

SAXMANONE

Moderator: Operator
June 02, 2020
12:51 p.m. EST

OPERATOR: This is Conference # 409816154

Operator: The room is now open.

Tara Sweeney: Good afternoon, and thank you for joining us today. The Task Force hope that you are all safe and continuing to check the CDC's website for the latest information, guidelines and resources. And in addition we hope you're also checking our website at [bia.gov\covid-19](https://www.bia.gov/covid-19) for additional updates relevant to Indian countries from Indian Affairs.

To formally begin, my name is Tara Sweeney, I am the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Today is the eighth listening session that the Task Force has held since beginning work in February 2020. We appreciate the interests of Tribal leaders and others in joining this call and that the information shared here today is very important and valuable.

In honor of the United States government to government relationship when it comes for question and answer I respectfully request that the questions come from Tribal leaders for the first 30 minutes. The remaining time will then be for comments by other Indian countries stakeholders. We ask that you keep comments to three minutes given the number of participants the program that we are using will automatically mute a line at the three-minute mark. We have over 200 people registered for this session and so it's important that we continue to adhere to that three-minute mark so that we can hear from as many individuals representing Indian countries as possible during this time.

A couple of routine housekeeping items include that when you wish to speak please use the raise to hand button located in the dropdown at the top of your screen indicated by either a hand icon or the figure with the arm raised. Your microphone will be unmuted when it is your turn. You can only speak if you

have – if you have registered. When you are up to speak please identify yourself with your name, spelling and the Tribe or organization you represent. There is a three-minute timer as I have mentioned before and you should be able to see it at the bottom of your screen.

For everyone's awareness everything said during this telephonic listening session will be recorded and become part of the final transcript. If you wish to provide written comment please use the comment box on your screen. If you wish to submit more detailed written comments you can submit them directly to operationladyjustice@usdoj.gov.

I'm also proud to announce that we've added a new section on the Operation Lady Justice website that features all of the publicly available information from the NCMEC missing less than six months and NamUs missing more than six months on missing American, Indian and Alaska Native children. The link to the new section can be found on the Operation Lady Justice website which is www.operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov.

We will now share a short presentation about the executive order on Operation Lady Justice. Then turn to our participants for their comments and questions. It is now my honor to ask the White House personnel working with Operation Lady Justice to provide brief remarks. I'm proud to introduce the team within the Trump administration that has provided unwavering support across the Federal government for Operation Lady Justice.

First I will introduce Ms. Brooke Rollins assistant to the president and acting director of Domestic Policy Council. Ms. Rollins. Operator, is Ms. Rollins available?

Operator: Sorry we're trying to call her in.

Tara Sweeney: OK. Sorry.

Operator: She should be on in just a second, it's dialing.

Tara Sweeney: Can I have an update on Ms. Rollins, please?

Operator: Yes, she just – she has just picked up. Ms. Rollins, are you there? Ms. Rollins?

Brooke Rollins: Hey, you all, it's Brooke Rollins, sorry about that we were having some technical difficulty.

Tara Sweeney: Well, welcome to the listening session, Ms. Rollins.

Brooke Rollins: Well, thank you so much. It is an absolute honor to be with you all. I have the amazing Jennie Lichter here with me, the deputy in Domestic Policy Council. I know she's been working so hard on this and is so passionate about it. We also all know that this issue is of such importance to the president and to our entire administration. After hearing concerns from Tribal government he knew that he needed to take action and as we all now know which is why we're all on this call, signed the executive order to establish this Task Force focusing on missing and murdered Indians and Alaska Natives just last November.

We are so grateful to all of the leadership on the call. We know that these calls are vital for this Task Force to fulfill its mission. Most of you don't know and there's no reason that you should, but I was named the acting director of the Domestic Policy Council not two or three weeks ago, but I have been with this White House for more than two years now running the Office of American Innovation and working on key legacy projects for the president. And now I'm so excited to have this project which I also believe is a key legacy project for this president as part of my portfolio as well.

So I am on, Jennie is on. We're so happy to be here and we're very grateful, and we're just looking forward to listening. Thank you so much.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you very much. At this time I would also like to call on Ms. Rachel Collins who's the senior policy advisor for the Domestic Policy Council. Ms. Collins?

