



## Invitational Gathering on North American Indigenous Birthing and Midwifery

### United States Participants

| Participant Name               | Organization  | BIO   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| <p><b>Lisa Allee</b></p>       | <p>Indian Health Service, Northern Navajo Medical Center, Shiprock, NM</p> <p><a href="mailto:Lisa.allee@ihs.gov">Lisa.allee@ihs.gov</a></p>    | <p>I am the mother of four children. My two daughters were born at home with midwives. My twin sons came into the world a bit early, 31 ½ weeks, so were born in hospital with a midwife, two obstetricians, nurses and pediatricians. I have been a nurse for 23 years and a nurse midwife for 14 years. As a nurse I have worked in obstetrics, public health, and as a school nurse. As a midwife, I had a home birth practice for 5 years in the Four Corners Region of the United States and I have worked for Indian Health Service as a midwife for 8 years. Current position is as an information technology and communication advisor at NNMC, Shiprock, NM.</p> |
| <p><b>Carolyn Aoyama</b></p>   | <p>Indian Health Service, Senior Consultant for Women's Health and Advanced Practice Nursing, Rockville, MD</p> <p><a href="http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/F/MCHmidw.cfm">http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/F/MCHmidw.cfm</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/W/index.cfm">http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/W/index.cfm</a></p>  | <p>I am a Certified Nurse Midwife and the Senior Consultant for Women's Health and Advanced Practice Nursing in Indian Health Service at the Headquarters level. I have been working on women's health either as a clinician providing direct services, a reproductive health epidemiologist at CDC, or in program planning and policy. I am responsible for all issues related to advanced practice nursing including scope of practice, job classification, and quality of care. I also serve as the IHS liaison with APN professional organizations.</p>   |
| <p><b>Margaret Baldwin</b></p> | <p>South Central Foundation, Alaska Native Primary Care Center WHS, Anchorage, AK</p>   | <p>I have been a certified nurse midwife since 1984. For the past 21 years I have worked at the Alaska Native Medical Center in the Rural Anchorage Service Unit MCH program. I have spent my life living and working with the Alaska Native People.</p>  |

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>Rita Blumenstein</b></p> | <p>South Central Foundation,<br/>Traditional Healing Clinic, Elder,<br/>Healer, Midwife</p>                                | <p>Rita Blumenstein elder, healer, midwife was born on a fishing boat on her way home to the village of Tununak, Alaska. She is Yupik, Athabaskan, Aleut and Russian. Rita knew at a young age she had been given the gift of healing. When she was fourteen she began assisting the traditional midwife from her village Together they traveled to homes and fish camps to assist women at births. Rita as a young woman also worked as a community health aide, medical assistant, and as a nurse's aide in the Bethel area. In 1995 Rita became the first certified traditional practitioner at Southcentral Foundations Traditional Healing Clinic. She recently left that position and currently resides in the Anchorage area. Rita continues to gather and prepare native plants for medicinal and subsistence purposes, and to do her healing work.</p>  |
| <p><b>Rosemary Bolza</b></p>   | <p>Indian Health Service, Fort<br/>Defiance, AZ<br/><a href="mailto:Rosemary.bolza@ihs.gov">Rosemary.bolza@ihs.gov</a></p> | <p>Born in Tucson, Arizona May 1951, my mother was English/Scottish and my father emigrated from Italy. Graduated from Desert High School, Edwards Air Force Base, Edwards California 1969. While attending the University of California, Riverside, I heard a description of a birth with a midwife in England. Being a midwife was the most fascinating job I had heard of. I transferred into nursing and received a BSN from the University of Arizona in 1974. I received a certificate in midwifery from the University of Arizona in 1981. In 1982 I began work as a nurse midwife at Fort Defiance Indian Hospital on the Navajo Nation. I have been attending births there since. Through a distance education program I received a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in 2003. I have worked with many student midwives. I am presently the nurse manager of the OB ward and the supervisory midwife. Through the many years with the Indian Health service I have had the honor of meeting many of the mothers of the revival of midwifery in the United States. The native women we have cared for have taught us many things about birth we have been able to share with women through the United States. My present goal is to facilitate paths for rural residents to become nurses and midwives.</p> |

## Katsi Cook


MCH coordinator for United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Tribal Epidemiology Center, Running Strong, and Indian Country Today representative

Katsi Cook, Wolf Clan Mohawk, is an Aboriginal midwife, mother of six and grand-mother of nine. Since 1983, she has conducted award-winning community-driven environmental justice health research in her home community of Akwesasne, one of many member communities of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, located along the St. Lawrence River between northern New York and western Quebec/eastern Ontario.

