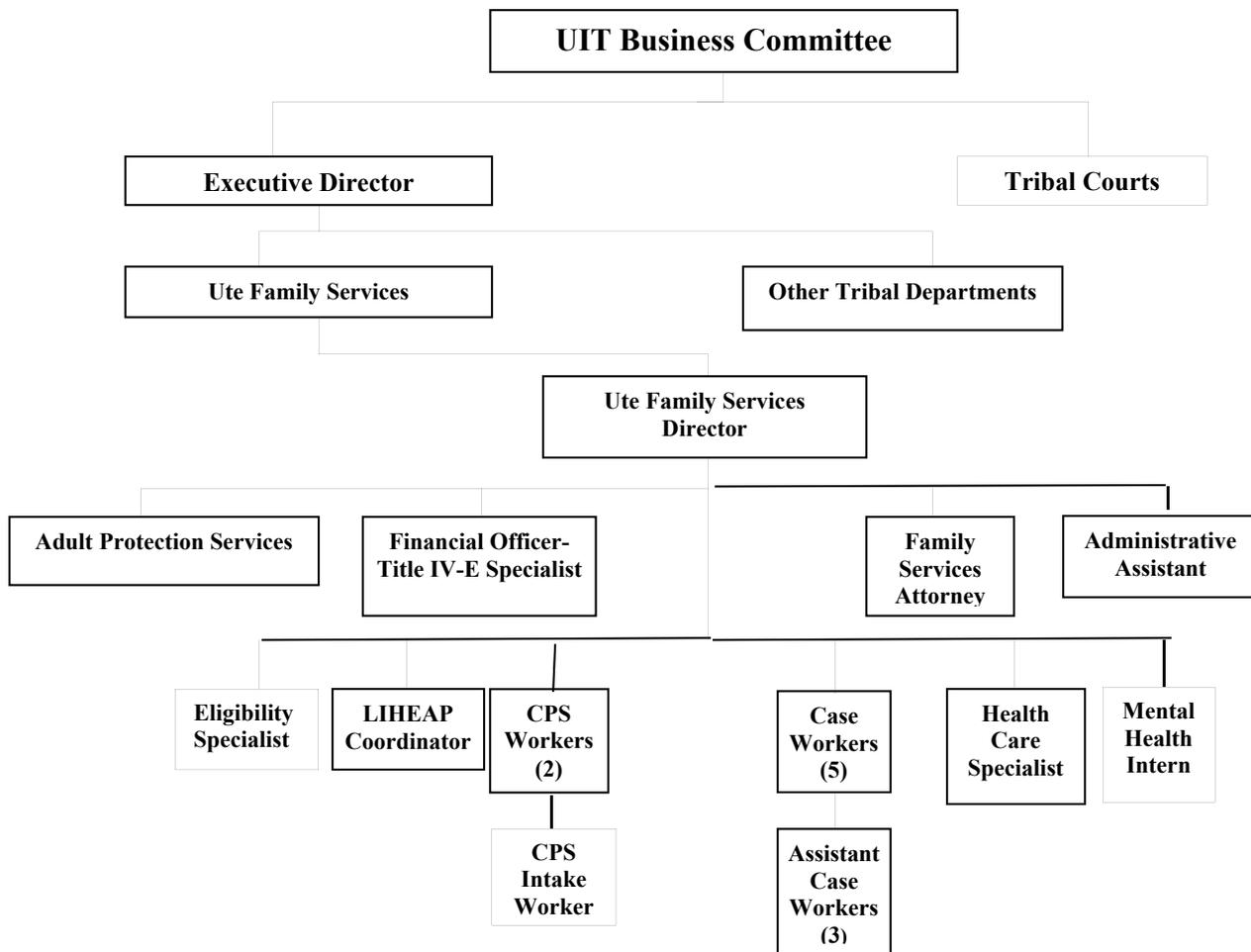
UFS is currently in the early stages of utilizing a new database management system ("OUTCOME") that will gather all relevant case information relating to each child that is in the custody of UFS and children that Ute Tribe Juvenile Court has ordered UFS to provide support services. OUTCOME captures and reports all costs of services provided to each child and family. Additional reports that clarify what services are provided, who is impacted and associated costs are in the development stages. Benefits are already being realized with the centralization of all child welfare data into one database as opposed to the previous situation of using programs that are not designed for child welfare practices. Information such as placement, location and provider is now contained in a single record for each child in UFS custody. Measurement of progress is difficult to quantify, however, improvement in services is creating efficiencies allowing staff to reduce caseloads through reunification or permanency in a timely manner.

