

Tribal Child Care Association of CA

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As we begin this New Year, it is brilliant to see our prayers for rain to cleanse, refresh and nourish Mother Earth, were answered! Keep those prayers coming. Have you made new goals to find ways to cleanse, refresh and nourish your minds, hearts, and spirits too? For some people, picking a “reminder” or “nudge” word to prompt you to focus on your values, hopes and dreams for the new year is a powerful way to set intentions. Setting a New Year’s resolution can be disheartening if you don’t feel you are meeting your specific goal. A word that is meaningful to you, that helps to remind you of the positive change and affirmations you would like to adopt, can be a simple way to create a mind-set that reflects how you want to live your life. My “nudge” word for 2023 is bloom. This reflects my desire to evolve and grow, to be healthy, energetic and to develop new skills. In order to bloom, I want to experience more light, love, and connections. I hope to flourish and thrive in 2023! What is your “nudge” word for 2023? Will you have a word that reminds you of your values, hopes and dreams and nudges you to recognize areas of your life that need your love? We’d love to hear if you too will have a personal word for 2023! It’s not too late to start.

The TCCAC Board of Directors and Staff continue to be in awe of our growth. We have come so far since 2006 when we first started our TCCAC journey as a group of few but mighty passionate volunteers. We are incredibly blessed to have the support and trust of our members, our partners, or investors, all of you who have taken a leap of faith in TCCAC - YOU are so appreciated! We could not be where we are today without you. Thank you for your continued confidence and devotion to TCCAC. This new year brings new opportunities for us, and we are excited to share this with all of you. As you take time to review our latest newsletter, please notice what you still are curious about. If you want to find out more information about a specific topic, program, or project just email one of the TCCAC staff or Board Members, we are always available to have conversations and to hear from you. Relationships continue to be at the core of our values.

*may the sun
bring you new energy by
day,*

*may the moon
softly restore you by
night,*

*may the rain
wash away your
worries,*

*may the breeze
blow new strength into
your being,*

*may you walk
gently through the world
and know its beauty all
the days of your life.*



With much respect,
Kim Nall

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Nall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

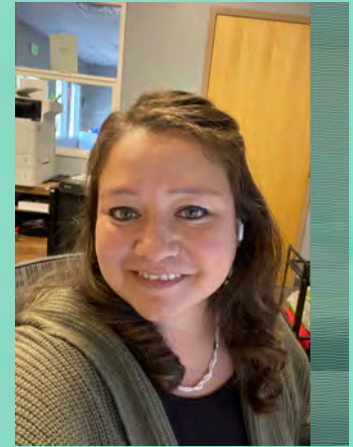
TCCAC Executive Director



TCCAC Board Member Spotlight

Frieda Bennett, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation Tribal Council Member TCCAC Chairperson

For this quarter's board member spotlight, I had the honor to interview my friend and TCCAC's Chairperson, Frieda Bennett. It was a pleasure to hear her beautiful words about her community and her family, her life's journey and her insightful stories about personal growth, connection and the growing echo of tribal voices.



Ayukii koovura araar. Hello my relatives. My name is Frieda Bennett.

Tell us about where you live.

I live on a small reservation in Siskiyou County known as, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation. Quartz Valley is a small piece of a larger Valley called Scott Valley. We are very rural; some may say remote. Quartz Valley Indian Reservation is comprised of Karuk, Shasta, and Klamath natives that were relocated here long ago; like many tribes we have faced many obstacles including being placed on a reservation, recognized, terminated, re-determined, etc., etc., etc. QVIR is located at the base of the Marble Mountains next to Shackelford Creek which is a tributary that folds into the Klamath River. Quartz Valley Indian Reservation is beautiful, it is filled with pine and oak trees, creeks and rivers (although they have been running dry), and mountains upon mountains. I am very thankful for my surroundings.

Quartz Valley Tribe itself consists of approximately 420 members entirely, this includes our youth members and adult members; because of our size we are very tight knit, family oriented, and community driven. After we were re-established and recognized, we started from scratch, we had much less land, no water rights, no development, no funding, and much hatred towards our community. Thankfully our Tribe had one another, determination, and the resiliency to survive and make it. We now have community development like our fire hall, gymnasium, administrative offices, Assistance programs, a clinic (Anav Tribal Health Clinic), housing and a more promising relationship between our tribe and surrounding community.

