

**National Coordination Committee on the American Indian/Alaska Native
(AI/AN) Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Sexual Assault Response Team
(SANE-SART) Initiative**

**Interim Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
(Via Web Conference)**

April 17, 2013

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Assault Nurse Examiner – Sexual Assault Response Team
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Background

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)—in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Indian Health Service (IHS), and other federal partners, tribal governments, and organizations, including training and technical assistance (TTA) providers—established the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative (Initiative) in 2010. The overall goal of the Initiative is to enhance AI/AN communities’ capacity to provide high-quality, multidisciplinary services and support for adult and child victims of sexual violence. In addition to funding three demonstration sites and a tribal TTA provider, OVC and its federal partners developed a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC), the National Coordination Committee on the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative (Committee), to ensure that this Initiative is responsive to victims and survivors, families, and individuals in tribal communities. The goal of the Committee is to develop recommendations for OVC and federal partners on how to increase the commitment of all key stakeholders to end sexual violence in AI/AN communities through collaboration.

The Committee convened its second meeting April 17, 2013, with the goal of refining the set of draft recommendations that were originally developed during the December 4–5, 2012 Committee Meeting (see Agenda). Sarah Deer, Committee Chair, opened the meeting. This meeting took place at 1:00 pm (Eastern) via Web conference. A total of 23 individuals were in attendance, including 12 Committee members and 9 federal observers. Two Committee members were absent. (See Committee Member Biographies.)

Federal Advisory Committee Members Present*

Judge Peggy Bird
Hallie Bongar-White
Sarah Collins
Darren Cruzan
Kim Day
Sarah Deer, Committee Chair
Bea Hanson
Dr. Susan Karol
Donna Keeler
Linda Logan
Juana Majel-Dixon
Geri Wisner-Foley

*FAC members Shirley Moses, and Kathryn Turman were not present for this meeting.

Federal Observers

Bob Cantrall, Deputy Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime
Bethany Case, Visiting Fellow, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime
Beverly Cotton, National SANE-SART Coordinator, Indian Health Service Headquarters
Joye E. Frost, Principal Deputy Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime
Kathleen Gless, Designated Federal Official, SANE-SART Initiative Lead, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime
Chris Holloway, Team Leader, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime
Shannon May, AI/AN SANE-SART Coordinator, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office for Victim Assistance
Keely McCarthy, Visiting Fellow, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime

Additional Observers

Jennifer Shewmake, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center
Crystal Park, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

Welcome and Introductions

Juana Majel-Dixon, Pauma Tribal Legislative Council Woman for the Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians, conducted a traditional opening.

Joye E. Frost provided the following opening remarks: “As always, I am humbled by the work that each of you is doing and your incredible commitment and passion. These recommendations are cross-cutting and intersect in very interesting ways with other OVC initiatives. A special thanks to our federal partners, Office on Violence Against Women, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Indian Health Service. I want to thank each of the Committee members, the survivors and the advocates, and Sarah Deer, the Committee Chair.”

Sarah Deer provided the following opening remarks: “It is a privilege to work with all of you. I am very hopeful that these recommendations will make a tremendous difference for our survivors and advocates on the ground. Thank you for being on the call today.”

Review of the Committee’s Work to Date

Shannon May reviewed the Committee’s work to date.

- At the December 2012 Committee meeting, small groups developed a list of 44 “potential recommendations” related to addressing sexual violence in AI/AN communities.
- The Committee then combined several and started refining the language of highly prioritized recommendations.
- Three subcommittees met via Webinar to refine the language and combine additional recommendations.

- There are now 18 draft recommendations, including bullet points which will become the “context/background” language that will support the recommendations. The 18 recommendations fall into four topic areas: funding, federal, training, and medical.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) - Prevention Activities

Kathleen Gless reviewed the VOCA statutes related to prevention activities. She shared the following sections of the VOCA with the Committee:

VOCA Statute

- There is no explicit prohibition of funding prevention activities, but the very nature of the source of funding (the Crime Victims Fund) and victim assistance presumes that a crime has occurred.
- Some “forward looking” uses of funds – e.g., training – are allowable, but crime prevention is not allowable with most OVC funding.

VOCA Assistance Guidelines

- VOCA AG: Section IV.E.3.m: **3. Non-Allowable Costs and Activities / m. Activities Exclusively Related to Crime Prevention** very specifically prohibits organizations funded with formula VOCA Assistance money from engaging in crime prevention activities with those funds.