Rachel Collins: Thank you, Tara. Hi everyone, this is Rachel Collins. As she said I'm also with the Domestic Policy Council and I just want to echo the sentiments that

Brooke just shared. We are excited to be on this call and look forward to hearing all of your comments. Thank you.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. And at this time I would like to introduce Mr. Doug Hoelscher, deputy assistant to the president and director for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Hoelscher?

Operator: We lost him on the line. He should be picking up.

Tara Sweeney: I know he was trying to call in, so give him maybe a second.

Operator: Yes.

Tara Sweeney: Doug are you there?

Doug Hoelscher: Hi, can you hear me? Yes, can you hear me?

Tara Sweeney: Yes, yes, go ahead, Doug.

Doug Hoelscher: OK, all right, all right. Thank you very much. I appreciate the chance to join and I'm glad that Brooke was able to join, she's a great champion for looking out for all Americans. And the reason we're on this phone call today is because we all care deeply about the long-overlooked issue of missing and murdered American Indian Alaskan Natives, and so I'm proud to work for the president that was the first president who formally acknowledged this as an important issue. About a little over a year ago he signed – he was the first president to sign a proclamation – a presidential proclamation on the issue to elevate awareness and to shine a light on a need to address this important issue.

And then after a lot of coordination with stakeholders from both HHS and DOJ, and Department of Interior and the White House the president last November invited several Native American leaders to join him in the Oval Office where he signed an executive order creating this Task Force that's working with you today – that's learning from you today that created Operation Lady Justice in the work that is ongoing and very important.

I want to just add a little bit more prospective on some of the president's other priorities in Indian countries and serve American Indians and Alaskan Natives more generally. Last fall the president announced that – two important things. One, the work of the Domestic Policy Council helped advance alongside policy change on eagle feather remains. And so that went into effect last fall.

A couple of months later, last fall, the president announced on the state floor of the White House that we had worked with Finland in a process that begin repatriating important artifacts and culture remains from – that are very important to the Mesa Verde region and so that was something that the president was very proud to accomplish and make progress on.

Also the president signed an executive order creating a Task Force on the Indian health service to make sure that Alaska Natives and American Indian children are protected in the Indian health service. And those recommendations I think will be coming out in the near future. And so another issue that had been long overlooked by administrations of both parties and something that the president cared a lot of about and wanted to focus on and make sure that systematic abuse doesn't happen ever again. And so in short, a lot of work has gone on in the last year or two to support Indian country. Brooke I'm sure talked about opportunity zones and a variety of other things that we're doing to help disadvantaged communities around the country.

But again coming back to the reason we're all on this phone call today the issue of missing and murdered Alaskan Natives and American Indians, is because you all care about, and we care about it, we want to make progress both at DOJ and at the Department of Interior, HHS, the White House, the entire Federal family. I have to say one of the most moving experiences of my life was traveling to Alaska last year for several listening sessions on this topic. And it moved me in a powerful way and I'm glad to stay involved in this important issue. And thank you and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Hoelscher. We will continue along with the PowerPoint. Certainly appreciative of all of the support that the Trump administration has

provided across the Federal government for support for Operation Lady Justice. And as you mentioned, the signing of the executive order 13898 launched the inter-agency Operation Lady Justice Task Force. The primary charge of the Task Force is to develop an aggressive government live strategy to improve Federal, local, state and Tribal law enforcement corporation to combat violence against women and youth in Native American communities.

We will establish protocols for new and unsolved cases, establish multi-jurisdictional cold case teams, improve the response to investigative challenges, and collect and manage data across jurisdictions.

And this time I would like to introduce the Task Force for those participating today. I am Tara Sweeney as I said, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. I am also Secretary Bernhardt's co-chair designee and the attorney general's co-chair designee from the Department of Justice is Katharine (Katie) Sullivan. As you can see on the slide, she's the principal deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Justice Programs. And sitting in for Katie today is Jessica Hart.

Jessica Hart: Thank you, Tara. Good afternoon everyone. As Tara said, I'm here representing principal deputy assistant attorney general and Operation Lady Justice co-chair designee Katie Sullivan. My name is Jessica Hart, I'm the director of the office for victims of crime which is within the Office of Justice Programs and the Department of Justice.

