



Umo'ho' Nation of Nebraska & Iowa

February 2024

Against the Current

Umo'ho' Nation of Nebraska Stated Meeting

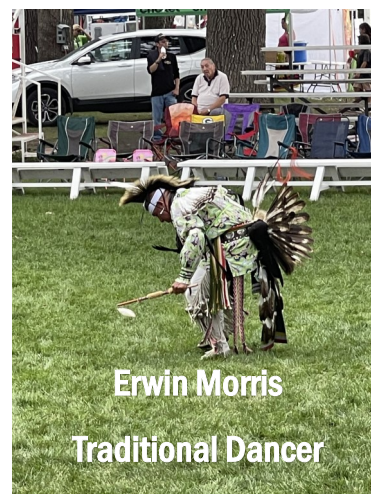
Umo'ho' Nation Council conducted 2nd Quarter Stated Meeting
January 23, 2024



The Umo'ho' Nation Council conducted the 2nd Quarter Stated Meeting on Tuesday January 23, 2024 beginning at 9am in Large Chambers – Tribal Administration Headquarters Macy, NE. All council members were present where Chairman Jason “Bosco” Sheridan presided and conducted the meeting; Council Member Leander Merrick was excused.

There were three departments that provided reports for this meeting; Children & Family Services/ICWA, DeAnna Parker, Director, Blackbird Bend Casino, Brad Appleton, CEO and the Omaha Nation Law Enforcement Services, Chief Ramsey Griffin (substituting).

Minutes from these Stated Meetings will be available on the newly reimagined Omaha Tribe of Nebraska website, with more information coming in March 2024. The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa – Office of Public Information will be broadcasting all future Stated Meetings via Meta social media platform (Facebook), Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. All Stated Meetings are scheduled on the first Friday of each quarter in the months of January, April, July and October every year. Due to extenuating circumstances Stated Meetings may be postponed where notifications will be posted accordingly. The next Umo'ho' Nation Council Stated Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 5th, 2024.



Erwin Morris

Traditional Dancer

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

The **Against the Current Newsletter** is produced by the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa Office of Public Information. Please contact Malcolm T Pappan, Public Information Specialist for information and to submit stories, announcements for the community. Content deadline is the 2nd Fridays of each month, thank you.

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The Omaha Tribe Head Start– Early Head Start Program

Who is Eligible?

Children who are 3 to 5 years old are eligible for Head Start services. Pregnant women and children from birth to 3 years of age are eligible for Early Head Start services. Children and families who are homeless, in foster care, or receive TANF or SSI are also eligible for services. Eligibility is determined by Head Start program staff and some families may be eligible for services if they are determined to be at or below the federal poverty level. Some grantees enroll a percentage of children from families with incomes above the Poverty Guidelines as well. Families are encouraged to apply.

What Is Head Start?

Head Start is a Federal program for pre-school children from low-income families. The Head Start program is operated by local non-profit organizations in almost every county in the country. Children who attend Head Start participate in a variety of educational activities. They also receive free medical and dental care, have healthy meals and snacks, and enjoy playing indoors and outdoors in a safe setting. Head Start helps all children succeed. Services are offered to meet the special needs of children with disabilities. Most children in Head Start are between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. Services are also available to infants and toddlers in selected sites.

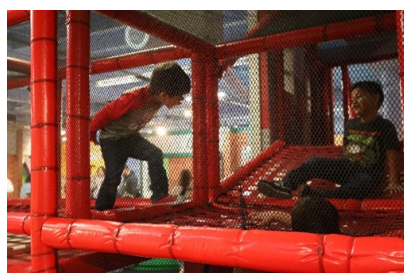
Head Start is a program that helps young children between the ages of three and five grow up ready to succeed in school and in life. Programs work to meet high standards for delivering quality services to children and their families. Children who attend Head Start programs participate in fun activities while developing social skills. Head Start children also receive nutritious meals and the necessary health care in a safe environment. Early Head Start is a program for families with infants and toddlers ages birth to three. Families who are expecting a new baby may enroll in Early Head Start. Families do not pay a fee for Head Start or Early Head Start. Parents with children in Head Start participate in all aspects of the program. They help to govern, plan what children learn, and provide advice about needed services. Parents and other community mem

Omaha Tribe Head Start Program take children on Winter Field Trips to LaunchPAD Children’s Museum and the Omaha Children’s Museum

On Tuesday February 13th, 2024, the Omaha Tribe Head Start had a Field Trip to the LaunchPAD Children's Museum in Sioux City, IA. The tiny students, three to five years old, enjoyed their time at the innovative LaunchPAD experiencing fun learn & play activities. Several OTEHS-HS staff attended this exciting day ensuring student safety. The acting Director, Maria Garcia stated, "I would like to say that I am grateful our young Head Start children had the opportunity to enjoy a field trip to the LaunchPAD Children's Museum. Thank you to all of the staff, teachers, bus drivers, and volunteers who supported the fun and exciting trip today."



