

Organizing a SANE-SART Program in a Tribal Community



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SAFETY FOR INDIAN WOMEN FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENDERS DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE



Safety for Indian Women from Sexual Assault Offenders Demonstration Initiative (Draft) - The United States

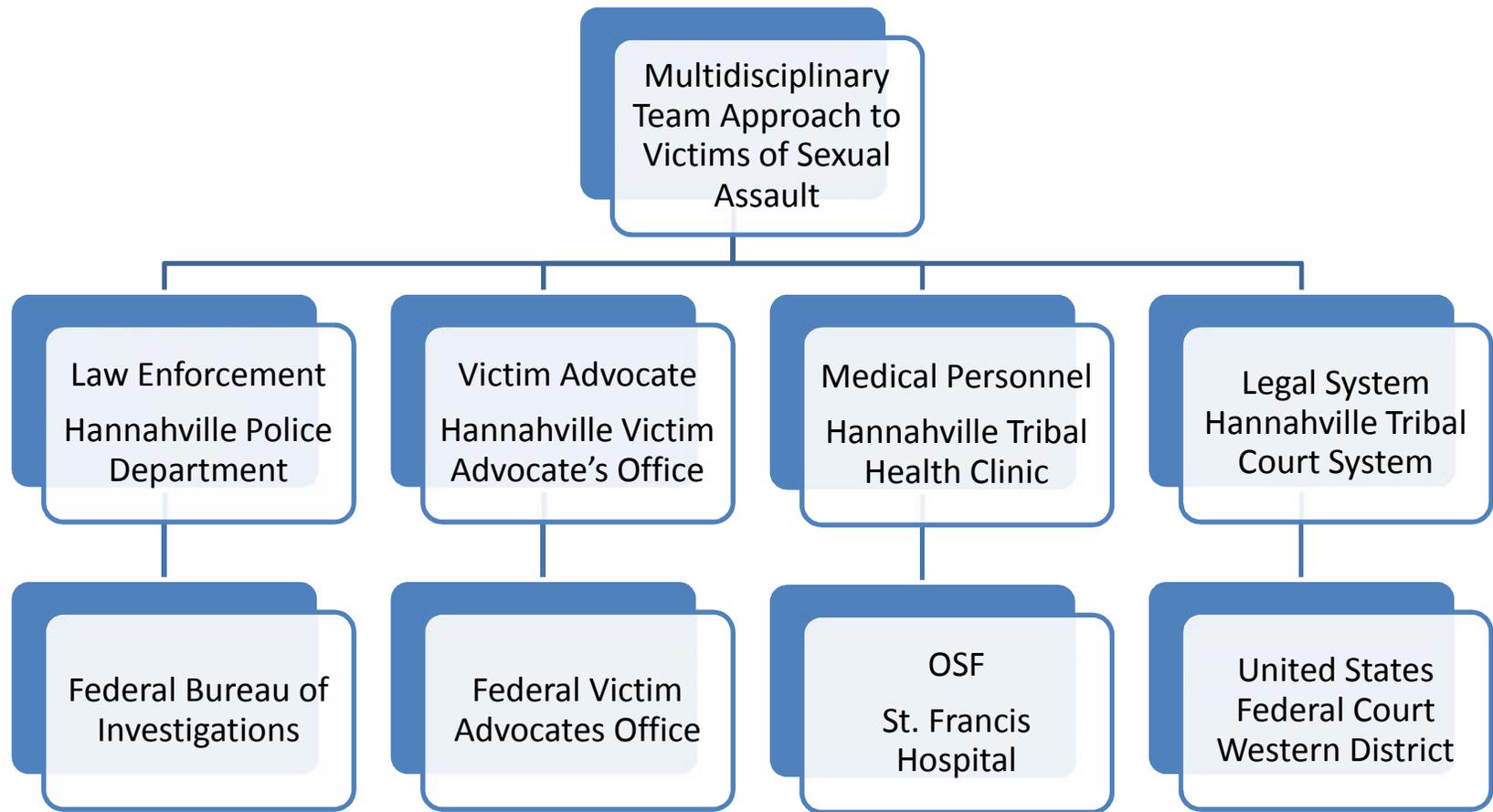
Department of Justice's Safety for Indian Women from Sexual Assault Offenders Demonstration Initiative was an effort of OVW to enhance the response of tribal and federal agencies to sexual assault of Indian women. This initiative began in September 2005 with OVW grant awards to four tribal demonstration grantee programs and a tribal technical assistance provider. The Tribal Law and Policy Institute was selected as the training and technical assistance provider to demonstration sites. The purpose of this report is to document background on the Safety project; project goals and objectives; individual program challenges and accomplishments; technical assistance efforts; and project evaluation. Moreover, the purpose of this report is to identify promising practices that were demonstrated by this Safety for Indian Women from Sexual Assault Offenders Demonstration Initiative so that others can learn from the experiences of these demonstration sites. Please note that this report is a draft version, since the final has not yet been formally approved by OVW.

