

The final chapters deal with closing statements, jury instructions, and dealing with selected jury questions. These areas are just as critical as all your evidence and witnesses. The methods are equally valuable in the most common situations – when you are arguing your case only in front of a judge, rather than a jury trial. There are also sections on sentencing recommendations, mistrials, and appeals.

The manual provides the information as supplemental resource material and may aid in enhancing policies and procedures as well as tribal codes. It also follows the same flow and structure as the five-day institute where this information is going to be presented.

The Institute

Although the final agenda has not been finalized, the first two pilot tests have provided valuable insight as to the time requirements of presenting quality training.

The first test run was during Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project's third national "Women Are Sacred" conference in Tulsa, Okla., in November 2000. This was structured as a one-day track and repeated twice during the conference. In essence, the actual time allotment was roughly six hours total; this really only allowed the trainers the opportunity to try a few role plays and group exercises and touch on the highlights of the manual. Although time was limited, participant feedback and enthusiasm, from both new and experienced prosecutors, was extremely positive. A couple assistant U.S. attorneys who participated in the training also expressed this sentiment.

The second pilot test was a three-day training that occurred in San Diego, Calif., in February 2001. This offered expanded possibilities and more in-depth presentations on topic areas, but there were still many items that were not fully addressed, such as Federal Indian Law, that alone could be a weeklong topic. One of the best results of this pilot was the presence of a couple STOP grant team members. They really

reflected the value of a group or CCR team attending the training together so that they can create better methods of collaboration with the understanding of the prosecution process and communicate openly on each other's role. While it isn't required that a team attend from the STOP grantee program, it is definitely welcomed.

The training agenda is reflective of the manual outline. The first day will cover dynamics of domestic violence, building relationships, internal policies, Federal Indian Law, and managing a caseload.

The next few days will include jury selection (Voir Dire) and opening statements, direct evidence, cross-examination and rebuttal, qualifying an expert witness, closing arguments, and jury instructions.

This institute is extremely interactive. The structure involves a lot of group activity, hands-on practice and mock trials – fully set up to include the judge, jury, witnesses, defense attorneys, and a whole lot of court room bantering. Participants should be prepared to get a lot of practice and to learn plenty.



Planned Locations

There are two institutes scheduled for 2001. The first is being planned for late June, preferably during the last full week of the month, in Minneapolis, Minn. The second is going to be in Arizona during the fall; the location has not been identified but we are looking to schedule that one for September.

Keep an eye out for future mailings of these institutes. We intend to, and have been requested to, give about three months' advance notice so that court personnel can make the necessary accommodations and scheduling to meet the required time needed to fully take advantage of this training. The mailing is set for the end of March and the information will be available on MSH-TA's web site.

Mending the Sacred Hoop Newsletter March 2001 Technical Assistance Project

Mending the Sacred Hoop S.T.O.P. Violence Against Indian Women Technical Assistance Project
202 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Toll free: 888-305-1650, Web site: www.msh-ta.org

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Mending the Sacred Hoop Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

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MSH-TA Site Seeing

Major Renovations Rewards Visitors

Get ready to visit amazing distant locations, speak with new and interesting people, see something old, find something new, branch off into a hundred different locations, all without packing a single bag, getting in a car or picking up a boarding pass. How is it all possible you ask? Why, just rev up that modem and put the globe at your fingertips while seeing the new and improved www.msh-ta.org.

Yes, it is up and running with a discussion group to post current issues, links to tribes across the country, an easier-to-navigate home page, and an additional internet guide with links to sites for judges, prosecutors, advocates, academics, fundraisers, and for the "just plain bored with nothing better to do."

There are some small discrepancies between

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A Matter of "Due Process"

*Helpful Hints for Submitting Progress
and Financial Reports to VAWO*

Operating an effective program extends between good services and direct service staff to administration and grant management. All-inclusive and equally important, these items must work in conjunction because without the grants there would not be money for services, and without people to implement grants there would not be a program. In the interest of providing effective programming the VAWO office has provided these helpful hints.



