

**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)**

**May 19, 2014**

**National Coordination Committee on the American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) Sexual  
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), 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 fifth meeting May 19, 2014, with the goal of refining the set of draft recommendations that were originally developed during the December 4–5, 2012 Committee meeting. Sarah Deer, Committee Chair, opened the meeting. This meeting took place at 2:00 pm (ET) via Web conference. A total of 22 individuals were in attendance, including 12 Committee members and 6 federal observers. Three Committee members were absent.

**Federal Advisory Committee Members Present\***

Judge Peggy Bird  
Hallie Bongar-White  
Sarah Collins  
Beverly Cotton (designee of Dr. Susan Karol)  
Darren Cruzan  
Kim Day  
Sarah Deer, Committee Chair  
Bea Hanson  
Donna Keeler  
Juana Majel-Dixon  
Kathryn Turman  
Geri Wisner-Foley

\*FAC members Linda Logan and Dr. Susan Karol, and Shirley Moses were not present for this meeting.

### **Federal Observers**

Bob Cantrall, Deputy Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime  
Ivette Estrada, Victim Program Specialist, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime  
Joye E. Frost, OVC Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime  
Shannon May, AI/AN SANE-SART Coordinator, Federal Bureau of Investigation Office for Victim Assistance  
Kris Rose, Deputy Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime  
Kimberly Woodard, AI/ AN National SANE-SART Coordinator, Indian Health Service

### **Additional Observers**

Diane Alexander, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center  
Alex Barry, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center  
Lisa Lampman, Meeting Facilitator  
Jennifer Shewmake, Office for Victims of Crime 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 review and discuss newly proposed language for the Recommendations Report, to formally approve the Report for submission to Attorney General Holder, and to brainstorm possible ongoing roles for the Committee. Sarah introduced OVC Director, Joye Frost.

Joye Frost provided opening comments, “Thank you, Sarah. I would also like to thank Juana Majel-Dixon. As always I have to start by thanking Sarah Deer for chairing the Committee. I am also grateful to Shannon May for her work with the Committee. This is the culmination of over 17 months of work. Thank you for your efforts in developing the Report. Your dedication and passion has been apparent throughout the process and shines through in your recommendations. We established the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative in 2010. We knew it was critical to establish a Federal Advisory Committee. I am pleased with the scope of topics this Committee suggests in the Report and the steps which you provide as concrete ways these recommendations can be implemented. I really think that your recommendations have the power to be game changers. While your initial task will be complete when the Report is submitted to AG Holder, I am asking that the Committee continue to work on the next steps for implementation for the remainder of the charter. Thank you.”

## **Roll Call**

Lisa Lampman conducted a roll call of Committee members.

## **Overview of Meeting Agenda**

Shannon May reviewed the meeting agenda.

- Overview of the Committee’s Recommendations Report
- Update on the Briefing for AAG Tony West
- Overview of Proposed New Language and Discussion
- Discussion: Imagine if...
- Committee Approval of the Report
- Presenting the Report to the Attorney General
- Next Steps for the Committee
- Public Comments
- Traditional Closing

## **Overview of Committee’s Report**

Shannon reviewed the components of the Committee’s Report.

- Introductory letter from the Committee to Attorney General Holder
- Four Issue Areas that each begin with an introductory explanation of relevant challenge(s):
  - Federal Agency Collaboration and Collaboration at the Local Level
    - Establishment of district-specific, written guidelines for sexual violence response
    - Federal agency participation in local MDTs and SARTs
  - Department of Justice Personnel Policy Changes
    - Hiring, training, and assessing federal employees
  - Department of Justice Grant Solicitations and Funding
    - Changes to federal grant solicitations
    - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and special funding
  - Public Safety and Public Health Issues
    - Prioritization of sexual violence response
    - NCIC access
    - Sexual violence as a health care issue
- A Note About Research
- Suggested Steps Toward Implementation

## **May 8, 2014 Briefing with Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Tony West**

Shannon May updated the Committee on the recent briefing held with AAG West.

- May 8, 2014: OVC Director, Joye Frost and Shannon May provided an overview of the establishment of the Committee and the Committee's recommendations to Associate Attorney General Tony West. OVW Acting Director, Bea Hanson, also attended the briefing.
- AAG West expressed support for the Committee's work and made a suggestion in relation to the recommendation addressing sexual violence as a health care issue.
- Joye Frost and Shannon May communicated that the Committee would like the opportunity to present its recommendations to Attorney General Holder.