Report is available at www.tlpi.org on the TLPI Publications link.

http://www.tribal-institute.org/download/SafetyFINAL_1-31-12.pdf

One & One Makes Two:
Two service providers are better than one
but a team is ideal

Victim Response Chart



Collaborative Relationship Killers

- Lack of openness
- Insensitivity
- The need to always be in control
- Having assumptions
- Lack of humility
- Us & them attitudes
- Lack of administrative direction & support



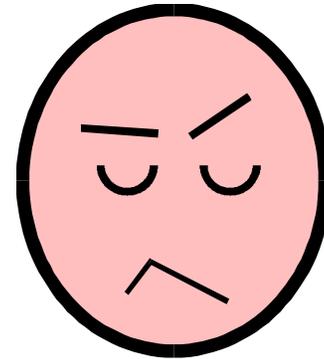
Common Feelings

- Frustration
- Don't understand each other
- Don't care
- Doesn't pay attention
- Not invested
- Stress
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Don't know what they are doing
- "C'mon--this is Indian Country"



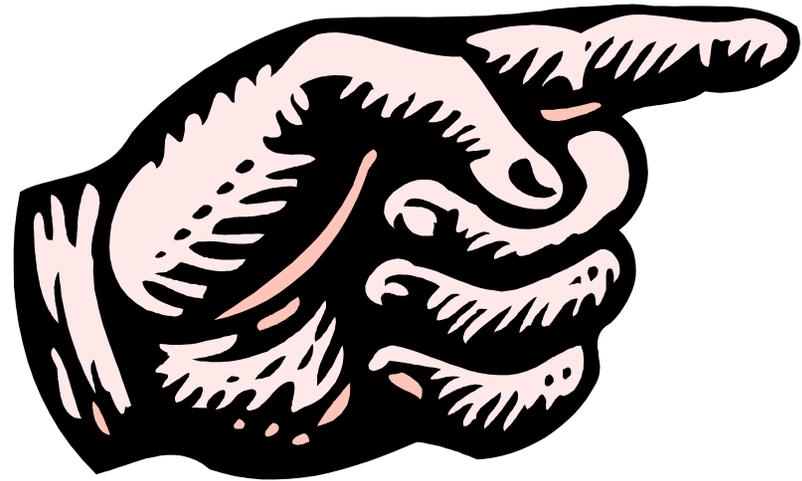
Misconceptions

- Don't care
- Not concerned
- Don't know what they are doing
- Believe that they are out to get each other
- Believes that each has the right answer



Negative Finger Pointing

- Blaming
- Assuming
- Undermining
- Silent treatment
- Similar to the tactics used on victims of domestic violence
- Negative game playing



How Do We Break Down The Wall?

- Put victim first
- Put safety first
- Be inviting
- Be open
- Be humble
- Realize each other asset's
- Agree to agree
- Agree to disagree
- Train together
- Professional familiarity