I'm so grateful really to have everyone here to speak with us today, and I'm especially grateful for your willingness and your openness to discuss this painful topic with us. And I know Attorney General Barr and Katie both value the importance of hearing from Tribal members and professionals directly affected by this crisis and that's why these listening sessions are just so important and valuable to the Task Force. The Department remains committed to working with Tribal leaders and with all law enforcement agencies to better understand this problem and develop more effective responses to turn this tide of violence. So thank you again for being with us here today and allowing me to introduce myself. I'm excited to hear from all of you. Thanks so much.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. And representing the Federal Bureau of Investigations, we have Terry Wade as the executive assistant director for Criminal Cyber Response and Services Branch. Representing Mr. Wade on the Task Force today is Jay Greenberg.

Jay Greenberg: Thank you, Tara. Good afternoon everybody. This is Jay Greenberg, on behalf of the FBI executive assistant director, Terry Wade, director, Christopher Wray. I am the chief of our violent crime session which manages all of the training and investigations, partnerships and outreach that we provide for all Indian country matters nationwide. It is an honor to be representing the FBI here today and I look forward to your input on how we can do better to serve your needs. Thank you.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. And the acting director for the Office of Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice, Laura Rogers. Representing Laura Rogers today is Francis Cook.

Francis Cook: Good afternoon, all. My name is Francis Cook and I am representing the head of the Office on Violence Against Women, Laura Rogers, who sends her deep regrets that she could not be here today. She asked me to share that she is so appreciative that the President included her on this Task Force. She feels that OVW brings a particular perspective to this work, of making the connection between domestic and sexual violence, including sex trafficking and the disappearance or murder of Native people.

We have heard heartbreaking stories at our annual government to government consultations on violence against women in Tribal communities, stories about the connection between escalating domestic violence and homicide, as well as the disappearance of Native women and girls related to sex trafficking. We are so grateful to be a part of the critical work of this Task Force and I am pleased to be here today on Laura's behalf. Thank you so much.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you so much. It's come to my attention that the audio seems to be cutting in and out and operator, can you please explain how to use the app?

Operator: Yes, if they just exit – if you're having audio issues coming through your speakers, if you would just exit the room, re enter and when prompted, put your phone number in, the – you will get a – a call from a 404 number and the audio will come clearly through your phone line.

Tara Sweeney: So in order to hear clearly, I guess, folks will need to use the app and the operator will call you from the app to your – your phone number and the sound quality is significantly better.

Operator: Yes, that's correct.

Tara Sweeney: Moving – OK. Moving on to the remaining Task Force members, it is my honor to introduce Charles Addington, deputy bureau director for BIA, Office of Justice Services. Charlie?

Charles Addington: Well, good afternoon, everybody, and thank you – Secretary Sweeney. Like Tara said, my name's Charles Addington, I'm the director for the BIA, Office of Justice Services who – we oversee the – the public safety programs throughout Indian country and we're just so pleased to be a part of this Task Force and to collaborate with our other partners at the Department of Justice, OJS and the FBI – work hand in hand with our Tribal law enforcement staff and the other supporting programs throughout the Indian country to try to address this very critical issue that we're going to talk about here today and we look forward to hearing a lot of good feedback from the panel members and thank you for being here today.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you, again, my honor to introduce Trent Shores, US Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma. Mr. Shores?

Trent Shores: (Spoken in Foreign Language). My name is Trent Shores, I am citizen of the Choctaw Foundation of Oklahoma. I am the United States Attorney in Northern Oklahoma but also have the honor of chairing the Native American Issues Subcommittee for the Attorney General. I look very much forward to hearing any comments today. I am particularly interested to hear whether the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous persons is impacting both women and girls and men and boys. I'm curious to hear from Tribal leaders about what the law enforcement situation is like on the ground to be able to receive

those reports and follow up on those investigations in a timely manner. I look forward to hearing your comments and taking them to heart.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you, Mr. Shores. And a woman who needs no introduction. Many of you know Jeannie Hovland, deputy assistant secretary for Native American Affairs and Task Force member. Jeannie?

