

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING
P.O. Box 40970, Olympia, Washington 98504-0970
(360) 725-4665 • FAX (360) 413-3482

November 19, 2008

Re: State Certification of child care facilities on reservations

It was a pleasure for me and other members of the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to meet with Tribal Leaders at the recent Tribal Early Care and Education conference at the Tulalip Resort. DEL is committed to continuing to support the work the tribes do in meeting the needs of the children in child care.

On July 1, 2006, DEL took over the child care licensing function that was previously held by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). DEL recognizes that a government-to-government agreement was made by DSHS regarding state certification on child care facilities on reservations. DEL wants to reaffirm our commitment to continue to follow this certification process.

Child care facilities on a federally recognized Indian reservation can receive state child care subsidy payment for eligible children in one of two ways:

- 1) the facility is certified by the state as meeting state licensing requirements, or
- 2) the facility is licensed/certified by the tribe and certified by the state for payment based on tribal self-licensing and having an approved federal child care plan.

For option #1, contact your local DEL child care licensing office to initiate the DEL certification as meeting state licensing standards process.

For option #2, the tribal chair chief sends a letter to the Director of DEL, Jone Bosworth, to request state certification for payment and also provide a copy of the tribal licensing standards. DEL will respond with written acceptance.

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Enclosed is a sample letter developed by the Tribal-State Child Care Work Group to use for option #2. We have also posted a sample of the letter on our website at www.del.wa.gov, under Early Learning Partnerships, Tribal Nations.

If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Lisa LaRue, Licensing Program Administrator. She can be reached at 360-725-4387 or email at Lisa.LaRue@del.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jone M. Bosworth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jone Bosworth, J.D.
Director

Enclosure

cc: Sonali Patel, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Early Learning
Allison Cusick, Partnerships Administrator, Department of Early Learning
Lisa La Rue, Licensing Program Administrator, Department of Early Learning