

**National Coordination Committee on the American Indian/Alaska Native Sexual Assault  
Nurse Examiner-Sexual Assault Response Team Initiative**

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

**September 12, 2014**



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

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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, and 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 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 sixth meeting on September 12, 2014, with the goal of discussing plans to present the Committee's Recommendations Report to the Attorney General and the ongoing role of the Committee. Sarah Deer, Committee Chair, opened the meeting. This meeting took place at 12:00 p.m. (ET) via Web conference. A total of 20 individuals were in attendance, including 12 Committee members and 3 federal observers. Four Committee members were absent.

**Federal Advisory Committee Members Present\***

Brenda Auterman (designee of Bea Hanson)

Judge Peggy Bird

Hallie Bongar-White

Sarah Collins

Beverly Cotton (designee of Dr. Susan Karol)

Kim Day

Sarah Deer, Committee Chair

Donna Keeler

Juana Majel-Dixon

Shirley Moses

Kathryn Turman

Geri Wisner

\*FAC members Darren Cruzan, Bea Hanson, Linda Logan, and Dr. Susan Karol were not present for this meeting.

### **Federal Observers**

Joye E. Frost, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice

Shannon May, AI/AN SANE-SART Coordinator, Office for Victim Assistance, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Kimberly Woodard, Senior Tribal Affairs Specialist, Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice

### **Additional Observers**

Jason Adams, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

Diane Alexander, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

Lisa Lampman, Meeting Facilitator

Soojin Park, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

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 update the Committee on where we are and what the next steps are, to share the plan for the meeting with the Attorney General, and to discuss what we can do from here on out as a Committee.” Sarah introduced OVC Director Joye E. Frost.

Joye Frost provided opening comments, “I first would like to thank Ms. Juana Majel-Dixon for providing the traditional opening. Thank you also to Sarah Deer for serving as Chair of this Committee. Your passion and expertise have been invaluable to the Committee’s work. Welcome Committee members. It is wonderful to be with you today, given that your very hard work of developing a Recommendations Report for the Attorney General has been completed. Thank you not just for your time today, but for all the efforts you have made to develop strong, concrete recommendations for Attorney General Holder that address specific ways federal agencies can improve the response to American Indian and Alaska Native adult and child victims of sexual violence. I would like to thank my federal colleagues and partners in these efforts—the FBI, the Indian Health Service, the Office on Violence Against Women, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and EOUSA. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the public who are joining the meeting today. It is a privilege to welcome each of you to the sixth meeting of the Attorney General’s National Coordination Committee on the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative.”

She continued, “Your commitment, expertise, and passion have been apparent throughout the life of this Committee and shine through in your Recommendations Report. I am deeply appreciative of all you have done and look forward to working with you in the final year of the Committee’s charter. When OVC established the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative, I felt it was crucial that the Initiative include a Federal Advisory Committee that could provide advice to federal agencies on improving sexual violence responses in tribal nations. You have done just that, and I commit to working with you to secure a meeting with the Attorney General to present your recommendations, as I believe that their implementation will truly change the way federal agencies work in Indian Country. Now that your initial task of developing recommendations for the Attorney General is complete, and while we prepare for a formal presentation of the recommendations to the Attorney General, I look forward to discussing your ongoing role. I am asking you to remain an active Committee in order to assist OVC and other federal agencies with making important steps toward improved services and funding for tribal nations, and I am open to your ideas and suggestions today while we define that role. Thank you again.”

### **Roll Call**

Lisa Lampman conducted a roll call of Committee members.

### **Overview of Meeting Agenda**

Shannon May reviewed the meeting agenda.