In 1984, she initiated the Akwesasne Mother's Milk Project, developing connectivity among community members, health care providers and research scientists. Having been honored as a "Success Story" in 1991 at the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment, Miami, Florida, the Akwesasne Mother's Milk Project evolved into the First Environment Project which brought together Native American women's leadership in reproductive and environmental health issues, conducting outreach into Native American communities in the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. From 1992-1996, Katsi served as a member of the International Joint Commission Science Advisory Board's Workgroup on Ecosystem Health. In building community capacity through developing an environmental justice network at the state and federal levels, Katsi served a four year appointment(1994-1998) as a Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Health and Toxicology at the University at Albany School of Public Health, where she was Principal investigator for First Environment Communications , one of three Environmental Justice: Partnerships for Communication national demonstration projects funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the NIH as a Visiting Fellow at Cornell University's American Indian Program in those same years, Katsi focused her work on environmental justice issues within the communities of the Six Nations Iroquois and is a founding member of Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment and Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force. Her work in ecosystem recovery focuses on socio-cultural systems and human health issues. She served as founding Aboriginal Midwife for the Six Nations Birthing Centre at Six Nations, Ontario, funded by the Ministry of Health of Ontario's Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy.

For her work in Aboriginal midwifery and Environmental Justice, she was a 2001 honoree at the New York Open Center 2001 Awards Dinner in New York City, October 29, 2001. In 1999, she received the Calver Award from the Environment Section of the American Public Health Association, a 1998 Annual Award from the New York State Labor and Environment Network at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Love Canal Conference, 1997 Green Medicine Award from Bioneers, and is a 1993 Bannerman Fellow of Tides Foundation. Katsi has served as the 2001 Dr. T.J. Murray Visiting Scholar in Medical Humanities at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Co-author of "Holistic Risk-Based Environmental Decision Making: A Native Perspective" published in April 2002 of the Environmental Health Perspectives, Katsi is a 2004 - 2005 recipient of an Indigenous Knowledge Cultural Researcher Award from the Indigenous Health Research Development Program at McMaster University with which she is writing part of a community and culture based Aboriginal Midwifery Education curriculum. She also served as Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's representative to the Local Working Group in a research project, Integrated Maternity Care for Rural and Remote Communities in partnership with Ryerson University Midwifery Education Program.

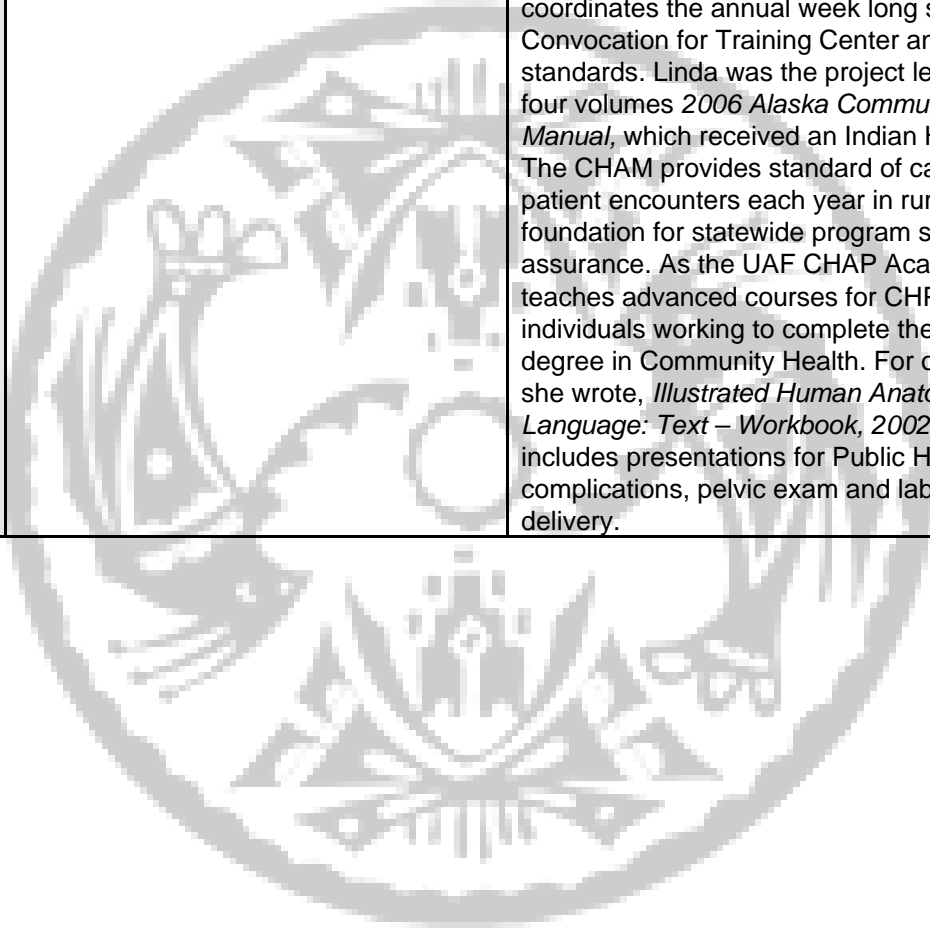
Currently, Katsi is Maternal and Child Health Coordinator for United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Tribal Epidemiology Center in conducting qualitative studies in 24 Tribal Nations over the next three years, negotiating respectful models of research practice based in principles of environmental justice. She is a recipient of a Ford Foundation Reproductive Justice grant under which she is networking Environmental Justice and Reproductive Justice Movements nationally in the U.S. with WEHI, Women's Environmental Health Initiative, and using social networking contexts to increase organizational connections across social movements.