UFS has a goal within the next year to initiate a Quality Review Program of its case management practices. It has already begun the process by engaging a consultant to review case files on a monthly basis.

Discuss any technical assistance that the Tribe anticipates requesting from the CB's Training and Technical Assistance network

UFS is not currently working with the Capacity Building Centers for Tribes ("CBC4T") and has no plans to so over the remainder of FY16. UFS is reviewing the opportunity to add a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") program after Title IV-E is implemented. UFS will consult with CBC4T at the appropriate time when TANF is viable.

UTE TRIBE ORGANIZATION CHART



4. Consultation between States and Tribes: Provide an update regarding Tribal consultation with the State regarding ICWA compliance, as required by section 422 (b) (9).

There is currently no MOU in place with the State of Utah and the Ute Indian Tribe regarding Child Welfare Issues. Cooperation between local state DCFS representatives, the State ICWA Director, courts and the tribe regarding ICWA matters continues to improve even without an official MOU in place that deals with ICWA and Child Welfare issues. Meetings are scheduled in July 2016 to discuss an MOU, the intent is to move this process on an expedited timeline. DCFS has an ICWA Administrator who is also able to provide ICWA information to maintain that the State of Utah is in compliance and working effectively with the Ute Indian Tribe.

Provide a description as to who is responsible for providing child welfare services and protection delineated at Section 422(b) (8) of the Act to Tribal children, whether they are in State or Tribal Care and responsibility.

DCFS will provide child welfare services to those Tribal children who are in the custody of the State of Utah or those children who live off of the reservation. The State of Utah and the Ute Indian Tribe work together to best meet the needs of the families. For those children who reside on the U & O Indian Reservation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has contracted out the Social Services duties to the Ute Indian Tribe who provides the child welfare services for the Ute Indian Tribe through Ute Family Services. The Ute Indian Tribe has its own Ute Tribe Juvenile Courts and BIA Law Enforcement to provide services to families.

The tribe is currently developing a tribal Title IV-E Plan which will address the requirements of Pub. L. 113.183. UFS is identifying all concerns and issues associated with AAPLA through its Title IV-E Plan. We are currently researching technical assistance options that are available.

Describe how the Tribe has been consulted about the programs to be carried out under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) and explain the results of the consultation, specifically as it relates to determining eligibility for benefits and services and ensuring fair and equitable treatment for Indian youth in care under the CFCIP.

UFS does not receive any Chafee funds, however the local DCFS office offers Transition into Adult Living Classes (“TAL”) for their older foster care children. UFS has organized a TAL Program to ensure that the youth who are in the custody of UFS is reflects the needed skills for becoming an adult with the awareness of cultural and traditional beliefs. These services are provided to teenage youth who are in the custody of UFS.

The State of Utah Adolescent Foster Care Program Administrator has met with UFS and considered the impact of the tribe initiating their own TAL program. At that meeting CFCIP guidelines were reviewed along with proposed measures the tribe could take to obtain CFCIP funding, and reviewed services— from assessment to transition—that the tribe might want to implement. The collaboration is expected to continue through FY 2017 during which the Program Administrator will coordinate with the tribe as it increases TAL services. UFS has 18 youth in custody who are eligible for and receiving TAL services. At

this point, the collaboration between the state and UFS is working well and the hope is for both parties to continue to improve services in this area.

5. Plans for Diligent Recruitment of Potential Foster and Adoptive Parents: Discuss updates to the tribe's plan for the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the tribe for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed. Examples of components to include in the diligent recruitment plan are: a description of the characteristics of children for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed, specific strategies to reach all parts of the community; strategies for assuring that all prospective parents have access to the home study process; and strategies for training staff and community partners.

UFS works on the diligent recruitment of Native American foster homes. UFS recruits foster homes from the Tribal community by sending out announcements through the Ute Tribal email system, placing flyers in the tribal community, talking to potential foster parents, attending local tribal community and cultural activities and putting ads in the tribal newspaper. UFS adheres to all Title IV-E requirements for licensing even though the Tribe has not been approved for this program at this point in time.

UFS continues to recruit families, with an emphasis on increasing the amount of Native American families to provide short-term crisis care for children while preparations are made for finding kinship family care. In FY16 UFS recruited 4 families for emergency placements and another 3 families are secured for foster care placement.

