

Sexual & Domestic Violence: Creating a Comprehensive, Reservation-wide Response

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Cass Lake IHS Sexual Assault &
Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative



IHS Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative (DVPI)

- ▶ National surveys indicate high rates of DV & SA in Indian Country
- ▶ 2009 PL 11-8, the Omnibus Appropriations Act & congress: \$10 million for DVPI
 - 2nd round of funding started 2015 (competitive)
- ▶ Purpose: support national effort by IHS to address DV and SA in AI/AN communities
- ▶ Funding for SANE/SART expansion, forensic health care, DV or SA advocacy - tribal and IHS programs/projects

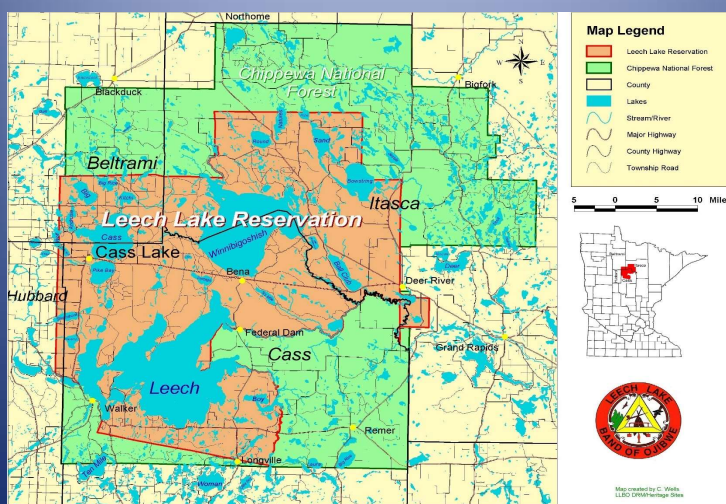
Federal IHS DVPI Program

- ▶ National Sexual Assault Protocol (chapter 29)
 - Nation-wide IHS protocol of response to sexual assault victims
 - Mandates access to SANEs to provide exams
 - Standardized equipment
- ▶ National Intimate Partner Violence Protocol (chapter 31)
 - Nation-wide IHS protocol identifies uniform clinical guidelines for identification and response
 - Access to forensic medical examination & evidence collection
 - Pt-centered, culturally sensitive, trauma-informed
- ▶ Webinars and other trainings and information-sharing opportunities
 - Domestic Violence Examiner training

Cass Lake IHS SADVPI Program

- ▶ SANE expansion & forensic health care focus
- ▶ Improve internal CLIHS response to DV & SA
- ▶ Reservation-wide SARRT/DARRT
 - 4 counties
 - Law enforcement, prosecution, advocacy, corrections, probation, others
- ▶ Community awareness raising & education
- ▶ Professional education

Leech Lake Reservation



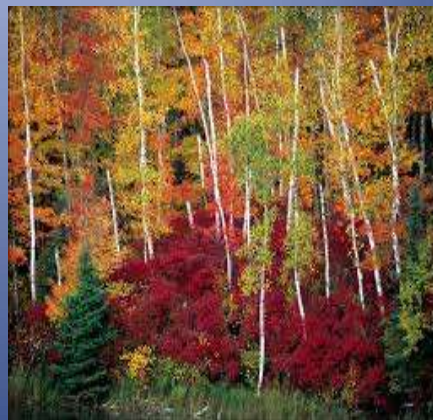
Leech Lake Reservation

- ▶ >8,000 members & 12,000 residents
- ▶ 973 sq miles
- ▶ Total surface area including water 1,310 sq miles
- ▶ 2,507 acres (6%) tribally owned
- ▶ Remainder:
 - 1/3 federal (Chippewa National Forest)
 - American Indians on fee/private property
 - State, companies, non-native land owners
- ▶ Encompasses parts of 4 counties
- ▶ Minn. is PL 280 state

Leech Lake Images



Leech Lake Area Images



Leech Lake Area Images



Leech Lake Area Images



Leech Lake Area Images



Ice Fishing



Cass Lake IHS

- Newly rebuilt facility
- 12,000 patients
- Critical access hospital
- 11 in pt & swing beds
- 100,000 pt visits annually

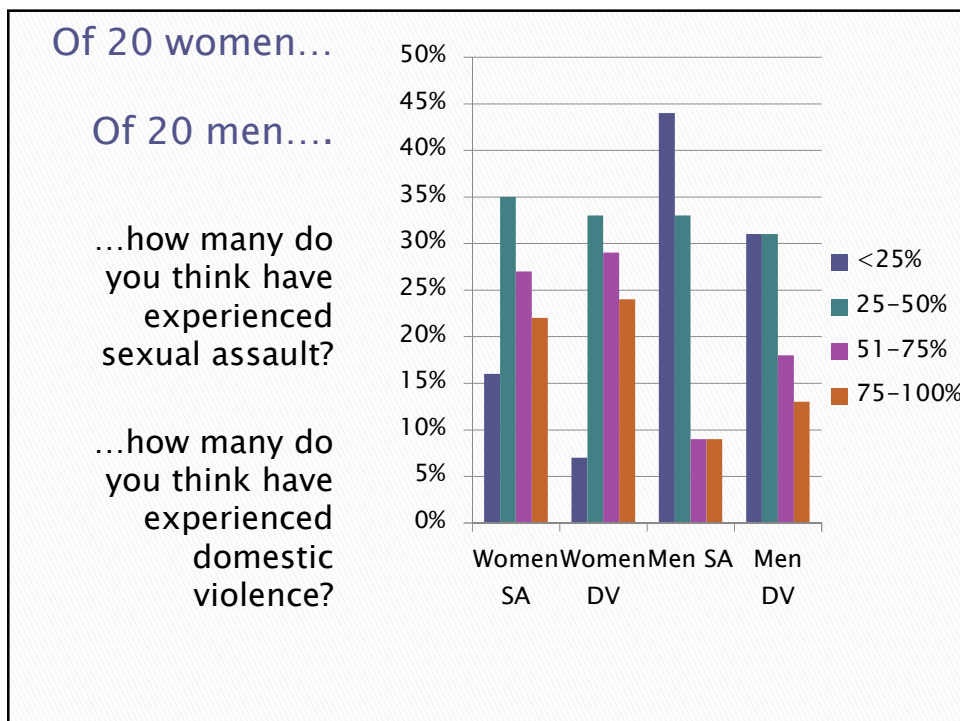


CLIHS SADVPI Major Accomplishments: Cass Lake IHS

- ▶ 24/7 SANE coverage
 - Training of SANEs to provide forensic health care for DV and strangulation victims
- ▶ CLIHS SANE equipment & training
- ▶ SA protocol & forms
- ▶ DV & strangulation protocol & forms
- ▶ Employee trainings on SA, DV & strangulation

CLIHS SADVPI Major Accomplishments: Improving Multidisciplinary Responses

- ▶ Formation of SARRT/DARRT
 - Sexual Assault MOU
 - Safety & Accountability Audit: “What is the response to sexual assault and domestic violence on the Leech Lake Reservation?”
 - Interviews, focus groups, surveys, listening sessions
 - SANE & Advocate Summit
 - Gearing up for DV multidisciplinary guidelines/CCR
- ▶ 2 Regional SANE/SARRT trainings
- ▶ 3 Regional multidisciplinary trainings
- ▶ Safe Dates training
- ▶ DAIP batterer’s group facilitator training



CLIHs SADVPI Major Accomplishments: Professional Multidisciplinary Education

- ▶ 3 multidisciplinary conferences
 - VAW in Indian Country
 - Strangulation
 - Neurobiology of trauma
 - Investigating difficult cases
 - Forensic experiential trauma interviewing
 - Forensic photography
 - Much more
 - Trauma-Informed Practices
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences
 - Historic and generational trauma
 - Creating trauma-informed practices and agencies

Leech Lake Sexual Assault Reservation Response Team (SARRT)



Trauma-Informed Practices: A Multidisciplinary Approach



Improving Multidisciplinary Responses: Leech Lake SARRT/DARRT

- ▶ Multidisciplinary Strangulation Guidelines signed & implemented
 - Multiple trainings in 4 counties
 - Health, EMT, prosecution, advocacy, law enforcement
- ▶ SARRT/DARRT members to National Advocacy Center DOJ National Indian Country Trainings
 - 29 strangulation
 - Prosecuting SA in Indian Country
 - Expert witness

National Advocacy Center



Collaboration, Communication & Cooperation!!

The Clothesline
Project
Take Back the Night

Collaborative
events with local
agencies serving
victims of domestic
violence & sexual
assault



Collaboration, Communication, Cooperation & Community!!



MIWSAC Red Shawl
Project



ReDress Project

CLHS SADVPI Major Accomplishments: Community Events

- ▶ Community outreach & education
 - Booths at area health fairs, powwows, other events
 - Presentations at workshops & trainings
 - PSAs
 - Tribal radio interviews
 - Newspaper articles
- ▶ Gaynachiwanig (a spiritual gathering)
- ▶ The Great Hurt
- ▶ Rape on the Reservation, Hollow Water viewing & discussion
- ▶ Guest speakers
- ▶ Shaken Tent, Wiping of the Tears ceremonies
- ▶ Community Advisory Council

Gaynachiwanig Gathering of Spiritual Elders



Gaynachiwanig



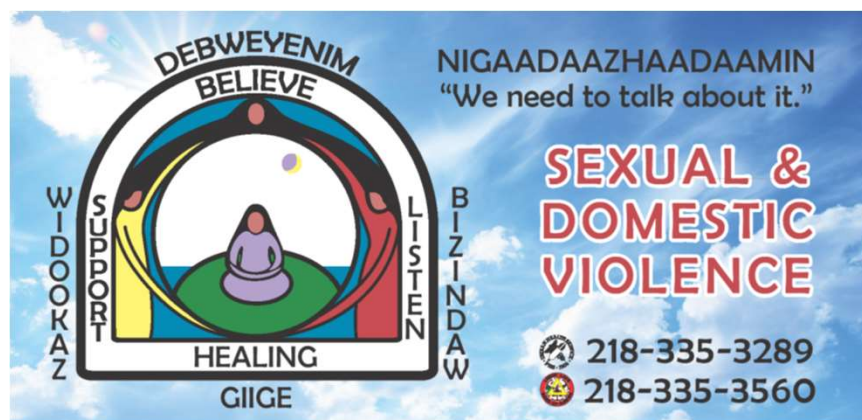
Maawanji'ding (meeting together) Onigum pre-powwow event