|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <p><b>Gina Cole</b></p>          | <p>Indian Health Service, WWW<br/>Hastings Indian Hospital,<br/>Tahlequah, OK</p> <p><a href="mailto:Gina.cole@ihs.gov">Gina.cole@ihs.gov</a></p>                       | <p>Gina graduated from midwifery school in 1992 from Medical University of SC; graduated from post master certificate program at Ball State University with Family Nurse Practitioner degree in July 2008; Work at WW Hastings Indian Hospital as CNM since Jan 1993. I have worked for IHS for 23 1/2 years. 1/2 degree Kiowa and 1/2 degree Comanche.</p>  |
| <p><b>Chandice Covington</b></p> | <p>Dean, University of North Dakota<br/>College of Nursing, Grand Forks,<br/>ND</p>  | <p>Dean Chandice Covington, PhD, RN, APRN(BC), FAAN, was appointed Dean of the University of North Dakota College of Nursing in September 2005, where she also holds the position of Professor. The Dean's commitment to her work as a nurse and educator is evident in her numerous leadership roles and contributions to her field. Dean Covington's accomplishments include more than 20 years of educational and administrative responsibilities combined with nearly 33 years of nursing experience as a maternal child nurse.</p> <p>Dean Covington received her doctorate in nursing from the University of Michigan in 1990, her master's of nursing from the University of Texas at Galveston, Texas, and her baccalaureate in nursing degree from the University of Texas at Houston Texas. She is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner. Dean Covington is a noted researcher and author, and lectures on clinical topics in child health and on nursing trends for the future.</p> <p>Dean Covington's over 100 published works featured in over 50 professional journals, medical and educational texts. She has also been instrumental in women's and child research, including alleviating the impact of HIV on mothers and children in Africa, addressing the influence of prenatal substance abuse on child learning, and in women health, the detection of early breast cancer. She holds two patents on the early detection of breast cancer. Just since joining us as Dean, she has been instrumental in securing and helping faculty to secure over 4 million in grant funding for the College.</p> <p>Dean Covington has been honored as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She recently was honored by her alma mater as the Distinguished alumni award by the University of Texas at Houston. Last week she received the Grassroots Political Action Star award from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.</p> |

**Linda Curda**

University of Alaska, Fairbanks,  
CHAP Academic Liaison

Linda has a Masters of Public Health and Certified Nurse Midwifery degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1977. She then taught Nurse Midwifery at Hopkins from '77-1980 and currently teaches in the University of Alaska Fairbanks with the Community Health Aide/Practitioner Program since 1980. Working in the rural community of Bethel, Alaska she has coordinated basic and advanced training for CHAs/CHPs including: curriculum revisions, created the Patient Encounter Form and Pre-Session course and student handbook, and assistant editor of the '87 CHAM. She created and coordinates the annual week long statewide CHAP faculty Convocation for Training Center and Field instruction and program standards. Linda was the project leader and Managing Editor for the four volumes *2006 Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual*, which received an Indian Health Service Directors' Award. The CHAM provides standard of care guidelines for 300,000 primary patient encounters each year in rural villages. It serves as the foundation for statewide program standardization and quality assurance. As the UAF CHAP Academic Liaison she currently teaches advanced courses for CHPs and provides advising for individuals working to complete the Associate of Applied Science degree in Community Health. For one course, she uses a textbook she wrote, *Illustrated Human Anatomy, Function and Medical Language: Text – Workbook, 2002*. Other teaching experience includes presentations for Public Health Nurses in prenatal care and complications, pelvic exam and lab tests, and emergency labor and delivery.



|                                    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p><b>Sarah Coulter Danner</b></p> | <p>Oglala Lakota College, Department of Nursing, Pine Ridge, SD</p> | <p>Sarah is currently the Chairperson at Oglala Lakota College, Department of Nursing in Pine Ridge, SD. She is also an instructor at the college teaching Pediatrics to Nursing students. She has been a lactation consultant and a national and international lecturer and consultant on breastfeeding issues. For the Indian Health Service in SD she has done the full scope on midwifery, including ante partum, intrapartum, postpartum, family planning, and occasional ambulatory pediatrics. She has also been involved in gynecology, prenatal and postpartum care; sick and well-child care in and out of the hospital. As an Assistant Professor for SUNY in Stoneybrook, NY she developed newborn curriculum for Pathways- a graduate program in Nurse/Midwifery. Sarah has lectured at Boston University School of Public Health on newborn anatomy, physiology, behavior, and breastfeeding. She has been and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Nurse-Midwifery at Frontier School for Midwifery and Family Nursing in Hyden, KY. Sarah has taught Maternal/Child Care and Community Health Nursing at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. She was the Director of Midwifery Program, MetroHealth Hospital for Women in Cleveland, OH as well. Sarah earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Skidmore College in 1964, Postgraduate BA courses at University of Virginia in 1967, Diploma in Art History at University of London in 1973, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital in 1983, MSN in Nursing/Nurse Midwifery, Case Western Reserve University in 1986, Courses at Case Western Reserve University at the Doctorate level, Courses at Des Moines University MPH level, and currently enrolled in PhD program at South Dakota State University.</p> |
| <p><b>Peachie Daugherty</b></p>    | <p>Indian Health Service, WWW Hastings Hospital, Tahlequah, OK</p>  | <p>I have been a Certified Nurse Midwife since March 1997; employed at WW Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, OK I completed my training at CNEP in Hyden, KY after completing BS degrees from the University of Oklahoma in Zoology and Northeastern State University in Nursing. I have been employed with IHS for over 21 years as either an obstetrical nurse or in Women's Health and now midwifery.</p>   |

