

Meeting notes — September 2, 2026

Wednesday, 1:00–2:00 PM Arizona · Zoom · Chaired by Casandra “Cas” Stouder, Diné & Seminole

AT A GLANCE

- Session: “The Kinship Question — who notices when someone starts to disappear?”
- Format, as announced: a short teaching, then a real circle. Members were asked to bring their program’s story, and to bring a relative or coworker who would be served by being in the room.
- Attendance: nine, including the chair. Introductions were taken in the chat.
- Recording: link in the committee email of September 4, 2026. Sent to the Executive Director and to the full committee per the chair agreement.
- Guest speaker: none. Chair-led month.

WHAT THIS COMMITTEE IS

The Rural & Indigenous Community Committee is a standing sub-committee of the Arizona ACEs Consortium. Its work is adverse childhood experiences in rural and tribal Arizona — what the original ACE research measured, what it left out of Native childhoods, and the protective factors it never counted: kinship, clan, ceremony, culture and community. The committee meets monthly on the first Wednesday at 1:00 PM Arizona, on Zoom, and is free to attend. Membership stands at 107. Executive Director: Angie Burleson, AZ ACEs Consortium.

HOW THE HOUR RAN

- 1:00 — Welcome and arrival. Chair invited each person to put name, role, county and tribe in the chat. Introductions continued to arrive through the first forty minutes as people joined.
- 1:05 — Teaching on the kinship question, delivered from slides.
- 1:40 — Second call for introductions for those who joined late.
- 1:45 — Open circle. Members invited to bring their program’s story.
- 2:00 — Close.

THE TEACHING — TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CHAIR

This section is left open on purpose. The full teaching is in the recording; if you want the notes to stand on their own for members who could not attend, add three or four lines here covering the main points of the kinship teaching, any sources or handouts referenced, and anything you asked the room to take away. Everything else in this record is complete.

HOUSEKEEPING RAISED

A member asked that the slides be enlarged during the presentation. Worth carrying forward: larger type on shared slides, or fewer slides shared at all.

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Page two · Who was there, what was raised, and what we decided

WHO WAS IN THE CIRCLE

- Casandra “Cas” Stouder — Chair, RICC (Diné & Seminole), Yavapai County
- Priscilla Peshlakai — Health/Family Services Manager, Cibola County, New Mexico (Navajo)
- Diane Stuart Englehardt — School Counselor, Heartland Ranch Elementary, Coolidge (Pinal County)
- Sandra Quintanilla — Dependency Program Coordinator, Coconino County Juvenile Court
- Waylon Honga — Hualapai Tribe
- Adrian Reznik — Glendale, on Hohokam territory
- Rhonda Etsitty — Northern Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry Coordinator, Arizona PBS (Diné)
- Mike Gaffney — Regional Outreach Coordinator, Arizona PBS: Navajo and Apache counties, Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Cheryl Mae Haozous — Lead Parent Supervisor, Parent Educator Program, San Carlos USD #20 (San Carlos Apache Tribe, Gila County)
- Mika Valois — attended; role not given

RAISED IN THE CIRCLE

Sandra Quintanilla brought the question that will shape our October meeting. In the dependency cases she sees, parents are often overwhelmed by the system. They try to do the work of the case, but progress is slow at the beginning — and because there has not yet been time to build relationship, trust or felt safety, families sometimes leave for the Navajo Nation, where the case loses track of them for months at a time. Her question to the room: how do we build relationship faster, when relationship does not work like that?

That question is now the October topic. Thank you, Sandy.

DECISIONS

- October 7 topic set: “The First Thirty Days — why a Native family reads a helper as a risk, and what changes that.”
- Format changing for October: ten minutes of teaching, then breakout rooms of three or four with one question. Chat answers count equally and will be read aloud.
- October 7 also marks one year of this circle under its current chair.

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Page three · Action items, next meeting, and standing information

ACTION ITEMS

- Chair — send recording and notes to the Executive Director and the full committee. Done September 4.
- Chair — ask three members in advance to bring three to eight minutes on what is working where they are.
- Chair — correct the bounced addresses on the membership roster.
- Members — share the October flyer with tribal councils, health boards, school boards and program teams.
- Members — reply to the chair if you want a speaking slot in October.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 · 1:00–2:15 PM Arizona · Zoom. “The First Thirty Days.” One question: what makes a family decide to stay in relationship with you?

STANDING INFORMATION

- Meets monthly, first Wednesday, 1:00 PM Arizona, on Zoom. Free, no registration.
- The Zoom link and passcode go to the committee list only. To be added, email the chair.
- Recordings and notes go to every member after each meeting, and to the Executive Director.