

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

**Federal Advisory Committee Meeting**

**December 9, 2014**



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

**Federal Advisory Committee Meeting (via Web conference)**

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**Background**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)—in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Indian Health Service (IHS), 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), named 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 its 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 seventh meeting on December 9, 2014, with the goal of providing an update on the briefing with Attorney General (AG) Eric Holder, discussing next steps for the Committee in regard to implementation of the recommendations, and providing an opportunity for Committee members to give feedback on an OVC/Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) video project. Sarah Deer, Committee Chair, opened the meeting. The meeting took place at 9:00 a.m. Pacific time. A total of 18 individuals participated, including 14 Committee members and 2 federal observers. Three Committee members were absent.

**Federal Advisory Committee Members Present\***

Lanisha Bell (designee of Darren Cruzan)  
Judge Peggy Bird  
Hallie Bongar-White  
Sarah Collins  
Beverly Cotton (designee of Dr. Susan Karol)  
Kim Day  
Sarah Deer, Committee Chair  
Bea Hanson  
Karen Joyce-McMahon (designee of Kathryn Turman)  
Donna Keeler  
Linda Logan  
Juana Majel-Dixon  
Shirley Moses

Geri Wisner-Foley

\*FAC members Darren Cruzan, Dr. Susan Karol, and Kathryn Turman were not present for this meeting.

### **Federal Observers**

Bethany Case, Victim Justice Program Specialist, OVC

Shannon May, AI/AN SANE-SART Coordinator, FBI Office for Victim Assistance

### **Additional Observers**

Lisa Lampman, Meeting Facilitator

Jennifer Shewmake, OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center

### **Traditional Opening**

Committee member Juana Majel-Dixon, Tribal Legislative Council Woman, Pauma Band of Mission Indians, offered a traditional opening.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Sarah Deer, Committee Chair, thanked Juana Majel-Dixon and welcomed Committee members to the meeting. She explained that the main purposes of the meeting are to update the Committee on the briefing with the Attorney General, to discuss next steps for the Committee in regard to implementation of the recommendations, and to provide an opportunity for Committee members to provide feedback on an OVC/OVW video project. Sarah introduced OVC Victim Justice Program Specialist Bethany Case.

Bethany Case provided opening comments, "I first would like to say that Joye Frost is with us in spirit today, and I know we are all sending good energy her way. On behalf of Joye, I want to thank each of you for your hard work. I also would like to thank Sarah Deer for serving as Chair of this Committee and Shannon May for her leadership. The meeting with the Attorney General was a great success. When OVC envisioned the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative, we knew that it would take more than one agency and demonstration site. We believed that it would take a comprehensive, coordinated effort to continue to harness the energy to improve sexual violence responses in tribal nations. Your voices and your opinions are meaningful and were captured in the Recommendations Report. You are laying the foundation for change for generations to come. Thank you."

### **Roll Call**

Lisa Lampman conducted a roll call of Committee members.

### **Overview of Meeting Agenda**

Shannon May reviewed the meeting agenda.

- Review of Where We've Been
- Discussion 1: How to Disseminate the Report

- Committee Feedback on the OVC/OVW Video Project
- Presentation on SAFESTAR
- Discussion 2: Supporting Implementation - Federal Agencies
- Discussion 3: Supporting Implementation - Tribal and Nonprofit Organizations
- Public Comments
- Commitment Ceremony/Sending Forth/Traditional Closing

### **Overview of Committee's Work**

Shannon May provided an overview of the Committee's work to date.

- First Meeting – December 2012
- Subcommittee Meetings – February 2013
- Four Meetings via Webinar – 2013-2014
- 2-Day Report Writing Meeting – February 2014
- Associate Attorney General West Briefing – May 2014
- Report Finalized – June 2014
- Attorney General Holder Briefing – November 2014

### **Overview of Committee's Report**

Shannon May provided an overview of the Committee's Report contents.

- Letter from the Committee to AG Holder
- List of Committee members
- Four issue areas that each begin with an explanation of relevant challenges
- A note about data collection and research
- Suggested steps toward implementation

### **Recommendation Report: Issues #1 and #2**

Shannon May provided an overview of Issues #1 and #2 from the Recommendations Report.

- Federal Agency Coordination and Collaboration at the Local Level
  - Establishment of district-specific, written guidelines for sexual violence response
  - Federal agency participation in local multidisciplinary teams and SARTs
- Department of Justice Personnel Policy Changes
  - Hiring, training, and assessing federal employees

### **Recommendation Report: Issues #3 and #4**

Shannon May provided an overview of Issues #3 and #4 from the Recommendations Report.

- DOJ Grant Solicitations and Funding
  - Changes to federal grant solicitations
  - Victims of Crime Act and special funding
- Public Safety and Public Health

- Prioritization of sexual violence response
- National Crime Information Center access for tribal law enforcement entities
- Sexual violence as a health care issue

### **Committee Tools**

Shannon May explained that two tools have been developed to assist Committee members in sharing the Report with their networks and local communities.

- Committee Overview Document
  - Overview of the Committee and its recommendations
  - For use by Committee members
- National Coordination Committee Brochure
  - Overview of the Committee and its recommendations
  - Available on AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative Weblet
  - For members of the public

### **Presentation of the Recommendations Report to the U.S. Attorney General**

Shannon May, Sarah Deer, Sarah Collins, Geri Wisner-Foley, and Judge Peggy Bird updated the Committee on the meeting with the U.S. Attorney General.