Financial reports, also known as SF-269, are submitted QUARTERLY. This portion typically is completed by the financial or administrative departments of your tribe or organization showing what money has been spent for each line item listed in your budget detail. Some STOP program coordinators or directors have close monitoring responsibilities of their budgets, while others have very little connection in this part of the administrative process. It is helpful if you are the one spending the dollars to stay connected with the people reporting your spending to ensure the figures match-up, it may also show where you may be running short or have over-budgeted in certain areas. This would be best to review


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the two versions you can access. One uses "Flash" software filled with animated graphics (which will slow your browsing and loading time if your computer is more than a week old, just kidding, but you'll need flash installed on your computer) while the other is a "normal" version. The flash version takes a little longer to update 'cause you have to catch all those swirling circles and running birds and get them to stay where you want them, but expect to see the same standard of quality as the "normal" version soon. You will have the option of selecting the version you want once you arrive at the site.



The text will be updated soon with current program information and you'll be able to get the 2001 training calendar and information (sorry we currently won't be offering on-line registration as CEPP is handling the registration process for MSH-TA, see related article "Technical Difficulties???" in this newsletter). And we are looking to add more articles for viewing and downloading to the site as well.

Meanwhile, check out the map that has links to different tribes around the country as well as visit the other links from the Internet guide, and get in on the discussion group. You can e-mail anyone on MSH-TA's staff from the site if you wish to share your thoughts, ask a question, and give some comments or suggestions. Happy surfing! 

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before the financial reports are due. The due dates are as follows:

Period	Due Date
January 1 - March 31	May 15
April 1 - June 30	August 15
July 1 - September 30	November 15
October 1 - December 31	February 15

Progress reports, the written narratives of accomplishments, are submitted TWICE a year, not quarterly. (The written instructions on the form are incorrect.) Progress reports should provide detailed information documenting the accomplishments made and obstacles faced. Include statistics, anecdotal information, copies or products and other materials drafted and finalized (e.g. protocols, policies, codes, memoranda of understanding, training materials, brochures, etc.). Also, be sure that expenditures listed in the financial are listed in the narrative, like contracting with a consultant to provide training, or hiring a facilitator to run a series of support groups. Again, be specific on the details of what occurred (e.g. type of training and to whom, or type of groups, hours per session and number of weeks). The due dates for progress reports are:

Period	Due Date
January 1 - June 30	July 30
July 1 - December 31	January 30

Please do not submit either of these reports to the Violence Against Women Office, but rather send an original and two copies of each report to the following address:

**Office of the Comptroller
Office of Justice Programs
ATTN: PAL Desk
810 7th Street NW, 5th Floor
Washington D.C. 20531**

The Office of the Comptroller will forward copies of your reports to your Program Manager as soon as they have entered receipt into our system. For more information call VAWO or your Program Manager. ✓

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTORY TRAINING*

APRIL 12-14, 2001
HILTON BALTIMORE TOWERS
20 WEST BALTIMORE STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

The introductory training lays the foundation for the philosophy and our understanding of domestic violence. This training covers community organizing, building a coordinated community response, roles of advocates, law enforcement and court personnel, administrative issues, tracking, and other topics related to STOP grants. Primarily this training is designed for new staff of tribal programs and for those who want to learn and take a more active role in addressing violence against women.

SEXUAL ASSAULT*

APRIL 15-17, 2001
HILTON BALTIMORE TOWERS
20 WEST BALTIMORE STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

The sexual assault training is developed to move participants to an action mode of strategizing ways to address sexual assault in their community. Topics include community organizing and education, tribal code development, law and jurisdiction for PL280 states, and traditional healing ways.

*** Both trainings are scheduled consecutively and at the same location to reduce cost for those that choose to attend both sessions.**

IN OUR BEST INTEREST – NIN GIKENOO AMADIMIN (WE TEACH EACH OTHER)

MAY 14-16, 2001
RADISSON HOTEL DENVER
3333 QUEBEC ST.
DENVER, CO

This training is based on the curriculum *In Our Best Interest: A Process for Personal & Social Change*. That provides a model of critical thinking that is used in community organizing and social change. This two-day training is for battered women, advocates, and women's group facilitators.

