



EMPOWERING the Child Victim

Your MDT can make it happen!

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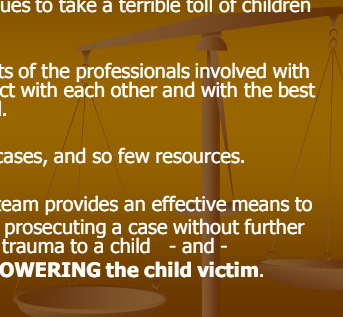
Presented by

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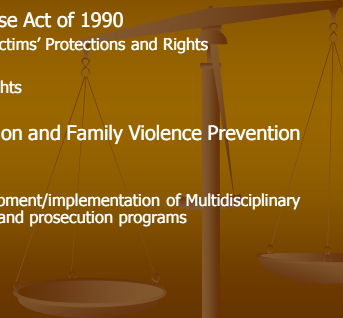
Facts and Considerations

- Sexual Abuse continues to take a terrible toll of children in Indian Country.
- The multiple interests of the professionals involved with each case can conflict with each other and with the best interests of the child.
- There are so many cases, and so few resources.
- A multi-disciplinary team provides an effective means to
 - investigating and prosecuting a case without further victimization and trauma to a child - and -
 - focusing on **EMPOWERING the child victim.**




Mandates for Multidisciplinary Teams

- Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990
 - Subtitle D-Federal Victims' Protections and Rights
 - Section 225. Child Victims' Rights
- Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (P.L. 101-630)
 - Section 3210 (d).
 - Funds for development/implementation of Multidisciplinary CA investigation and prosecution programs
- Other



Multidisciplinary Team MDT approach



What is a Multidisciplinary Team?

- A Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is a group of professionals working together in a coordinated and collaborative manner to ensure an effective
 - Investigation (Federal Law Enforcement),
 - Prosecution, and
 - Disposition (Office of U.S. Attorney) of child sexual abuse cases.

According to . . . the Attorney General's Guidelines

- The Role of the Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team shall be to provide for a child services that the members of the team in their professional roles are capable of providing, including
 - (A) medical diagnoses and evaluation services, including provision or interpretation of x-rays, laboratory tests, and related services, as needed, and documentation of findings;
 - (B) telephone consultation services in emergencies and in other situations;
 - (C) medical evaluations related to abuse or neglect;

According to . . . the Attorney General's Guidelines

- The Role of the MDT (cont)
 - (D) psychological and psychiatric diagnoses and evaluation services for the child, parent or parents, guardian or guardians, or other caregivers, or any other individual involved in a child victim or child witness case;
 - (E) expert medical, psychological, and related professional testimony;
 - (F) case service coordination and assistance, including the location of services available from public and private agencies in the community; and

According to . . .
the Attorney General's Guidelines

- The Role of the MDT (cont)
 - (G) training services for judges, litigators, court officers and others that are involved in child victim and child witness cases, in handling child victims and child witnesses.

Who is essential to the MDT?

- U.S. Attorney's Office
- Law enforcement
- Child Protection Services
- Health Services
- Child Assessment Center
- Victim Services

U.S. Attorney's Office

The assigned Assistant U.S. Attorney
(AUSA)

- Leads the MDT Case Review meetings
 - Elements of the crime (federal statute)
 - Evidence
 - Victim
 - Witnesses

Law Enforcement

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Special Agent/Case Agent
■ Has investigative jurisdiction - mandatory

Bureau of Indian Affairs/Tribal
Special Agent/Criminal Investigator
Patrol Officer

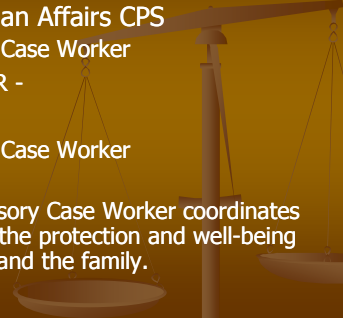
State/County/Local Law Enforcement



Child Protection Services

Bureau of Indian Affairs CPS
Supervisory Case Worker
- OR -
Tribal CPS
Supervisory Case Worker

The Supervisory Case Worker coordinates services for the protection and well-being of the child and the family.



