

Speaker 1: Good afternoon and thank you for standing by. And welcome to the Title VI webinar. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. Your lines have been placed on a listen-only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference. At that time, you may press "star" followed by the number one to ask a question. I would now like to turn today's conference over to Ms. Tara Nokelby. Thank you, you may begin.

Tara Nokelby: Thank you. Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tara Nokelby and I will be facilitating your webinar. Today, we will be having Cynthia LaCount, Cecilia Aldridge with ACLAOA and ACLAOA regional staff. This will be a question and answer session, so again if you would like to patch your line through, please press "star 1" or you can also use the WebX chat. And if you want to chat either directly to me, we can, I'll read those out loud for you. We will begin with Cynthia to start off the Q and A.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you, Tara. And welcome Title VI. Thank you for calling in. This is the first month that we are hosting two webinars which actually means that we're sort of, kind of hosting three webinars because we have Title VI the second Wednesday of the month as we always have. We're adding a new webinar for Title VI on the third Wednesday of each month, which is beginning today with the second webinar, and then the fourth webinar of the month is always reserved for long-term services and support in Indian country. So, take advantage of any of these webinar topics as you see them float by. We don't expect you to participate in every single one of them, but hopefully we're hitting some topics that you are interested in and that will be helpful in managing your program. Before I go further now, I want to have our other speakers introduce themselves. This is one of those we do these sessions once or twice a year, and it just gives an opportunity for you grantees, Title VI people, to ask us questions when we're all on the phone. So, I will move next to my coworker here in the central office, Cecilia. If you would introduce yourself.

Cecilia Aldridge: Hello, can you hear me?

Cynthia LaCount: Yeah.

Cecilia Aldridge: Okay. Good afternoon everyone. This is Cecilia Aldridge and I work here in the ACLAOA central office with Cynthia LaCount, and my primary functions at this time are working directly with discretionary programs and Title VI.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you.

Cecilia Aldridge: You're welcome.

Cynthia LaCount: Rhonda from Regions 1 and 2.

Rhonda Schwartz: Yes, hi everyone. This is Rhonda Schwartz. I'm in the Region 1 office in Boston, and I am the liaison for Title VI for Regions 1 and 2.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you. Lacy, have you joined? Alright, Percy Devine, Region 6.

Percy Devine: Hi, this is Percy Devine. I'm the bi-region administrator for both Regions 6 and 8. We're responsible for approximately 76 tribes, so we lean on Cynthia's leadership quite a bit. Out in the regions, we're here to provide technical assistance and to ensure that the elders are getting good services. The staff are available for all of you, and they'll be introducing themselves in a minute. But we also want to make sure during the travel consultation session that your leadership, the tribal presidents and the chiefs are just aware of the ageing programs and services and what we do. Also, our staff is responsible to ensure and do initial review of the grant process for Title VI. But we're here to support you. Thanks, Cynthia.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you. Percy, would your staff introduce themselves?

Percy Devine: Sure, we'll start with Region 6. Larry, are you on?

[inaudible]

Percy Devine: You might be on mute, Larry. I see you're on the call. Derek Lee?

[laughter]

Percy Devine: Cynthia, I do know that if they used the code, the passcode to come in, they're in as a participant and that's on mute right now.

Cynthia LaCount: Okay, and Tara will do magic things to have them connected to us.

Tara Nokelby: One moment.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you. Meanwhile, Courtney would you like to go ahead?

Courtney Hoskins: Sure. Hi, this is Courtney Hoskins. I'm in the Denver regional office, but I have responsibility for the states and Title VI tribal grantees in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. So just a week or two into being able to work with the tribes in New Mexico. And so, if you're on the phone, I really look forward to being able to work with you. I have some, I have talked to Larry about some big shoes to fill. So, it's a privilege and an honor to be here with you today.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you, dear. Susan Raymond?

Susan Raymond: Hello, this Susan Raymond and I have the pleasure to work with the tribes in North Dakota, Montana, and Utah. So, please contact us if my colleagues and I don't have the answer, we know to visit Cynthia. So, thank you so much for being here.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you. Thanks, Percy. Region 9?

Percy Devine: Michelle is there too, I think.

Cynthia LaCount: Oh, Michelle!

Speaker 2: I'm sorry.