Jeannie Hovland: Thank you. (Spoken in Foreign Language). Good afternoon my relatives. I greet you with a good heart, Jeannie Hovland. I am commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans and also deputy assistant secretary of Native American Affairs of the Administration for children and families and I'm a proud member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. I'm so honored to be here with folks from the White House with Assistant Secretary Sweeney and our operation lady, Justice Task Force members from Interior and Department of Justice and I still appreciate the presence and support on this important issue and making this a priority of the Administration.

To the Tribal leaders and members on this phone, I want to say thank you so much for your years of advocacy to remember and to bring justice and healing to families and communities who have experienced the tragedy of a missing or murdered relative. Your voices have been heard and we are here to work in partnership to help bring our relatives home and keep our communities safe. I'm grateful that this Task Force has broadened this issue to include the Department of Health and Human Services, so we can have a holistic approach which is required if we really want to have a positive impact. I look forward to hearing from our Tribal leaders on the phone today, on how we at HHS can support a community based prevention, intervention and healing strategy. Thank you for this opportunity. (Spoken in Foreign Language).

Tara Sweeney: Thank you Commissioner Hovland. These next slides will provide an update on the accomplishments so far with respect to the Task Force work projects. To date, the Task Force has held eight listening sessions and will continue to aggressively consult with Indian country. The information in the recommendations that we gather from the sessions will help guide the Task Force in developing protocols and recommendations. The Task Force has

launched a website that will be regularly updated on important aspects of our activity including progress to date on upcoming events.

We've developed several workgroups which have been aggressively collaborating on the various aspects of the charges of the Task Force and you can see the various workgroups represented on the slide. We're also maximizing our efforts by coordinating with other Federal Task Forces and commissions such as the ones listed here. The Presidential Report due dates are represented on this slide by November 26, 2020. We are charged with submitting a report, a progress report to the President that highlights the activities and accomplishments thus far as well as recommendations for further actions and then in November 2021, the Task Force will submit its final report to the President.

So to help guide discussions during our listening sessions and consultations, we've developed several key questions geared towards proposing potential solutions. I believe that those who registered for this event also received a copy of this PowerPoint and so you will have those guiding questions for you. And finally, in an effort to continue to hear from Indian country, we have a dedicated email address established for individuals to provide the Task Force with comments and recommendations and you can see that here at operationladyjustice@usdoj.gov.

You can also find again, additional information on the website. And so if you are offering testimony and your audio is connected by a phone, here are the directions for how you can get in the queue to provide comment. If you are connected via the computer, you will see that there is an icon at the top, where you can raise your hand and raise your hand, you will be put into the queue for comment. If you would like to provide comments in a chat format, there is that option on your screen, where you can submit questions and we will have the executive director, Marcia Good, also monitoring that box for additional information. So at this time, the lines are open for comment.

Operator: If anyone would like to speak, just – as she said, just raise your hand and you will be called in that order.

Tara Sweeney: If there anyone interested in providing comments at this time, please raise your hand. But in the meantime, as we're waiting for people to familiarize themselves with this program, we've heard – I – we've heard during prior listening sessions from Tribes who have no law enforcement at all, the – the need to mobilize partnerships and develop a workable framework and so as you're listening to the comments today, that is a topic that is very important to the Task Force and we'd encourage you if you are not providing comments on it today to submit and include that topic in written remarks. Are there any Tribal leaders in the queue to speak? Operator?

Operator: I have Monte Fronk on line right now. Monte, go ahead?

Monte Fronk: Yes, can you hear me OK?

Operator: Yes, we can.

Tara Sweeney: Yes.

Monte Fronk: Yes. Yes, I – I'm with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe here in Minnesota and I am a – a Native father of a teenage daughter who was – who was trafficked for almost a year and very traumatic to our family was that time. She was recovered alive but very traumatically, physically and emotionally damaged at that time. She was missing from 14 and a half to almost 16 years of age.

Luckily, never left Minnesota but just as a Native father who experienced the struggles of working with all kinds of agent services who felt that young teenage girls were not a high priority to them was a very big struggle and the fact that I look at – I'm in public safety myself for 32 years and it was really because of my fellow brother and in uniform who I could reach out to, that really helped to bring back home alive but – but very, very damaged.

