


Native American Wellness Advisory Committee
June 9, 2025
Meeting Minutes

| MEMBERS PRESENT: | MEMBERS PRESENT: | GUESTS PRESENT: |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Julie Andrews – LCSW Celebrating Families, RSBCIHI</p> <p>Christy Armenderas – Community Member & Vice-Chair NAWAC</p> <p>Elissa Cardenas – Clinician, The Carolyn Wylie Center</p> <p>Javier Garcia – LCSW, Mental Health Program Director, The Carolyn E Wylie Center</p> <p>Amelia Girón – California Indian Nations College Student, Community Member</p> <p>Jennie Jordan – California Indian Nations College</p> <p>Rebecca Lara – Community Member, Entrepreneur, Rebecca’s Special Touch Salon</p> <p>Jacqueline Osuna – Agua Caliente Tribal Family Programs</p> <p>Misty Martin – Senior Family Advocate, Cultural Competency, RUHS-BH</p> | <p>Jason Martinez – San Bernardino Valley College</p> <p>Victoria Martinez – Community Member</p> <p>Dr. Sarita McGowan-DaSilva-Lowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska tribal member, National Native American Outreach Manager Hazelden Betty Ford</p> <p>Dr. Sean Milanovich – Native American Liaison, Cultural Competency, Chair of Native American Wellness Advisory Committee</p> <p>Abdul Shúkoor Haidary – Advanced Care Management</p> <p>Thomas Torte – Tomez Martinez Tribal Leader and Trustee for the California Indian Nations College</p> <p>Mary Valdemar – Educator and Provider for San Bernardino Valley College</p> <p>Art Valles – Community Member</p> | <p>Veronica Valdemar – Community Member</p> |

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME, PRAYER, & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | Sean Milanovich called to order at 10:03 AM. Milanovich opened with a song and prayer. Milanovich acknowledged | Sean opened the meeting at 10:03 AM. |
| II. ELDER'S MEDITATION OF THE DAY | <p>Leonard Peltier, an Ojibway from Turtle Mountain and activist who was freed and allowed to return home February 2025.</p> <p>https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/9483276-american-indians-share-a-magnificent-history-rich-in-its</p> <p>Leonard Peltier > Quotes > Quotable Quote</p>  <p>“American Indians share a magnificent history — rich in its astounding diversity, its integrity, its spirituality, its ongoing unique culture and dynamic tradition. It's also rich, I'm saddened to say, in tragedy, deceit, and genocide. Our sovereignty, our nationhood, our very identity — along with our sacred lands — have been stolen from us in one of the great thefts of human history. And I am referring not just to the thefts of previous centuries but to the great thefts that are still being perpetrated upon us today, at this very moment. Our human rights as indigenous peoples are being violated every day of our lives — and by the very same people who loudly and sanctimoniously proclaim to other nations the moral necessity of such rights.</p> <p>Over the centuries our sacred lands have been repeatedly and routinely stolen</p> | |

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| | <p>from us by the governments and peoples of the United States and Canada. They callously pushed us onto remote reservations on what they thought was worthless wasteland, trying to sweep us under the rug of history. But today, that so-called wasteland has surprisingly become enormously valuable as the relentless technology of white society continues its determined assault on Mother Earth. White society would now like to terminate us as peoples and push us off our reservations so they can steal our remaining mineral and oil resources. It's nothing new for them to steal from nonwhite peoples. When the oppressors succeed with their illegal thefts and depredations, it's called colonialism. When their efforts to colonize indigenous peoples are met with resistance or anything but abject surrender, it's called war. When the colonized peoples attempt to resist their oppression and defend themselves, we're called criminals.</p> <p>I write this book to bring about a greater understanding of what being an Indian means, of who we are as human beings. We're not quaint curiosities or stereotypical figures in a movie, but ordinary — and, yes, at times, extraordinary — human beings. Just like you. We feel. We bleed. We are born. We die. We aren't stuffed dummies in front of a souvenir shop; we aren't sports mascots for teams like the Redskins or the Indians or the Braves or a thousand others who steal and distort and ridicule our likeness. Imagine if they called their teams the Washington Whiteskins or the Washington Blackskins! <i>Then</i> you'd see a protest! With all else that's been taken from us, we ask that you leave us our name, our self-respect, our sense of belonging to the great human family of which we are all part.</p> <p>Our voice, our collective voice, our eagle's cry, is just beginning to be heard. We call out to all of humanity. Hear us!"</p> | |