|                                  |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <p><b>Robbie Davis-Floyd</b></p> | <p>University of Texas, Austin, TX;<br/>Fellow of the Society of Applied Anthropology</p> | <p>Senior Research Fellow, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Texas Austin and Fellow of the Society for Applied Anthropology, is a medical anthropologist specializing in the anthropology of reproduction. An international speaker and researcher, she is author of over 80 articles and of <u>Birth as an American Rite of Passage</u> (1992, 2004); coauthor of <u>From Doctor to Healer: The Transformative Journey</u> (1998); and coeditor of eight collections, including <u>Childbirth and Authoritative Knowledge: Cross-Cultural Perspectives</u> (1997); <u>Cyborg Babies: From Techno-Sex to Techno-Tots</u> (1998); and <u>Mainstreaming Midwives: The Politics of Change</u> (2006). <u>Birth Models That Work</u>, an edited collection that highlights excellent models of birth care around the world, is in press. Her research on global trends and transformations in childbirth, obstetrics, and midwifery is ongoing. Robbie speaks regularly at national and international childbirth, obstetrical, and midwifery conferences around the world. She currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Council on Anthropology and Reproduction, and Editor for the International MotherBaby Childbirth Initiative (IMBCI): 10 Steps to Optimal Maternity Care.</p>   |
| <p><b>Terry Friend</b></p>       | <p>Indian Health Service, Community Health Services, Pine Ridge Service Unit, SD</p>      | <p>Terry Friend CNM, MSN is the Director of Community Health Services for the IHS on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Terry sits on Pine Ridge Hospital's Executive Committee bringing a voice to issues affecting indigenous women's health for the very first time. She is involved with many prevention programs across the Reservation addressing high rates of sexually transmitted infections with the focus of decreasing the risk for HIV. As a result she has recently been assigned as the HIV coordinator. Terry has initiated school based health clinics focusing on reproductive health issues in the high schools. She pioneered many of the advanced practice skills for midwives in the Aberdeen Area including the development of a diabetes in pregnancy program, obstetric ultrasound, colposcopy, Loop Excision Biopsies and sexual assault exams; pediatric, adolescent, and adult. She sits on the multidisciplinary team for sexual assault with the Assistant U.S. Attorneys in South Dakota designed to improve the response to victims of sexual assault in Indian Country. Terry has lived on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation since 1981 with her partner and daughter who are members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Her midwifery education was obtained at Yale University, where she received the research award for her work on diabetes in pregnancy among Lakota Women, and in 2002, received Yale's Distinguished Alumni Award for her dedication to the improvement of healthcare to Native Women. Among other awards, she received the prestigious National IHS Director's Award for her contribution to women's health issues.</p> |

|                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>Ina May Gaskin</b></p>    | <p>Farm Midwifery Center,<br/>Summertown, TN</p>         | <p>Ina May Gaskin is founder and director of the Farm Midwifery Center, located near Summertown, Tennessee. This 37-year-old community-based midwifery service is noted for its women-centered care, as its midwives began their work providing midwifery care to each other.</p> <p>Early in her career, while in the mountains of Guatemala, she learned an effective method for dealing with a feared obstetrical complication (when baby's shoulders become stuck during birth) from indigenous midwives. Her campaign to promote this low-intervention maneuver began in 1985. Fourteen years later the Gaskin maneuver became the first obstetrical procedure to be named for a midwife in this era. It is now included in obstetric textbooks as one of the most effective methods for dealing with this feared complication. The Farm Midwifery Center is noted for its low rates of intervention, morbidity and mortality despite the inclusion of many vaginally delivered breeches, twins and mothers of more than five babies, as well as for the 99% breastfeeding rate among the women in the community.</p> <p>Author of <i>Spiritual Midwifery</i> (1975, revised 2002) and <i>Ina May's Guide to Childbirth</i> (2003), she promotes joyful birth, maintenance of breech skills and recognition of certain ingenious skills and techniques used by indigenous midwives of Mexico and Brazil. She is originator and curator of the Safe Motherhood Quilt Project (<a href="http://www.rememberthemothers.net">www.rememberthemothers.net</a>). Her own website is <a href="http://www.inamay.com">www.inamay.com</a></p> |
| <p><b>Sandra L. Haldane</b></p> | <p>Indian Health Service, Chief Nurse, Rockville, MD</p> | <p>Sandy received her BSN from Baylor University in 1981 and her MS in Nursing/ Healthcare Administration in 2006 from University of Alaska Anchorage. Her clinical nursing experiences from 1981 to 1992 included Obstetrics/Labor &amp; Delivery and Adult/Pediatric Medical Surgical at Santa Fe Indian Hospital; Adult Medical Intensive Care at Hermann Hospital (Houston, TX); and Adult Surgical at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) in Anchorage, AK. Her management experiences from 1993 to 1998 include that of nursing management and senior executive leadership at ANMC as well as work as an Area Consultant at the Alaska Area Native Health Service Area Office. Sandy assumed the position of the IHS Chief Nurse in October 2003 and as such, provides national guidance, advocacy, budget justification, and support for a variety of programs and grants in nursing and Indian health. Sandy is a member of several nursing professional organizations and is a past board member of the National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association. She is member of the Tsimshian Tribe of Annette Island Alaska and is married to Mark Anderson. Sandy and Mark have two children, Cole age 11 and Stevie age 7.</p>   |