She is 23 now and you know, still struggling with the results of that. The one thing I have looked at and I'm glad to be on this call is, you know, the resources that are out there and how, you know, many agencies see our missing Native girls, you know, as really not worth their time and I think that is something that I have heard from other Native parents of girls who were missing or trafficked, was that first contact is really – whether to either, you

know, bring the information forward or not but also in mine, I was very honored and really, my saviors was two organizations which was (The Paddy Wagging Foundation) here in Minnesota as well as the National Missing and Children's Network who were always probably more on top of things with getting the word out when my daughter went missing.

And when hope kind of faded away after almost close to a year and Paddy Wagging was a very excellent resource for myself, just verbalizing what the realities were and for myself, it was pretty much planning for a funeral but luckily, a tip found her, found her alive at a residence in St Paul, Minnesota. From that, I guess as a – as a Native father of – who has a daughter who's been through this and working in public safety, I always felt that through my mentors and a lot of collaboration and I really appreciate the fact that our chief executive, (Mally Benjamin), was in that photograph and she has just been a wonderful mentor for what she has done for the Mille Lacs Band, for all of us who are – are her employees.

We're building relationships and bridges that many states have what is called fusion centers and that to me one of those under tapped resources I think for Indian country which many of us have always wished there were more of a Tribal presence in those fusion centers across the United States. So if a young Native woman goes missing or murdered or lost, that could be reported to those fusion centers as soon as possible, either through law enforcement or through Tribal advocacy because sometimes Indian country, our Tribal advocates who are really our unsung heroes are the ones who find out about the missing women and children in our communities because sometimes the fear of law enforcement is one they're rather talk to an advocate about, their missing family members than going to the criminal justice system with that one.

I know that the FBI does have a citizens academy and I know in Minnesota, we have talked about to my experiences of why couldn't there be a Indian country academy, similar to the FBI citizens academy to help educate Tribal communities about these situations in a good way and understand the process of when these things happen to families, the historical trauma that is caused by this or added to their own lives with that one, what the prosecution looks like,

what the investigation looks like, you know, and to help them understand because when you're in crisis, things don't happen quickly.

So I hope that with this group, you know, and I've told some of my Federal resources I would love to be, you know, if I could be a resource as a Native father who'd been in a public safety for 32 years, who has a daughter who was missing but found alive which I know is a rarity to most of the stories you've heard, you know, maybe I could be a resource if possible, you know, in that way, having lived with the situation myself. I always hope that the fusion centers across the US could be a better resource tool for Indian country if there was a Tribal liaison assigned to those, to get those reports and the words out as soon as possible so if a Native woman is being trafficked and let's say goes to another state and the traffic stuff happens and ...

Tara Sweeney: Thank you so much for your comments. As I have mentioned in the beginning of our presentation, the program that we're using will automatically mute the lines after the three minute mark. At this time, I would like to call on, first, Jessica Hart and Jay Greenberg for – just some feedback to Mr. Fronk.

Jessica Hart: Thanks, Tara. I just want to say, you know, thank you for sharing with us. My heart, you know, really goes out to you. I appreciate you stepping up today and being here today and sharing your experience and I'm, you know, so glad that you are, you know, one of the few people I think out there that, you know, your daughter came back and I'm so happy – you know – that you were reunited with your daughter.

I think your perspective is really useful to this Task Force; kind of, the situation that you and your family have gone through, and then your, it sounds like, public safety experience. I think this is something that the Task Force would like to look into further, the fusion centre, and I know you were kind of – got cut off at the end, but you started mentioning Tribal liaisons and I know we have specific grants for Tribal liaisons. I think that's something we could look into further.

So, I really – you know – appreciate your experience and think you have some really great ideas that we'd like to look at further. I can hand it over. I think one of my other colleagues would like to share some – is it (inaudible)

Operator: Mr. Greenberg.

Jay Greenberg: Hi, Mr. (Fronk). Jay Greenberg with the FBI. Thank you very much for sharing your story. As an investigator, when I first joined the FBI, I actually worked human trafficking matters and I saw, sort of, the trail of destruction that trafficking leaves through families and communities. I will – I will echo the comments that I'm happy very happy your daughter has come back home, although with a heavy heart as a parent knowing that your family has been altered in a very terrible way for the rest of your life because of that experience. So, let me just – you know – deeply sympathize with you for a moment about the experience that your daughter went through and that your family went through.