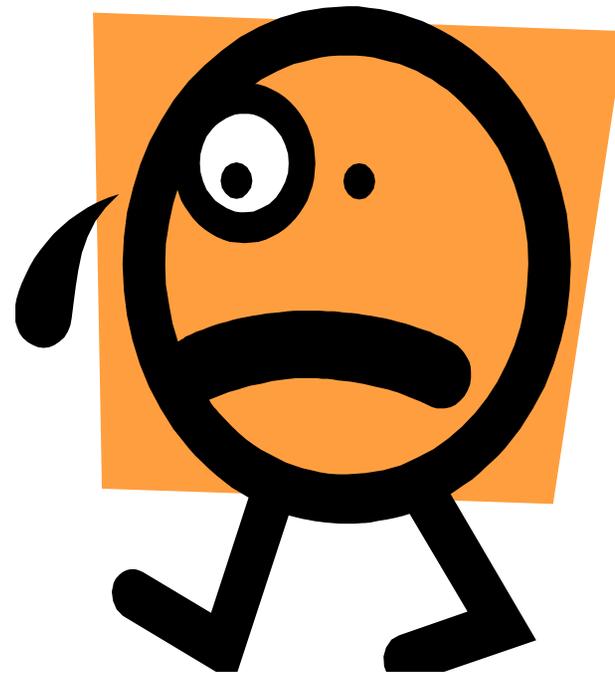
What happens when we don't work together as service providers?

- Re-victimization
- Service provider burnout
- No prosecutions
- No offender accountability
- No victim confidence
- Chaos/continuing rapes



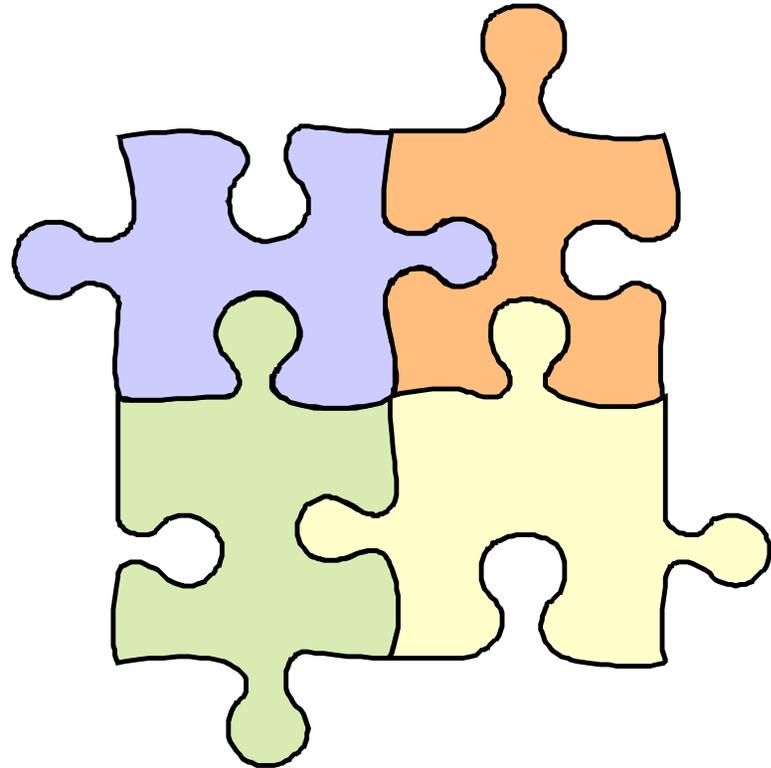
What we learned from the good old days

- We learned that we needed to work together
- Going to training was not enough -- We needed to train together
- We learned to cultivate the relationships amongst the team.
- We learned to acknowledge our partners in various ways, i.e., annual meet and greet with USAO.



A Fresh Start

- We learned to be honest with each other--even when we were scared
- We learned to share perspectives (communicate)
- And not just communicate--we learned to dialogue
- We learned to celebrate wins & grieve losses
- We learned to critique without criticism



Indian Country Reality

- Victim safety is compromised by Indian telegraph
- Your team needs to understand the political nature of their reservation or communities
- Sexual assault was normalized
- Tribal legal codes failed to address the seriousness of the crime of sexual assault



Victims Being Re-victimized By Service Providers. Who Are We Really Helping?



- If we as service providers cannot work together, how can we give a victim the best assistance they deserve?
- We ask victims to trust us--but many times service providers don't trust each other.