Derek Lamb: Yes, Region 9. This is Derek Lamb, and I work with the tribes in California as well as one Hawaiian organization. So, thank you for having me here and we're here to help all of you.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you. Let's go back to Michelle Rodgers in Region 8.

Percy Devine: If they called in as participants, I do know I couldn't access the call, I couldn't speak.

Derek: Yeah, well. Can you hear me now? This is Derek

Percy Devine: Yes, Derek. There you go.

Derek Lee: Okay, yeah. We just got connected. Larry and I are both on the call. But I am Derek Lee in the Dallas regional office. I work with the grantees in Louisiana and Texas.

Cynthia LaCount: Thanks, Derek. Larry? Larry?

Derek Lamb: They were having some technical difficulties there I guess.

Cynthia LaCount: Michelle, are you with us yet?

Michelle: Yes, Larry McClinton has just joined you.

Cynthia LaCount: Okay.

Larry McClinton: I am here.

Cynthia LaCount: Well, who are you?

Larry McClinton: This is Larry McClinton in Region 6 in Dallas.

Cynthia LaCount: Alright, it's about time you get on the phone.

Derek Lamb: And Larry has over 30 plus tribes in Oklahoma and he's been here for a long time and is [inaudible] for Title VI programs.

[inaudible]

Derek Lamb: Yes.

Cynthia LaCount: Michelle?

Michelle: Yes, yay!

Tara Nokelby: Would you like to go ahead and have Michelle Rodgers join you?

Cynthia LaCount: Yes

Tara Nokelby: Okay, one moment.

Michelle, while Michelle Rodgers is joining...[inaudible] would you introduce yourself please, dear?

[Speaker 2]: Oh hi, good morning everyone. This is [inaudible] ACL Region 9. I [inaudible] regional colleagues because I have 140 parts A and one part C grantees. Through both regions 9 and 8 in addition to my [inaudible] all the way reach out to Guam and outer Pacific. Thank you.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you, [inaudible].

Michelle Rodgers: Hi, Cynthia. This is Michelle Rodgers. I think I'm finally through.

Cynthia LaCount: Woohoo! We hear you.

Michelle Rodgers: I am lucky to work with the tribes that are in the state of South Dakota and I hope some of them are signed on today. It is my pleasure.

Cynthia LaCount: Thanks, Michelle. Okay, Title VI people. I hope as the Regions were introducing themselves by region, you were also thinking

Fong: Excuse me Shelly...I mean Cynthia, you forgot Shelly of Region 10.

Cynthia LaCount: Oh! I was just gonna talk about her. [inaudible] I'll just talk about her. No, go ahead Shelly.

Shelly: This is Shelly [inaudible]. I'm in Region 10. I have the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and I have 80 grantees in that region.

Cynthia LaCount: Now, I will talk about Shelly. As you were listening to the regional staff introduce themselves by their respective regions, I hope you were thinking to yourself, "Oh, Shelly [inaudible]! Gee, I live in South Dakota" or "I live in Massachusetts. I've worked with Shelly." or as you heard [inaudible], I hope you were thinking, "Oh, [inaudible]. That's that lady that helped me get my report in." Even though we have tribal liaisons placed in our regional offices who do work mostly with the tribes in those specific regions, they are also very well-versed in Title VI period and very good at pinch hitting for one another and responding when needed. So, I wanted to make sure that you all knew who your liaison, your particular regional staff were, but also to realize that you may be talking with any of these folks, kind of at any time. That's how we do it.

Now, we're ready for question one Tara.

Tara Nokelby: So, I haven't had anything come through. Again, if you would like to have patch through your line, please press "star 1" and the operator will put you through and open up your line for questions or you can chat it in the WebX chat and I will read them aloud.

