



KEEPING NATIVE CHILDREN SAFE

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Learning Objectives

At the end of this training you will be better able to:

- Use the new resource, *Keeping Native Children Safe When Sexual Abuse Allegations Are Raised in Custody Disputes* in effective ways
- Learn a few facts about incest
- Explore a Native treatment option
- Identify the roles of professionals potentially involved in custody cases when there are allegations of sexual abuse

Introduction

Purpose

- For educating self
- For educating staff
- For educating community
- For educating survivors

Use of stories

- The stories of Native women who have raised the issue of sexual abuse of a child and have lost custody of their children.

MANY TRIBES ARE IN DENIAL ABOUT THE COMPLICITY OF THEIR OWN TRIBAL MEMBERS. DESPITE POPULAR BELIEF THAT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN INDIAN SCHOOLS DO MOST OF THE SEXUAL ABUSING, IT IS IN REALITY INDIAN CHILDREN'S RELATIVES, ADULT AUTHORITY FIGURES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO BY AND LARGE PERPETRATE THIS CRIME.
LARRY ECHOHAWK..

II. Impact of Child Sexual Abuse on Native Americans.

Topics Covered

- What is child sexual abuse/incest?
- Historical perspective for Natives
- Myths and facts about sexual abuse and incest
- How children affected by sexual abuse
- Nonphysical indicators of sexual abuse

ACTIVITY
YOU WILL HAVE 3 MINUTES
TO READ
REPORT – NO MORE THAN 3
SENTENCES (1 MINUTE)

WHAT IS A COMMON MYTH?

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

Children Protected?

- Frequently not protected
 - Only 10% of children alleging incest are adequately protected from their identified perpetrators by family courts through long term supervised visits or no-contact orders
 - 90% disclosing receive no protection
 - 70% continuing in shared custody or visitation arrangements
 - 20% placed in custody of the person accused of sexual abuse and lose unsupervised visits or all contact with the parent who attempted to protect them

III. Understanding Adults Who Sexually Abuse Children in Their Family

- Statistics on Intra-Family Sexual Abuse
 - 32 TO 39.7 % of all sexual assaults are perpetrated by parents or parental figures
 - 49% of offenders of victims under age 6 are family members
 - 42% of offenders of victims between 6-11 are family members
 - 90 – 96% of all sexual abuse perpetrated by males

III. Understanding Adults Who Sexually Abuse Children in Their Family

- Why Do They Sexual Abuse Children?
 - Pedophilia (attracted to prepubescent children)
 - Most child abusers are attracted to adults

III. Understanding Adults Who Sexually Abuse Children in Their Family

- Treatment for Sex Offenders
 - ▣ Purpose
 - Identify and change thoughts, feelings, and actions that lead to sexual offending
 - Develop strategies and plans to avoid, control and productively address risk factors
 - Develop strengths and competencies
 - Cognitive Behavior Model – relapse prevention model



- Hollow Water, A Native Treatment Model
 - ▣ Healing – focus on return to balance
 - ▣ Healing sex offender, victim, family, community

Hollow Water, Manitoba

- Four small communities- Anishinabe community and three Métis communities
- 1984 – alcohol abuse nearly 100%
- Unemployment – over 70%
- Lack adequate housing
- Start healing journey focused on alcoholism – realized that sexual abuse was root cause
 - 66-80% victims of sexual abuse
 - 35-50% victimizers

Bases of Healing

- Anishinabe traditional values, teachings, and ceremonies
- Process embodies the seven sacred teachings
 - Courage
 - Spiritual knowledge
 - Respect for others, for self and for the earth
 - Honesty
 - Humility
 - Love
 - Truth



Hollow Water Study

- ▣ Only 2% of the 107 predators who experienced the healing protocol re-victimized (6 times lower than national re-victimization rate in Canada)

ACTIVITY

STUDY THE PROCESS ON PAGE 36
GROUP 1: HOW WOULD THIS
BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY?
GROUP 2: WHY THIS WOULD NOT
WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

IV Incest and Domestic Violence

- Relationship between Incest and domestic violence
 - ▣ Exposure to batterers is one of the strongest indicators of the risk of incest
 - ▣ An incest perpetrator does not have an elevated rate of sexual preference for children – power and control.
- Similar tactics of batterers and incest victimizers

V. Incest and Substance Abuse

- Alcohol abuse by mother of the victimized child
 - ▣ Medicating due to sexual abuse as a child (her child accusations cause her to relive her own sexual abuse.)
 - ▣ Medicating due to domestic violence
 - ▣ Increases possibility that she will not be taken seriously

VI. Sexual Abuse Accusations in Custody Actions

- Introduction
 - Abuse may lead to separation or divorce
 - Abuse may start when mother and father separate
 - Child may reveal abuse for first time after separation
 - False allegations made during custody dispute fewer than 2% of the cases

Sexual Abuse Accusations in Custody Actions

- Common Responses to Accusation of Sexual Abuse in Custody Disputes
- Parental Alienation
- Reports to Law Enforcement Agency or Child Protective Services during Custody Disputes
- Standards of Proof

- *I'm always struggling when the victim views the system not as their friend but as a monster that creates more havoc in their lives. Their kids are going to be removed and their life is turned upside down, if they don't leave their home and they don't have resources of their own. What they learn is to not call the police. It's better to live in the environment (of violence).*

Judge

Professionals' Roles

- Professionals' Roles When Child Sexual Abuse is Reported in a Custody Case
 - Judges Role (52)
 - Child Custody Evaluator's Role (54)
 - GAL (56)
 - Forensic Interviewer (58)
 - Child Protection Worker (60)
 - Sexual Assault Advocate (62)

Sexual Abuse Accusations in Custody Actions

- Professionals' Roles When Child Sexual Abuse is Reported in a Custody Case
 - ▣ Domestic Violence Advocate (54)
 - ▣ Parent's Attorney (64)
 - ▣ Child's Attorney (65)

ACTIVITY

READ SECTIONS:
RESPONSIBILITIES/GUIDING
PRINCIPLES

DISCUSS KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Appendix

- Community Contacts
- Annotated Resource List
- Snap shots of authors of quotes
- Focus Group Summary

Contact Information

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