



2023 TRIBAL STATE
COURT CONSORTIUM
Spring Regional Meeting Minutes



THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE



2023 Spring Regional Meeting

Tribal State Court Consortium

Suquamish House of Awakened Culture in Suquamish, Washington

June 2, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Opening Song/Welcome

Performed by Suquamish Tribal Youth

Opening Remark

Tribal Council Chairman Leonard Forsman

Purpose of Convening and Co-Chair Introduction

Chief Judge Lori K. Smith, WA Court of Appeals, District I and Chief Judge Cindy Smith, Suquamish Tribal Court provided an overview and history of the consortium.

Attendee Introductions

Individual introductions of 23 participants who shared which courts they represent, and briefly reviewed background and history of interaction with tribal courts.

Tour

The group toured the [Suquamish Tribal Museum](#), led by Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman, and the [Suquamish Tribal Court](#) led by Chief Judge Cindy K. Smith.

Session I:

Working Lunch and Keynote Presentation

Mishani Jack-Gonzalez introduced the short film “[Voices Unheard](#)” by [Native Hope](#). After the film showing, Dawn Pullin, *Tribal Liaison* for [Washington State Patrol \(WSP\) MMIW Unit](#), gave a presentation.

This presentation included historical and statistical information about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement and the creation of the MMIW unit, as well as sharing resources to new databases – an active list of missing Indigenous people can be located [here](#). Interested persons may subscribe to the Missing Indigenous Person Alert (or SILVER or AMBER or Endangered Persons) [here](#).

Session II:

Workgroup Updates & Round-table Conversation

Domestic Violence Protection Order Enforcement (DVPO Enforcement)

- Chief Judge Cindy Smith updated the group on progress since 2020, which included support for [E2SHB 1320](#) and work to implement it, including the development of Protection Order Document Sharing [PODS](#) by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Tribal courts can request access to PODS by contacting AOC Data Dissemination [here](#). A brief snapshot of the current process for PODS can be found on page 3 in the [TSCC Updates/Newsletter](#).



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Some of the issues this work group will address include:

- Tribal and state court order visibility across jurisdictions and giving full faith and credit for enforcement.
- Being sovereign nations, it's difficult for tribes to rely on the State to enter these orders for them into the JABS/JIRS database.
- Some tribes utilize NCIC where their coordinating county may not.
- Changes to temporary protection order forms are posing issues when it addresses spousal support, property, and custody as some tribal courts do not address these issues through protection orders.
- Challenges with new updates to protection order statute include high volumes, complexity of forms, and restructuring of court calendars to accommodate the influx.

Chapter 13 of the Domestic Violence Manual for Judges, "Domestic Violence and Tribal Courts," has been updated. Thank you to all of those who have assisted in its completion. The updated chapter can be viewed [here](#).

Branding & Messaging

This group was in the process of reviewing TSCC communications and newsletters. There is a goal to build continuing educational programs for judges at every conference. Most recently, the TSCC sponsored a presentation at the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC) Conference. The TSCC will have its Annual Meeting in September at the Annual Fall Judicial Conference.

ICWA Courts

These workgroups were paused. However, there is still interest in creating partnerships with state courts to work on family treatment courts.

The [Family and Youth Justice Program](#) (FYJP) was invited to share and update the group on some of their current work.

Kelly Warner-King and Sarah Burns presented on various areas of the FYJP which is composed of the Court Improvement Program (CIP), Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP), Family Treatment Court Team, and the Early Childhood Court Team. They also partner with WSCCR and the Commission on Children in Foster Care.

- Previous work includes the FYJP jointly hosting [2021 ICWA Summit](#).
- Improving practices around active and reasonable efforts in dependency cases.
- Presentation of the [Dependency Dashboard](#) (WSCCR)
- Partnership with DCYF and the Office of Tribal Relations.

Spring Regional Meeting Planning

This year, Co-Chairs, Chief Judge Lori K. Smith and Chief Judge Cindy Smith and TSCC Staff person, Mishani Jack-González, planned the Regional Meeting. The Meeting is typically hosted at one of the Washington State Federally Recognized Tribes and work will begin soon to plan the 2024 Regional Meeting. If you are interested in helping plan the meeting, hosting the meeting, or know of a tribe that would be willing to host, please contact Mishani Jack-González at Mishani.Jack-Gonzalez@courts.wa.gov.



Roundtable Discussion

- Update on how things are going between Tribal/State Court relationships
 - Makah Tribe (Chief Judge John Haupt and Judge Iris Shue) shared regarding their healing courts, caseload post Covid-19 (criminal cases decreased as civil increased), and joint-jurisdiction.
 - Suquamish Tribe (Chief Judge Cindy Smith) shared similarities to Makah in caseload. The group discussed ideas around joint-jurisdiction in order for the tribe to maintain contact with their tribal members who are in the state system and receiving services such as mental health treatment.
 - State Courts present are willing to connect and increase communication and responsiveness between tribes and state. Contact information for tribal judiciary is a barrier, they are heavily reliant on the person appearing in state court sharing the tribal court contact information.

Workgroup Sign-Ups

Tribal and State Judges: If you are interested in signing up for any of the workgroups listed above, please reach out to Mishani at Mishani.Jack-Gonzalez@courts.wa.gov. The TSCC is currently planning a workgroup kick-start meeting via Zoom and work groups will also be addressed at the Annual Meeting on September 17, 2023.

Future Scholarships

Grant funds from the Gender and Justice Commission's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant dedicates to supporting tribal courts have provided scholarships for Tribal Court Judicial Officers to attend educational conferences. If you are interested in applying for these upcoming scholarships, please contact Mishani Jack-Gonzalez to sign up for the *TSCC Listserv* and receive those announcements and links.

Thank you for your participation!

The consortium would like to thank the Gender and Justice Commission and the Equity & Access Program of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Gender and Justice Commission's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant activities support Tribal Judges and other Tribal court personnel in developing and strengthening strategies for Tribal courts to respond to Native American youth and adult victims of gender-based violence.