Thank you for taking the time to review the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Narrative Report for the fiscal period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Our mission as indicated in our statement “Our greatest assets are our people and our natural resources. Consequently, we are devoted to expanding educational opportunities and the general quality of life for our children, adults and elders. We also seek to expand economic opportunities from our land, water and wildlife while enhancing their traditional qualities” and as PL 102-477 staff we have dedicated our efforts in this direction. During this past year we empowered the participants and the community as it is reflected in this report.

STAFF:

Terri Cota, Office Assistant/Intake
Rochelle Thomas, Case Manager
Melina Garitez, Case Manager
Zanetta Hanks, Social Worker
Roberta Hanchor, Temporary Social Worker
Theodoma Thomas, Child Care Coordinator
Mary Jones, Teacher Aide
Janelle Thomas, Teacher Aide
Yvonne Whiterock, Teacher Aide
Shelley Collins, TERO Program Director
Pete Putra, Tribal Administrator

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes began its participation with Public Law 102-477 in July 2000. P.L. 102-477 allows the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to integrate employment, training and related services under one plan to reduce unemployment, meet tribal and program goals to remain consistent with the policy of self-determination.

The Tribes integrated eight (8) programs into this Plan.

FUNDING AGENCIES:

- Workforce Investment Act (Adult) Department of Labor
- Workforce Investment Act (Youth) Department of Labor
- Higher Education/Grants Department of the Interior (BIA)
- Adult Vocational Training Department of the Interior (BIA)
- JOM Department of the Interior (BIA)
- Social Services – General Assistance (IGA) Department of the Interior (BIA)
- Child Care DHHS Administration for Children and Families
- Native Employment Works Office of Family Assistance, Administration of Children and Families
GENERAL INFORMATION

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes have participated in this demonstration project for fifteen (15) years. This plan challenges the program to strengthen workforce development and to improve the opportunities available to all tribal and community members to enhance their skills. This required program staff to combine resources of the federal programs and focus on meaningful outcomes and services. In order to implement and operate the PL 102-477 Program it is necessary to include other tribal funds to supplement the overall budget for service delivery as outlines in the plan.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT, JOM, HIGHER EDUCATION, ADULT VOCATIONAL TRAINING & NEW and GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes strongly believes that our mission is to unite the education, economic development and workforce development strategies in a common effort.

The PL 102-477 Program provided training opportunities and support in partnership with tribal entities.

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Tribe has a positive relationship and is dedicated to fostering excellent educational opportunities and support to the local elementary/secondary school.

- The Tribes by way of the JOM Committee provided educational support to the Owyhee Combined Schools and pre school age children as mandated by the JOM federal regulations.

Projects and activities supported with JOM Funds include:

- Pre school and grade school activities – educational materials and supplies.
- Purchase of high school educational supplies including student planners, and materials for learning nights at the elementary level. Strongly encouraged parent/guardian support to the students.
- Support for family nights related to math, reading and science after school activities.
- Senior Class incentives.

The Tribe also has a distance learning relationship with Great Basin Community College Branch, located at Elko, Nevada for post-secondary education. In general NNRP case managers recommend that students take community college classes for at least one to two semesters. It has been the experience of the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) and the NNRP that students with community college experience that decide to go on to college or university are better equipped and prepared for higher education.

- Twenty Eight Tribal members received Tribal grant/scholarship funds to attend the college or university of their choice. Staff coordinated education and training services to serve as a resource and acted as liaison for interaction between the participant and university/college. The rate of graduation has increased.

Students attended the following universities/colleges during the reporting period:

University of Phoenix, Northland Pioneer College, Great Basin College, College of Southern Idaho, Boise State University, University of Idaho, Utah Valley University, College of Western Idaho, Grand Canyon University, Truckee Meadows Community College, Central Michigan University, Cuyamca College, United
Tribes Technical College, Art Institute, Stevens Henagar College, Treasure Valley Community College, University of Nevada-Reno, Western Dakota Technical College.

- The GED/ABE program is housed in the Education Center facility. The P.L. 102-477 program staff utilized the Education Center as a resource that supported education, employment and training activities to empower our program participants/clients with technological and academic skills. The building consists of an interactive video room, GED room and a computer lab, which has 20 computers all with Internet access. During this fiscal period, the Tribes coordinated with Great Basin College staff to improve the GED services, such as: to provide a room adequate to meet the needs of the students and hire additional staff. We opened the door to improved communication in order to provide meaningful services to the clientele to better monitor classroom hours as well as teacher hours.
- Educational incentive, cultural awareness and the promotion of parent involvement were augmented by JOM funds. The JOM committee met on a monthly basis to meet their goals and objectives. Educational programs, services and activities continually evolved throughout the report period. Funds were allocated at the request of the Parent Committee for: the cost of school related activities, 299 students received direct student services, the committee members received stipends as compensation for meeting attendance.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Fourteen youth participated in the WIOA Youth Employment Program. The program was started in May and the last youth worked until September 2015. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes P.L. 102-477 Plan developed a vision and goal that focuses on the development of strategies for eligible youth to improve their competitiveness to be successful in current and future education and employment opportunities.
- The Tribe requested and was granted funding to provide a Summer Youth Employment Program through the Barrick Mining Corporation. The target group of youth were between the ages of 14 and 18 and income requirements were waived. As a consequence NNRP was able to hire 51 youth for summer employment starting in early June 2015. Approximately half the youth were sent to Tribal worksites and the other half were placed on a work crew that assisted with various community projects.

