

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs



Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA)

- Created in 1976 by the Colorado General Assembly
- Official liaison between the State of Colorado and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Works with other contemporary Tribes with ties to Colorado
- Maintains partnerships with American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities across the state



CCIA Membership (Voting Members)

Voting Members	Date Appointed	Designation
Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera Commission Chair	2019	Lt. Governor State of Colorado
Manuel Heart Tribal Chairman	2019	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Altson Turtle Tribal Councilman	2019	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Melvin J. Baker Tribal Chairman	2020	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Marjorie Barry Tribal Councilwoman	2020	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Michelle Barnes County and Tribal Liaison	2019	Colorado Department of Human Services (Phil Gover Tribal Affairs Specialist)
Dan Gibbs Executive Director	2019	Colorado Department of Natural Resources (Stacy Coleman, Tribal Liaison)
Jill Hunsaker Ryan Executive Director	2019	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (Rachel Bryan-Auker Tribal Liaison)
Maria de Cambra Executive Director	2024	Colorado Department of Local Affairs (Patrick Rondinelli, Regional Manager)
Lucille Echohawk Executive Director	September 2022	At-Large Member
Crystal LoudHawk-Hedgepeth Research Associate	September 2022	At-Large Member



CCIA Membership (Ex-Officio)

Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members	Date Appointed	Designation
Julie Constan Region 5 Director	2021	Colorado Department of Transportation (Shoshana Lew)
Georgina Owen Title VI Coordinator	2015	Colorado Department of Education (Susana Cordova)
Joshua Montoya Local Partnerships & Program Team Manager	2018	Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Kim Bimestefer)
Kerri Delarosa Manager	2019	Colorado Department of Corrections (Moses 'Andre' Stancil)
Brett Shelton Staff Attorney	2018	Native American Rights Fund
Holly Norton Executive Director	2021	History Colorado (Dawn DiPrince)
Bob Troyer Acting U.S. Attorney General	2016	Colorado U.S. Attorney
Elsa Ramirez Executive Officer	2017	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region VIII

Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members	Date Appointed	Designation
Patty Salazar Executive Director	2019	Department of Regulatory Agencies
Marsha Porter-Norton County Commissioner	2021	La Plata County
Tom Burris Superintendent	2022	Montezuma-Cortez School District
Chris deKay Superintendent	2021	Ignacio School District
Gregory Feslen Montezuma County CSU Extension Agent	2011	Montezuma County
Manny Lopez Del Rio Office of Community Engagement Director	2019	Colorado Secretary of State Office
Kathryn Redhorse CCIA Executive Director	2020	Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs



CCIA Quarterly Meetings



1. September: Ignacio
2. December: Denver
3. March: Denver
4. May/June: Towaoc

An opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates, make announcements and requests, exchange information, connect in-person, pose questions to the Commission, and vote on action items.



Government-to-Government Relationships

- Government-to-Government relationship between the State of Colorado and Tribal Governments
- Upholding sovereignty at the state level
 - CCIA staff partners with Tribal Liaisons, points of contacts across state departments
- Sovereignty and legislative engagement



Federal Indian Trust Responsibility

The Federal Indian Trust Responsibility is a legal obligation under which the United States “has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust” toward Native Tribes.

- Title VI Indian Education
- Indian Health Services (IHS)/Urban Indian Health Clinics (UIHC)
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA)



State Role in Federal Indian Trust Responsibility

Education

- Title VI Indian Education programs
- Nuu-Ciu Strong Curriculum

Health

- Indian Health Services
- Urban Indian Clinics
- Culturally competent Care
- Food Services
- Elder services
- Environmental Impacts
- Public Health

Indian Child Welfare

- Foster Agreement
- Data Sovereignty

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation

- Elder services
- Traditional healing and care
- Language revitalization
- Colorado Lands Workgroup



CCIA Staff Roles and Responsibilities

CCIA has a team of four including 1 Executive Director, 2 Interagency Tribal Liaisons, and 1 Executive Assistant/Program Coordinator charged with:

