



**NORTHERN ARAPAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES**
Wind River Indian Reservation
#11 Great Plains Road
P.O. Box 77
St. Stephens, Wyoming 82524
(Phone) 307-857-5728 * (Fax) 307-857-5741



**NORTHERN ARAPAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES**

**GENERAL
-REPORT-**

2019-2020

Aline Kitchin/NADFS Director



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NORTHERN ARAPAHO DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

NADFS DIRECTOR REPORT

MISSION: The Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services is dedicated to Family Reunification and Child Safety.

VISION: The Northern Arapaho Department of Family will meet the highest standard in child safety and family services.

The Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services is designated as a child protection and family services agency which provides services to any enrolled member of a Federally Recognized Tribe, who is a resident of Wind River Reservation; who reside off the Wind River Reservation in Fremont County or Hot Springs Counties who are tribal members and whose cases are filed with and fall under the civil jurisdiction of Wind River Tribal Court.

August 19, 2019

Director:	Aline Kitchin
Supervisor:	Susan Crazythunder
Investigator:	Alisha Talamasey
Foster Care Coordinator:	Jamie Moss
Juvenile Probation:	Jeremiah Talamasey
Case Worker:	
Case Worker:	Mazie Goggles
Case Worker:	Mercedes Nanamkin
Case Worker:	Marquel Brown
Family Service Worker/Male:	Mark C'Hair
Family Service Worker/Female:	Joline Alberts
Office Support Specialist:	Valene Revere
Administrative Assistant:	Alyssa Aragon
Custodian/Maintenance:	Preston Moss

State MDT Coordinator Diana Mitchell

Indian Child Welfare Act/Director
ICWA/DEC Program Assistant:
Drug Endangered Children's Program/Director: Jo Etta Brown

Shelly Mbona
Carmela Lambert

RESOLUTION ADOPTING CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY
NORTHERN ARAPAHO DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
NORTHERN ARAPAHO BUSINESS COUNCIL
WIND RIVER RESERVATION ETHETE, WYOMING

Resolution No. NABC-2013-304

NADFS CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL consists of three (3) professional community members; approved 4-15-19.

PURPOSE:

CRP members will follow the NADFS chain of command, written grievances shall be acknowledged upon the filing with Tribal Office, the members will address case by case review when filed accordingly.

NADFS currently has the Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and Carol Justice as Attorneys for Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services as needed.

Currently NADFS has 205 active open cases

191 are children are in placement via relative/treatment/WBS/WGS/group homes

The Wind River Reservation is approximately 2.2 million acres in size or about 3,700 square miles in the West central area of Wyoming. The federally recognized Indian tribes that live on the reservation are the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the Northern Arapaho Tribe. Both tribes face poverty, unemployment, limited educational opportunities, lack of access to capital, and high incident of health problems including drug and alcohol related problems that manifest as social problems such as child abuse, child neglect, elder abuse, and homelessness. The reservation is jointly owned with each tribe holding 50% interest in the land, water and other resources. Each tribe is committed fully to the welfare of their members. Although both reservations share the land equally, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe has only around 3000 enrolled members while the Northern Arapaho Tribe has a significantly larger population with around 10,000 enrolled members. The Northern Arapaho Tribe deals with many more CPS and Juvenile cases and extremely more guardianship cases than the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services and Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services entered a MOU=memorandum of understanding on January 16, 2019; to work together.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe and NADFS is interested in using its language and cultures to protect and promote the welfare of all children, to prevent the neglect, abuse, or exploration of children and to support at-risk families in a timely manner where appropriate. In collaboration with our partnership agencies, NADFS is offering cultural and traditional opportunities to our children and families severed. NADFS is interested in using tribal language and cultural properties to promote safe and stable families by the support of family preservation, family support, time-limited family reunification, adoption promotion, and other supportive services. NADFS wants to promote the safety, permanency, for the children. NADFS has well-qualified child welfare-workforce.

Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services will always be needed, as the system is designed to protect children by keeping families safe, healthy, and together whenever possible before remedial efforts become necessary. Prevention efforts are critically important to strengthen families and present

the initial occurrence of ongoing maltreatment, prevent unnecessary family disruption, reduce family and child trauma, and build a well-functioning child welfare system. In conversations with Tribal leaders, Tribal court, and Wind River Health Care for families and youth, it is clear that collaboration efforts must be implemented. NADFS will be able to offer more services i.e. transportation for our clients, collaborative efforts with Wind River Health Care, Wellness Court, Drug Endangered Children's program, 477 Program, Child Support, Tribal Enrollment, WIOA and many other agencies we may have failed to mention. NADFS has been implementing satellite court at NADFS office in partnership with Wind River Tribal Court.

- **Child Welfare Practice that Supports the Well-Being of Children and Families**

At the core of child welfare's work is the establishment of practice that supports the positioning of the well-being of children and families as the core of child welfare.

Upon removal of Tribal children; NADFS looks for immediate relative placement and/or local placement. Parents/legal guardians are notified with a citation at time of removal of child (ren); a court date is on the citation to appear in Wind River Tribal Court; the case begins after the initial removal. Some cases are prevention, services are offered to the parents to provide a safe home for the children. A written safety plan should be in place.

GOAL; Family Reunification/permanency

Objectives; Implement services to assist the child and families to achieve their measurable goal

Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services provides services to our children and families in agreement with the State of Wyoming. A written agreement between the State of Wyoming and Wind River Reservation Tribes has been on-going for roughly 30 years. Most recent as July 2018; this past 2 year contract agreement has a cap on the monies paid out on a quarterly basis. Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services pays our providers/placements as they come through the office per providers/case workers. When the funding cap is reached there is nothing that NADFS can do but wait until the next quarter starts, thus this create animosity between the program and its providers/placements. However, there are options being implemented to create a smoother situation where as our providers/placement will no longer have to wait for a new quarter. Northern Arapaho Business Council members, NADFS, N.A. Tribal Liaison, and N.A. Attorneys had met with the Governor/Mike Gordon earlier this year; that is aware of the cap placed on the funding. Our Tribal Leaders understand as we are working on an action plan for the future of our families and children.

In Conclusion; We as Northern Arapaho People will always have a vested interest in providing Social Services for our people. No one knows our people and our community better than we do. We want the responsibility to be ours and to own this vested interest. In essence, we as a people need to focus on being fearless and ethical in advocating for our children and families to include our culturally based ideas. Working on a Government to Government basis, we sometime get lost in the political process of funding and we began to see direct impact in the services provided. Our goal is that, we as people start

imaging and making fearless decisions that are clinically and culturally based. Fearless means always putting the children and their families ahead of our own personal or political interests, or even funding issues.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE

Neneenini' Tei'yoonoho' niitoyoohoowoono' = " We watch over kids"