In terms of the partnership with NCMEC, I'm pleased to report, in addition to overseeing Indian country, I also oversee all of our human trafficking and crimes against children investigations, and we are the only Federal agency who has a formal standing footprint with NCMEC, and we help them pass through their leads, both on the crimes against children and missing children areas to help farm those leads out.

So, it is very, very important to our missions, it's very important to the stability of the country, and everybody who's here in our country, and here on all the lands that we have that we continue to execute that well. So, I'd like to just thank you for sharing your story and also for your comments about the opportunity, perhaps, to expand some of the liaison that we do within Native American communities to sort of mimic what we do with Citizens Academy.

For those of you not familiar with it, in Citizens Academy, we bring a group of citizens into the FBI, generally, once a week for six to eight weeks depending on each office and the program they offer there and talk about all of the investigate equities that we perform. That's certainly something that we would be open to expanding into Indian country as a possibility, and I will

follow up with all of our major offices who service the Indian country lands and see the possibility and the viability of that going forward.

Thank you for sharing that.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Operator, are there additional comments? Next speaker.

Operator: Yes, next we have Danielle. Danielle, your line is open.

(Danielle Amick): Thank you very much. Are you able to hear me clearly?

Operator: Yes, please go ahead.

Tara Sweeney: Yes.

(Danielle Amick): Thank you. My name is Danielle Amick and a member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. I agree, and I think it's a great idea that everyone is gathering. I'd like to see some focus on communication. As the gentlemen mentioned, a lot of times, people don't realize what the actual process when there's a crime that's committed, especially when it happens on the reservation.

My elderly mother was a victim of a sexual assault, but the communication between ourselves – and I'm not currently on the reservation. I live in another state, so it was kind of confusing when we were going back and forth, trying to communicate with the people that were assigned to my mother's case.

So, I just would like to see some improvement and some type of possible additional training to go with that, whether that's – you know – an individual speaking directly with the family members from the FBI and the Tribal member or – and the Tribe, I just think it would be very beneficial to the victims of the families so that they can understand what the process is, if that makes sense.

Thank you.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you for your comments. Just as a reminder, when you look at the executive order, it charges the Task Force with precisely that in terms of

improving the response to various challenges including investigation and communication, developing the appropriate protocols to assist families and victims with the multijurisdictional challenges that we often find in Indian country.

I don't know, Jeannie, Commissioner Hovland, if you wanted to provide any information about the toolkit that HHS has developed.

Jeannie Hovland: Thank you, and yes, absolutely agree. Education and communication to families and also the Federal agencies learning from lived experience for those that have had the unfortunate situation of having someone human trafficked or victimized. We need to learn from you all, so thank you for sharing and I'm sorry for you and your family, that you've had experiences.

We have, at the Administration for Native Americans partnered with the Office on Trafficking and Persons, which is a department within Department of Health and Human Services, and developed a free online toolkit called "Combating Human Trafficking: Native Youth Toolkit", and it's free. You can download it, distribute it. It's a good way to have a conversation about, "What is human trafficking, what do you do to identify it, and how do you respond to it?"

And in partnership with Assistant Secretary Sweeney, we trained several of the bureau's Indian education staff, and also staff from Johnson O'Malley Program, so that they can, one, be aware of what human trafficking is, and teach this to their students, and start those conversations, but also working with Director Addington on how we can also bring this to law enforcement.

And so, we have a lot taking place, we have a lot of work to do, and we do want to have our approach on the Task Force be from lived experience from Native communities, so we'd be happy to follow up with you, and visit further about this, and use your insight on this, so, thank you.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Operator, next speaker.

Operator: Next, we have Kristin Welch. Kristin, go ahead. You're on the line.

Kristin Welch: (Inaudible) my English name is Kristin Welch. I'm a descendant of the Menonimee Nation and I work for the Indigenous led non-profit "Menikanaehkem". I am the lead organizer for Women's Leadership Cohort for MMIW, and we're currently working with Wisconsin DOJ to move the MMIW Task Force forward here in Wisconsin.