Cynthia LaCount: Because yes folks, if you're only calling in to listen and nobody's asking questions, we're all gonna be really quiet for the next 45 minutes. Hm m m m m m m. One thing I will go ahead and ramble about since it seems to be a hot and heavy question for us is what happens, what is happening with the remaining Title VI funds, your last six months' allocation that we still owe to you? We are beginning the procedures here in our office to do our paperwork to secure this money from OMBHHS. Once we do the paperwork from here, which is due today, to transfer this money over into the ACL purse, then once it's transferred in here, then we also do the paperwork on what happens with this money for the next six months. I don't know if you folks realize that we actually during this time of trials and tribulations when we were all holding our breath and hoping we weren't going to be cut in Title VI, we actually received an itty-bitty increase. So, our increase for the remainder of 2017 is we got \$50,000 more in Part A and we got \$25,000 more in Part C. So, a total of \$75,000 increase in Title VI. Those of you in finance know that that small of an increase is just kind of an administrative headache as we're redoing allocations with itty bitty little bit of numbers. But that's what we're doing. That increase is just about enough to cover one of our new small tribes. So, I'm not gonna scoff and guffaw at my \$75,000 increase because it's very timely. I also think that increase personally, I think that increase is very indicative of Congress' support for Title VI and the tribal programs. And once again, I'm going to call your attention to those persons in Congress who work specifically with the budget and with tribes. We're very grateful that they looked favorably at our direction. But, what all that means is that I'm guessing and Fong I want you to help me with this one. I'm guessing within the next--what are you thinking? --six to eight weeks we should.

Fong: That sounds correct. This is [inaudible]. According to the AGM, the office of grants and management and the ACF head office, they will be shooting to release the funds possibly in the next

maybe six to eight weeks. So, no later than the middle to later part of June, and in case you do not get a copy of the annual [inaudible] by the end of June, feel free to reach out to the ACL regional office staff and we will send you a copy. Thank you.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you, thank you. So hopefully that was the main question that everybody was going to ask. Tara, are there any questions yet?

Tara Nokelby: Let's see. So, Mary Ann Mills had questions about the new RFP for the program evaluation. I know Chrissy is not on, but it could be some...do you think you'd be able to answer some of those, Cynthia?

Cynthia LaCount: I might. Let me also see if Chrissy is here. Go ahead with the questions.

Tara Nokelby: Okay, Mary Ann if you just want to either press "star 1" we can patch your line through or if you want to type it out, I can read it aloud as well.

Cynthia LaCount: As that is happening, folks. We have, it's an unusual time in that we actually have three RFPs open right now for Title VI funds or one almost to open and two open. So, this is very exciting.

Tara Nokelby: And we do have Mary Ann, who is cued up. Go ahead Mary Ann.

Mary Ann: I figured it was easier to talk than to type on my iPad. There's a number of different tribal partners that I work with and I'm serving as the program director and I'm wondering would it be allowable for the program evaluation program for me to delegate that role of the Title VI director to one of my management staff?

Cynthia LaCount: I am going to say yes. And I'm saying yes because we want you to have more than one person involved in, and I'm using air quotes here, in managing this evaluation. So, we were going to ask you to develop a team of two or three people, so you would have had other folks involved anyway and as long as I know how busy you are. So as long as there's oversight and you're still in charge of it, I see no issue with that whatsoever.

Mary Ann: Thank you.

Cynthia LaCount: Yep.

Operator: [inaudible] star 1 if you have any questions.

Cynthia LaCount: Chrissy is here and is running over to my office so we'll double check and ask that question again when she gets in here. Shelly, did you have anything to add about the evaluations? You've been involved in that conversation.

Shelly: Yeah, I think it's important for people. I had two questions yesterday from tribes that did not fully understand what this was all about. So, I think just a brief overview. For years and years and years, the Title III programs have been evaluated and there's been a lot of really good reports that have come out of that, and those reports have been available to Congress, and Congress gets good information about that. The Title VI programs have never been evaluated in the same way, and Cynthia thought it would be a really good idea to evaluate the programs so that we can do a report about the good things that people are doing in Indian country. So, this RFP is looking for tribes that are interested in participating in that evaluation. And it's over a three-year period. And the only catch is that you have to have done the UND, University of North Dakota Needs Assessment, and be willing to share those, the results of that with the researchers who will use that information in combination with what

they gather from your program so that they can really look at how the elders are doing, as well as how the program is doing and what programs might impact what the elders are doing.

Cynthia LaCount: Mary Ann. Thank you, Shelly. Mary Ann, can you ask your question one more time because Christy Hudgins is in the room now, who is the manager of the evaluation.

Tara Nokelby: Operator, would you be able to patch through Mary Ann Mills again, please?

Operator: Please press star 1, Mary Ann.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you.

Operator: Mary Ann, if you can please press star 1. One moment, please.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you.

