

Indian Affairs Commission State of Alabama

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Wednesday, August 18, 2010
2:00 - 4:00 pm Central Time**

**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

Faculty

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Alabama Indian Affairs Commission**



Agenda

- **Present day Alabama Indian Affairs**
- **Health issues within the Tribes**
- **Question and answers**

Myths and Facts

- **American Indian or Native American**
- **Pay no taxes**
- **Not citizens**
- **Get free education, medical care, housing, etc.**
- **Receive monthly \$500 check from Federal Government**

Myths and Facts

- **DNA testing proof on being an Indian**
- **25% Blood Quantum needed to be an Indian**
- **You don't look Indian**
 - **Blonde, blue eyes, black**
- **Indian dress in costumes**

Myths and Facts

- **Practicing Indian spirituality makes you an Indian**
- **Descendent from a Cherokee Princess**

Alabama Indian Affairs Commission (AIAC)

- Was created by a Legislative Act in 1984
- The agency represents more than 38,000 American Indian families who are residents of the State of Alabama

– Code of Alabama §41-9-708

Alabama Indian Affairs Commission (AIAC)

- Recognizing the unique cultural and sociological needs of Alabama’s “invisible minority”, the Legislature specifically charged the AIAC to...

Alabama Indian Affairs Commission (AIAC)

“...deal fairly and effectively with Indian affairs; to bring local, state, federal resources into focus...for Indian citizens of the State of Alabama; to provide aid...assist Indian Communities...promote recognition of the right of Indians to pursue cultural and religious traditions.”

– AIAC Mission Statement

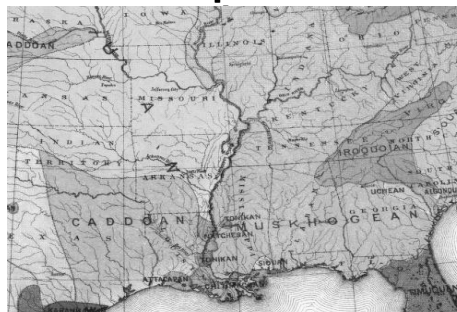
Why Does AIAC Exist?

- Noting that charge for action, AIAC is placed in a liaison/advocacy role between the various levels of governments and their departments/agencies and the Indian people of our tribal communities

Why Does AIAC Exist?

- AIAC stands alone to represent the Indian people of Alabama who wish to stand together with their fellow citizens while maintaining their own cultural and ethnic heritage

Language/Cultural Relationships of Alabama



Forced Removal

- **Indian Removal Act 1830**
 - Andrew Jackson
 - Supreme Court challenge by the Cherokees
 - Why?
 - Land, land, and more land
 - Service his constituency
 - Security

Forced Removal

- Alabama tribes removed 1832-1845
 - Trail of Tears
 - Everybody went regardless of political, social, or economic status - at the point of a bayonet if necessary
 - Concentration camps then moved out onto the trail on foot
- Not all Indians removed

Not All Removed

- Remnants form basis of our state tribes
 - Runaways, Hideaways, Mixed Bloods
 - Assimilation with white and/or black populations
 - Suppress Indian identity, heritage, culture, and language
 - Black Dutch/Irish

Legislation Affecting Indians Today

- **Federal Acknowledgment Process 1978**
 - Indian Groups, Tribes, and Bands can apply for Federal recognition
 - Greatest bone of contention in today's Indian affairs

Legislation Affecting Indians Today

- **American Indian Religious Act 1978**
 - Right to practice and worship native spirituality
- **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 1990**
 - Protect and preserve aboriginal graves and artifacts

Legislation Affecting Indians Today

- **Indian Arts and Craft Act 1990**
 - Protect the value of native crafts made by recognized Indians only

Alabama's American Indian Tribes

- Poarch Band Creek of Indians
- MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians
- Star Clan of Muscogee Creeks
- Echota Cherokees of Alabama
- Cher-O-Creek Intratribal Indians
- Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe

Alabama's American Indian Tribes

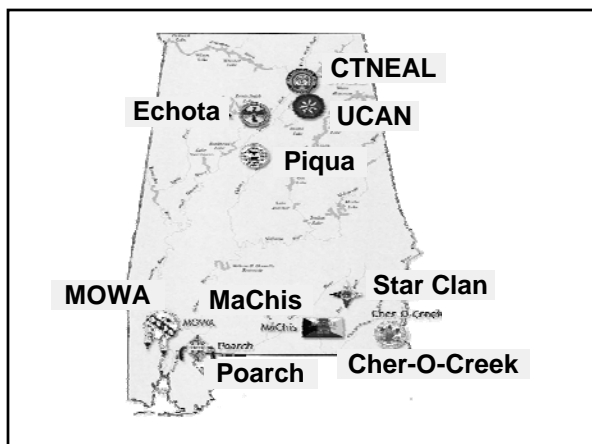
- Piqua Shawnee Tribe
- United Cherokee Ani-Yun-Wiya Nation

Alabama's American Indian Tribes

- These tribal governments represent three major groups remaining of American Indians in Alabama
- The first seven tribes were originally recognized by Alabama in 1984
- The last two were granted recognition by the AIAC Board in 2001

Present Day Locations

- Five located south of Montgomery
 - Historically Creek and Choctaw areas
- Four located north of Birmingham
 - Historically Cherokee and Chickasaw areas



State Tribes/Indian Population

- Over 50,000 Alabama citizens have identified themselves as having some degree of Indian blood
- Constitutes > 1% of total state population
- Majority of population is in the northern part of the state

Looking Indian

- Stereotypical look
- Blended look
- All races and ethnicities

Tribal Membership

- Research and membership
 - Genealogy
 - Family history
 - Written and oral
 - Official records
 - Birth certificate, marriage license, etc.
 - Lineal descendent

Tribal Membership

- Blood Quantum
- Tribal review and membership decision leads to
 - Tribal roll card
 - A must to prove you are an American Indian

Tribal Membership

- Only group of Americans who must show proof of who they claim to be **ONLY** documentation accepted by Federal, state, or any other governmental entities
- A member of a presumptive minority group

Tribal Chiefs



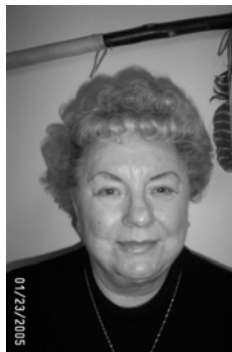
Tribal Chiefs



Tribal Chiefs



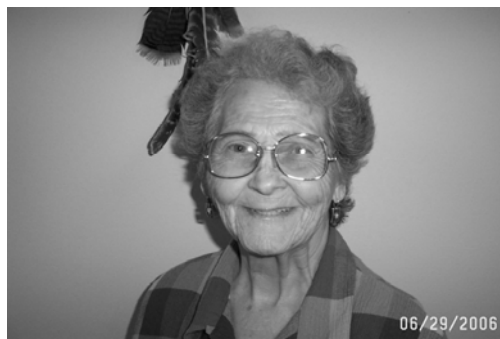
Tribal Chiefs



Tribal Chiefs



Tribal Chiefs



Health Issues Compared to State and U.S. Averages

- Heart attacks/strokes
- Breathing problems
 - Asthma, COPD
- Diabetes
 - I/II
- Dental problems
 - Lack preventive care

Health Issues Compared to State and U.S. Averages

- Recommended screening tests
 - Mammograms
 - Pap Smears
 - Colonoscopy
 - Prostate/PSA
 - Cholesterol

Health Issues Compared to State and U.S. Averages

- Vaccinations for adults
- Lack health insurance

Cultural Issues Affecting Health

- Natural/traditional medicine
 - Alternative cures and practitioners
 - Tribal healers
- Age
 - Older the more difficult to get health issues address

Cultural Issues Affecting Health

- Fear of bureaucracy
- Fear of all government representatives, assistance, and advise
- Isolation
- Accessibility to care
 - Rural locations

Available Resources

- There is NO Indian Health Service assistance
- AllKids Health Insurance
- SFMNP
- Tribal Traditional Medicine & Care
 - Tribe producing natural medicine

Available Resources

- Community Health Navigator
 - Tribal person use as a conduit for information
- ADPH 2008 Health Survey of Alabama's Tribes

How to Help

- Establish liaison with tribes
 - AllKids
- Have a specific ADPH county representative to each tribe
- Establish liaison with a specific ADPH county clinic
 - Mobile County with the MOWA

How to Help

- **More educational outreach concerning health/medical issues**
 - HINI, HIV, drug abuse, spousal/child abuse, diabetes, STD

How to Help

- **Coordinate visits by mobile health clinics**
- **Attend tribal Pow Wows**
 - Set up information booths
- **Use Tribal CHNs**

How Can AIAC Help?

- **Call us if you have a question concerning a tribe or an Indian individual**
- **If you want to work with or assist a tribe, call us and we will provide information on how best to do it**
- **Anything concerning American Indians, call us or email us and we will attempt to assist you**

Contact Information

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