Design West and CSDI Architect Education Presentation
The Tribal organization provided local eligible youth with work experience at some of the following sites: Wildlife & Parks, Recreation/Summer Food Programs, Tribal Court, Our Store Business, Tribal Maintenance, Water and Sanitation Department, Tribal Programs, Senior Citizen’s Program, and the TERO Program. There were extraordinary opportunities for youth to gain work experience, community service, leadership development and decision making.

- Supportive services were made available based upon each adult participant’s identified needs and to carry out the individual Service Plan goals and elements. The Tribes partnered with agencies to find appropriate service delivery methods for the at risk population. Five applications were approved as a part of the program’s supportive services to clients seeking and obtaining permanent employment or pursuing job related training during the reporting period.

GA ACHIEVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Cash Assistance (Indian General Assistance) clients were required to increase their self-sufficiency and independence. Case Management involved assistance to the Indian General Assistance, clients for planning, development and coordination of services to meet their Individual Self-Sufficiency Plan (ISP). Individual GA clients had to meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the CFR Part 20-Financial Assistance and Social Services Programs, Subpart C 20.300. Not only did the program provide cash assistance, it included carrying out the assessment of the participant’s educational, vocational and personal strengths and barriers. This included identifying resources available in achieving the removal of barriers and reaching a desired employment or educational goal. A review of the basic skill needs included the assessment of occupational skill levels, individual abilities, work behaviors and attitudes necessary to compete successfully in the labor market.
- The P.L. 102-477 program staff provided supportive services to the community members as an intake site for Energy Assistance applications for both states, Nevada and Idaho.

+ 24 Clients successfully gained full time employment from General Assistance
+ 5 Clients continue to work toward a GED certificate
+ 2 Students received their college degree/training certificates
+ 5 Clients received Supportive Services for employment purposes
OTHER WORK PROGRAM SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENTS ACTIVITIES

- The Tribal Employment Rights Office and the P.L. 102-477 Programs coordinate activities to build a partnership and develop resources in the delivery of services to the clients, participants and community. A total of 34 participants and clients were served jointly by the PL 102-477 and TERO programs.

Trainings Offered During Report Period:
- Idaho Commercial Driver's License, classroom, preparing for written exam, 06/02-06/05/15 (Skills training and testing for individuals that passed their written exam was 07/15-07/21/15)
- Heavy Equipment Operator training in Rathdrum, ID, 06/03-07/03/15
- Hazardous Materials Awareness Level training, May 18, 2015
- MSHA, 24-hour (New Miner Safety) and 8-hour Refresher, May 27-29, 2015
- OSHA-10 for the Construction Industry, February 18-19, 2015

- Boot Straps: through the Tribes TERO program a unique program offered full time employment to 7 participants from the reservation under a program offered by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The participants range in age from 19 to 23. The participants train from Monday thru Thursday each week beginning in May and the training concludes in October. Upon successful completion of the program each participant will be skilled in the handling of a chainsaw and it is anticipated they will gain employment with the skills they have attained.

The Boot Straps program is designed to give disadvantaged and at risk young adults a chance to gain experience in the work force through hands on training. They participate in classroom instruction that allows for GED certification, interviewing techniques, resume building and provided certificates for completion of each block of training.

The participants travel to a remote area off the reservation and work with BLM in clearing trees with chainsaws and assisting to reclaim the sage brush and natural grasses in the different areas around the sage grouse habitats.

There are approximately 1,515 Native Americans living on or adjacent to the Duck Valley Reservation this figure is based on the Labor Force Report that was submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in May 2011. The Child Count provided to HHS identified 423 children under the age of 13 years as reported for FY 2014 by the Tribes Enrollment Office. The official tribal membership roll based on a report from the Tribal Enrollment office in 2010 was at 2058 members.