So, my question is, how are you actively seeking our families and survivors to guide the work, but also how you are engaging Indigenous led grassroots leaders in the work as well?

Jeannie Hovland: This is Commissioner Hovland. Currently, at the Administration for Native Americans and Office on Trafficking and Persons, we had a first ever Native American cohort on human trafficking with providers and survivors of human trafficking who are going to be issuing a white paper on how we can address. And I know, human trafficking – you know – we want to see how much that plays into murdered and missing Indigenous people, so that is one area that we are looking at, and we'll be using their white paper as a guidance for us, as well as reaching out through community meetings and our listening sessions. That is part of what we'll be doing from HHS on education and communication.

Marcia Good: Kristin, this is Marcia Good. I'm the executive director of the Task Force which means that I'm responsible for, kind of, the day-to-day operations. Another thing that the Task Force is doing to reach out to the Tribal grassroots organizations is we're putting together, to start with, some webinars to work with the Tribes who are already working in this area so we can all coordinate efforts.

We're doing the same thing with some of the state's Task Forces as well and then trying to coordinate and communicate amongst all of the groups; the Tribal work that's already being done, and then coordinating that with our and the state work, because there are many Tribes who have already done a number of really good things in this area and are – you know – a long way down the line in their own communities. And so, if you could get me your contact information, I would love to visit with you about that.

So, that's kind of for the grassroots section. For families, we're still working on, kind of, the best way to be able to do that. You know – in-person sessions obviously are the best way to be able to do it because it's such a sensitive topic, and with the – you know – the lack of ability to travel right now, we're kind of struggling with that, but we are – you know – thinking about how we can do that, and do that best so that families can discuss this with each other and with us. We will definitely be back in touch when we have something along those lines worked out. Thank you.

Jessica Hart: Thanks, Marcia. This is Jessica. It looks like Tara's phone is having some difficulties. Operator, do we maybe want to move onto the next person, and hopefully Tara will be able to call in by then?

Operator: Yes, I'm waiting for – I have Jamie Moran. Just waiting for that line to be picked up.

Jessica Hart: Perfect.

Operator: OK, Jamie. Your line is open, go ahead. Jamie, are you with us?

Jamie Moran: I am. I was just able to log in.

Operator: OK.

Jamie Moran: Actually, I had several questions. Well, actually, first, let me introduce myself. Jamie Moran. I am the program director for the victim services program for Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

The first question I had is, when will Tribal justice systems be hearing from the US Attorneys' Offices who received the funding to hire the MMIP coordinators?

My second question is, is the Task Force intended to encompass collaborative law enforcement networking that includes Federal partners in instances of MMIW cases that occur off of Tribe land?

And my last question is, what is being done with regard to state statutes and individual law enforcement agency policies that prohibit the acceptance of missing person complaints for "X" number of hours?

Marcia Good: So, this is Marcia. Could I ask – Shannon Cozzoni is on the line. Shannon is a Tribal liaison in Oklahoma, and they just started their missing – their MMIP coordinator, I believe, starts next Monday. Shannon, could you talk just a little bit about kind of the process for the first question that she had about the contact with the new MMIP coordinators and US Attorneys' Offices? I know we also have other US Attorneys who are on this call, and we can also hook those folks up.

Shannon Cozzoni: Sure, can you hear me?

Marcia Good: Yes.

Shannon Cozzoni: OK. I know that Montana has theirs – has had theirs in place. Theirs was actually done a little differently. It wasn't run through that program. So, there's has been on – has been on the ground. Ours starts Monday, and, honestly, they would've started earlier. You know – we just got – with COVID, a lot of things had to slow down.

So, I suspect that several of the other MMIP coordinators will be coming on in the next – this month. I suspect that process should be right behind us. So, I suspect that those will be – the outreach should start picking up pretty quickly. You know – clearly, we're concerned about COVID and how much in-person we're going to do, but I think there will be – certainly, we will ease into that.

The other question; there's individuals like, for instance, the Oklahoma one. There's three districts in Oklahoma that our MMIP coordinator is covering all three districts. I think there's one in New Mexico for instance, and so they be kind of reaching out, and then they will also work together to kind of standardize, and I use that time understanding that every Tribe is different, every state is different, so there will not be, like, a "standard", but there will be some things that we've got to look at.