Joye Frost further clarified that “the statute focuses on primary prevention activities – focused on the general public to create awareness to prevent crimes from occurring. The Vision 21 report that OVC hopes to release this month deals with the inflexibility in VOCA and the need to integrate services more closely with prevention activities.” Kathleen Gless will send the Vision 21 report to Committee members upon its release.

Kathleen Gless also explained that Children’s Justice Act funding, unlike OVC’s other funding sources, is specifically available for investigation and prosecution activities.

Review of Draft Recommendations

Committee members discussed the recommendations for the remainder of the Web conference, deliberating and further developing the recommendations related to the four topic areas. The Committee identified the following issues/concerns that require careful consideration as the Committee continues to review and refine the set of draft recommendations:

- Sarah Deer suggested that the Committee consider developing an opening statement for the Recommendations Document. The statement could include language such as, “All federal agencies have a trust responsibility ...” This statement should precede all other recommendations and underscore that all of the recommendations are founded on the

trust relationship and responsibility of all federal agencies to support Native women who have experienced sexual violence. Dr. Karol added that the development of MOAs is critical to ensuring the “trust responsibility” on the part of federal agencies. Judge Bird also added that the Committee should consider including language in the “trust responsibility” statement that highlights the importance of federal employees being encouraged to work with the states at a tribal level.

- Sarah Deer and Juana Majel-Dixon also suggested that the Committee consider developing a “PL 280” recommendation which explains the unique challenges that need to be addressed for PL 280 states.
- Donna Keeler noted that the Committee should always consider Native urban communities when developing the recommendations.
- Juana Majel-Dixon suggested that the Committee review the use of the term “tribal communities” throughout each recommendation. She expressed the belief that if this term is used, then the terms “Indian Country or tribal nations” should also be included. If the Committee uses the term “tribal communities” to include urban Native communities, the term “Indian Country” or “tribal nation” should also be included.
- Hallie Bongar-White noted that the Committee may want to consider the Tribal Housing laws and the impact of VAWA 2013 on victims of sexual violence.
- Sarah Deer suggested that the Committee consider developing definitions for each key term used in the final Recommendations document.

Discussion of “Context/Background” Information

The Committee members formed the following subcommittees in order to continue to review and refine the draft recommendations:

- *Funding Subcommittee.* Members: Judge Peggy Bird, Donna Keeler, and Bea Hanson
- *Federal Subcommittee.* Members: Sarah Collins, Juana Majel-Dixon, Geri Wisner-Foley, Sarah Deer, and Hallie Bongar-White
- *Training Subcommittee.* Members: Judge Peggy Bird, Linda Logan, Hallie Bongar-White, Darren Cruzan, and Kim Day
- *Medical Subcommittee.* Members: Dr. Susan Karol, Sarah Collins, Geri Wisner-Foley, and Kim Day

Dates for Second In-Person Meeting

The next in-person meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2013. Shannon May provided several dates in October and November 2013 for the Committee members to consider. OVC TTAC will conduct an online “doodle” poll which will include the following dates:

- October 1–4
- October 22–25
- October 29 – November 1
- November 5–8
- November 12–15
- November 19–22

Review of Additional “Proposed” Recommendations

Time did not allow for the Committee to review the additional recommendations.

Next Steps

Shannon May summarized the next steps to follow after the meeting:

- OVC will send Committee members a list of subcommittee membership and an updated contact list of the Committee members.
- OVC TTAC will conduct online “doodle” polls to identify dates for the upcoming Subcommittee meetings (via Web conference), interim Committee meeting (via Web conference) and in-person meeting that will take place in fall 2013.
- Subcommittees will conduct meetings via Web conference in May and June 2013. OVC TTAC will conduct online “doodle” polls to set those up.
- OVC will hold an interim meeting (via Web conference) with the entire Committee in August or September 2013.
- The Committee will develop a final draft of recommendations before the next in-person Committee meeting, which will take place in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2013.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at the meeting.

Adjournment

Sarah Deer thanked the Committee members for their participation in the meeting.

Juana Majel-Dixon, Pauma Tribal Legislative Council Woman for the Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians, conducted a traditional closing.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Sarah Deer (Mvskoke)

Chair

National Coordination Committee on the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)
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These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

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Agenda

- Traditional Opening
- Welcome
- Committee's Work To Date
- VOCA and Prevention Activities
- Review Draft Recommendations
- Discuss "Context/Background" Information
- Identify Dates for Second In-Person Meeting
- Review Additional "Proposed" Recommendations (if time)
- Next Steps
- Public Comments
- Traditional Closing