



"Lady Justice" used with permission from DG Smalling, Choctaw Nation

# Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Operation Lady Justice

## Listening Session Notes HHS ANA Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) Meeting March 2, 2020, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Washington, DC

Attendees	
<b>Task Force Co-Chairs:</b>	Katie Sullivan, Tara Sweeney
<b>Task Force Members:</b>	Calvin Shivers for Terry Wade, Laura Rogers, Charlie Addington, Jeannie Hovland
<b>Executive Director:</b>	Marcia Good

<b>Listening Session</b>	
<b><u>Speaker</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have stats on cold cases in IC?</li> </ul>
TF Katie Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to have good data first</li> </ul>
TF Laura Rogers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OVW Section 904 TF can do further research</li> <li>• We need better M/M research</li> </ul>
TF Charlie Addington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no good stats on missing in IC</li> <li>• Worked with NamUs to add new data fields re: tribal affiliation, etc.</li> <li>• Explains how to access NamUs</li> <li>• Clarifies that there are differences between m/m</li> <li>• importance of collecting right information</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL-280 is a PROBLEM, lack of tribal courts and tribal police, feel like fighting the state</li> <li>• Discussed a case in which one of their tribal officers was arrested by state, and the cost of fighting that in court</li> <li>• State has slow response time</li> <li>• Tribal nations need to protect their own people, what hurts one of us hurts all of us with incidents of violence</li> <li>• PL280 in CA is a problem; we are not well-resourced but are doing our best</li> <li>• We need more funding, especially from the BIA</li> <li>• We are trying to get SLECs in place for tribal LE officers because the state won't acknowledge us</li> </ul>
TF Tara Sweeney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completely understand PL280, because from Alaska and "me too"</li> <li>• This is a concern we continue to hear and understand, but what is the fix?</li> <li>• We'd like for you to talk amongst each other and recommend to us what to do</li> </ul>

<b>Listening Session</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is not just an Alaska issue, so help us understand the specific challenges; what is prevalent in one area is not the same in another</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We heard of a tribe who donated \$1M to the sheriff's office for coverage, and it was not acknowledged</li> <li>• It feels like we have to buy the sheriff's office in PL-280, that is not right</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the Pueblos, we get no response from the sheriff's office or the state</li> <li>• We pay for most of our own LE or they are served by BIA but trying to get an answer from a BIA officer is impossible</li> <li>• It's so bad that some tribes want to contract with us to do LE</li> <li>• NM does not respect our sovereignty, and we pay huge taxes to them regarding our casino</li> <li>• The majority of tribes don't have resources for tribal law enforcement</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for recognizing that solution can't be one size fits all</li> <li>• My town is small, has no LE at all and the city looks to the tribe because of our casino</li> <li>• LE just doesn't show up to help, sometimes 2 hours and sometimes 2 weeks</li> <li>• We are trying to get a COPS grant to start LE, but we need funding and cooperation</li> <li>• You have a big task ahead of you</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a billboard right now at outside edge of reservation regarding sex trafficking, but it gives a bad appearance</li> <li>• We need education of people, teachers, law enforcement, children</li> </ul>

<b>Listening Session</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy for this TF that it is being look at, because we need to get education and mechanisms in place</li> </ul>
TF Katie Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We understand the jurisdictional complexities</li> <li>• Asks about the challenges—who does what in your communities?</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In our area, everyone shows up to help, but our state is second for HT</li> <li>• How can we share data, identify victims as native?</li> </ul>
TF Katie Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We could do a prevalence study by the TF</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is critical to keep moving forward, as native lives do matter</li> <li>• Back home, a person went missing and she was found and saved, with a large response—but there is not a response like that for Native people</li> <li>• It has been happening for many years but now we are seeing it, and our tribe is trying to protect and educate</li> <li>• Can we get a number of cold cases?</li> <li>• Keep an eye towards problem areas, and we will do what we can</li> <li>• For the trauma, healing is needed and we need to stop this from here out</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are a small community, and we looked at online websites for online services advertising sex services; we then had our DV and prevention programs reach out to women directly to see how we can help to get the women off the pages</li> <li>• Be need to be proactive in a non-judgmental way</li> <li>• This topic is not being talked about in communities, and education and awareness is needed; the problem is there but we don't talk about it</li> </ul>