Operator: Mary Ann Mills, your line is open.

Mary Ann Mills: Okay, so I work with ten different local tribes for the Title VI program and for ease of administration I am the program director for those ten tribes. And some of these tribes would like to participate in the evaluation process. I am wondering to kind of spread the work and spread the opportunity for the experience could I delegate my role as program director to one of my top managers, who oversee their particular tribe and community senior center?

Christy Hudgins: Absolutely, Mary Ann. I think that would be totally appropriate.

Mary Ann Mills: Thank you.

Christy Hudgins: Thank you.

Tara Nokelby: We do have another question. Would you like to take that?

[inaudible]

Tara Nokelby: Sara Kindelario, you may go ahead.

Sara Kindelario: Hi everybody from New Mexico. How's everybody doing?

Cynthia LaCount: Hello, daughter of mine.

Sara Kindelario: Hello, mother. How are you?

Cynthia LaCount: I'm doing well.

Sara Kindelario: And just to let you know I'm behaving here in New Mexico.

Cynthia LaCount: That's hard to believe, but thank you for telling me that.

Sara Kindelario: No, my question was to Ms. Courtney Hoskins. I just wanted to know when she might be reaching out to all the directors in New Mexico so we can maybe possibly schedule an introductory meeting so she can get to know everybody.

Courtney Hoskins: Hi, Sara. It's Courtney. I was just talking to Percy about that right before this call. So, I don't have any dates in mind, you know what might be helpful is to be able to get a list of when you guys are going to be meeting as a group and I'll see if I can make a meeting that you already have scheduled.

Sara: Okay, we actually do have a date scheduled for this month. I know it's probably last minute notice for you, but it's on the 26th. I haven't yet gotten confirmation from everybody, but I will be doing follow-up today to make sure I know for sure who's coming.

Courtney: Okay, yeah. That one is a little too soon for

Sara: Yeah, I understand that but I will definitely bring this up to them in the Title VI meeting that we have.

Courtney: Great.

Sara: And then--thank you--and then in regards to the RFP, you talked about a number of people being involved in the process. Does it have to all be program staff? Or can it be other staff who assist in making the Title VI program happen?

Courtney: I think that was an evaluation question.

Sara: Yes, it is in regard to the evaluation RFP.

Chrissy Hudgins: Hi, this is Chrissy Hudgins. So, we're asking that there be two to three people as part of your group applying for the grant. And we would like for the Title VI leadership to be a part of that. So, we just need one person, preferably the director, but I think, you know, I know that all of the Title VI programs are structured a little bit differently. And so, I think that we would be open to some flexibility there depending on the application and on the programs. Does that help to answer the question?

Sara: Yes, thank you.

Chrissy Hudgins: Okay.

Cynthia LaCount: Chrissy, would you talk a little bit about the other responsibilities, what these teams are going to do together, so they can kind of think who they would want on a team.

Chrissy Hudgins: Sure, that's a great question. So, essentially you know the evaluation has two main pieces. The first is to learn more about the Title VI programs and that's really why we want Title VI leadership, the director to be a part of that process. So that we can learn more about how the program is working and, you know, all of the great work they're doing, and also the different kinds of resources that you might need. I think it's, you know, good stuff as well as what you need. The other piece of the evaluation is to provide training and technical assistance around evaluation. And so, in collecting our data on the Title VI program, we're going to be asking grantees to do focus groups with elders, focus groups with caregivers, and a survey with caregivers. Also, if you have home delivered meals to do, a few interviews over the phone or in person with those folks. That's a fair bit of work to get in touch with all of those people, get them together, get the interviews or the focus groups done or the surveys taken care of. So, we think it would be great if everyone had a community researcher, who would then help you coordinate a lot of this data gathering activities. And this person does not have to have any previous experience in evaluation or research. If they do, that's great. If they don't, but they're interested in it, then we will teach them how to do that. And so, I think knowing that you need someone to do that will help you choose your team. With regard to the training and technical

assistance around evaluation, as I said, you know, we'll be teaching people how to do focus groups, how to collect the data that we need for surveys, and so on and so forth, as well as working with you on any information, any data that you may already have or be interested in collecting. And that piece of it, that information wouldn't come to ACL. That would just be between the Title VI program and our contractor, ICF. So, ACL wouldn't get that data per se.