I feel blessed to live where my family is and am thankful for what our grandparents did to see it through. I can now say that I have the privilege of living where my mom and all my brothers and sisters are within about a mile radius of my house.

Who has been the most influential in your life?

Up until I had children, I always had my grandma and her teachings. I feel like my grandma was somebody who put the foundation into place for a lot of things throughout my life. I am who I am today because of my grandma. When I was younger, I felt like she was really tough on me always getting after me about cooking and cleaning, reminding me daily about my traditional role; what it is to be a woman in this family as a caretaker, as a gatherer, as somebody who looks after their community, takes care of their home and children. She taught me how we can heal from Mother Earth, showed me the importance of spiritual connection. She showed me the power of prayer and she gave me the gift of singing and using my voice.



The other two that are very influential over my life are my two boys. I feel like when I was younger, I saw the world through my grandma's lens, and she had a hard life, so she had a real hard way to prepare me for life (work hard and stay focused). Now I am getting to see the world through my boys's lens. They talk about the love they have for their family; know they can call on their people and trust they will be there. They sing with confidence, eager to learn, and play with adventure. They love to make people smile and love to share moments with one another. They are open about their feelings and not afraid to say when something is bothering them. They tell me how much they love me, how beautiful I am, and how I am a great mommy. So, I have two different influences over my life that have been very powerful and much needed at the different times of my life.

Continued...

What does quality early care and education mean to you?

There's so much to include in quality early childhood education; what they're eating nutritionally, what they're receiving in care, what they're seeing with their eyes. With quality care, you're going to see that in the child. I think quality is paying attention to each kid enough to know what they need in order to jump over any hurdle that they might be feeling. So, if they're struggling academically, mentally, physically, or emotionally, somebody will notice and start putting into place things that are going to help the child. When I think about quality, I think that it's a setting of individuals who have the education, experience, intellect, wisdom, and intuitiveness to pay attention to each child to make sure that each child feels important, is safe and has a voice.



What is your hope for the future of tribal children?

That our children know, first of all, who they are. I didn't ever question that I was Native American; my grandma was a proud Native woman and she made sure we (me and siblings) knew where we came from. My hope for all tribal children is that they know where they come from, that they understand their connection to one another, to Mother Earth, and to Creator; that they believe that nothing is unachievable to them and that they are given the opportunity to explore their dreams and that they maintain a very healthy relationship with Creator and Mother Earth, their brother and sister relatives and most importantly themselves.

Tell us about your experience with TCCAC.

When TCCAC was first even in discussion, not even an actual association yet, I was just coming into childcare. It (CCDF Administrator) was a new position for me, and I didn't really know what I was doing. Then, as TCCAC started to develop into the association, I also started to become a little more familiar with the program (CCDF). I started seeing (through TCCAC) the awkwardness that was displayed between the state and tribal nations. As I started to get a little bit more comfortable with CCDF, TCCAC started to also become very comfortable in their role and started to take more of the lead by hosting meetings, offering prayer, and making their presence known. At that point, I had to step away for a little while since I was starting to have kids. When I came back with my child, I was seeing TCCAC through a completely different lens because now I needed childcare, and I wanted to ensure safety, a good healthy environment, and an opportunity for their culture to be present. I was really starting to take more of a stand in our quarterly meetings where I felt like our voices were starting to be heard but they were being muffled. We were coming together, and we were checking off this box because we're supposed to come together; I wanted more. I attended the TCCAC meetings and even though it was difficult and way outside my comfort zone, I talked about the importance of quality care settings, our relative providers, our culture, our standards, and the importance of recognition. And truthfully, even though it was out of my comfort zone, it felt more uncomfortable to not say what I was thinking. I realized what I was saying was important and that my story and obstacles were the same as my relatives.



This is why I love TCCAC and why it is so important to bring our voices together. Now, when I think about my experience with TCCAC I just really feel like I've grown with TCCAC and TCCAC has grown with me. I never saw myself in a position like this for TCCAC 12 years ago. I am doing much more than I ever expected as the chair, but I also know because of this personal relationship I have with TCCAC my heart and head are working together as we move.

I would like to say, I am thankful that an association like TCCAC exists for all future tribal children and their families. I'm thankful that our children grow up in a world where they will know their tribal voices matter. Lastly, I am so very thankful to work with such an amazing team that is working to ensure our vision is acknowledged and heard throughout the state.