**Contact MSH-TA for more information
1-888-305-1650**

Technical Difficulties???

Some of you may have already experienced the bumps of MSH-TA and the Center for Effective Public Policy's (CEPP) first efforts of working together. This new process involves CEPP in booking hotels, receiving registrations, and aiding with on-site logistics at the MSH-TA trainings.

Generally, CEPP handles all the scheduling and meeting arrangements for the technical assistance projects funded through the Violence Against Women Office. The rockiness is in clarifying the differences of routines in which we operate. Often the program or TA provider solely sponsors the events; this includes meals, hotel rooms, and things of that nature. In MSH-TA's case, all those details are taken care of by the training participants. So far, we've endured several revisions of registration forms (if you're one of the people who are now thoroughly confused by sending in your meal and smoking preference, we sincerely apologize), numerous hotel contracts, and phone calls between virtually everybody within the two offices. Now, we are finally set for our first event together.



This may seem a little different for those of you who've attended many of our functions and know our routine, but we are anticipating great results from our trainings with the assistance of CEPP. Some of you will have already experienced the first event (even before this newsletter is printed) while others are preparing to embark on the next adventure with MSH-TA and CEPP (who knows, there just may be some people still trying to figure out what's going on). So, just to let all of you know of the current change in the registration process and we at MSH-TA look forward to working with CEPP and that you can be assured that we'll iron out the wrinkles to make this coupling as seamless as possible. ★

Tribal Prosecutor's Institutes

Five-day training focused on enhancing tribal justice response to domestic violence

Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project has worked for the past 18 months in conjunction with Wynne Law Firm on developing a training manual specific to promoting offender accountability & keeping women safe through effective tribal court prosecution. After many meetings, writing assignments, numerous alterations, and pilot tests, a five-day institute and training manual has finally been created.

The vision for this project was conceptualized Mary Wynne, a former tribal court judge and enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, after seeing many cases brought through the tribal court process but not yielding convictions. Mary generally attributed the lost cases to procedure issues, little collaborating evidence and testimony, and lack of understanding and complexities of domestic violence issues. Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Violence Against Women Office (VAWO) staff directed this project to MSH-TA to bring it to fruition.

The first planning meeting occurred at the second national "Women Are Sacred" conference in Flagstaff, Ariz., in December 1999. A group of tribal prosecutors and attorneys gathered one evening to lay out the issues that needed to be addressed and create the outline for the manual. From this meeting the working group was created.



The Manual

Mary Wynne took on the task of coordinating this project, from the initial planning meetings, gathering the writers, and developing the actual curriculum, to overseeing the completion of the manual. Ten writers were identified to complete the various chapters of the manual and this is where a diversity of knowledge and skill was

desirable.

Chief Judge Mary L. Pearson for Spokane Tribe in Washington state, herself of Georgia-Creek decent, took on the role of project editor. Jeff Rasmussen assisted with additional research on the manual. The contributing writers were Donovan Brown, a prosecutor with Navajo Nation; Michelle Demmert, Northwest Intertribal Court; Debra Gee, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, now currently Tribal Legal Liaison at OJP; Dorma Nevayaktewa, Hopi Nation; and Maria Russell-Big Fire, Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Also on the list of writers are Michelle Paquin, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project and Red Lake Ojibwe member; BJ Jones, prosecutor for Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Court; and Rhonda Martinson, from the Battered Women's Justice Project.



The main intent of the prosecutor's manual is to provide a volume of resources that is concise and specific to Indian communities. The appeal is to both lay and licensed prosecutors for offering a range of information starting with Indian law, ethics, policy and procedures. Subsequent chapters lay out the process of filing motions, jury selection, and opening statements.

The next portions deal with laying the foundation to win when the victim recants, and using expert witnesses. This is a much debated area when it comes to aggressive prosecution as many vital relationships hinge on how the court system responds in this area. There are differences in the approach of prosecutors and domestic violence advocates. Even though both professions are looking to provide safety, there is the risk of sending the wrong message to the community and further jeopardizing victim safety if this isn't carefully thought through. This portion of the manual discusses this issue and demonstrates methods to win even without the victim.

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