
Mending The Sacred Hoop Newsletter

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Uniting Tribal Communities

Oklahoma Nations Holding Conference to Address Violence Against Indian Women

In February 2000 members of 14 Oklahoma Tribes and 5 organizations met to create the formation of a Native American Domestic Violence Coalition to include all the tribes statewide and hold an Oklahoma statewide training.

The conference, titled "Uniting Tribal Communities to Address Violence Against Indian Women," is scheduled for August 22, 23, and 24, 2000, at the Ramada Inn, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The agenda is scheduled into five tracks; Law Enforcement, Legal, Advocacy, Tribal Leaders, and a General topic category. There will be 40 different workshops during this 3-day conference sponsored by Osage Tribe of Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation, US Attorney's Office/Northern District of Oklahoma, and Mending the Sacred Hoop S.T.O.P. Violence Against Indian Women Technical Assistance Project.

Tract 1 - Law Enforcement

This is specific to officers and their response to domestic

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NAICJA to Establish National Tribal Justice Resource Center

PRESS RELEASE

Boulder, Colorado—The National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) has been awarded a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice to design, develop, and institute a National Tribal Justice Resource Center. The National Tribal Justice Resource Center will make available a wide range of legal resources to tribal court personnel, as well as respond to legal inquiries from American Indian and Alaska Native justice systems. This is the culmination of years of advocacy and work to fulfill the dream of providing a source of daily support and assistance to tribal justice systems nationwide. The Resource Center will initially have a staff of three persons and will be located at the offices of the National Indian Law Library in Boulder, Colorado.



NAICJA has been proposing the development of a National Tribal Justice Resource Center for years. NAICJA has repeatedly indicated that there is a vital need for a national resource center that would be an asset and a tool for enhancing American Indian and Alaska Native justice systems nationwide. The NAICJA Executive Committee proposed the development of this national resource center during a June 3, 1998 meeting with Attorney General Janet Reno. NAICJA then submitted a formal concept paper proposal to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) on July 18, 1998 in which NAICJA proposed to establish this national resource center. BJA

"Resource Center" continued on page 3



violence including a workshop designed for dispatchers to enhance their effectiveness. The trainings available for this track will cover topics such as interviewing techniques, safety of law enforcement, primary aggressor, evidence collection, DV 101 on Full Faith and Credit laws, dispatcher training of domestic violence, LE personnel as abusers - "Good 'Ole Boy", and LE as victim advocates.

Tract 2 - Legal

The focus will be on the laws, tribal codes, and procedures pertaining to prosecutors, attorneys, and those interested in enhancing their knowledge on domestic violence law. Workshops here will cover state laws & cross jurisdiction, tribal code development, protective order enforcement, federal law enforcement, evidence collection - prosecution's perspective, court room procedures for victim protection, civil remedies for victims, and resources for victim/witnesses.

Tract 3 - Advocacy

This tract contains a range of topics covering domestic violence 101 - the basics, how to be a good witness, advocate safety, sexual assault and stalking, alcohol & women, how to start a shelter, resources for abused elderly women, and re-victimization.

Tract 4 - General

There will be a assortment of workshops in this tract that will cover grant writing 101, coordination with state agencies, confidentiality, program management & evaluation, identifying victims in the ER, group counseling for batterers, family violence and the role of alcohol, and fund raising.

Tract 5 - Tribal Leaders

The areas here are focus on tribal leaders and the roles and relationships they have to better address violence against Indian women. The workshops are FF & C in Oklahoma, tribal code development, tribal community response to DV, confidentiality, promoting relationships between tribal leaders and DV programs, tribes working with state agencies, law enforcement role in CCR, and how to get tribal programs to collaborate more.



Coalition Meeting

There is a special meeting for the formation of the Oklahoma Native American Domestic Violence Coalition prior to the conference on August 21, 2000, from 1 - 5 PM. The plan is to have the official signing of the by-laws and elect members to the board. Thus, tribes not currently

involved their members would be able to bring the information back to pass a resolution to support the Coalition.

Pow-Wow

A Pow-Wow and feast is planned for the evening of Wednesday, August 23, 00. Location will be announced at the conference. Those who are interested in dancing make sure to bring your outfits.



Since February, the members of the initial gathering have been the driving-force behind the state conference and the formation of the coalition. This group had formed several committees to develop by-laws for the Oklahoma Native American Coalition, plan the agenda for the conference, fund raise, and develop workshops as well as secure the presenters.

The training is designed to meet the requirements of S.T.O.P. funded tribes in Oklahoma and is a mandatory regional meeting as stipulated in the individual S.T.O.P. grants. However, the conference is open and other tribes are being invited to attend this conference across the state to build upon statewide collaboration. For more information please call Heather Long at Osage Family Violence Program 800-317-2773 (also see calendar of events on page 3).

MSH-TA Web Site Updates

Check out www.msh-ta.org for the new changes happening to our web site. The look is being modified to incorporate "flash" technology that will add animation features to the graphics that will bring the pictures to life as you enter the site.