Yootva, Frieda Bennett

Tribal Community Spotlight

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California Envisioning Wellness Space and Path



The Tribal Child Care Association of California would like to send our appreciation to the Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California (BCR) for their support of the cultural activities and demonstrations at our quarterly meetings and trainings in Wheatland, CA on August 30- September 2, 2022. We would like to specifically thank Paul Tupaz, TCCAC treasurer and tribal representative from BCR, for his coordination and participation in the meetings as well as his willingness to share these highlights from his community.

Berry Creek Rancheria of Tyme Maidu Indians of California is a Federally Recognized Native American Tribe located in Oroville, California. In recent years BCR has been impacted by fires, drought, and the COVID 19 pandemic. Community members have experienced increased mental health needs and concerns due to both recent and historical, intergenerational and systemic trauma. In response to the needs of their citizens and community, BCR established the Wellness Department in 2021. The following is an excerpt by Paul Tupaz on its development.

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California (BCR) Wellness Department was established 2021 awarded by the 2021 NCAI Fund Victim Services Micro-grant. In addition, BCR secured a non competitive victim services grant available annually through the Office of Victims of Crimes. The initial approach of outreach and engagement with the BCR Tribal Community as well as strategic providers and resources of local, regional, State, and Federal resources continues today

The Berry Creek Rancheria Wellness Department is a vision of what should be in our world. Our goals and objectives as a department are to shorten this distance. Guiding values are safety, health, wellness, family, tribe, relationships and culture. Our guiding elements are truth, love and hope. Our approach is active listening, responsiveness, trust building and community development.



Understanding what is...the status of our "Wellness" as an individual, as a family, and as a community is a beginning to considering what should be, what can be.

The engagement with tribal members and key service providers revealed opportunities of projects already being implemented with the support of the Office of Victims of Crimes, the North Valley Community Foundation. BCR is teaming with Feather River Tribal Health offering telehealth services by renovating and expanding office space. This Wellness Department Expansion includes a meeting room with telehealth services capabilities. Replacing the fiber optics that were over 20 years old will also increase the capacity of the Tribal Government and programs as a whole. The Wellness Department has also been instrumental in the concept, visioning, and engagement with the tribal community to develop an outdoor learning center for the children and families supported with Child Care Development Funds addressing COVID-19. Connections and relationships are traditional and these traditions are being honored with listening, sharing, learning and offering solutions together.

Tribal Child Care Workforce Pathways Program

The 22/23 Workforce Pathways Program is now underway, and we are already halfway through our year! The program runs from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, and we currently have 96 people participating in professional development and higher education pathways. Our participants represent 19 tribal programs across California. Our Workforce Advisor, Sara Zapata, has been busy reaching out to new applicants and meeting one on one to create professional development plans. We will be accepting applications for this year's stipend program up until March 31, 2023. Any child care provider serving tribal children ages 0-5 years is encouraged to join.

To register as a TCCAC workforce pathways participant go to [TCCAC.ipinwheel.org](https://tccac.ipinwheel.org) or for more information contact Sara Zapata-workforce@tribalchildcareca.org



We would like to welcome our new Workforce Advisor, Sara Zapata to our TCCAC team!

TCCAC 2022/2023 Professional Development Pathways

Culture & Nature in ECE

This pathway offers a variety of engaging, inspiring, research-based workshops to support comprehensive learning with nature in the ECE setting.

Family Engagement in Tribal Communities

TCCAC has partnered with the Child Care Resource Center to create this pathway for those wanting to increase their skills for engaging families and hosting Parent Cafes in their communities.

From Cradleboard to Toddling

This pathway focuses on the Parent Infant Toddler Care (PITC) approach to infant/toddler care and addresses in particular how to support healthy social-emotional development and learning in group care settings.

Coaching Companion

This is a yearlong collaboration where teachers/providers and coaches come together in reflective dialogue as they look at improving their practice using evidence-based resources using Coaching Companion.

Tribal Child Care Health & Safety Standards

This pathway focuses on basic health and safety standards required for Tribal Child Care programs and ways to go beyond the basics with best practices.

Wellness & Healing

This pathway focuses on healing, resiliency, and wellness by addressing topics around trauma faced by children, families, providers, and communities.