Tara Nokelby: Did that help, did that answer your question?

Cynthia LaCount: Any other questions?

Operator: Once again that is star 1 if you would like to ask a question or any comments.

Tara Nokelby: I don't see anything coming through on WebX either. Again, you can type your questions in WebX and I'll be happy to read them out.

Rhonda: Hi, this is Rhonda. I'm wondering if I can ask a question on behalf of a grantee who is not on the call today. But it's for a new grantee, the question that was asked is if they need to competitively bid for services by contractors or if they can--if their procurement policies don't require them to competitively bid a service can they just go ahead and contract for that?

Cynthia LaCount: I think that's a question for Mr. Devine.

Percy Devine: Can you repeat the question? I was caught multi-tasking. Please repeat the question.

Rhonda: Sure, Percy. This is Rhonda. For if you have a new Title VI grantee and they need to make...hire contractors to provide services under the grant, they are wondering if they are required to competitively bid those contracts or if their procurement policies allow them not to do that can they just move forward without doing a competitive bid?

Percy Devine: So, in general, as we talk to states as well as tribes regarding contracts, we typically say that you have to follow your existing procedures. So, if local procedures allow such things to take place, I know in Indian country you may have limited provider or vendors, but typically we go with local procedures first and then if their sole source, you have to go through the different types of procedures. Then, we usually honor that. But, Cynthia, I'm gonna give that back to you. From a state position we recently had, in fact, right now we're dealing with a local triple A who wants to do some contracting using local funds first, and then they want to provide the service and then switch that line item over and pay by all American Act funding. So, we're researching that at this point. But I basically say go with your procurement process. If the tribe allows such things to take place, so be it. But, I guess, Cynthia, I was going to ask: Is there a distinction between a new service provider and an existing service provider in that regard?

Cynthia LaCount: No, none at all.

Percy Devine: Okay.

Rhonda: Okay, thank you.

Percy Devine: You bet.

Cynthia LaCount: Thanks, Rhonda. Thank you, Percy. While we're waiting for other questions, I also want to announce, and I'm going to need help from Cecilia and Tara on this one. I also want to make sure that you all know about the innovation grant opportunity for NIEJI, the National Indigenous Elder

Justice Initiative. They have started grants available and open right now. I believe they will be making selection in June and or July, and opening up a second round of applications then in August.

Speaker 3: The first round is June. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you, no. I was hoping you'd find dates.

Speaker 3: Let me see if we go on. Let me check my notes from our meeting.

Cynthia LaCount: Okay, thank you. Those innovation grants are to develop elder abuse protection programs, to gather data about elder abuse in Indian country, so in your service area, or to develop some products and some public awareness information for local programs. But, all-in-all, the purpose of the innovation grants is to look at different ways of addressing elder abuse in our communities. These are small grants. I believe they are looking at ten to fifteen thousand dollars per program. But it's a beginning and can at least provide the planning for us to develop our programs, which we haven't been able to do before.

Tara Nokelby: Cynthia, this is Tara. So, for the RFP for the Native Elder Abuse Innovation Awards 2017, it was released on May 1st. The applications are due on June 30th. And award notification date is August 14th.

Cynthia LaCount: Okay, so we find out about the evaluation grants early in August, we find out about the elder abuse grants mid-August, and then Cecilia will be opening up the MIPA grant opportunity, the Medicaid Information, MIPA—Courtney, Medicaid Information

Courtney: So, it's the Medicaid Information...hold on I gotta write it real quick.

[several voices, inaudible] Tell them what it is Derek.

Derek: Medicare Improvements Patients and Providers Act.

Cynthia LaCount: Alright, you win, Derek.

Speaker 4: We're a team here, we need each other.

Cynthia LaCount: Well, those grants. Cecilia, didn't [inaudible] tell us we need to have those posted by the end of this month?

Speaker 3: We have, let me see what is this May. I think our post date may be April the 3rd or something like that. Not April, I'm sorry June. So, it's coming up. We're right up on that date.