A discussion group is currently on the site, its listed at the bottom of the home page as "private discussion group". Click on the "post" category to respond to listed topics. This area will have its own button along side the other areas pretty soon.

Other enhancements will be coming soon so check back periodically to see what's new.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UNITING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN CONFERENCE

AUGUST 22 - 24, 00

RAMADA INN, I-40 EXIT 186, SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

This conference for all Oklahoma tribes, STOP grantees, and affiliates, but space is limited so please contact Heather Long at 800-317-2773 for more information. Hotel accommodations can be made by contacting the Ramada Inn directly at 405-275-4404, let them know your registering for the conference and you'll get the \$55.00 per night rate - make your reservations early.

SACRED CIRCLE UPCOMING TRAININGS: FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SACRED CIRCLE AT 877-RED-ROAD

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE WORKSHOP

AUG. 23- 25, 00, RAPID CITY, SD.

ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN OF BATTERED WOMEN

SEPT. 13-15, 00, RAPID CITY, SD

PROSECUTORS' TRAINING - (PROSECUTORSONLY)

SEPT. 18-20, 00, RAPID CITY, SD

ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT (PREREQUISITE: ATTENDANCE IN L.E. TRACT AT INSTITUTE)

SEPT. 25-27, 00, RAPID CITY, SD

CONNECTIONS: CD AND BATTERING & FACILITATORS AS ADVOCATES

OCT. 9 - 11, 00, RAPID CITY, SD

DV TRAINING INSTITUTE (4 TRACT: LE, PROS., ADVOCACY, MEN'S RE-EDUCATION)

OCT. 30- NOV. 3, 00, RAPID CITY, SD

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH CARE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

OCTOBER 13 & 14, 00

RENAISSANCE PARC 55 HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Concurrent workshop sessions will be devoted to the presentation of scientific papers or clinical issues, strategies, or programs specific to DV in areas of; clinical intervention, health effects of DV, legal and ethical strategies, and many more. for further information contact Sai Seigel at 415-282-8900.

quickly recognized the need for a national resource center.

NAICJA has been in discussions with BJA since July 1998 concerning possible methods of establishing a national resource center. In August 1999, NAICJA submitted a concept paper in response to the BJA Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop a National Tribal Justice Resource Center. NAICJA was invited to submit a full proposal and was notified on May 24, 2000 that the grant had been awarded.

Judge Jill E. Shibles, a tribal member of the Penobscot Nation of Maine, current Chief Judge of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court of Connecticut, Appellate Justice of the Passamaquoddy Appellate Court of Maine and current First Vice-President of NAICJA, has been selected by the NAICJA Board of Directors to serve as Executive Director of the Resource Center. She will assume her duties at the Boulder office on September 1, 2000. NAICJA is currently conducting a national search for the Associate Director and Office Manager positions (see www.naicja.org/jobs.htm).



This effort represents the first time that many key organizations that provide training and technical assistance to tribal justice systems will be working together to coordinate service delivery and assess the need for new resources and services through the Resource Center. The following is a list of NAICJA's initial collaborating partners:

- ◆ National Indian Law Library
- ◆ National Judicial College
- ◆ National Congress of American Indians
- ◆ American Indian Law Center
- ◆ National Indian Child Welfare Association
- ◆ Tribal Law and Policy Institute
- ◆ Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association
- ◆ Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
- ◆ National Association of Tribal Court Personnel

- ◆ Federal Judicial Center
- ◆ Northern Plains Tribal Judicial Training Institute
- ◆ National Center for State Courts
- ◆ American University Justice Programs Office
- ◆ American Indian Development Associates

NAICJA has entered into an initial one-year rental agreement with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) to house the Resource Center at the National Indian Law Library in Boulder. The Law Library possesses one of the largest collections of tribal opinions, tribal codes and tribal constitutions in the nation. Access to the Library's resources will be a critical component to the initial success of the Resource Center.

Although NAICJA will administer the BJA grant, in order to ensure that the Resource Center adequately addresses the needs of all facets of tribal justice systems, a Management and Oversight Committee and a Project Advisory Committee will advise and oversee the implementation of the project. Three staff members working at the direction of the Management and Oversight Committee will carry out the daily work of the Resource Center. The five-member Management and Oversight Committee will oversee the day-to-day operations of the Resource Center. A larger Project Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of NAICJA's collaborating partners plus other individuals and organizations with expertise in tribal justice issues, resource center development, Indian law and technology, will assist the Management and Oversight Committee to prioritize the Resource Center's projects. The Project Advisory Committee will lend its expertise and resources in support of the Resource Center's efforts.

"The National Tribal Justice Resource Center has the potential to provide very real and practical benefits to every American Indian and Alaska Native justice system in the United States."

Early in the development of the Resource Center, a national assessment of tribal justice system needs will be conducted. All services and programs developed by the Resource Center will be available to all tribal justice system personnel and interested persons. Even without a formal needs assessment, NAICJA has identified the following unmet justice system needs and has committed, through the Resource Center, to meeting them.

