

# Children's Protective Services employee profiles

## Life's calling to work with children, families

Talofa to the people of my community. My name is Elizabeth Blanche Hisatake. I am 37 years old, and I'm writing this as an introduction of who I am and what I do here at Children's Protective Services.

My mother is Mary Tohet. My father is Harry Hisatake Jr. aka "Pineapple." My maternal grandmother was atwai Caroline Katchia Tohet, and my maternal grandfather was atwai Harvey Tohet.

I am unable to recall my paternal grandparents, since they lived in American Samoa. I am an enrolled member of this tribe (in addition to being Samoan and Japanese) and I say that proudly, because this is the community I grew up in and the people I know.

I initially started working with Children's Protective Services (CPS) when I was 16 or 17 years old. At the time the CPS center was known as the "group home."

I became interested in working with CPS and the children because I am a survivor of sexual, mental, and emotional abuse. This is the major reason why I chose to work in this field and with the children in my community.

The other reason I chose this field is due to the example my grams (Caroline) shared and showed by opening her heart and home to other children who needed stability, consistency, and a nurturing and loving home and family.

At the time I was growing up I became very jealous of those other kids, because she was my grams and I didn't



want to share or have another kid steal her love from me. Reflecting as an adult, I realize my gram's had a big heart and was always willing to open her heart to other kids, but that didn't take away the love she felt and showed me.

I worked at CPS for nine years, and when I was 25, I moved to Woodburn because I was following my heart. I lived in Woodburn for a total of nine years, and during this time I gave birth to my one and only child (by choice I have only one child) Mascena Caroline Nava. She's a fourth-grader in Mrs. Moore's room here at Warm Springs Elementary.

During the nine years I lived in Woodburn, I worked at the Woodburn School District, Marion County Services to Children and Families aka DHS now, and the Portland Area Office for the Siletz Tribe.

I would come home when I was able to and a majority of that time was to help to my "kuks" aka Richard Tohet, for any medicine singing and gathering, as he is a medicine singer.

I knew in my heart it was time to come back home and work with the children of my community. There was an employment opportunity with CPS. I applied for the "service co-

ordinator" position and had a telephone interview with Becky Main and Charlene Stacona-White.

It was very natural to re-apply with CPS for the vacancy that was available. I was extended the offer of employment and without hesitation. I accepted and moved back home. I have been back since March 2006.

The calling in my lifetime has always been in the social services field, working with children and families. I am very fortunate to be back at CPS and currently working as a CPS Specialist, aka caseworker. The horrific trauma I survived during my childhood has strengthened me so I can work with my kiddos, as I'm able to understand, recognize and relate to the gamut of emotions they are feeling. I am able to help them understand the emotions they are feeling are valid.

I will continue to be passionate and advocate for child abuse prevention.

Everyday there are millions of children being abused in the world and we have the power to make a difference. I want to encourage the members of my community to become proactive and advocate for our children, who might be your daughter, son, brother, sister, cousin, niece, nephew or grandchild.

Remember it only takes one person to make a difference, to inspire other people to care and want to make a difference for our children.

Fa'afetai (Samoan thank you).

**Elizabeth Hisatake**

## Poitra promoted to CPS secretary

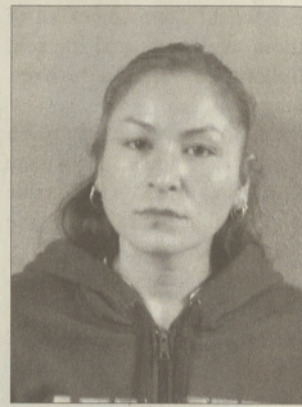
My name is Wilona Poitra. My mother is Peggy Williams. My father is Lester Poitra. I used to have five brothers but the Creator had made one of them my Elder, so now I have four brothers: Willard, Spencer, Josh and Woods. I have one daughter, Jackie Poitra. I have many nieces and a few nephews.

I am an enrolled Warm Springs Tribal member.

I have lived here all of my life, except for the two years I went away to boarding school in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

I graduated from Madras High School, earning my high school diploma.

I have also earned a Medi-



cal Assistant Diploma from Tongue Point Job Corp Center in Astoria.

I have worked for Indian Health Services in Warm Springs and Siletz, and have also worked at the Early Childhood Education Center, Bright Wood

Corp., and various other jobs.

I started working at Children's Protective Services on April 16, 2008.