CLIHS SADVPI Major Accomplishments: Community Events & Education

- ▶ April & October Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Awareness Events
- ▶ Nigaadaazhaadaamin (We need to talk about it) video and billboard
- ▶ Peacemaker resources anti-bullying, positive conflict resolution, STAR training in schools
- ▶ 'Let's Chat' & other SA & DV training in schools

Nigaadaazhaadaamin Billboard



CLIHs SADVPI Major Accomplishments Funding for:

- ▶ LL Batterer's Re-education Program
- ▶ LLFVPP advocate
- ▶ Support Within Reach Anishinabe Equay Coordinator
- ▶ Peacemaker Resources in Schools
- ▶ LLPD logging recorder
- ▶ 63 cameras for 7 law enforcement agencies
 - Forensic photography training

Our Greatest Challenges

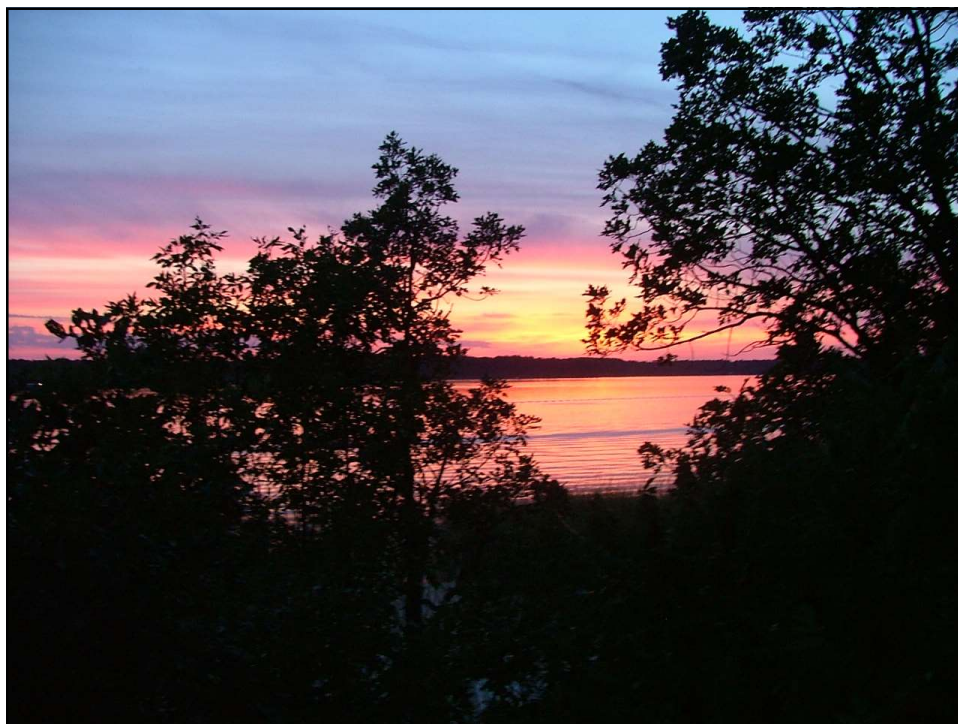
- ▶ Encouraging victims to present for medical care
- ▶ Changing norms
 - Identify and change messages that encourage VAW
- ▶ Changing community responses
 - Holding perpetrators accountable
 - May be protected
 - Responses to victims
 - Threats, intimidation
 - Victim blaming
- ▶ Changing systems responses
 - Becoming more victim-centered & trauma-informed
 - Reaching those who need it most

Other Challenges

- ▶ Trying to do it all while understaffed!
- ▶ Trying to do much of anything in the winter!
- ▶ Restrictions on appropriated fund spending
 - We need to be able to feed people!

The Fruits /Rewards of our Labor




- ▶ *“People are talking about it. Everywhere I go I hear people talking about sexual assault and domestic violence.”*
- ▶ *LL Chief of Police: “Thank you for everything you are doing. It has changed the way we work. Now in a domestic violence situation we ask ourselves “Is she afraid?”. If the answer is yes we take him in and let the courts figure it out from there.”*




It Will Take All of Us!

**MY MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT
ARE SACRED.**
PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT.

IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US – MEN, WOMEN,
YOUTH, AND ELDERS – TO STAND TOGETHER TO
PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT: BELIEVE VICTIMS –
SUPPORT HEALING – KNOW YOUR RESOURCES

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