Cynthia LaCount: So, watch for the announcements that we will be posting on older Indians and sending out both through [inaudible] and through the regional staff asking if you're interested in applying for the MIPA grants. Now a way long time ago, back in the olden days, as I used to talk to my grandma about, we used to just give a thousand dollars from our [inaudible] and then programs quit applying because it's really hard to do anything for a thousand dollars. And so, at that time, we decided to accept real applications and take our money and divide it out on our funding bands and try to give tribes sufficient money to actually do some Medicare information. Those grants, Fong, have been between a thousand and five thousand.

Fong: Well, it is much more than that. The minimum on funding band was more than \$1,900 for the smallest tribe. So, we strongly recommend all the tribal grantees read the one-page letter, just one

page, just put on the name of your tribe, the grant award number, and also signed by the tribal official. And send it to [inaudible] and then we will release the funding before the end of September, and you have twelve months to spend the money. By hosting the meeting and also do one outreach to the tribes. And you can have like altogether 15 months to submit the final report. Thank you.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you, Fong. Since you're talking about reports, we're towards the end or the middle of May. Would you talk about our upcoming reports and due dates?

Fong: Yeah, actually I am responding to [inaudible] right now. Well, yes. The reports are due by June 30, 2017. So those PPRs, the program performance reports, as well as the financial status report. Once you send in your final financial reports, which also known as SF425, then that is it. You don't have to send in any paper to close out that three-year grant. However, I know I have other colleagues on the call as well. I want to emphasize that in your final financial report, make sure your expenditures match the expenditures [inaudible] in payment management system. If you don't know what I am talking about, ask your fiscal people, because we cannot close out your grant unless those reports match. And also, the other thing I would like to emphasize would be numbers you report in your PPR about the new [inaudible] please make sure those numbers are accurate because that will affect your 2018 NSIP awards. So please pay attention. Thank you.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you, Fong. And yeah, look at those numbers grantees. We've been reviewing the nutrition numbers for NSIP payments and really think about them when you submit them. For example, we had one tribe that based on their numbers with five home-delivered meals clients, they were serving, I think, each of their home-delivered meals clients three hundred and sixty-some meals a year. Now, that's impossible to do with providing one meal a day at a maximum of five meals for five days per week. So, when you write these numbers down, please make sure they make sense. Because if you don't, Fong will make you.

Tara Nokelby: Cynthia, we have a question here from Mary Ann Mills, and it says "When should we expect to receive the NSIP awards?"

Cynthia LaCount: Fong? Fong when are those grants going out? Do you know?

Fong: It will come out with the remaining Parts A and Parts C grants.

Cynthia LaCount: So, in 6 to 8 weeks.

Fong: Yes, that's correct.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you. Any other questions, Tara?

Tara Nokelby: I do not see any on the chat. Again, if you want to press star 1 to patch your line through, please do that.

Cynthia LaCount: Until then, if you have a question, please interrupt this conversation. But since I have Chrissy in here, I want her to talk about another project that we're just beginning, and that is to redo our Title VI reports. You've heard me whine since as long as you've known me about the information we get out of the PPRs, which is so extremely limited that it doesn't really give us the ammunition we need to go forward to Congress or to advocate to national organizations on your behalf. So, one of the projects that our planning and evaluation division here at ACL is doing is to revise all of the reports coming in through the Older Americans Act and we're a part of that. So, I'm gonna turn this over to Chrissy for a quick five-minute summary of what that is and how we need your help.

Chrissy: So, this is Chrissy. As Cynthia said, we are working on redesigning the program performance reports, the PPR, and we are going to be designing a new web-based system that will make it easier to get information from your programs in there. This is a couple of years down the road, but we are starting now with looking at what the indicators, the data, the information that you all collect is and what it could be. So, we're just starting that process now and looking through the data that you currently provide in your PPR, data for instance that you provide in your Title VI applications, as well as what the Older Americans Act says, that you all should be providing. And then some other work that ACL has done, and I think some of you have been involved in this through an evaluability assessment that took place last year where a logic model was created about what's happening in the programs and what do we expect to see as a result from the Title VI programs. So, right now we're sort of collecting all of that together, looking at it and sort of making some initial decisions about information that we have to have, information that we would like to have, and what information we might be able to get rid of. So, we're starting that process, and I want to be clear that our intent is to get the best information possible so that, as Cynthia said, we can better advocate for tribes and the needs of tribes. But also to make this not so burdensome for tribes. We want to make the information relatively easy to get and then easy to report back to ACL. So, it's going to be a multi-year project. Hopefully, we will be talking to you all about the performance indicators at the annual Title VI meeting and then also doing a webinar because we really want to hear from the Title VI programs about what you think is possible, what you like, and what you don't like, and if there is anything that we're missing that we should be collecting because this is a participatory process in that sense. So, we're sort of doing some initial work around that, and then we'll be reaching out to all of you for your input so we can make this doable and representative of the work that you all are doing.