<b>Listening Session</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The TF must put in an education and awareness piece, and not make it taboo</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HT is related to MMNA, one can lead to the other and they are intertwined</li> </ul>
TF Jeanne Hovland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHS leads the outreach piece here</li> <li>• We have also been training BIE staff with a toolkit for students</li> <li>• The youth want to be included in this conversation</li> <li>• We need to be talking about it in our homes and communities, meeting people where they are</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drugs are a big issue</li> <li>• We've been banishing nontribals for that but we can't enforce it</li> <li>• We just hope the sheriff's office will back us up</li> </ul>
TF Katie Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminals go where they can commit their offenses</li> <li>• The challenges are jd, poverty, vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Criminals go where they can feed their economic enterprise</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sure that you call out historical trauma in your report because we come from that perspective</li> <li>• We are proud and want to care for ourselves and it is challenging to accept help</li> </ul>
TF Laura Rogers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the issues with NamUs we've heard is the concerns that Native American people are wary of it because of asking to provide DNA and wanting to make sure it is used only for that purpose</li> <li>• NamUs only uses DNA for ID, and we understand the wariness given the history of issues or misuse of DNA before, just bringing forth the issue</li> </ul>

<b>Listening Session</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NamUs hasn't been utilized as much by tribes it appears</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Then do some advertising, make the assurance that the DNA will only be used for NamUs and not for other purposes</li> <li>I had an uncle who left for Wyoming years ago, and we have no idea what happened to him, we never found him</li> <li>The benefits of NamUs should be published.</li> </ul>
TF Jeannie Hovland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can use our tribal partners to get the word out re: DNA, maybe PSAs or billboards?</li> </ul>
TF Tara Sweeney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need meaningful and effective reports</li> <li>We need to acknowledge our history, and shine daylight on the past</li> <li>We need to understand how to get where we are going, and build and rebuild better relationships going forward</li> </ul>
TF Katie Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law Enforcement Commission has a working group on tribal</li> <li>We need to work with tribal partners with respect, but need to get the information</li> <li>If we have a tribe who doesn't want to talk, we don't get good data</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Just in this room today, we have big differences in tribes</li> <li>It stresses how different we are in our own tribes and families</li> <li>We need to pay attention to families, and listen to language</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are a poor tribe in a rural area, but we have the ports and our people get hit the hardest</li> <li>Be aware of key things in your area that might be a problem for HT, like ports, malls, stadiums, etc.</li> <li>Racism is behind this; we were not even considered human not too long ago, not human and not citizens</li> </ul>

<b>Listening Session</b>	
	<p>Address who we are and the racism, as some things are better but we have to keep moving forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical trauma must be kept in mind, it is a sensitive topic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families need a safety plan in place; “if you don’t hear from me....”</li> </ul>
TF Jeannie Hovland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We could help define the structure but we need tribal partnership as to how to get engaged with folks in the home</li> </ul>
TF Katie Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please bring up your solutions but also bring up your problems, so that we can figure out where in our components we can provide help</li> <li>• Focus on MMNA, give us ideas, brainstorm so we can take it from there</li> <li>• We appreciate your willingness to open up</li> </ul>
TF Tara Sweeney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help us understand what trauma-informed training looks like in your community</li> <li>• Shine a light on what services needed when someone is found</li> <li>• This is a chance here for communities to stand up for our families who have been M/M</li> <li>• It is an opportunity to raise awareness of what is needed from you</li> <li>• Write to us, it takes a village</li> <li>• Our obligation to family spans generations, so too should the work of the TF</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need mental health resources, much more help for IHS, and working with tribal programs for support</li> <li>• Some IHS places have mental health programs but we need much much more</li> </ul>

<b>Listening Session</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to be working with families WHILE their loved one is missing</li> <li>• We must start earlier and help them through it</li> </ul>
TF Jeanne Hovland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we need IHS, SAMHSA as well</li> </ul>

