

NCWWI Meets with Child & Family Services

Submitted by Irene Wheeler, Child & Family Services Supervisor, Cattaraugus

Child and Family Services Cattaraugus Supervisor- Irene Wheeler, has been part of a group initiative in collaboration with: Office of Child and Family Services Native American Bureau, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI), Erie County Department of Social Services, and the University of Buffalo. Since May 2022 the work being done has been to support policies relating to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and address racial equity in the child welfare practice, as well as, strategizing to incorporate ICWA into the School of Social Work curriculum at UB.

On July 17th Child and Family Services hosted an onsite meeting on the Cattaraugus territory. The intent was to look at how to improve the partnership between the Seneca Nation and the Erie County Department of Social Services, with the commitment of getting to know the Seneca Nation to fully understand what is working well in the relationship. With hopes to improve and ensure the county is implementing and excelling all the best practices according to ICWA requirements. After a luncheon catered by Chia-vetta's and a group discussion, Irene led the group on a walking tour of the Seneca Nation complex and discussed the historical landmarks of the Thomas Indian Residential Boarding School and the lasting impacts that generational trauma has on our Seneca communities.

The group ended with a sage cleansing, done by Jimmy White from Seneca Strong, and a group photo in front of the Community Health & Wellness Building.

Pictured in the photo are the following:

Erie County Department of Social Services Executive Level Leadership:
-Marie Cannon, Commissioner
-Catherine Gavin, First Deputy
-Cindy Wilson, Executive Level Leader

NCWWI staff:

-Virginia Whitekiller, Professor Northeastern State University and NCWWI/ICWA consultant
-Alexis Howard, NCWWI University Partnership Liaison
-Nancy Claiborne, Erie County Project



Lead

-Christiana Best, a NCWWI consultant supporting Erie County
-Kate Lawrence, Faculty and Chair of MSW Program in Albany

University of Buffalo:

-Keith Alford, Dean UB

-Annette Semanchin Jones, Principal Investigator of the NCWWI grant.
-Meschelle Linjean, Doctoral student at UB

Child and Family Services:

-Irene Wheeler, Supervisor Cattaraugus

SENECA FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023
10 AM - 4 PM

SAYLOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

VISIT THE HEALTH TENT

Health & Information Tables, Games & Giveaways. Play the Passport Game for a Chance to Win Awesome Prizes!

SENECA NATION HEALTH SYSTEM

Progress on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Health Center New Build

Mark Cerrone (sitework)

- Continued to backfill foundation footers and walls
- Continued to install fabric and crusher run subbase within the building footprint

Huber Construction (concrete foundations)

- Building's concrete foundation is 100% complete
- Contractor has demobilized until the slab-on-deck is ready to proceed

Apollo Steel (structural steel)

- 9 truckloads of structural steel elements have been delivered on site (approx. 60% of the entire structure)
- 2 truckloads of decking material have been delivered on site (100% of the entire material needed)
- Started to set columns and beams for the first two bays of the building



Structure will be erected to accommodate interior work during winter. Currently on schedule for fall 2024 completion.

Construction is taking place next to the Community Health & Wellness Center



NATIVE connections

Cattaraugus Allegany Mon - Thur Mon & Wed 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Honor your journey

Visit us at the Seneca Clubhouse. All youths ages 12 - 17 welcome!




NATIVE connections SENeca NATION HEALTH SYSTEM SENeca STRONG

Be a driving force on the Seneca Journey.

For them. For you. For the next seven.

We're recruiting youths between the ages of 12-24 for the...

YOUTH advisory board

Create the change you want to see through:
Environmental Awareness | Wellbeing
Community Service | Cultural Preservation



Ready to learn more or join?
Contact Colby Curry at: (716)532-5583 ext. 5068 ccurry@senecahealth.org

NATIVE connections SENeca NATION HEALTH SYSTEM

NOTICE:



Seneca Nation Health System will be closed:

Monday, September 4th
Labor Day

Please make sure to schedule your appointments and order prescriptions ahead of time.

Nya:wëh

Don't forget to visit our website!

senecahealth.org