On Thursday February 15th, 2024, OTEHS-HS students, staff and some parents attended the Children's Museum located in downtown Omaha, NE. The four and five year olds experienced the innovated and science-based play activities including the Imagination Playground, Charlie Campbell Science & Technology center, Art Smart Center, and the second level exhibits like the Bay Family Carousel, Susie's Station (train ride) and the zip line. Several OTEHS-HS staff attended again ensuring student safety where some of the staff members stated that this is one of many field trips for the students each year including a visit to a pumpkin patch in the fall and the zoo in the spring.



Umo^{ho} Nation Community Activities: Elders Living Language Project

On Thursday, February 22, 2024 the Umo^{ho} Nation Family Resource Center conducted their Elder Oral History Project under The Living Language Program where they record the elders speaking Umo^{ho} and/or telling some personal history about the Umo^{ho}. A meal of ta'ni' and wa'muske-shti (soup and bread) was shared. John Penn, ONFRC Director expressed his appreciation for some of the elders present and gave away blankets and a small leather pouch for carrying cedar. After this the recording commenced, facilitated by Tobias Grant. The Living Language Program is funded through a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



The Program has worked with Nation Elders serving on an Elder Panel to produce numerous videos and recordings concerning Umo^{ho} language allowing for all Umo^{ho} Nation members' access to learning Umo^{ho} language through the Family Resource Center located in Walthill, NE. Information about the Living Language Program is available at their website, omahanationfamilyresourcecenter.org and Omaha Nation Family Resource Center 312 Main St, Walthill, NE 68067 phone (402) 846-5280.



Omaha Tribe Head Start- Early Head Start Program (Cont'd)

-bers also volunteer in classrooms and other parts of the programs. Head Start and Early Head Start welcome children with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities are strongly encouraged to participate in their children's daily routines and activities.

Is My Child Eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start?

Children from birth to age five from families with low income, according to the Poverty Guidelines published by the federal government, are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. Children in foster care, homeless children, and children from families receiving public assistance (TANF or SSI) are categorically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services regardless of income. Head Start programs may enroll up to 10% of children from families that have incomes above the Poverty Guidelines. Programs may also serve up to an additional 35% of children from families whose incomes are above the Poverty Guidelines, but below 130% of the poverty line if the program can ensure that certain conditions have been met. Pregnant women may also be eligible for Early Head Start.

Your child's routine in OTHS-EHS

Most children who enroll in Head Start attend a half-day center-based program. However, some communities may operate a full-day program or provide Head Start services through a home-based setting. In a home-based program, staff called Home Visitors teach parents how to provide learning experiences for their own children. Some center-based programs offer children bus rides to and from home. When the children arrive at the center, they are greeted warmly by their teachers. They put whatever they have brought from home in a place which is their own to use every day. Inquiries about enrollment in the program can be addressed by **Maria Garcia, Acting OTEHS-HS Dir. at 402-837-5391.**

Umoño Nation Elders' Activities in the Community: The "Unified Umoño Elders Standing Strong"

On February 21st, 2024, several Umoño Nation elders met to discuss a creation of an Elders' Group to discuss current Umoño Nation community events. One of the topics was addressed by Tamara Parker, OT Realty Director regarding the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Land Transfer that is being conducted through the US Legislature. The land in discussion is the tract of land in Iowa south of where the Winnebago's tribal casino is located in Monona County in the state of Iowa. The group has learned that the Winnebago Tribe is pursuing the return of the tract of land in Iowa to the Winnebago Tribe's control and want to know what the Umoño Nation is doing to challenge this claim. Most of the elders in attendance feel the land in dispute is Umoño land or rather belongs to the Umoño Nation.



Other issues discussed were Elder Abuse, Housing, the current drug problem on the reservation and preserving the Umoño Nation culture. The official name of the Elders group is the **Unified Umoño Elders Standing Strong**. These grass-roots efforts from a handful of Nation elders encourages other seniors to get involved. They will be having regular group discussions and meetings in the community and with the Umoño Nation Council regarding community and Nation issues. There are plans to meet with off reservation elders' in the surrounding cities including Omaha, Lincoln and Sioux City. Please see the Umoño Nation Meta social media page for meetings and announcements.

Omaha Tribe CFS/ICWA Lunch & Learn Event

On February 9th, 2024 the Omaha Tribe Children and Family Services/ICWA program held a Lunch & Learn event at the Alfred Gilpin Community Building where staff members were made available to answer questions from the participating community. A lunch was provided for those that attended and where community members, parents, guardians, aunts and uncles etc...asked questions of CFS personnel regarding the programs mission and goals.

DeAnna Parker, Director OT CFS/ICWA, spoke about Family Preservation as being the central focus of their program, "...by doing community events such as this and inviting the community in, letting them know what we're about, what we're doing, what we're working on, what we want to do, how we serve them, how we can better serve them if they have any questions. These types of events are important because they can see that we're a part of the community but also that they have access to us for anything they might want to ask or say or offer, some people have a lot of good ideas." DeAnna Parker also stated there will be more community "Lunch & Learn" events coming in the near future.

Glorine Lovejoy, Foster Care Provider Specialist, Mr. Joe Fleming, CQI and DeAnna Parker, Dir. CFS/ICWA provided information and please follow the Umoño Nation Meta social media page for other Lunch & Learn dates.