## Joan Junge

MCH Program Manager, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Dillingham, AK


Joan Junge wanted to become a midwife after her son was born at home in Ecuador, South America, while she was a Peace Corps volunteer. She graduated from the University of San Francisco's CNM program in 1983. Afterwards, she worked three years in a birthing center and two years in a solo home birth practice in Denver, Colorado.

In 1988 Joan & her family moved to Barrow, Alaska to work among the Inupiat Eskimos. This work involved full scope midwifery and women's health care in the hospital and public health clinic. She traveled regularly to remote Arctic villages by small planes to provide health care in their clinics. Besides births, she took call for emergency medivacs to villages and the tertiary hospital in Anchorage. Most of the hospitals in rural Alaska do not have C/Section capabilities, so emergency OB transport to Anchorage was occasionally needed to achieve a safe birth outcome.

In 1990, when Joan was 4 months pregnant with twins, the family moved to Dillingham, in southwest Alaska. As in Barrow, it is only accessible by air from Anchorage. Our region is home to the Yupik Eskimo, Aleut and Athabascan peoples. The area covers 40,000 square miles and has 23 villages. Her work as Maternal-Child Health Coordinator involves full scope midwifery/women's health care (although births are few), prenatal classes using live video conferencing, case management for all prenatal clients in the region and monthly village travel for health care. She is the Neonatal Resuscitation instructor for the hospital staff and shares call as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.

Joan also manages the "Aanamta" pre-maternal home, where village women come to reside at 37 weeks to await labor. The births occur in birthing rooms at Kanakanak hospital, which is within walking distance from the home. Again, there are no C/Section capabilities in our hospital so emergencies must fly to the tertiary hospital in Anchorage if necessary.

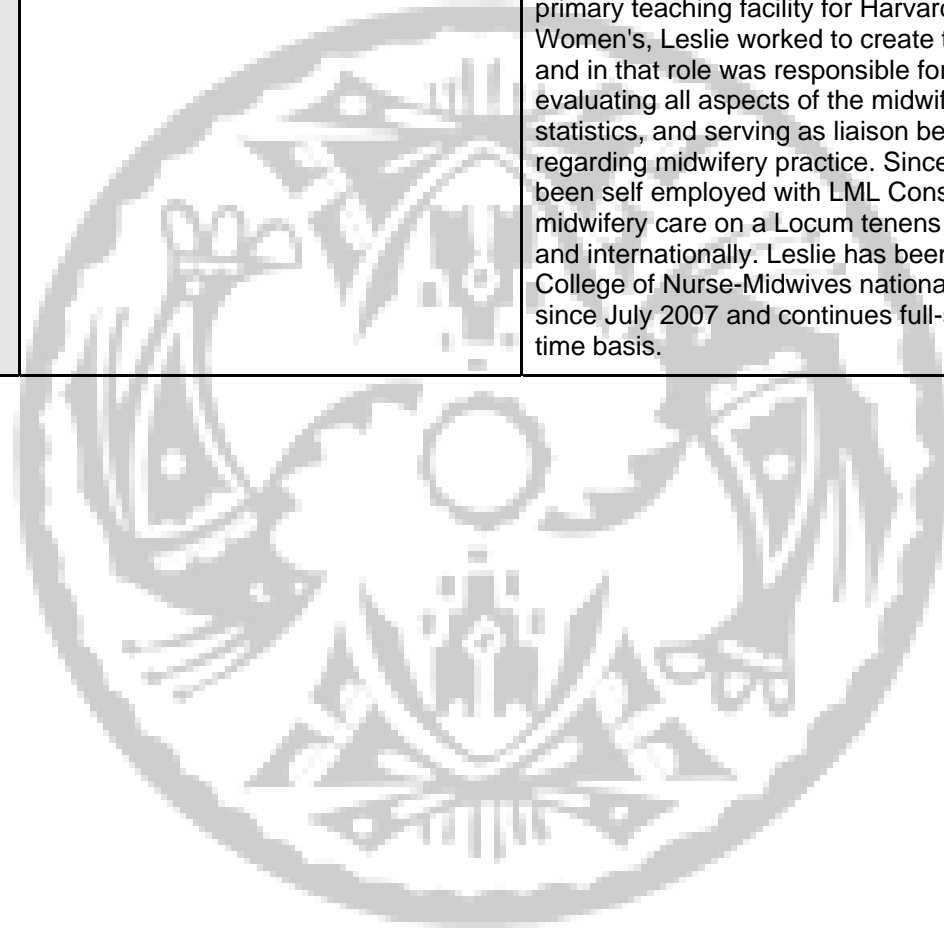
In closing, it is an honor to participate in this gathering of midwives ~ Quayana!