Cynthia LaCount: Perfect, thank you.

Tara Nokelby: We do have a few questions on this end. Would you like to take those?

Cynthia LaCount: Yeah.

Tara Nokelby: [inaudible] Turner, you may go ahead.

Turner: Good afternoon, Cynthia, how are you?

Cynthia LaCount: I am doing well. Thank you.

Turner: I was a little late getting on the call, so this may have already been addressed, but I was wanting to know if there was an update on your role within Title VI. We had gotten an email from Steve Wilson saying that your position may be moving. Was that correct? Incorrect?

Cynthia LaCount: No, my position is one of the--thank you for asking that though--my position is one of the positions that is actually written into the Older Americans Act itself, so we are pretty, we are very confident that this position and program will continue. Way back in the olden days, there...when we first developed this Indian desk here at ACL, we had talked about wanting that position elevated up to the level of that it was a political appointee and we've discussed that since then and have decided that it's probably a good reason, or a good thing that it is not a political appointee in that political appointees aren't as permanent in their positions as regular federal employees are. So no, I think this position is doing well. Thank you.

Turner: Thank you.

Tara Nokelby: Is it Kendelario? He may ask a question.

Kendelario: My question is in regard to this year's conference. Is there any discussion on...any more discussion on where it might be held? I know about a few months back there was talk about doing it at the same time as the Hunger Summit, I believe. And or something to that effect, but I just wanted to know for planning purposes.

Cynthia LaCount: We have our plans done, but I'm gonna keep them a secret and not share them with you.

Kendelario: No, don't tell me they're New Mexico.

Cynthia LaCount: No, I believe, and Tara I'll need you to jump in, but I believe we have signed a contract for Minnesota, Chuckapi, which is Mystic Lake Casino the 11th through the 14th with the 11th being pre-

Tara Nokelby: It is gonna be the 12th through the 15th, so Tuesday through Friday.

Cynthia LaCount: Okay, we tried to do that next week, Sara, or two weeks later in conjunction with the traditional foods and there was no room at the inns for us. Traditional foods had booked the entire facility, so we're moving two weeks forward, but yea September 12th through the 15th and Tayo will soon be marketing that.

Kendelario: Okay. And another question. Do you have an agenda prepared yet? Or nothing formal?

Cynthia LaCount: You would actually be shocked, because yes, we do.

Kendelario: Oh, yay. Okay.

Cynthia LaCount: My terror contractors came over last week with chains and a whip and would not leave until the agendas were done for all of our events. So, they might be small, but they are mighty.

Tara Nokelby: Yes, we'll have a draft agenda that we can, that we'll be sending out as well, along with the hotel information and the dates, location, everything as well. So, I know Mary Ann, you've commented just for confirmation, yes, the Title VI conference will be September 12th through the 15th in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A few miles, or about 20 minutes south, but Minneapolis is the hub. And then we also have another comment from Ezra Bayles. And she says, "Just a comment. Web-based reporting is great, but please make sure there's an option to print the final report for internal tribal review prior to submission."

Cynthia LaCount: Absolutely, thank you for that Ezra.

Operator: We do have one more question. Anna Sterner, you may go ahead.

Anna Sterner: I'm sorry, someone already asked and answered my question. Thank you.

Operator: And again, that is star 1 for any questions or comments.

Cynthia LaCount: For your information, we are also planning several cluster trainings in this next program year. And those cluster training events are being planned for Anchorage, Alaska [inaudible]; Billings, Montana; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Phoenix, Arizona; and another place.

Tara Nokelby: Kansas City, Missouri.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you. Kansas City, Missouri. So, if you live in that region. Any of those regions I just mentioned, I would love--

Tara Nokelby: I think we forgot Seattle. Seattle, Washington as well.

Cynthia LaCount: Oh, Seattle, Washington, yes. I would love to have an email from you, or your regional staff would love to have an email from you telling us what you would like the cluster trainings to focus on. You have no idea how helpful that is when you give us some ideas.

Operator: We do have one more question.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you.

Operator: Patricia Win[inaudible] you may go ahead.

Cynthia LaCount: Hey Pattie!

Patricia: Hey, how you doing? I, not a question, it's just a comment. Thank you for the training in Minnesota. I'm so small I can afford to come so that is great. Thank you very much.

Cynthia LaCount: Absolutely. Jim [inaudible] told us we had to do it there so you could come.

Patricia: Well, I'll tell Jim thank you very much.

Cynthia LaCount: Any other questions, folks?

Operator: Once again that is star 1 if you do have any questions or comments.

Cynthia LaCount: I'm showing four minutes left, going once,

Operator: Anna Sterner, you may go ahead.

Anna Sterner: Last question, I promise. Do you have any date when the new resource manual may be completed?

Cynthia LaCount: You know, we're actually working on that. We have some chapters farmed out to some of our consultants to develop for us and I can't give you a hard date because Cecilia and I are still operating at half-staff. But, we are working on it, and that's more than we've been able to do for the past year.

Anna Sterner: Thank you, I appreciate that.

Cynthia LaCount: Yup, thank you. If Percy would send me some of his staff to work with me out here, that would help.

Percy: You know we're here to support you, Cynthia. We can't come to D.C.

Cynthia LaCount: Just not Larry.

Tara Nokelby: Now, I heard Larry has some free time now.

Operator: We do have a few more questions. Would you like to take those?

Cynthia LaCount: Yes.

Operator: Carlene...Is it [inaudible]? You may ask your question.

Carlene: It's [inaudible]. I was wondering if you could repeat the dates or the whereabouts of the cluster trainings again. I missed that part.

Cynthia LaCount: Okay, we're planning Kansas City...I don't know if it's Kansas City, Kansas or Kansas City, Missouri; but Kansas City. Billings, Montana; Anchorage, Alaska; Albuquerque; Phoenix, and Seattle, Washington.

Tara Nokelby: And I think her question was in regards to the dates, which I will defer to you, Cynthia, on that.

Cynthia LaCount: We're still selecting dates. We've sent out some tentative dates to regional staff and need to have a discussion with them to confirm dates. But once again Title VI'ers, if you know of events taking place in areas in any of those cluster locations I mentioned that we should or could collaborate with, please let us know. We always are looking for other events to coincide with and we really want your involvement in helping us to plan these. It's hard to plan 7 or 8 trainings in a year.

Operator: We do have one more question.

Cynthia LaCount: Okay.

Operator: Sara Kendelario, you may go ahead.

Sara Kendelario: My question is in regard to the [inaudible] for evaluation. Are we going to get a fillable form? Because I was just looking through it and I know the questions are there. But I don't know...we can't right now type anything in, so are we going to be able to get access to a fillable form?

Tara Nokelby: Sara, that's a good question. I thought we were doing a fillable form, and after we sent it out I realized it wasn't. So, let me double back with the contractor, ICF, and see if we can't get that because that would be my preference because I think it would be easier for all of you as well. So, I will find out and then we'll get back to you.

Sara Kendelario: Thank you.

Tara Nokelby: Thank you.

Cynthia LaCount: Shelly is just a whiz at doing that.

Tara Nokelby: Oh!

Tara Nokelby: So, we have one more question on the chat, and I think that will probably wrap it up since we're one minute to the end. And Mary Ann Mills wanted to know what a cluster training is.

Cynthia LaCount: Mary Ann Mills, a cluster training is a small, regional training. So, like when we're coming to Alaska to do a training, we're assuming that it's pretty much just gonna be Alaska folks that can attend, so we're bringing the training to those locations. So, it's just a way to localize training more

and bring it to you folks. And a good way for you to feed me lots of crab and salmon and muktuk. Other questions?

Operator: At this time, I am showing no further questions.

Cynthia LaCount: Thank you everybody for coming to our party. We are now going to go celebrate the [inaudible] because we're doing that today at ACL. So, happy Older Americans Act and I'll talk with you all soon. Thank you. Thank you, regional staff and Chrissy.

[several speakers]: Bye. Thank you. You're welcome.

Operator: This concludes today's conference call. You may go ahead and disconnect at this time. Thank you.