



The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) provides a central location to coordinate a multi-agency investigations and intervention for child abuse allegations in a child-friendly manner, with the goal to improve the quality and effectiveness of intervention while reducing the trauma to victims and their families.



Who are we?

- Jade Carela, Manager - Child Advocacy Center & MDT Facilitator
- Sherman Pruitt, Commander - Tulalip Tribal Police Dept.
- Tate London, Federal Prosecutor - U.S. Attorney's Office
- Sharon Jones-Hayden, Tribal Prosecutor & SAUSA - Tulalip Tribes & U.S. Attorney's Office
- Jack Kane, Special Agent - FBI
- Paula Newman Skomski, Forensic Nurse - Providence Hospital

What is MDT?

- Multidisciplinary teams represent a variety of disciplines that interact and coordinate their efforts to enhance and improve services to children and families who have experienced child abuse and neglect. Members work together to support children and families through investigations, prosecutions and recovery.

How was our MDT created?

- October 1, 2009
- Child Fatality
- Talks between Tulalip Tribal Detective and a FBI Special Agent
- Tulalip Tribal Detective, FBI Special Agent, FBI Victim Specialist Agent, Domestic Violence Advocate, and Child Advocacy Manager

What do we do during an MDT Meeting?

- Review new cases – identify areas of concern, services currently in place, additional services needed
- Review cases going to trial – ensure victim support is in place and address any additional concerns that may arise
- Policy changes to bring to Tribal Council
- Staffing changes and how it impacts to team and community

Before MDT vs. Now

- Agencies working in silos
- Fragmented services for clients
- Communication
- Information sharing
- Collaboration
- Support for client recovery
- Legal assistance and outcomes

MDT in Indian country vs. mainstream communities

- Native culture important in providing holistic services
- Laws differ somewhat from mainstream communities - Federal Law vs Tribal Law
- Fewer jurisdictions involved. Example: Snohomish County has over 15 different law enforcement agencies

Strengths & Challenges of Developing an MDT in Indian Country

- Protecting privacy in small community
- Accountability
- Confidentiality
- Culture

How to build an effective collaboration between tribal and non-tribal professionals

- Working with non-tribal agencies requires time to teach about the native culture and build trust with non-tribal partners
- Respect Culture
- Agencies with different missions coming together with a similar goal

Material on MDT

- <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/ia/investigation/multidisciplinary/>
- <http://www.nationalcac.org/multidisciplinary-team/>
- <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/170020.pdf>

Contact Information

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