As indicated in a letter dated June 20, 2007 from the State of Nevada, Department of Human Resources, Welfare Division with regard to the 50% unemployment factor and federal TANF 5 year limits Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 allows adult residents who are participating in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program and who reside upon lands within a Tribal jurisdiction which experiences a 50% unemployment eligibility by review of a Labor Force Report record submitted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The 2003 report from the BIA lists a number of Eastern, Western and Southern Nevada Tribal groups who meet the 50% unemployment factor.” Therefore, the exemption disregards a Tribal TANF recipient each month from Federal and State time limits while they reside on the reservation or colony with a 50% unemployment rate. This rate has not been updated. The rate more than likely has changed.
During this reporting period, the enrollment of the Owyhee Combined School (K-12) was 302 students. The Owyhee Combined School is located on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation 100 miles north of Elko, Nevada and serves elementary, junior high and high school students within a 45 mile radius. This is a county school. The Tribes have a positive relationship and is dedicated to fostering excellent educational opportunities and support to the local school through its JOM Parent Committee.

CHILD CARE SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS ACTIVITIES

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are responsible for the operation of the Owyhee Day Care Center. The Center provides quality childcare services to families residing on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. The safety and well being of the children is the paramount concern that guides the standards of the childcare center. During the reporting period, there was an average of 29 families served throughout that year and an average of 16 children per day were enrolled to receive child care services.

The day care handbook provides the parents and community with pertinent day care policies, procedures, pay rate, etc. The parents/guardians are required annually to update their child/children’s application to include immunization records and income verification.

Currently, the day care program accepts children from infancy thru six years of age. Childcare services were available to children-at-risk as related to Child Protection Services. Day care has become a viable resource to the Social Services agency and to participants of the P.L. 102-477 program in that parents received childcare services to overcome barriers to employment, training and effective parenting.

The staff receives training in first aid, CPR and blood born pathogen. On an annual basis the Indian Health Services Sanitarian conducts an onsite survey of the day care facility. The survey is conducted to evaluate the overall environmental health and safety conditions at the day care center facility. All staff receive orientation to the physical structure and policies and procedures of the facility during pre-services training seminars. A medication policy is a part of the Parent Information Brochure. The staff maintains an incident log of injuries and illnesses. There is an open door policy with parents to discuss issues related to the general health and welfare of the children while in the day care environment. Each of the staff has completed a background check that is on file with the Tribes Human Resources Department. The background investigation is in accordance with 45 CFR 98.419a (1)-(3). Each has extensive knowledge and experience in their respective fields. The day care handbook is updated annually and is available in August of each year. It provides the parents and community with pertinent day care policies, procedures, pay rate, etc.

As a result of limited funding the Tribes were unable to operate a year round child care program.

This is also to acknowledge the opportunity offered by the ACF Region IX Regional Office located in San Francisco allowing the 477 Tribes to participate with training opportunities. They have kept us informed of updates within the department relevant to child care issues. This has been our only communication related to child care. The Regional Office has graciously included the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are a part of training opportunities offered by ACF.

SOCIAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES

The Tribal Social worker’s/Child Welfare Worker’s handle Child Protection cases to provide supportive and financial assistance to children in need of out of home placements, adoption subsidies, group home placements and to meet the special needs of children at risk. She provides supportive services to the PL 102-477 families based on referrals from the case managers.
CHALLENGES

As it is across the country, unemployment presents a challenge to the Duck Valley Community. Currently, there are few businesses and revenue services that create economic diversity within the reservation. The reservation’s isolation is a factor that may contribute to the lack of adequate employment opportunities. The key trend on the reservation is that many jobs are temporary or seasonal.

We were grateful to receive JOM funds within the Self-Governance AFA within a timely manner which allowed us to work with the JOM Parent Committee to meet the educational needs of all children within the community. In the past, appropriated JOM funds which became available in April or May of each year.

Funding for child care is minimal and does not allow the Tribes to operate for a 12 month period. Nevertheless, the Tribes contribute additional funds from other sources to operate the day care center for 9 months. The Tribes recognize their responsibility to work to provide a safe and healthy environment for the young children of the community and to allow the parents/guardians to remain a part of the work force or to participate in training and/or education programs.

CONCLUSION

The overall PL 102-477 Program goals and objectives included a multi-disciplinary approach to coordinate service delivery to maximize the existing services. For that reason, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes chose to design our PL 102-477 program to strengthen resources by including our Tribal social workers and TERO Program Director as a part of our program team to share resources with our participants; in this light, to be sensitive to the community’s needs, culture and values. P.L. 102-477 offers the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes a great opportunity to serve the tribal membership and community through a meaningful process based on our goals and objectives. It is felt that the staff is absolutely committed to implementing that process.

The strength and functions of the PL 102-477 Program prevailed through our strong sense of community connection and our awareness of tribal needs. Our program was accessible to eligible participants to offer employment, training and education opportunities; this is evident by the statistical report. We could not have provided the services without the continued support of Tribal Administration and the Business Council. We work in partnership with Administration and the Council to implement activities to pursue the goals of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

Please feel free to contact our office for more information; your input is critical to help ensure that we remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of PL 102-477.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Putra
Tribal Administrator
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation