



*The University of Oklahoma*  
*Health Sciences Center*  
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS  
SECTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

March 1, 2017

Jacqueline Gray, PhD  
University of North Dakota  
School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center  
Grand Fork, North Dakota

Re: Dolores Subia BigFoot, Ph.D.

Dear Dr. Gray:

This letter is to serve as a recommendation for Dolores Subia BigFoot, Ph.D., to be selected for the Joseph E. Trimble Award from Division 45. I have worked with Dr. BigFoot since she joined the faculty of the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 1994 and can objectively evaluate her qualifications for this prestigious award. I will review her accomplishments in teaching, service, research, and professional contributions to Native American programs that clearly document her qualifications to be the honoree.

Dr. BigFoot has established herself as a master teacher in the field of American Indian and Alaska Native children's mental health, trauma, parenting, and child abuse and neglect. She has the unique ability to mold research-based evidence and traditional American Indian and Alaska Native teachings into meaningful information that reaches both academic professionals and traditional American Indian and Alaska Native people. She is highly respected throughout Indian Country as a teacher and elder, and is a role model for young American Indian and Alaska Natives. She immediately establishes rapport with the Native community members and is viewed as a "sister" or a "cousin" when she leaves. That is, she is seen as a relative who is available to help and provide knowledge.

Her contributions to teaching American Indian and Alaska Natives mental health professionals are truly outstanding. As PI or Co-PI, she had been funded at the federal level by HHS, Indian Health Services, SAMHSA, and OJJDP to train professionals, including physicians, mental health providers, and educators, to recognize, intervene, and provide evidence-based services to traumatized or maltreated children in Native communities throughout the US. In 2015, Dr. BigFoot received a \$2,039,000 funded cooperative agreement from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a national training and technical assistance center to restructure juvenile justice in Indian Country (OJJDP Tribal Youth T/TA Center). This is a continuation agreement with non-competitive renewal each year.

A nationally recognized accomplishment has been to adapt three evidence-based interventions for traumatized children for use with Native children, the Honoring Children series. These include Honoring Children-Mending the Circle (Trauma –Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy); Honoring Children-Respectful Ways (Treatment for Native Children with Sexual Behavior Problems); and Honoring Children-Making Relatives (Parent-Child Interaction Therapy). This project was funded by SAMHSA as part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and current funding is provided by HHS to train mental health professionals to utilize these approaches with American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families. This has also produced several peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. BigFoot has lectured as part of the OU Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect, presented over 60 invited lectures and workshops nationally and over 30 in Oklahoma, served as primary speaker at major National conferences, served as a mentor on American Indian and Alaska Native issues for graduate psychology students, and served as a consulting faculty member for the OU LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities). The extensive list of conferences across the US that have invited Dr. BigFoot to serve as a presenter is a clear testament to her expertise as a teacher.

Dr. BigFoot has funded her teaching activities through continual federal funding from HHS, IHS/BIA, SAMHSA, and the Department of Justice (DOJ). She developed major teaching tools for the Office of Victims of Crime in DOJ, including Upon the Back of a Turtle, a teaching program to inform federal investigators about the culture and traditions of American Indian and Alaska Natives. In addition, she was funded to serve as Editor for a series of 15 informational booklets on child maltreatment for distribution in Indian Country, the American Indian Monograph Series.

Dr. BigFoot is recognized nationally as a major figure in American Indian and Alaska Native culture, children's mental health, child maltreatment, and health disparities. Her teaching has made significant contributions to the education of Native and non-Native professionals who work to protect children and eliminate the effects of trauma exposure. Dr. BigFoot has made substantial contributions to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and at the state and national levels through her direct service and consultation. At the University level, she serves as a consultant on American Indian and Alaska Native issues to the Psychology Internship and Post-Doctoral Training Programs in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; at the Section level, she conducted the parents' group in the Treatment Program for Adolescents with Illegal Sexual Behavior

Dr. BigFoot's service at the state and federal levels is exemplary. She has been appointed to numerous Boards, national committees, and leadership groups to assist state and federal agencies to improve mental health services to Native children. She has been invited to speak before Congress, at congressional hearings, and received an invitation to the White House. She has worked to eliminate disparities in access to health services for American Indian and Alaska Natives, prevent suicide in Native youth, and assist Native communities responding to national disasters or community violence.

In the last few years, Dr. BigFoot has received significant awards for her service and leadership. Five awards came from the American Psychological Association for Distinguished Service; The Loma Linda University Schools of Public Health for Leadership in Prevention; the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children for Cultural Diversity; the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma for an Honored American Indian Educator; and Southwestern Oklahoma State University for an Honored American Indian Elder. These awards attest to the outstanding service and contribution that Dr. BigFoot has made to her profession and to American Indian and Alaska Native culture and education. She also received the 2013 award for "Being an Outstanding Role Model for Women in Pediatric Academic Medicine." Especially important to note is following that award, Dr. BigFoot was the recipient of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regent's Award for Superior Professional and

University Service and Public Outreach, an important acknowledgement of her university, state, and national contributions of service.

Dr. BigFoot's research efforts have focused on evaluating the efficacy of programs in Indian Country. She has directly experienced the multiple barriers to implementing research in Native communities due to problems of mistrust of "researchers" who did not respect the communities or use the information to assist the community. Her first major research project entailed obtaining approval from 38 different IRB entities. She continued to be involved in evaluating services provided in Native communities in order to improve practice and treatment services for Native children and families. She has worked with the OUHSC American Indian and Alaska Native Advisory Council for the Center in Alcohol Studies and the National Native Research Network (NRN). From this work a publication was developed, The Healthy Indian Country Initiative Promising Prevention Practices Resource Guide, funded by HHS and published in 2010 with a chapter co-authored by Dr. BigFoot. The guide focuses on tribal driven, participatory research, and tribal ownership of the process and outcomes of the research.

In addition to her educational publications, Dr. BigFoot has 22 articles published in peer review journals and 10 chapters in texts. She has served as a reviewer for the Journal of Child Maltreatment, Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, and for American Indian Head Start, NIH, Office for Victims of Crime, SAMHSA, and the University of Oklahoma Press.

Dr. BigFoot has co-authored three publications that are nationally regarded as the standard for cultural adaptation for American Indian and Alaska Native populations. With other leading researchers from CCAN and from the Anne E. Casey Foundation, she co-authored a seminal publication on implementation of an evidence-based approach statewide in Oklahoma on a home visitation intervention for child maltreatment. Dr. BigFoot has contributed to several national publications that have and will continue to influence research in the mental health, public health, and legislation arenas. In 2013, she was part of a diverse research team that worked with the Children's Bureau of HHS and developed an evaluation tool appropriately titled, The Roadmap to Collaborative and Effective Evaluation in Tribal Communities Evaluation (Roadmap).

In summary, Dr. BigFoot's accomplishments and contributions make her an outstanding nominee for the Joe Trimble Award. She is a nationally recognized figure in American Indian and Alaska Native culture, child maltreatment, and children's mental health services. I strongly support her nomination for this important award from Division 45.

Yours truly,



Barbara L. Bonner, PhD  
CMRI/Jean Gumerson Endowed Chair  
Director, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Professor of Pediatrics