Shannon explained that during the briefing, AAG West expressed some concerns about including a recommendation to amend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) given that he has seen many cases in which recommendations such as this one have led to "inaction" and essentially the "diluting" of a Committee's work and ideas. Shannon clarified that AAG West did not discourage the inclusion of the ACA recommendation if the Committee determined it to be the best option. AAG West offered an alternative approach for the Committee to consider, which would instead request that the Attorney General convene a meeting of key stakeholders to engage in a conversation about ways that the federal government and health care industry could address sexual violence as a health care issue.

Joye Frost and Bea Hanson noted that the AAG was extremely appreciative of the tremendous work of the Committee and is supportive of the recommendations.

## **Sexual Violence as a Health Care Issue**

Shannon May updated the Committee on the recent developments with the recommendations related to "Sexual Violence as a Health Care Issue".

- Based on the conversation with AAG West, the recommendation related to amending the ACA has been turned into two new recommendations and a new suggested step toward implementation.
- Shannon May and Kim Day drafted the proposed new language which was then shared with Committee Chair Sarah Deer, Donna Keeler (who represents the National Council of Urban Indian Health) and Beverly Cotton (Committee designee for Dr. Susan Karol from the Indian Health Service) for review and feedback.
- The proposed new language was sent to Committee last Thursday with a note that among the subset of Committee members who wrote or reviewed the proposed new

language before it was sent to the full Committee, there were differing opinions about one of the new health care-related recommendations.

She then explained that the new recommendations, the one new step toward implementation, and the new introductory language will be reviewed and that Committee members will have the opportunity to share their views. Shannon expressed that the goal is for the Committee to decide what language it would like to include in the Report and how the Committee would like to proceed with finalizing the Report.

### **Discussion of the Proposed New Recommendations**

Shannon May reviewed the original and revised language for the recommendations related to “Sexual Violence as a Health Care Issue” and invited the Committee to comment on their thoughts regarding the new language. She explained that the Committee must determine which language to include in the Report before the end of the meeting.

The Committee discussed the revised language, made several additional revisions, and agreed to move forward with Report once the newly revised recommendation is incorporated.

### **Discussion: Imagine if...**

Due to time constraints, this discussion did not take place.

### **Committee Approval of the Recommendations Report**

Sarah Deer, Committee Chair, requested that each Committee member verbally indicate their approval of the final Recommendations Report to be submitted to Attorney General Holder.

The Committee unanimously approved the report.

### **Submitting the Report to AG Holder**

Shannon May reviewed options for next steps that the Committee might take in presenting the report to Attorney General Holder.

- The Committee may request that AG Holder meet with representatives of the Committee or the full Committee to be briefed on the Report
- Timing – the Committee may propose a timeframe, but the meeting would need to be scheduled far enough in advance for travel arrangements to be made and for the briefing to be planned.

- The Committee will need to decide how to shape the presentation (what aspects are covered, how many people will present, etc.).

Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to discuss these items during the next meeting.

Shannon May requested that Committee also consider other venues in which they would like to present the Report. She provided the following suggestions to the Committee for their consideration before the next meeting.

- Provide an overview of the Report at a significant DOJ or Tribal-focused event
- Conduct a workshop about at the Indian Nations Conference.
- Other venues/events with an Indian country focus as identified by Committee members.

### **Next Steps for the Committee**

Sarah Deer confirmed that the Committee has an active charter and can continue to work until October 2015. Due to time constraints, the Committee was unable to discuss the following items during the meeting:

- Are there specific tasks the Committee would like to take on?
- Should the Committee act as an advisory board to provide expertise and support if and when the Attorney General and/or DOJ agencies begin to implement the recommendations?
- Should the Committee develop background information to support efforts around treating sexual violence as a health care issue, such as stories and experiences from the field?
- Other areas?
- Would the Committee like to convene regularly (possibly every other month) to stay in touch, hear any updates, etc.?

Sarah Deer explained that the Committee members would have an opportunity to discuss the future of the Committee's work during the next Committee meeting. Sarah noted, "I will continue to work with the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative staff on the next steps of the Committee. I will be in touch with all you during the coming weeks and months."

## Public Comments

Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director at the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, thanked the Committee for their work, specifically Shirley Moses for her work on behalf of Native women in Alaska. She reminded the Committee of the challenges faced by Alaska Natives and urged the Committee to review a recent report released by the GAO which outlines the many challenges in Alaska. She informed the Committee that she and her colleagues will submit written comments in response to the Report once it is officially released.

## Traditional Closing

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

## Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 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

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

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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