



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2014

Division of Social Service to administer Title IV-E foster program



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with representatives from the Division of Social Services to discuss the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' approval of the direct funding agreement for Title IV-E. The Nation is the first tribe in the country to administer this program. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Quality foster care is important in keeping children safe and providing a stable living environment.

On June 24, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly received a letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stating that the Nation was approved to begin their Title IV-E plan, effective Oct. 1, 2014.

The Navajo Nation set a new precedent in foster care with a recent decision by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families (Children's Bureau) to execute a direct funding agreement with the Nation.

"We applaud the Navajo Nation's efforts in bringing approval of this plan to fruition that, once implemented, should help further strengthen the safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for your most valuable children and families," stated Joo

Yeun Chang, associate commissioner of the Children's Bureau.

On June 25, President Shelly met with representatives from the Division of Social Services today to discuss this historic achievement.

"The Navajo Division of Social Services is the first tribal program in the country to administer the Title IV-E program," President Shelly said. "I commend Sharon McCabe and her staff for making this possible.

"Our kids are important and we must do everything we can to protect them," he added.

Sharon Begay-McCabe is the director for DSS and has been working with the Children's Bureau to amend the Nation's foster care program.

According to the Children's Bureau, the Federal Foster Care Program helps to provide safe and stable out-

of-home care for children until the children are safely returned home, placed permanently with adoptive families or placed in other planned arrangements for permanency.

Title IV-E is an annual appropriation with specific eligibility requirements and fixed allowable costs for uses of funds. In FY 2010, the direct funding provision was made available to Indian nations, tribal organizations and tribal consortia with approved plans to operate the program.

The Navajo Nation has qualified for this direct funding agreement.

"Families can now get reimbursed for caring of our children who are in the custody of Navajo Division of Social Services," Begay said. "This law will ensure and promote stability for our children and their families."

The three main focus areas

program is an exercise of tribal sovereignty. We will operate a Title IV-E program that is culturally sensitive," President Shelly said.

Child welfare partners such as the Casey Family Program, Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, Division of Public Safety, Office of the Chief Prosecutor, Office of the Chief Public Defender, Department of Dine' Education, Division of Health and Office of the President and Vice President were instrumental in getting the direct funding agreement approval.

A signing ceremony for the direct funding agreement will take place at Window Rock Veterans Park on June 27 beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend and encouraged to RSVP.

Information: 928-871-6851

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are in foster care, adoption and guardianship. The Nation will also be reimbursed for training and administrative costs.

"Running the Title IV-E