- Where We’ve Been
  - Committee’s Work and Recommendations Report Overview
- Where We are Now
  - Presenting Report to AG Holder and at the Indian Nations Conference
  - Development of a One-Page Overview
- Where We’re Going
  - Sharing the Report
  - Supporting Implementation of the Recommendations
  - Committee’s Ongoing Role
  - Public Comments
- Traditional Closing

### **Overview of Committee’s Work**

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

- First Meeting—December 2012 (In conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference)
- 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

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

Sarah Deer reminded the Committee that a formal request for a meeting with the Attorney General was submitted. She worked with Sarah Collins, Judge Peggy Bird, and Geri Wisner to develop talking points, which the four members plan to deliver during the meeting with the Attorney General. She provided an overview of the structure of the Committee's Recommendations Report.

- Letter from the Committee to Attorney General 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

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

Sarah Deer, Sarah Collins, and Judge Peggy Bird 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

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

Geri Wisner and 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

### **Why the Report Matters**

Two Committee members shared their thoughts on the importance of the Recommendations Report for tribal communities.

Judge Peggy Bird shared the following comments.

DOJ implementation of the recommendations will—

- Better fulfill the Federal Government's trust responsibility with tribes.

- Allow tribes to have more trust when working with federal employees and with DOJ agencies.
- Enhance the safety of victims, their families, and their communities.

Geri Wisner shared the following comments.

- DOJ made great strides, but a formidable disconnect still exists between tribes and federal agencies.
- The Committee's recommendations acknowledge this disconnect from both perspectives.
- The Committee's report helps strengthen the good work that is already taking place and can help address the gaps.

### **Presentation of the Recommendations Report to the Attorney General**

Sarah Deer provided an overview of the key items that the Committee members will emphasize during their presentation of the Recommendations Report to the Attorney General.

The presentation provides the opportunity to explain—

- The importance of victim-centered sexual violence responses in tribal nations.
- Why it is critical that federal agencies improve their response.
- How the Committee's recommendations can change the way federal agencies respond.
- Specific issues and concrete solutions.

### **Recommendations Report: One-Page Overview**

Shannon May described the one-page overview of the Recommendations Report that the Committee will develop over the next several weeks.

- It is a tool to help Committee members discuss the report with constituents and members of the public.
- It will include information about the Committee, the process it followed, and its recommendations.
- The Committee will brainstorm additional content to finalize the document.

Juana Majel-Dixon commented, "SART teams will be grateful to have the one pager and not have to read the whole report. TLOA and VAWA—boots on the ground people—are going to appreciate the one pager, as well. We will be able to share this with all of our partners. This can help us work toward greater collaboration as tribal SART teams coordinate with local authorities. As a Committee, we need to let them know that we applaud their work and support their continued efforts. This can be a powerful document to share at the local level."

### **Next Steps**

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

- Develop a one-page overview of the Recommendations Report

- Present the Recommendations Report to Attorney General Holder
- Present on the Recommendations Report at the Indian Nations Conference

Sarah Deer discussed the status of the Committee and additional roles for the Committee.

- Committee charter expires October 2015
- Work needs to conclude by approximately August 30, 2015
- What the Committee should focus on for the next year—
  - Sharing the Report
  - Supporting implementation of the recommendations
  - Serving as an advisory body to OVC and other federal agencies on sexual violence response in tribal nations
  - What else?

### **Action Items**

Shannon May reminded the Committee of the following action items—

- Send any additional ideas about the role of the Committee in preparation for the December 9 meeting.
- Reserve a hotel room now for December 8–9.
- Jennifer Shewmake will reach out to non-federal members in the coming month or so to discuss travel.
- Reach out to Jennifer Shewmake if you have special travel concerns.

### **Public Comments**

Shannon May opened the meeting for public comments. Jennifer Childs, Hopi IHS Health Care Center, stated, “I would like to say that this has been very helpful. It is clear that you are all working very hard. I am a new SANE in the Hopi Tribe. The Hopi Health Care Center opened on March 1, 2014.”

Shannon May responded, “On behalf of the Committee, please feel free to reach out to us as you continue your work with the Hopi Tribe and your team. We will be sure to provide a copy of the report to the public. Thank you.”

### **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 E. Frost thanked the Committee members for their participation in the meeting and their service on the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 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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