|                                   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <p><b>Ursula Knoki-Wilson</b></p> | <p>Indian Health Service, Chief Clinical Consultant for Advanced Practice Nursing, Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility, AZ</p> <p><a href="http://www.ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/nc4/nc4-apn.asp">http://www.ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/nc4/nc4-apn.asp</a></p>  | <p>Ursula Knoki-Wilson is Indian Health Service Chief Clinical Consultant for Advanced Practice nursing since 2001 and supervisor of nurse-midwifery services within the Department of OB/GYN at Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility, Chinle, AZ since 1994. Currently, 70 percent of her time is spent as Assistant to the CEO for Community Liaison work at Chinle Service Unit. She is former Dean of the Division of Nursing at Navajo Community College (now Dine College) at Tsaile, AZ and Director of practical nursing at Chinle Unified Schools Vocational Programs. She has served as faculty and adjunct clinical faculty at several Universities in the Southwest Area in nursing and midwifery education programs as well as nursing minority recruitment and retention. She has served as research associate and Navajo cultural consultant on several projects related to health and culture. Her focus area is cultural foundations of health and cultural competence for health professionals.</p>  |
| <p><b>Joan Koval</b></p>          | <p>South Central Foundation, Anchorage Native Medical Center, Anchorage, AK</p>  | <p>Joan Koval has practiced as a nurse-midwife for 25 years. Originally from NYC, she moved to Barrow, Alaska with her nurse-practitioner husband in 1986. As the Maternal-Child Health Nurse-Midwife, Joan followed the progress of predominantly Inupiat pregnant women throughout the Arctic North Slope Region. Travel to the villages included working along side the Community Health Aides assisting in their training and providing prenatal care. At the Barrow Service Unit all births were attended by physicians who had varied backgrounds and some with little obstetric experience. In 1987, Joan requested and was granted delivery privileges to be the first nurse-midwife to attend births at the Barrow Hospital.</p> <p>In 1989 Joan joined the Indian Health Service and moved south to Bethel, Alaska attending births at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital. In addition to taking care of the women from Bethel she also attended the births of the women who came in from the 48 surrounding villages. Joan was so moved by the way the Inupiat and Yupik women birthed that in 1994 she wrote an article for Midwifery Today titled "Midwifery in Rural Alaska."</p> <p>In 1997, Joan was hired by the Alaska Native Medical Center. She was excited to continue her work with the Alaska Native women but was distressed by the change in birthing practices. The women frequently requested epidurals and more intravenous medication than she ever remembered using in the rural centers. In Joan's attempt to help women get back to seeing birth the way nature intended she became certified in the HypnoBirthing Childbirth Education system and has helped close to 100 couples have a more conscious and natural experience.</p> <p>Joan has also been trained in energy healing modalities such as Qigong, Tai Chi, Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) in addition to hypnosis.</p> <p>Joan deeply appreciates the body, mind, Spirit connection in health and well being.</p> |

**Leslie Ludka**

Senior Technical Advisor, American College of Nurse-Midwives National office, Silver Springs, MD

Leslie began her career in health care in 1979 with an associate's degree in Nursing from Northern Essex Community College. She earned a bachelor's of science in Nursing from Boston University in 1986 and worked as a nurse at a free-standing birth center before becoming a midwife. In 1991, she graduated from the midwifery program at the Yale University School of Nursing. After a year of providing full scope midwifery care to native Hawaiian and rural community women on the island of Molokai, Leslie returned to Boston, where she spent nine years at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the primary teaching facility for Harvard Medical School. At Brigham and Women's, Leslie worked to create the position of Director of Midwifery, and in that role was responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating all aspects of the midwifery practice, maintaining practice statistics, and serving as liaison between nursing and medicine regarding midwifery practice. Since leaving that position, Leslie has been self employed with LML Consulting, providing full-scope clinical midwifery care on a Locum tenens and per diem basis, both nationally and internationally. Leslie has been employed by the American College of Nurse-Midwives national office as Senior Technical Advisor since July 2007 and continues full-scope clinical practice on a part-time basis.