- Supporting the needs and expectations of offices and agencies throughout the state
- Education on Tribal Affairs, Tribal sovereignty, data sovereignty, and current initiatives in the State of Colorado
- Making connections with Tribal leadership, Tribal offices and program staff, and supporting meaningful Tribal engagement and consultation.
- Streamlining Tribal affairs across the state
- Ensuring Tribes and AI/AN community members have a voice in any and all policy making impacting them



State-Tribal Consultation

- Tribal Consultation has become a major part of the current U.S. federal policy recognizing and respecting Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relations with Tribal Nations. Some specific federal laws require federal departments and agencies to conduct Tribal Consultations on specific matters.
- Consultation is the development of a relationship based on trust, an effort to understand and consider any effects an undertaking may have on the consulting parties.
- Meaningful consultations are typically based on mutually agreed-upon written protocols for timely communication, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration.
- An accountable process ensuring meaningful and timely input from Tribal officials in the development of Department policies that have Tribal implications.
- CCIA Roadmap to Conduct Tribal and American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs within the State.



Consultations Continued

Consultations:

- Air Quality and Oil and Gas Consultation (2021)
- Department of Revenue Sports Betting Consultation (2022)
- SB22-104 Consultations with Tribes (2023)
- Behavioral Health Consultation (2023)
- HB22-1327 Consultation with Tribes
- CBO Consultation (2023)
- CDA Consultation (2024)
- CDOT Consultation (2024)
- CCIA Roadmap Consultation (2024)
- Supported and or facilitated state department consultations for CDHS, HCPF, DNR, History Colorado, Division of Insurance



Routine Tribal and Community Engagement

Events:

- Annual Ute Day at the Capitol
- Annual Tribal Address to the Joint Assembly
- Native American Heritage Month
- Sand Creek Monument
- Sand Creek History Colorado

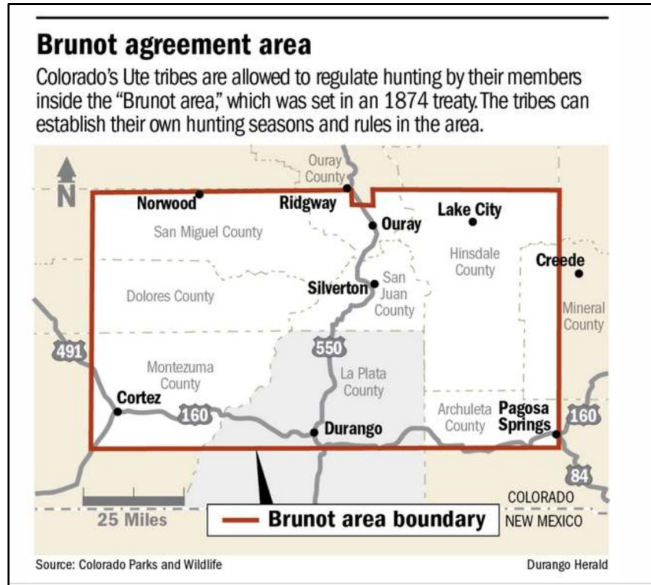


Meetings:

- Monthly AI/AN organization calls
- Behavioral Health Priority Group Meetings
- Housing Priority Group Meetings
- Quarterly Health and Wellness Committee Meetings
- Monthly State Tribal Liaison Meetings
- Monthly/Quarterly State-Tribal Calls
- CCIA Commission Quarterly Meetings
- Roundtable Discussions
- Inadvertent Discovery Process
- Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board



State-Tribal Agreements



- Brunot Hunting Agreement
 - CCIA, DNR (POW)
- State “NAGPRA” Process and Colorado Lands Workgroup
 - CCIA, History Colorado, DNR, Federal partners at Fish and Wildlife, and more
- State Tribal Consultation Agreement
 - CCIA, CDHS, CDPHE, HCPF, CDE, History CO
 - UIOs
 - BHA
- SUIT Environmental Commission Agreement
 - CDPHE



Reports

Senate Bill 22-104 Tribal Governments Included in State Programs Report:

CCIA produced this report as part of Senate Bill 22-104 (SB22-104): Tribal Governments Included In State Programs to explore and make recommendations concerning the inclusion of Tribal Governments in State programs.