Health Services

Traditional Medicine - Spiritual/Physical
Medicine Man
■ Ceremonies

Indian Health/Tribal Health Services
Physician, Physician Assistant, Reg. Nurse
■ Western medicine

Private Clinic or Hospital/Trauma Center
Physician, Physician Assistant, Reg. Nurse
■ Western medicine



Child Assessment Center

A CAC provides a child-friendly facility where forensic interviews and sometimes medical examinations and treatment, are conducted.

- A forensic interview follows a neutral, fact-finding protocol coordinated to avoid duplicative interviews.

Victim Services

FBI Victim Specialist (VS)
Services prior to indictment

U.S. A.O. Victim/Witness Coordinator
Services post-indictment

Tribal Victim Advocate
■ Services throughout the justice process

FBI VS Role and Responsibilities

■ Services Associated with Mandatory Requirements

- Assisting case agents to identify victims/uploading FD919 forms
- Providing written and oral information to victim on their rights and available services
- Keeping victims informed of case status
- Relaying information to agents from victims about threats they have received

FBI VS Role and Responsibilities

Standard Services

- Providing crisis intervention
- Conducting victim needs assessment
- Liaising with HQ OVA for FBI Emergency Victim Assistance Funds
- Explaining criminal justice to system to victims
- Notifying victims of case status through personal contact, letter, or Victim Notification System (VNS)
- Providing verbal and written information to victims on impact of crime
- Making referrals for victim services, such as counseling and support groups, and assisting when problems with access are encountered
- Assisting victims with compensation applications and coordinating FBI verification of victimization for state compensation program officials
- Transporting/accompanying victim to case-related appointments
- Locating emergency housing, food, and clothing
- Conducting follow-up with vulnerable victims
- Managing Victim Notification System (VNS) for the office
- Creating and maintaining an appropriate and victim-friendly space within the office for victims
- Coordinating with the USAO Victim-Witness Coordinator to transition with responsibilities following indictment

Multidisciplinary Team Effectiveness

What makes the MDT effective?

- Recognize that no single profession or agency has the ability to respond adequately to any allegation of child sexual abuse.
 - The child needs us.
 - We need each other.
 - The child's future depends on our cooperative best effort on their behalf.

What makes the MDT effective?

■ Confidentiality

- Allows dissemination of necessary information to government agencies so they can carry out their legal responsibilities to protect children.
- Requires that members maintain the integrity of the Team, i.e., excuse self from discussion of cases regarding relatives, friends, etc.

What makes the MDT effective?

■ Personal Commitment

- The MDT is a Team that requires that each member be 100% committed to working together to provide services to the child victim and family.
- The MDT Meeting is an important means for communication for the whole Team. It is necessary to assure all of the child's needs are identified and addressed.

What makes the MDT effective?

■ Protocol

- The written understanding of how Child Abuse investigations will be handled by the Team
- Purpose - address impact and needs of all persons directly affected by the crime against the child

Primary persons

- The child victim
- The non-offending family members
- Extended family and friends
- The perpetrator

What makes the MDT effective?

- Training
 - Understanding the dynamics of child abuse
 - Power imbalance
 - Fear
 - Betrayal by trusted adult
 - Consequences to family of Child Victim and Subject following outcry
 - Cross training fosters respect for other Team member's role/responsibility

Multidisciplinary Team Case Review Meeting

What happens in an MDT Meeting?

- The AUSA reviews status of cases that have been presented to the Office of the U.S. Attorney for prosecution.
 - Under Review
 - To be presented to Federal Grand Jury
 - Indicted, Arrested, and Initial Appearances
 - Plea agreements; cases scheduled for trial;

What happens in an MDT Meeting?