|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>JoAnne Myers-Ciecko</b></p> | <p>Midwifery Education Accreditation Council, Mt. Vernon, WA</p>   | <p>Jo Anne Myers-Ciecko, MPH, has been an advocate for community-based midwifery since she had her first baby at home in 1976. She is currently employed as the Accreditation Specialist for the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council. She was a founding member of MEAC in 1991 and has participated in the accreditation review of sixteen different institutions and programs over the last ten years. Prior to assuming a staff position at MEAC, Jo Anne spent twenty years as Executive Director at the Seattle Midwifery School. She remains active on the SMS faculty, teaching a series of courses on professional issues, including history, ethics, legal requirements, health policy, professional associations and business. She represented MEAC on the coordinating committee of the National Certification Taskforce, which established standards for Certified Professional Midwives in 1994. She was an invited participant in the Carnegie Foundation's National Seminars on Midwifery Education in 1989-90, a member of the Pew Foundation/UCSF Center for the Health Profession's Task Force on the Future of Midwifery in 1998, and the Task Force on Emerging Health Professions in 2000. In Washington State, she has served as an advisor to the Statewide Health Personnel Resource Plan, the Health Professional Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program, the Statewide Perinatal Advisory Committee and the Insurance Commissioner's Workgroup on the Integration of Complementary and Alternative Medicine. She has chaired the Washington State Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition and Health Alliance International, a private organization providing assistance to maternal-child health projects in Africa and Asia. She received her Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Washington.</p> |
| <p><b>Carol Nelson</b></p>        | <p>Midwives Alliance of North America; Midwifery Education and Advocacy; North American Registry of Midwives, Summertown, TN</p> | <p>Carol is a licensed midwife in Tennessee and Florida. She lives in Summertown, TN, on The Farm. She began attending home births in 1971 and is currently is the Maternal and Child Health Section Program Planning Chair of the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting (APHA), where Carol represents the profession of midwifery. She is the Midwifery Education and Advocacy Co-Coordinator for the Midwives Alliance of North America and is on the Board of Directors of the North American Registry of Midwives, where she serves as Director of Applications and Treasurer. She has married to her husband Don Nelson for 35 years; they have four children and seven grandchildren.</p>   |



|                                     |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p><b>Marilyn Pierce-Bulger</b></p> | <p>Pioneer Consulting, Anchorage, AK</p>   | <p>Marilyn is a 35 year Alaskan resident whose nursing career began in rural Bethel. She is a certified nurse-midwife and family nurse practitioner who spent over 18 years providing care and creating services tailored to the unique needs of the Alaska Native population. She has worked as a clinician, program creator, manager, and Public Health Service regional consultant working with state MCH and family planning agencies. She has expertise working with high social risk women, designed a nationally-recognized infant mortality reduction project for the Alaska Native Medical Center (Nutaqsiivik) and has been self-employed as a consultant since her retirement from the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in 1999. Her recent contracts include working for 6 years with the State of Alaska FASD Diagnostic Team network and a National Institutes of Health SIDS reduction effort (<b>Healthy Native Babies</b>) that targets northern Alaska Native/American Indian communities.</p>  |
| <p><b>Geradine Simkins</b></p>      | <p>Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, inc;<br/>Midwives Alliance of North America,<br/>Maple City, MI</p> | <p>Geradine has been a midwife for over thirty years. She is a “post-modern fusion midwife” in that she has received her midwifery training via multiple pathways, both traditional and contemporary, including self-taught, apprenticeship, and university-based educational routes. Geradine brings a multi-faceted approach to maternal and child healthcare. She is a service provider and operated a full-scope midwifery business in Michigan in which she attended births at home and in birth centers for nearly 30 years. Geradine is an advisor, trainer and consultant for maternal and child healthcare projects in which she promotes the midwifery model of care in program design and implementation. Geradine is an activist and advocate for maternity care reform, promotes midwifery care as the gold standard, and is a leader in national and international midwifery politics. She is currently the President of the Midwives Alliance of North America. Geradine has worked in a variety of capacities with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan for the past ten years, the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman’s Health Board, and several other organizations that serve American Indian communities locally, regionally and nationally. She is dedicated to reducing barriers to healthcare services and resources, eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health status, and supporting community-based participatory research and wellness models of healthcare. In her role as a leader in the national midwifery movement Geradine’s goal is to network with others to make midwifery more accessible by inspiring a new generation of community-based midwives, particularly in underserved communities, and especially in Native and Indigenous communities.</p> |

**Susan Stone**

Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing, Hyden, KY

Susan graduated as a nurse-midwife from the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in 2001. She practiced at Bassett Health Care in Upstate New York until 1998 when she relocated her family to Kentucky and devoted her full effort to educating nurse-midwives and nurse practitioners to serve in rural and underserved areas. She has served as the President and Dean of the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing since 2000. She led the effort to convert the nurse-midwifery program at Frontier from a certificate program to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with a specialty in nurse-midwifery. Under Susan's leadership both Family Nurse Practitioner and Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner options were added to the MSN at Frontier. Most recently Susan led the development and implementation of an ADN-MSN entry option to the MSN program. Susan led the Frontier faculty and multimedia staff in the conversion of the distance education curriculum to a graduate level, web-based course delivery system that reaches students in all 50 states and seven foreign countries. Susan is committed to the belief that educating health care providers within the communities that they live and plan to serve is an effective method to provide competent, culturally sensitive primary care to women and their families living in rural and underserved areas all over the world. She designed, planned, and implemented the current faculty practice at FSMFN consisting of a 15 nurse-midwives and nurse practitioners providing service in a small maternity service in a critical access hospital and 5 rural health clinics in Southeastern KY. Susan holds a DNSc from the University of Tennessee at Memphis, a MSN in nursing administration from the State University of New York College of Technology as well as her nurse-midwifery certificate from Frontier.