In person TCCAC Workforce Pathways Training

Join us on February 8, 2023 at the Sycuan Resort and Casino. Trainings will include an introduction to our workforce pathways program and 3 two-hour trainings from our Wellness and Healing, Culture and Nature, and Cradleboard to Toddling Pathways. To register or for more information visit: <https://registration.socio.events/e/tribalchildcareca>



TCCAC Quarterly Meetings

The Tribal Child Care Association of California hosted our third quarter meetings and trainings at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Wheatland, CA owned by the The Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, August 30- Sept. 2, 2022. We are grateful to the tribe for hosting us at their wonderful venue and for the blessings offered to set our intentions for each day. Here are some highlights from those meetings and trainings.



Learning

On August 30 and 31st, we hosted the Strengthening Families/ Parent Cafes training Part 1 (for those who did not attend the training in Southern CA and Strengthening Families/ Parent Cafes training Part 2 with a kick-off meeting for those interested in our Coaching Companion Workforce Pathway. Many of the attendees will continue with the Strengthening Families cohort in online trainings and facilitate a Parent Café in their communities. We will have a demonstration of the Parent Cafes model at our training on Feb. 8 at Sycuan Resort. We will continue offering opportunities for our workforce participants in future Strengthening Families/ Parent Café trainings.



Leading

On August 31, we also continued our board orientation. The board of directors is comprised of full members elected by a majority of the full members. We currently have 9 board members. The orientation was facilitated by our partners at Thrive Community Building and included a strength finder activity, review of organizational documents and strategic plans. The board is now working on our bi-annual strategic plan. We are grateful to our board for their dedication, wisdom and leadership.



On September 1, we had the Tribes, State, Federal Partners Roundtable . TCCAC Roundtable Meetings are a collaborative approach to learning and sharing to gain insight and knowledge about CA tribes and efforts to increase access to equitable opportunities for culturally informed early care and education.

Partnering

In addition to this quarter's reports from TCCAC, tribal and other partners, we had a special presentation from the California Department of Education (CDE on Universal PreK and the Preschool Learning Foundations. The CDE continued the work on the Preschool Learning Foundations after this meeting and held focus groups with tribal child care representatives in order to listen to recommendations for revisions. We are grateful for our continued partnership with CDE and their support in raising tribal voices.



TCCAC Members Meeting

On September 2, we had our TCCAC members meeting. First Children's Finance gave a presentation on Innovation in Tribal Child Care Equitable Implementation of the American Rescue plan. They presented innovative ways to spend supplemental COVID-19 funds and answered questions from our members. ACF Regional Specialist, Kurt Gee, gave updates and discussed changes to the 700-plan report due at the end of the year. We also held a visioning session to gain feedback on what members would like to see at our upcoming meetings.

Commemorating Native American and Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Month

Hosted by the Social Justice and Racial Equity Committee

On Wednesday, November 30, 2022 TCCAC was chosen as the Community Voice Spotlight by Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF). Kim Nall, TCCAC Executive Director, Jennifer McGowan, TCCAC Operations Director, and Paul Tupaz, TCCAC Treasurer, presented to LIIF employees about racial equity and social justice issues concerning Native American communities. The purpose of this presentation was to increase participants' awareness about Native American and Indigenous Peoples' culture, pressing public issues affecting tribal communities, and related community organizing efforts for systemic change. TCCAC values the partnership with LIIF and looks forward to future collaboration. You can view the complete webinar at <https://vimeo.com/776847287>



Coming Soon...

- **TCCAC Tribal Quality Improvement System (TQIS)**- Over the next quarter we will be reaching out to tribal child care administrators about our TQIS and how we can support you and your program with quality improvement goals.
- **Save the Date!** TCCAC QCC Region 11 Annual Conference April 25-27, Central CA (Venue TBD).
- **TCCAC Quarterly Meetings and Trainings**- February 8-10 at Sycuan Resort. For more information and to register go to <https://registration.socio.events/e/tribalchildcareca>

North Star

TCCAC North Star:

Building trust and partnership to expand the access and quality of early learning and care for native children; supporting local level systems-building for Tribal Child Care; and bringing the voices of the Tribal Communities to the state; and in turn increasing the access to culturally appropriate materials and traditions for Native Children

Thank you for your continued support of California Tribal Communities, Families and Children!