- On November 14, 2014, Sarah Deer, Judge Peggy Bird, Sarah Collins, Geri Wisner-Foley, and Shannon May presented the Committee's Report.
- Karol Mason, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, and Bea Hanson, Principal Deputy Director, OVW, also attended the meeting.
- Attorney General Holder complimented the Committee for its concrete, actionable recommendations.
- Recommendations Report: Attorney General Holder stated he does not want to wait for the new Attorney General, he wants to act now.
- Attorney General Holder asked, "How do we operationalize [these recommendations] for the field before I leave?"
- DOJ agencies are currently putting together a list of immediate action items that the Attorney General could take to implement the recommendations.
- Any questions?

### **Discussion 1. How to Disseminate the Committee's Report**

Sarah Deer led a discussion of potential opportunities to disseminate information about the Recommendations Report.

OVC Web Forum in 2015:

- The Committee agreed that an OVC Web Forum would be useful.

Committee-led webinar(s) for the public:

- The Committee recommends a webinar for Alaska Native organizations. (Shirley Moses)

- The Committee recommends a webinar for IHS field workers. (Beverly Cotton)
- The Committee recommends a webinar for state STOP administrators. (Hallie Bongar White)
- The Committee suggested that information related to federal/state parallels be incorporated into the Web Forums/webinars. (Sarah Deer)
- The Committee suggested that information on the tribal perspective of the impact of the Recommendations Report be incorporated into the Web Forums/webinars. (Judge Peggy Bird)

Other public forums/conferences in 2015:

- National Congress of American Indians Conference (Juana Majel Dixon)
- International Association of Forensic Nurses Conference (Kim Day)
- STOP/VAWA Conference (Bea Hanson and Hallie Bongar White)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Roundtables (Lanisha Bell)
- National Indian Health Board (Beverly Cotton)
- Federal Bar Association
- Department of Justice staff online training (Sarah Collins)

### **Committee Feedback on OVC/OVW's Alcohol-Facilitated Sexual Assault Videos**

Shannon May explained that the Committee, in addition to developing recommendations for the Attorney General, also serves as an advisory body for OVC and other DOJ agencies. She requested that the Committee serve in an advisory capacity by viewing and providing feedback to OVC and OVW on four videos addressing the complex issues related to alcohol-facilitated sexual assault.

She introduced Leslie Hagen (DOJ), Robin Smith (Video/Action), and Keely McCarthy (OVC). The Committee viewed and provided feedback on the four videos.

### **SAFESTAR**

Shannon May explained that SAFESTAR is an innovative grassroots program designed for AI/AN communities that do not currently have the capacity to support universal access to SANE services. She introduced Hallie Bongar White and Arlene O'Brien who delivered a presentation on the program to the Committee.

### **Discussion 2. Supporting Implementation: Federal Agencies**

What impact would it have if these steps were implemented?

Committee Response: These steps would be institutionalized beyond AG Holder's tenure and the Obama Administration. These initiatives could have an impact on how states work and collaborate with tribes in the state.

What other steps can the AG/DOJ take immediately?

Committee response—

- Push states to accept tribal protection orders and work with tribes (full faith and credit).
- Develop resources specific for Alaska—TA, curricula, services, etc.
- Provide training for tribes at the beginning of a transition to a new tribal government.
- Require grant administrators go through tribal cultural competency training.

What steps can be recommended to AG Holder for other federal agencies?

Committee response—

- Work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve the IHS response to tribes and develop a better understanding of victimization—that some victims do and some do not want to report.
- Sexual assault is not just a criminal justice issue, but also a health care issue (carry that message strongly).
- Support cultural practices and healing ceremonies.
- Standing order re: STIs and pregnancy—some IHS facilities provide it and some do not (no uniformity).
- Work with the Department of the Interior to improve the Bureau of Indian Affairs' response to sexual assault and violence against women more generally.

### **Discussion 3. Supporting Implementation: Tribal and Nonprofit Organizations**

#### **Planning/Commitment**

Shannon May and Sarah Deer requested that the Committee consider the following questions:

- How could you and your organization disseminate the report/make constituents aware?
- What steps could you and your organization take immediately, in the short-term and in the long-term, to advance the recommendations?
- What steps could you and your organization take to improve the response to sexual violence in tribal nations?

#### **Public Comments**

Public comments can be submitted to Shannon May, Designated Federal Officer, via e-mail at [shannon.may@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:shannon.may@ic.fbi.gov).

#### **Next Steps**

Shannon May discussed the Committee's next steps related to the Recommendations Report.

- Subcommittee meeting for public forums discussion – Jan/Feb 2015
- The next Committee meeting will be held on February 18, 2015, from 1:00–3:00 p.m. (ET), via Web meeting.

**Commitment Ceremony/Sending Forth/Traditional Closing**

Committee member Juana Majel-Dixon, Tribal Legislative Council Woman, Pauma Band of Mission Indians, led the Committee in a commitment ceremony and offered a traditional closing.

**Adjournment**

Sarah Deer and Shannon May thanked the Committee members for their participation in the meeting and their service on the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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



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Sarah Deer (Mvskoke)

Chair

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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.