The Resource Center's initial list of tasks includes:

- Create a clearinghouse of existing **judicial resource materials**, training and technical assistance.
- Inform tribal justice systems concerning **available services and resources** through a printed and on-line version of a Resource Center **newsletter**.
- Prioritize and develop **on-call tribal court specific resource materials**.
- Establish an **800# Helpline** for tribal justice systems.
- Provide a **free searchable database of tribal justice system opinions** accessible via the Internet.
- Conduct a **Case Management and Computer Technology Conference**.
- Develop and expand **Internet resources** available to tribal courts (will link the Resource Center sites to other useful websites) and offer **Internet training and technical assistance**.
- Provide **on-line reference and research assistance services** (through the Resource Center website).
- Establish a **mentor system for tribal justice systems**.



The Resource Center will also be the primary technical assistance provider for those American Indian and Alaska Native Nations that have received enhancement grants under the BJA Indian Tribal Court Program established under the Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative.

"The National Tribal Justice Resource Center has the potential to provide very real and practical benefits to every American Indian and Alaska Native justice system in the United States. Tribal courts are one of the clearest expressions of tribal sovereignty. The Resource Center will allow us to assist tribes, to strengthen their methods of self-government and improve the climate within tribal lands for economic prosperity, by offering tools to enhance tribal justice systems. It is the most exciting and beneficial project I have had the opportunity to be involved with in my years of working with and for tribal courts," said Judge Shibles.

“Women Are Sacred” 2000 National Conference Overview

The Third Annual "Women Are Sacred" conference will be co-hosted by the Osage Nation and Muskogee (Creek) Nation and is being held at the Double Tree Hotel Warren Place in Tulsa, OK.

The two tribes will be conducting "Workshop on Wheels" (WOW) to each of their jurisdictions showcasing the programs they operate and how they address violence against Indian women in their community. There will be two buses traveling to each of the locations (total of four) on Tuesday, November 14, 00 to accommodate more participants on these highly popular workshops. On Wednesday, November 15, only one bus will travel out to each location (total of two). Because this is a training workshop all participants are required to travel on the buses, no "tail-gating" the buses. Participants will only be able to attend the WOW to one location, so please mark your preference on your registration form and send it in early to get the trip you want!

Regional Development is the theme for this year's agenda and has been developed to allow for organizing, meeting, and networking of tribes in seven geographical regions. So far they have been grouped as Alaska, California, Oklahoma, Northwest (OR, WA, ID), North Central (MT, WY, ND, SD, NE, KS), Southwest (AZ, CO, VT, NM), and Eastern (AL, CT, FL, ME, MA, MI, MN, MS, NY, NC, WI). This will expand upon further collaboration and organizing among tribes in these areas.

We are encouraging people to bring their tribal flag to the conference for the flag presentation during opening ceremonies on Monday, November 13.

Agenda: The conference starts November 13 at 9:00 am and ends on November 16 at 3:00 pm. Please make travel arrangements accordingly as attendance is required of S.T.O.P. grantees for all three days.

Pre-registration: Sunday November 12, 2000 from 6-8:00 pm.

Monday November 13, 2000

9-11:00 am, Opening Prayer & Keynote

11-12:45 pm, Working Lunch (**Buffet Provided**)

2:45 – 5:00 pm, Regional Workshops

Tues. & Wed. November 14 & 15, 2000

7:30 am, WOW (boarding buses)

8:30 – 11:45 am, Workshops

11:45 – 1:30 pm, Lunch on your own

1:30 – 4:45 pm, Workshops

There will be over forty-five (45) workshops to choose from. Tuesday and Wednesday's workshops will be duplicated due to WOW.

Thursday November 16, 2000

9-12:00 pm, Regional Workshops

12 – 1:30 pm, Working Lunch (**Buffet Provided**)

1:30 – 3:00 pm, Plenary & Closing Ceremonies

Hotel Info: DoubleTree Hotel Warren Place, 6110 South Yale, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136. Phone: (918) 495-1000 Fax: (918) 495-1944. For reservations call: (918) 495-1000. The conference room rate is \$65.00 per night and the deadline for hotel reservations is October 30, 2000

The DoubleTree hotel has a shuttle that runs hourly to and from the airport. They will also provide shuttle service to and from overflow hotels, Holiday Inn Select and Amerisuites, from 7 – 9 am and 5-7 pm Monday – Thursday. In house restaurants are prepared to accommodate the volume of mealtime needs during our stay and will have quick and affordable food service options available.

Special Needs: Refrigerators for medications are available via the DoubleTree hotel for a fee and there are handicap accessible rooms. Please contact the hotel or MSH-TA staff if there are any special accommodations we could assist with.

For more info or questions call MSH-TA at 888-305-1650. Registration for grantees is also available on our website: www.msh-ta.org. **Deadline for Conference Registration November 1, 2000. No phone registrations will be accepted.**

Mending the Sacred Hoop Newsletter August 2000 Technical Assistance Project

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