I started out as a limited duration office assistant, which was mainly filing. After a few months, I was hired on as the full-time receptionist, and as of recent January of this year I was promoted to being Secretary III for CPS.

My duties include, but are not limited to, answering the phone, taking messages and doing other duties as assigned.

I am now scheduling the Permanency Planning Review Team meetings, payroll, filing and much more secretarial duties.

## Many duties for transitional caseworker

Hello members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. I hope this reaches you in good spirit...

My name is Roberta Tufti. My Indian name is Koos Koos and I am enrolled tribal member of Warm Springs.

My parents are the late Oscar Fabian Tufti (Warm Springs) and the late Geraldine Govenor Tufti (Nevada). They both had strong faith in the Full Gospel Church.

I have four children and four grand children.

In 2004 I have applied for the Children's Protective Services Assistant position. I worked with families for two years. In 2006 I then transferred to a Transitional Caseworker position, and I like



what I do.

So once the parent(s) receive temporary custody of the child(ren) the transitional caseworker will monitor the case for up to six months.

A transitional caseworker performs case management ser-

vices for families who have been reunified with their children.

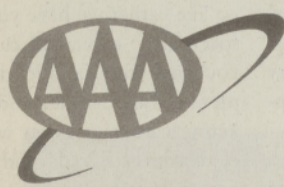
I also assist, guide, implement monitor and supervise the case at the time the children have been placed with the family, and continue to provide case management services for 90 days after the case has been terminated as wards of the Tribal Court. The court initiates and makes referrals to community resources as appropriate. I submit monthly reports and documentations in a timely manner to designated agencies.

I also assist in other areas where staff shortage exists.

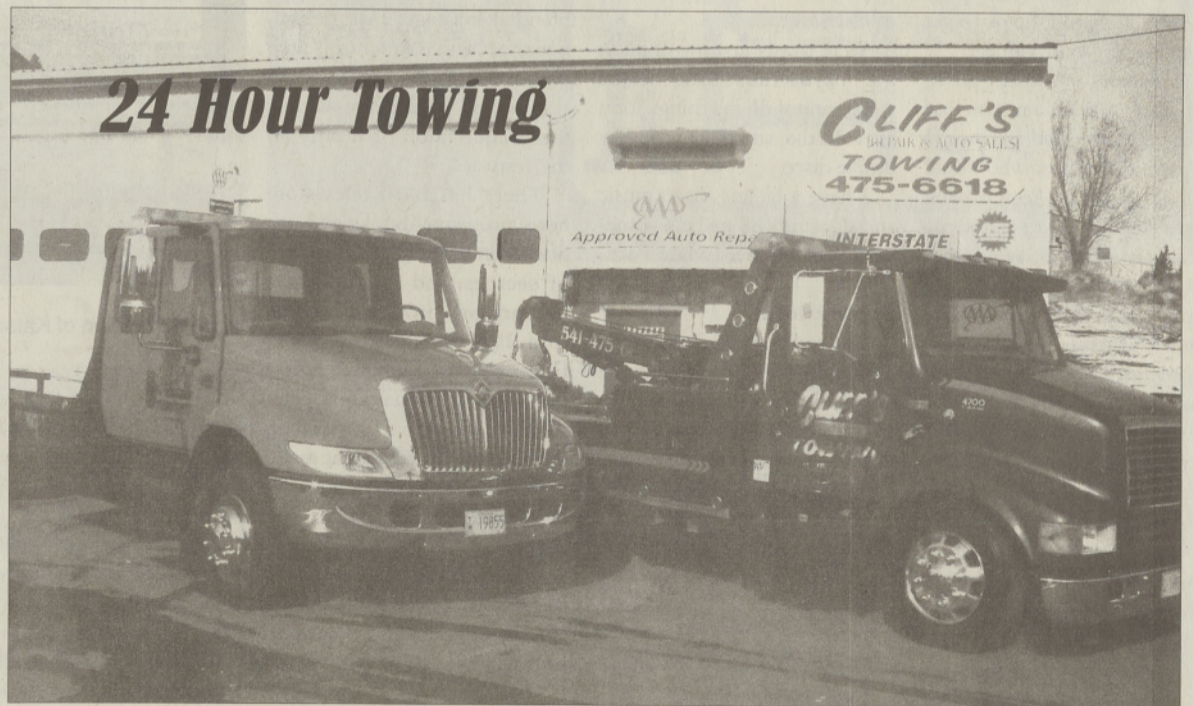
God bless you and yours...

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