



MARCH 2021

## Tribal Child Care Association of California

Quality Counts California Region 11

Ayukii, Greetings TCCAC Family,

During this last year, we all have been reminded of how essential human connections and community togetherness are throughout this pandemic. Although we have had to be physically distant from each other (and that has gone beyond our imagination) and we have lived in uncertainty, we have been working hard to find ways to connect to keep the Spirit flowing among us with our many months of virtual connections. We continue to look at better ways to make connections with each other and value our time spent together, however that may look these days. There is a lot of talk about ongoing learning, and that continues to be the mission of the TCCAC, to combine traditional cultural knowledge and practices enhanced by relationships and the practicality of shared professional development opportunities.

In these difficult times, the TCCAC has needed to re-evaluate how we support each other and the communities we serve. We recognize the value of the collective spirit at our gatherings that helps us each to continue personal connections with each other, to develop a strong sense of community and to provide equitable opportunities and alignment of resources for Tribal Early Learning and Care. We honor and support the very real losses that we are experiencing and we share in mourning of these sorrowful times as a support system for each other. We want to acknowledge the sense of community within our association and with our partners maintaining the ability to celebrate our successes that renew our faith in the Great Spirit and to all of the heroes in our world and lives. We continue to find strength and resilience in culture and tradition – that runs deep in our cultures and in our spirits! We can teach each other and ourselves, about the resilience of the human spirit and embrace our faith and hope throughout these times of remote connections.

We want to thank the TCCAC membership, Tribal Communities, Tribal Early Learning and Care Providers, the working committees, the TCCAC staff and the tireless Board of Directors, for the efforts that help to set the stage for our success in the CA Tribal QIS Region. Especially noteworthy are our partners, California Department of Education, First 5 California, California Department of Social Services, ACF Region IX, and all of the many colleagues who are so resourceful, tireless and willing to continue to provide ongoing support that enables us to do all of the amazing work that we are doing to improve equity in California for Tribal Child Care families and communities. Our most profound gratitude goes out to all of you!

Yootva! Thank you,

*Dion Wood* *Kimberly Nall*

TCCAC Co-Chairs

### Executive Officers

**Dion Wood and Kim Nall**  
Co-Chairs

**David Smith-Ferri**  
Secretary

**Joleen Whipple**  
Cultural Chair

**Jennifer McGowan**  
TCCAC Staff

**Kathleen Eredia**  
Fiscal Staff



## QCC Region 11 Projects and Resources

### Journey Toward Healing

As many of you know, TCCAC in partnership with Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) has developed content to support Tribal communities on their journey toward healing both personally and as leaders and caretakers in support of others. This content has been developed to produce a series of 6 informational sessions and follow up talking circles with an awareness of the need to support trauma informed care practices and screening tools. However, the sessions, that we call “conversations”, moves beyond the clinical view of trauma and screening to a healing and resiliency focused practice that incorporates cultural traditions and practices to support oneself and each other to be well.



#### **How do you protect your energy?**

“When you begin to feel you are a spiritual being which, in fact, you are, you begin to activate the medicine wheel in your life”

~ Tony Ten Fingers



In January and February, TCCAC hosted the first four of the six conversations. The topics for the sessions were hosted by Dion Wood (TCCAC Co-Chair), Joelfre Grant (BTC), Eva Rivera (BTC) and Jolene Whipple (TCCAC Culture Committee Chair) and featured Dr. Joshua Sparrow (BTC), Michelle Zive (University of CA, San Diego, Center for Community Health) Frieda Bennett (Quartz Valley Indian Tribe Education Director/ TCCAC Culture Committee) D.J. Vanas (author and founder of Native Discovery) and Debra Sosin (BTC Family Connections Program Manager). The January sessions, ***Cultural Differences in Understanding and Responding to Adversity, Trauma, Resilience, and Healing***, gave an introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), Adversity and Trauma with an emphasis on cultural variations and resiliency. The topics for February, ***Healing and Self Care and Historical Trauma***, focused on historical trauma and secondary trauma, moral/injury/burnout, and compassion fatigue with an emphasis on the importance of caretaker well-being as essential to their ability to help children and families heal.

Our upcoming sessions include:

***Retelling our/my story through healing- March 18, 1:00-2:30***  
***Parent advocacy and leadership- March 25, 1:00-2:30***

## Project HOPE- Culture Committee Video Project

Tell your story! The TCCAC Culture Committee will be sending information on how you and your Tribe can support equity in child care for Tribal communities through your voice and your story! The Culture Committee is working on creating a series of videos highlighting California Tribal culture and traditions. These videos will be used to raise the voices of CA Tribal communities, create understanding with communities outside of our own and promote cultural competencies. In order to accomplish these goals, it is imperative that we all work together and contribute to this amazing project.

This Cultural Committee endeavor will continue the vision of Project HOPE, harnessing opportunity for positive equitable early childhood development, while offering an opportunity to develop leadership skills through participation in our Workforce Pathways Program. The Culture Committee is seeking your story to be featured as part of the broader picture of Tribes throughout California. We want to showcase as many Tribal child care cultures as we can. The Culture Committee will be reaching out with more information about this project and details on how you can participate.



## Nature Explore

TCCAC is partnering with Nature Explore to offer workshops and training for Tribal Child Care Providers and staff. With TCCAC's insight of culture and traditions, Nature Explore will offer a variety of engaging, inspiring, research based workshops to support learning with spirit and nature. The concept of learning through and honoring nature is not new to our tribal communities. Through this partnership TCCAC will enhance the curriculum for children's learning to expand understanding in the use of cultural practices and traditions in everyday learning.



# The Tinkering Studio, San Francisco Exploratorium

TCCAC is partnering with the Tinkering Studio Team at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, CA as they develop a series of modules supporting the implementation of Tinkering in ECE programs. The Tinkering Studio team is conducting focus groups for a full range of Tribal child care providers (Relative Care, Family Child Care Homes and Centers) and teachers to participate as they develop professional development modules supporting the implementation of Tinkering. We are grateful to be part of this project and excited to participate in a Tinkering activity at our March quarterly roundtable meeting!

Please have your supplies ready for this hands-on Tinkering activity.

## Tinkering with Balance

Explore balance with common everyday objects and materials in a Tinkering activity led by the Tinkering Studio Team

Collect these items ahead of time:

- Vegetables and fruit
- Pencils, pens, chopsticks
- Glasses, mugs, jars
- Objects of different weights like hooks, metal washers, coins
- Materials to make connectors such as cardboard, clay, play-box, clips, buttons
- Kitchen utensils make great balancing materials!

*"Creativity is the type of learning process where teacher and pupil are located in the same individual." - Tinkering Studio*



## Coming Soon.....

- [Tribal Child Care Association of California, Quality Counts CA Region 11 Annual Conference](#)- This year's annual conference will be held as a virtual conferencing event in late summer of 2021. If you would like to be part of the TCCAC events committee and support planning for the virtual conference, please contact [keredia@tribalchildcareca.org](mailto:keredia@tribalchildcareca.org)
- [Workforce Development Opportunities](#)- TCCAC is gathering data and launching our database for our Workforce Pathway Program. Tribes will have access to trainings, professional development and higher education opportunities and an incentive program. More information to come...
- [Tribal Child Care Standards for Sovereign Nations](#)- We have conducted focus groups with Family Friend and Neighbor and Relative Care providers to gain insight into what should be included in the Standards for Tribal Child Care Providers. We still need your input! We are now in the final stage of revision and are on track to launch the new Standards and checklist this summer!