|                            |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>Judy Thierry</b></p> | <p>Indian Health Service, MCH Coordinator, Rockville, MD</p> <p><a href="http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/index.cfm">http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/index.cfm</a></p>   | <p>Judy Thierry is the Maternal and Child Health Coordinator for the Indian Health Service. Tobacco, Breastfeeding, Immunizations and Infant mortality are 4 key charges. Close coordination with the Chief Clinical Consultants for Pediatrics and OBGYN includes the robust IHS MCH website with over 8 sub pages. Technical advice and consultation are provided to the ACOG, AAP and other professional membership organizations as they advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native women and children. Dr. Thierry participates in the annual site visits conducted by the respective groups combining continuing education and feedback on state of the art practice. The six Tribal Epidemiology Centers and an urban Indian Epi Center have MCH programs supported through IHS HQ cooperative agreement run through the MCH program. The 0 to age 20 years user population for the IHS (included tribal and urban programs) is about 600,000 children. Over 10,000 deliveries take place in IHS and Tribal facilities, with an additional 15,000 women receiving prenatal care in the system. About 21,000 infants are seen in our system annually. The MCH portfolio includes preconception to adolescent and school based health care; maternity and postpartum care with emphasis on breastfeeding, reproductive health, contraception, behavioral health and family violence issues; wellness and prevention; childhood obesity and injuries; and MCH surveillance and clinical data analysis. Close working relationship is maintained with nursing, midwifery, primary care, oral health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and Head Start. Coordination of clinical information modules for OB and well child visits has allowed for a national data set and standardized visits for pregnant women and children. Dr. Thierry is a board certified pediatrician and provides periodic clinical care to MCH and general medical populations at a southwest Michigan tribe and also at a hospital located in New Mexico. She received her MPH from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in 2005. She lives with her husband Henry and has three children ages 20, 22 and 27.</p> |
| <p><b>Suzan Ulrich</b></p> | <p>Chair of Midwifery and Women's Health, Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing, Deerfield Beach, FL</p> <p><a href="http://www.midwives.org/home.html">http://www.midwives.org/home.html</a></p>  <p><b>FRONTIER</b><br/>OF MIDWIFERY AN<br/>WWW.FRONTIE</p> | <p>Suzan has been with the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing since 2000. She teaches the professional role courses including a course on community assessment and another course on developing a business proposal for a birth center. She became Department Chair in 2002. She is active in the American College of Nurse Midwives currently being Chair of the Nominating Committee. She is also active in the American Association of Birth Centers serving on the Program Committee. Prior to her teaching at the Frontier School she ran the North Shore Birth Center in Beverly Massachusetts for ten years.</p>   |

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>Roberta Ward</b></p>     | <p>Utah Valley, UT</p>   | <p>I am Tlinket Indian from Southeast Alaska and Caucasian. I have always lived in both worlds. I was born to one family and raised with another. My great grandmother was a healer for the village of Yakutat. She delivered many babies. My mother was a Community Health Practitioner for many years in Southeast Alaska. The parents who raised me loved me well; they were not involved in health care. I believe I was born to do the work that I do. I have taken the long road to becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife and Family Nurse Practitioner. I received my Associates Degree in Nursing in 1986 from the University of Alaska Anchorage. I received my Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in 1996, also from UAA. I then went to Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing and earned my Certificate of Nurse Midwifery in 2002 with a Masters of Science in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University, also in 2002. I have recently completed my studies for Family Nurse Practitioner, returning to Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing to complete this program. Since I have completed my initial graduate schooling I have had the opportunity to work in both the Alaska native setting and in Utah Valley, Utah. I have enjoyed both completely different populations. Eventually, I would enjoy working both in Alaska and in the "Lower 48" so that I may get the best of both worlds.</p> |
| <p><b>Lisa Weston</b></p>      | <p>South Central Foundation,<br/>Anchorage, AK<br/><a href="http://www.southcentralfoundation.com/">http://www.southcentralfoundation.com/</a></p>  | <p>Lisa Weston is a Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Addictions Nurse Specialist and Advanced Nurse Practitioner. She received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing with a minor in Psychology from University of Alaska Anchorage and her Midwifery certification from Philadelphia University. Lisa has worked for Southcentral Foundation's Dena A Coy Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment Programs for the past 7 years and developed an integrated services model to provide continuity of medical care within this population. Lisa is currently a staff CNM with Southcentral Foundation's Women's Health Services and adjunct faculty for the University of Alaska Anchorage's School of Nursing.</p>  |
| <p><b>Cynthia Vidaurri</b></p> | <p>National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C.<br/><a href="http://www.nmai.si.edu/">http://www.nmai.si.edu/</a></p>                   | <p>Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Research Unit Manager. She has worked approximately twenty-five years in traditional culture in the US, Mexico, Cuba, Viet Nam, and Cambodia. She has researched traditional medicine and belief systems in the US Southwest and Mexico. Prior to working at NMAI, worked at the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage as a Folklife Specialist/Curator.</p>   |