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| | — Leonard Peltier, Prison Writings | |
| III. CHECK IN | Relatives introduced themselves and shared how they celebrated the past weekend. | |
| IV. AGENDA | Sean Milanovich displayed the agenda (6-9-25). Motion by Javier Garcia and 2 nd by Mary Valdemar. Motion carried. | 6-9-2025 Agenda Approved |
| V. MINUTES | Sean Milanovich placed minutes (5-12-25) on hold till July 14 meeting. | “On Hold” |
| VI. NAWAC Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Milanovich presented some ideas for future planning with the Native American Wellness Advisory Committee. Sean suggested a few topics: • Suicide talks with Native American youth • Suicide • Missing Murdered Indigenous People • Elder Care & Abuse • Youth Wellness • Wellness Living <p>There was some discussion. Overall NAWAC members did not want to commit to offering services or programs that are already being offered. With that Sean said he would like to work on and encouraged others to help him. Several people offered to help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elder Care & Abuse • Wellness Hikes | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-Entry (Formally Incarcerated) • Missing Murdered Indigenous People <p>Sean Milanovich stressed that many of our traditional ways went underground while the people lived in fear of being caught and taken by the invader during the invasion of our country in the 1800-1900's. Some of these traditional practices are healing and spiritual practices:</p> <p>Cultural Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baskets • Language • Hikes • Plant Medicine • Games • Art • Cahuilla Bird Songs • Sweat Lodge • History <p>Sean Milanovich also talked about doing quarterly pop-up events to get attention and keep the momentum going. There was little energy for this. There are multiple agencies doing many things all the time. NAWAC needs to find a time and place to get an event going with participation. The pop-up must be meaningful.</p> | |
| VII. Roundtable | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sean Milanovich shared Christy Armedares will Chair the next NAWAC meeting on July 14 while Sean is away for ceremony. Please send your questions and comments to Christy. | |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Mary Valdemar shared the National Guard will be in the community of San Bernardino County ICE Federal Field Office – 655 W. Rialto Ave. San Bernardino, Monday at 2 PM. 3. Mary Valdemar shared Dr. John Carlos will be the keynote speaker at SB Valley College Ethnic Studies Conference on Saturday June 14th at 8 AM. 4. Misty Martin shared CCRD is having a meeting on June 11th from 9 AM – 11 AM. There will be a listening Session part to hear from community about the political climate. RUHS wants to hear from providers who are working for the communities. 5. Sean Milanovich shared that he and his daughter Gina Milanovich are showing a film they created along with other local Native film makers on June 13th at the Getty in Los Angeles. The film is titled: <i>Tuhaymanichi Pal Waniqa: The Water Flows Always</i>. The film will be shown at the Getty at an event, Our Water Ways. The film shows healthy relationships among Native people and water bodies. The film is really about how water takes care of us and heals us. 6. Javier Garcia shared a video of a recent rip to the Agua Caliente Reservation in Palm Springs. Garcia and staff of the Wylie Center visited Tahquitz Canyon and the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum. Sean Milanovich acted as tour guide in the museum. Javier Garcia said the museum was incredible and suggested others go to learn about the disparities of the Cahuilla and specifically Agua Caliente Tribe | |
| VIII. NEXT MEETING | Next meeting is July 14, 2025. | |
| IX. ADJOURNMENT | The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM. | Meeting adjourned at 12: PM |