

Testimony
Health and Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
March 23, 2010

Chairman Weisz and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Tara Lea Muhlhauser, and I am the Director of Children and Family Services (CFS) in the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here today at your request to provide you with information in regard to child welfare-related memorandums of understanding with tribal entities.

Children and Family Services (CFS) currently has IV-E related memorandums of understanding [MOU] with every tribe in ND. IV-E dollars are federal dollars used to provide payment for maintaining children in a foster care placement. These MOU agreements allow tribes to claim these federal dollars for payment of foster care-related expenses for children that meet IV-E eligibility. Claims are made through the state and typically are made on a quarterly basis through DHS with a reimbursement payment flowing back to the tribe. [Handout provided of two examples of IV-E MOUs].

At present, there are no tribal memorandums of understanding in place regarding child protective services.

If you would like any additional information, I would be happy to provide you with such or answer questions you have. Thank you.