UFS has implemented a process of recruiting families and licensing foster homes to provide children in need of care with qualified families who are able to meet the unique needs of abused and neglected children. We are currently using the National Indian Child Welfare Association's and Title IV-E standards for foster care. UFS is formalizing a series of Native American Foster Parenting classes, requires background checks and drug testing to license these families to care for children. UFS utilizes its own criminal back ground check machine onsite to create a simpler process for potential foster/kinship placements.

6. Health Care Services: Provide an update assessing the implementation of the health care oversight and coordination plan that the Tribe submitted in the CFSP. Describe any modification to the plan that the Tribe, in conjunction with health care professionals, has determined are necessary. If substantial changes have been made, submit a copy of the revised plan.

The majority of children (73%) that UFS works with are in custody or guardianship with a relative or kinship placement. These families assume health care responsibility for these children. The children that are under the custody of UFS and reside in the State of Utah receive State of Utah Medicaid, and while they can use outside health care providers, usually receive health care from the Indian Health Service Clinic located in Fort Duchesne, Utah or their local health care provider. UFS has a Health Care Specialist (Registered Nurse) on staff to ensure that all children within the custody of UFS have all health

needs met, including immunizations, health check-ups, physicals, hearing screenings, vision, dental and mental health evaluations, etc.

Transition to Adult Living Plan regarding Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan

When children in UFS custody reach age 14 and are transitioning to adulthood, UFS is responsible to advise the young person about insurance and medical coverage that is available to the child. However, all children of Tribal heritage are able to receive health care from the Indian Health Service Clinic System. For those children who are in the custody of UFS, the Health Care Specialist, who is a Registered Nurse and the assigned case worker, will (within a year of the child transitioning into adulthood) facilitate a Transition Family Team Meeting (“FTM”). The FTM will address the importance of designating someone to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the youth in foster care if the youth is unable to do so and does not have or want a relative who would otherwise be so designated under Tribal Law will also be discussed. The Health Care Specialist will ensure that this requirement is addressed. The law provides the child with the option to execute a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document recognized by the Ute Indian Tribe.

Protocols for the appropriate use and monitoring of psychotropic medications

The Health Care Specialist is a Registered Nurse who monitors and supports the Psychotropic Medication Oversight Policy, as attached.

7. Disaster Plan: Provide an update assessing the implementation of the health care oversight and coordination plan that the Tribe submitted in the CFSP. Describe any modification to the plan that the Tribe, in conjunction with health care professionals, has determined are necessary. If substantial changes have been made, submit a copy of the revised plan.

Attached is a copy of the UFS Disaster Plan. No changes are necessary in the UFS Disaster Plan at this time.

8. Certification of Population Count: Determine of tribal allocations for funding under the programs authorized by Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, are based on a count of the population of children and youth under the age of 21. For the Title IV-B, subpart 1 program (Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services), a tribe’s allotment is taken from the funds that would otherwise be provided to the state in which the tribe is located.

In FY16, the Ute Indian Tribe certified 1,489 children under the age of 21 are eligible for services under the tribe’s Title IV-B Program.

9. Training: Update to the tribe's child welfare services staff development and training plan in support of the goals and objectives of the CFSP which address the Title IV-B programs covered by the plan.

Currently all Social Workers have a Bachelor's Degree and are either working towards or currently hold a State of Utah Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing Social Worker license that must be renewed every two to three years. These standards require that staff attend and receive Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) to maintain and gain new knowledge regarding new and changing social work standards. UFS has made arrangements for its staff to attend the DCFS Practice Model Training later in 2016. It is expected that all caseworkers will attend the Practice Model Training. During this past year, we sent the UFS attorney to the State of Utah Children's Justice Symposium-Domestic Violence Conference, the UFS Nurse to the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Training Program and the CPS Supervisor to the Casey Family Program Conference on Risk Assessment and to the National Juvenile Endangered Children Conference on Multi-Disciplinary Teams. In addition the entire staff is trained and certified on CPR/First Aid and AED. It is anticipated that within the next year, staff will attend additional in-house trainings and receive CEU's.

10. Plan Availability: The Tribe must make the APSR available to interested parties. The plan must describe how the CFSP will be made available. State and Tribes are to share their plans with each other.

UFS has made its Child and Family Services Plan available to Tribal members, the State of Utah and other interested Tribes when requested. A copy of the plan is on file at the UFS offices and upon request is available for review. UFS plans to forward a copy to Ms. Alisa Lee, State of Utah ICWA Administrator as soon as the plan has been approved by the Administration of Children and Families.

PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION OVERSIGHT PLAN

UTE FAMILY SERVICES

The Ute Indian Tribe Family Services Department (“UFS”) recognizes the dangers associated with dispensing psychotropic medication to children and has created a plan to ensure that any recommendations for those specific medications will be reviewed and approved through an oversight process described below.

- Children who are in the custody of UFS that exhibit behavioral and/or emotional issues that are deemed contrary to their safety and well-being will be evaluated by a mental health professional.
- Mental health or physician evaluations that recommend any type of psychotropic medication as part of their treatment will be forwarded to the UFS Health Care Specialist for further review.
- Social Workers who are evaluating a psychotropic medication request for any child on their caseload will:
 - Set up a case consultation with the UFS Health Care Specialist, the mental health provider and/or physician who has prescribed the medication; and
 - Arrange for a Family Team Meeting to include the family, kinship/foster parents, UFS Director, UFS Social Worker, UFS Mental Health Specialist, the child’s Guardian Ad Litem (if one is assigned) and Health Care Specialist to introduce treatment plans regarding medication and take into consideration the family’s input; and
 - Requests for further information/discussion can include an alternate physician evaluation (Second Opinion), where consideration of other non-psychotropic medication treatments available or other possible solutions can be discussed. If the child is on Children’s Health Improvement Program (“CHIPS’) or Traditional Medicaid a “pre-approval” must be obtained.
- Children who are approved to receive psychotropic medication will have their medication reviewed every three months by the UFS Health Care Specialist and UFS Mental Health Specialist to discuss risks and benefits and determine if continued use is appropriate.

DISASTER PLAN

UTE FAMILY SERVICES

Kinship/Foster families and shelter providers (if necessary) will be contacted by UFS staff as soon as possible to ensure that the child(ren) have everything they need to remain safely in their home during an emergency. They need to have adequate water, food, medicine (if necessary), as well as heat and power. If they do not have these critical items, the case worker (or other UFS staff as assigned) will need to ensure that they are provided for the child (ren). If a kinship/foster parent is not able to reach their case worker, they have been instructed to call the "on-call" UFS social worker. Kinship/Foster families and shelter providers are provided with emergency numbers and numbers for their local hospitals, etc.

If a kinship/foster parent/child has not been accounted for, their social worker (office primary/alternate) will do whatever is necessary to ensure contact and the safety of the child(ren). This will include contacting BIA Law Enforcement and the Ute Tribe Homeland Security Department for assistance.

Kinship/Foster parents will receive information urging them to have gas, alternate sources of heat and power, food, clothing, medications and water available for all household members. They will also be receiving a copy of our plan and an Emergency Preparedness Handbook to help them prepare for a variety of different emergency situations.

If phones are not working, we are within 1/4 mile of the Ute Tribe Administration Building and staff can walk there as an alternate place to conduct business. All UFS vehicles are located in the UFS building when not in use; they are serviced according to their respective maintenance schedules and are full with gas whenever returned to the garage.

The UFS Administrative Assistant will be responsible for updating the foster/kinship care list, making sure that all addresses and phone numbers are correct. This list will be kept in the UFS Disaster Plan Binder so that contact information is easily accessible. Social workers will be responsible to visit their homes, as usual. They will also be sent out in case of emergency or disruption.

Medically fragile youth will be identified and the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that the child receives the services needed during an emergency. We will be contacting the local Indian Health Service Clinic for the needs of medically fragile children during any emergency situation. Any children who are medically fragile may be hospitalized if the situation warrants. Caseworkers will complete and file all activity logs and other documents in a timely manner. Assistant Caseworkers will make sure that all filings are completed in a timely manner.

A copy of our plan will be mailed to community partners, including the Ute Tribe Juvenile Court, Indian Health Service, UIT Victims of Crime, UIT Homeland Security, UIT Safety and the UIT Executive Director.

CPS abuse and neglect referrals will be taken and prioritized by the CPS worker who will staff these cases with the Director of UFS or his assigned representative and will respond within the priority time frames. Coordination will occur between UFS and the UIT Juvenile Court to establish protocols for any children that may be sheltered during this period of time. Provisions for shelter hearings will be made. Names of on-call workers and alternates will be provided to BIA Law Enforcement. Those who are unable to reach the on-call worker will be instructed to contact the BIA Law Enforcement. CPS Intake staff will be available to take CPS referrals from phone and walk-in services.

This plan will be updated as needed.