- Law Enforcement and Child Protection review all cases of reported child sexual abuse.
- Team assures all cases have been reported to Law Enforcement.
- Case Agents report the status of investigations.

What happens in an MDT Meeting?

- Team identifies assistance needed to facilitate investigations.
- Any/all Team members identify information/assistance that has not already been discussed and is needed for their agency to do their part for the victim.

Who participates in an MDT Meeting?

- The Team members, led by the AUSA, are necessary participants.
 - Absence/substitute participants weaken the team's effectiveness.

Who else is invited to the MDT table?

- Information pertaining to criminal proceedings can only be discussed on a “need to know” basis, so MDT membership must be limited.
 - Additional or secondary professionals (Community Partners) can be invited into the meeting to discuss specific cases when necessary.
 - School personnel, DV program staff, etc.

How effective is our MDT?

- Questions for self-reflection
 - Do I respect and uphold absolute Confidentiality?
 - Do I pledge my personal best effort to serving the child victim?
 - Do I understand my Team role and responsibilities to a child abuse investigation?
 - Do I respect and appreciate the expertise and contributions of the other Team members?
 - Do I understand the personal impact of sexual abuse on a child and the child’s family?
 - **Do our Team efforts promote healing and empowerment in the child victim?**

“Real Life” – as we know it

Empowering a child victim Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

South Dakota



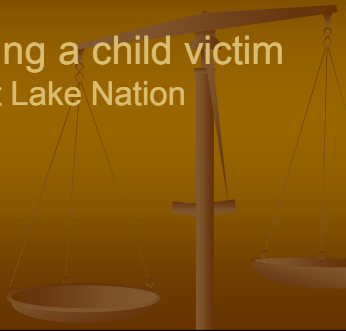
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Sandy's Case Services and outcome

Just when you think you're ready for anything...



Empowering a child victim
Spirit Lake Nation



North Dakota

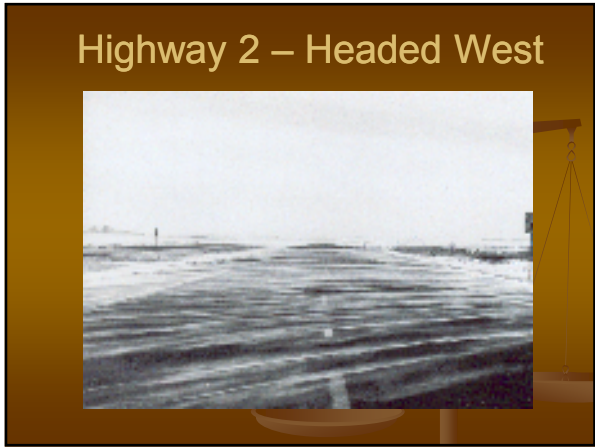




Spirit Lake Nation

Going forward from here
Jeanne's perspective

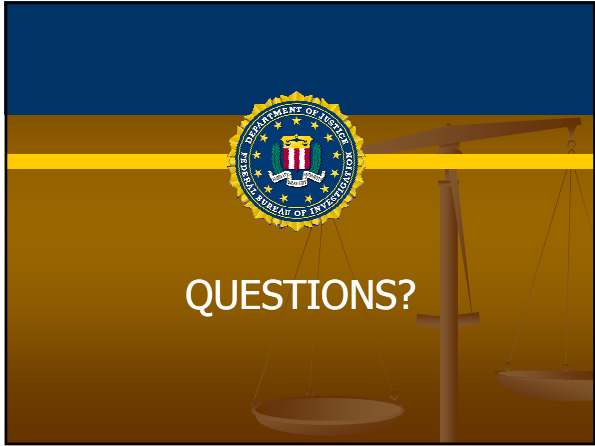


Highway 2 – Headed West





QUESTIONS?





Thank you