Federal Indian Boarding Schools in Colorado, 1880-1920: required by HB 22-1327 which directed History Colorado to investigate the lived experiences of students at the one-time federal Native American boarding school in Hesperus, Colorado.

Tribal Health and Colorado Medicaid Report: support the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), Colorado's Tribal Nations and interested stakeholders by providing a set of holistic recommendations for Health First Colorado that can improve the state of Tribal health and advance Tribal Health priorities.

Indian Education Needs Assessment: CDE partnered with CCIA to conduct a needs assessment to examine key indicators, multiple groups' perspectives, and programmatic challenges. This evaluation aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of how well the Title VI program meets its goals in Colorado and what changes may be needed to supplement and improve upon efforts to support Indigenous students



Reports

1. Strengthening State-Tribal Consultation Process and Practices

- a. Communicate with the appropriate Tribal representative in the appropriate engagement- ask Tribes what is appropriate.

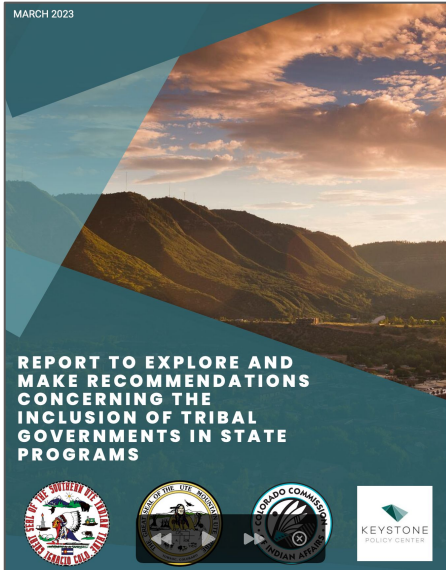
2. Streamlining and Establishing Standard Practice for Engagement with Tribal Nations

- a. Tribal governments do not have a tax base; matching funds; set aside funding; blending and braiding of funding

3. Understand Data Sovereignty and How it Pertains to Reporting Requirements

4. Increase Usage of the State Tribal Contract Template

5. Involve CCIA throughout the Tribal engagement process



State Statutes Impacting Tribes/AI/AN

- **CRS 22-1-133:** Prohibit American Indian Mascots
- **CRS 23-7-112** Colorado American Indian Tribes In-state Tuition
- **CRS 26-6-102** Indian Tribes To Certify Own Foster Homes
- **CRS 25.5-4-426:** Supplemental State Payment To Urban Indian Organizations
- **CRS 24-80-216:** Federal Indian Boarding School Research Program
- **CRS SB22-104:** Tribal Governments Included in State Programs
- **CRS 2-2-327:** Annual Address to Joint Session by Tribal Governments
- **CRS 27-60-114:** Colorado Land-Based Tribe Behavioral Health Services Grant
- **CRS 24-33.5-2601:** Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives
- **CRS 22-1-142** Wearing Of Native American Traditional Regalia
- **CRS 19-1-126** Federal Indian Child Welfare Act Of 1978
- **CRS 24-80-216** Federal Indian Boarding School Research Program
- **CRS 31-12-102** Protect Tribal Lands from Unauthorized Annexation



State Tribal Liaison Team

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)

- Shawna Maher
Tribal Affairs Specialist

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Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

- Georgina Owen
Colorado Indian Education Coordinator
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Specialist

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Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC)

- Sena Harjo
Tribal Liaison

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Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF)

- Joshua Montoya
Partner Relations, Administration and
Programs Division Director (Serves as
Tribal Liaison)

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- Brooke Greenky
Indian Health Services Coordination
Specialist

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- Janelle Gonzalez
Indian Health Services Benefit Policy
Specialist

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State Tribal Liaison Team (cont.)

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

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Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Specialist
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Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Stacy Coleman
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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

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Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (OMMIR)

- Melody Delmar
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