Collaboration Efforts –Tribal Realities

- You should incorporate Tribal Leaders on your teams. Sexual Assault is a community problem.
- Teams have to name the problem and frame it accurately--a vital beginning is to discuss mistaken beliefs that people have regarding sexual assault.
- It will not work to try to convince team members that they are not doing the right thing.
- Start with whatever sexual assault response capability you have and move forward from there.
- It's not about doing the wrong thing or the right thing--it's about making a good response better.

Tribal Realities

- Examine the history of crime on your reservation.
- Understand the crime from the view of:
 - The victim
 - The perpetrator
 - Past response history of your collaboration team departments/programs
- Do your tribal codes give tribal police the ability to respond as they would like to for the crime of sexual assault? If not, find out from Tribal Police what they think they need.
- Do not expect the members of your Tribal Councils to write or re-write codes.
- As a team, ask your Tribal Council, “what would they suggest as the best possible process to follow when trying to address codes that are no longer effective?”
- At Hannahville, a tribal lawyer and an advocate worked together to draft code revisions.
- The Tribal Council formed a Judicial Committee to work on the drafted changes.
- The Judicial Committee then returned to the Council with agreed upon code revisions.

Tribal Realities

- With the adoption of new codes, Collaboration Teams can begin the development of response protocols.
 - How will you work together to address the crime of sexual assault on your reservation?
- Once the protocols are established, each department can work with collaboration team members to adopt the response policies and procedures.
- Go to trainings together – the benefits are that team members are receiving the same information at the same time. This opens up talking points that can reduce the level of frustration felt by responding partners.
- Going to trainings also takes all team members out of their professional territory.



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Victims of sexual assault often must navigate what can be a complex and confusing path. While coping with physical and emotional trauma, embarrassment, family pressures and a host of conflicting emotions, victims must also face multiple investigative interviews and what can be a lengthy legal process. The enclosed Adult Sexual Assault Protocol will act as an aid for criminal justice professionals, helping them work sensitively and seamlessly to assist victims from the beginning to the end of that process. The Protocol will enhance our ability to bring the perpetrators of sexual assault to justice, while always maintaining the dignity of the victim.

The enclosed Protocol was a labor of love. It reflects many hours of effort by people committed to ameliorating the life-changing and long-lasting consequences experienced by sexual assault victims. We are, of course, indebted to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, and the Tribal Law and Policy Institute. The Demonstration Grant provided under their auspices made this Protocol possible. Money alone, however, did not ensure success. The enclosed Protocol owes its existence to the unstinting dedication of the Sexual Assault Protocol Committee and other supportive members of the Hannahville-Potawatomi Indian Community. Their perseverance and hard work has produced a living, breathing document that will provide comfort and support to future generations of sexual assault victims in Indian Country. They have my undying gratitude.

Sincerely,

CHARLES R. GROSS
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Tribal Realities

- Trust is built within teams in a number of ways. Amazing things can happen when the trust level in a CCR supports candid value discussions about roles and limitations of participating partners.
- Realize all partners want to do the right thing. All partners may not necessarily agree on what the right thing is. At times, Agree to Disagree.
- As a team, do not solely concentrate on Safety; Offender Accountability is just as critical a factor in SART development as victim safety.
- Team members must understand the predatory nature of sexual offenders. Develop within the protocols the need to collect evidence--just like a homicide.

Tribal Realities

- Everyone on the team needs support.
- Everyone on the team can be a strong advocate to ending violence against Indian women. Cultivate strong advocates from all SART partners.
- SART development should not be limited to the legal system but should include members from many disciplines.
- Evaluate system change reform efforts and make adjustments based on data.
- Sign MOU's – cement this working relationship with a document outlining the understanding that all parties have agreed to.
- Provide training to the community on SART response capability.

How has the creation of the SART changed things in Hannahville?

- Has it increased reporting?
- Number of cases charged?
- Number of cases prosecuted by the:
 - Feds
 - Tribal court
- Other changes?



REMEMBER

Community coordination is a very tough process.

But it is the right thing to do because it creates an environment in which Indian Women can live more safely.

It could be your mother, daughters, grandmother, granddaughters, sisters, nieces or other close females who become the next victim of sexual assault.

It could be your father, son, grandfather, grandsons, brothers and nephews who may be the perpetrator.

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