

**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTH DAKOTA  
INDIAN CHILD WELFARE AND WELLNESS CONFERENCE  
APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2026 AT 4 BEARS CASINO & RESORT**



**“THE PATH BEHIND US, THE ROAD AHEAD:  
25 YEARS OF PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN”**

**REGISTRATION BEINGS TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2026 AT 7:30AM.**

8:30am - 10:30am

**Pre-Conference Institute for Child Welfare and Courts**  
Judge William Thorne: ICWA 101

**Conference Day 1 – Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

Moderator: Gillian Plenty Chief & Dereck Stonefish

11:30am - 12:00pm

Official Conference Welcome  
Opening Prayer, Flag Song - Proclamation  
Opening Remarks (Address by Tribal, Federal & State Leaders)

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Luncheon

1:00pm - 2:30pm

**Public Service to Others**

Monica Mayer, M.D., MHA Nation Tribal Councilwoman, North Segment Rep.

2:30pm - 2:45pm

Break

2:45pm - 4:45pm

**Ethics in the Gray Area: Practicing Social Work with Cultural Humility  
in Native Communities**

Stephanie DeCoteau, Turtle Mountain Community College

4:45 pm

1<sup>st</sup> STAR QUILT DRAWING- Must Be Present to Win

**Conference Day 2 – Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

Moderator: Gillian Plenty Chief & Dereck Stonefish

7:45am - 08:30am

Continental Breakfast

8:30am - 10:00am

**ICWA Family Preservation Program**

10:00am - 10:15am

Break

10:15am - 11:45am

**How What You Are Matters: Identity, Bias, and Engaging Families  
Through Cultural Understanding**

Jo-El Evans, Native American Community of Oregon

11:45am - 1:00pm

Lunch

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Breakout Session 1

2:30pm - 2:45pm

Break

2:45pm - 4:15pm

Breakout Sesson 2

4:15pm - 5:00pm

ICWA Champion Award and NATI Honoring  
2nd Star Quilt Drawing

6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Evening Entertainment**  
MHA Interpretive Center

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**Conference Day 2 continued – Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

Moderator: Gillian Plenty Chief & Dereck Stonefish

Breakout Session 1: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

<b>Child Welfare</b>	<b>Courts</b>	<b>Wellness</b>
“From Reflection to Practice: Culturally Responsive Engagement with Families” Jo-El Evans	"Re-Thinking Safety: A better model for making removal decisions" Judge Thorne	“Releasing Emotional Burdens: Energy Healing Tools for Personal and Community Wellness” Alexis Rankin and Silbs Silbernagel

Breakout Session 2: 2:45pm - 4:15pm

<b>Child Welfare</b>	<b>Courts</b>	<b>Wellness</b>
“From Reflection to Practice: Culturally Responsive Engagement with Families” Jo-El Evans	"Re-Thinking Safety: A better model for making removal decisions" Judge Thorne	“Releasing Emotional Burdens: Energy Healing Tools for Personal and Community Wellness” Alexis Rankin and Silbs Silbernagel

**Conference Day 3 – Thursday, April 23, 2026**

Moderator: Gillian Plenty Chief & Dereck Stonefish

7:45am - 8:30am	Breakfast
8:30am - 9:00am	Opening Prayer
9:00am - 10:00am	<b>Personal Story</b> Speaker: Devon Headdress Part 2
10:00am - 10:30am	Break and Silent Auction Winners
10:30am - 12:00pm	<b>Ancestral Trauma: The Hidden Cause of Physical Pain, Depression and Disease</b> Dr. Bradley Nelson
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Closing Remarks– Gillian Plenty Chief Closing Prayer & Song 3rd STAR QUILT DRAWING – Must be present to win