

Developing the Multi-Disciplinary Planning Team Vision Statement

A term which, as defined in the “Tribal Domestic Violence Court/Docket Guide”, refers to a group of people from varying disciplines bound by a common purpose-to reduce domestic violence in a tribal community by focusing on victim safety, victim services and batterer accountability. A team that is working through the “Tribal Domestic Violence Court/Docket Guide” should meet regularly to communicate, collaborate and consolidate knowledge from which decisions are made, plans are designed, and future decisions are influenced.

Each issue below sets forth a presumption in the form of a statement. The bullets that follow mark questions that the planning team will need to answer in order to create the planning team’s vision statement regarding tribal domestic violence in the tribal community. Please answer the following: (See *Example* below for an illustration of a vision statement)

Domestic violence threatens or has a direct effect on the tribe’s political integrity.

- Does tribal sovereignty require a tribe to take measures to keep tribal citizens safe? Please explain.
- What measures has the tribe taken to keep domestic violence victims and their children safe? (For example, many tribes have prioritized victim safety by enacting tribal laws to protect victims and their children, provide domestic violence advocacy services and domestic violence shelters)
- Are your tribe’s domestic violence orders enforced in surrounding jurisdictions?
- Does the enforcement of tribal protection orders have an impact on how tribal citizens and non-tribal citizens within the tribal community view the strength and power of the tribe? Please explain.

Domestic violence threatens or has a direct effect on the economic security of the tribe.

- What types of economic drain on tribal resources are due to costs related to handling domestic violence situations on law enforcement, tribal court, health services, and other tribal budget items? (For example, the National Congress of American Indians “VAWA 2013’s Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Five-Year Report” indicates Tulalip Tribal law enforcement had 171 contacts with 17 non-Indian defendants before they were arrested under the VAWA Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction. This does not include law enforcement contacts with Indian defendants, but demonstrates the financial drain that tribes may spend on domestic crimes in their communities.

LIST various ways domestic violence threatens or has a direct effect on the health/welfare of the tribe. (For example, domestic violence victims are often prevented from going to work by the batterer or unable to go to work because of domestic violence. Another example, domestic violence has a ripple-effect on the health/welfare of the tribe by negatively impacting the lives of the victim, children and many other family members as identified by the tribe’s kinship system.

What would the multi-disciplinary planning team expect a tribal domestic violence court/docket to accomplish in your community?

- How do you anticipate it may impact victim safety?
- How do you anticipate it may impact children exposed to domestic violence?
- How do you anticipate it will impact the batterer accountability?

Example: VISION STATEMENT: To develop and implement a ___ tribal domestic violence court that promotes the tribe's political integrity, economic security, health, welfare and well-being of women and children. The tribal domestic violence court shall seek to utilize tribal law, custom and tradition to promote safety, justice and to protect the rights of all litigants while providing a comprehensive, collaborative, and culturally appropriate approach to case resolution focusing on victim safety and batterer accountability.