For instance, in Oklahoma, we have – Oklahoma did just pass the law that there is no waiting period. I don't know. There's no law that states there's a waiting period in any state that I'm aware of. It's usually a policy, and honestly, I think it's kind of one of those policies that may not be kind of unwritten.

So, I think that we're seeing some efforts out there to try to affirmatively acknowledge that these arbitrary time periods don't exist, that, instead, what we want to look at is the situation that's going on. It's different for everyone. If this person is always at this place at this time and they don't show up, then that is cause for an immediate report.

And so, that's what, for instance, the Oklahoma law does, I know some other states that had enacted those laws, and hopefully that would be something that we'd look to get on a national level.

Marcia, was there anything else you needed me to cover?

Jamie Moran: OK, thank you.

Shannon Cozzoni: I'm sorry.

Marcia Good: No, I think that's good. (Andrew Berg) is on the line. He's one of our US attorneys, and if we could open up his line, and he might be able to address the issue about contacting the US Attorneys' MMIP coordinators. Andrew, are you on?

(Andrew Berg): I believe I'm here. Can you hear me?

Marcia Good: Yes.

(Andrew Berg): Excellent. Yes, our MMIP coordinator is going to be starting July 1. The delays are unfortunately related to the pandemic we've been experiencing, but we do look forward to having him on the ground. An experienced former agent comes recommended to us from former Tribal leaders as well.

Some of the issues that have been asked about are exactly what we anticipate he will be looking at. So, he will be – already, we've talked to him about plans for meeting with the Tribes this summer if possible, but we want to be sensitive in-person meetings, but definitely, the inquiries will begin and we do want to understand some of these underlying issues and come up with better lines of communication.

Marcia Good: Thank you. Any other additional questions? Operator, next speaker.

Operator: I do not have anyone else with their hand raised up at the moment.

Marcia Good: OK. I see that there was a question asked in the comments section about the improvement on cellular and internet access in rural communities. It's a major problem if women who are in danger are unable to contact emergency services, and I absolutely agree with that.

At Indian Affairs, we have a national Tribal broadband grant program that is about to close. Applications are due, I believe, June 12 or 13, and it's to provide Tribal governments an opportunity or financial assistance to conduct feasibility studies for broadband infrastructure, especially in our rural communities.

Charlie Addington, can you also talk about the BIA OJS phone app that you have developed?

Charles Addington: You bet. Well, good afternoon, everybody. Yes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Offices of Justice Services – you know – found we kept hearing from our Tribal communities that there was no way for community members to provide tips directly to law enforcement, so the BIA division of drug enforcement began looking at, "How can we set up something that is very simple?" A phone app to where – if you've got a smart phone, you can download an app, and you can just go to that app and actually provide a tip to law enforcement directly through that app.

So, we worked with the contractors to make sure we had a system set up that would work for us, and you can go on any smart phone, whether it be an iPhone or an Android phone, and download our app which is called "BIA

Tips", and you can actually go onto that app once you download it and send tips directly to a law enforcement officer or a special agent, and they will actually send that – assign that to whoever is in the area of where the crime or the tip is coming in at.

And then, you can actually remain anonymous or you can actually communicate directly with the agent that it's assigned to, so it's a very good tool for folks to be able provide tips and help law enforcement start being better informed and respond to these crimes in a much quicker manner.

Female: So Charlie, how can they find the link or the URL for the app?

Charles Addington: Yes, you just go onto – to the app store on your smart phone, and just go to there and type in "BIA Tips" into the search, and it will bring up an icon that has a round BIA Office of Justice Services seal, and you just download app. And once you download that on your phone, you can just go directly to it, open the app and provide tips to law enforcement.

Female: Thank you. Operator, is there additional speakers in the queue?

Operator: Yes, next we have Hollie Mackey. Hollie, you're on the line.

Hollie Mackey: Hi, I don't know if you all can hear me. Hollie Mackey from the RAVEN Project, and North Dakota State University, an old member of the Northern Cheyenne. And, first of all, I just want to thank you all for the work that you're doing. I think that it's really important, and we've had the opportunity over the last two years to work with a number of FBI analysts and agents in our region who have done a phenomenal job.

But it kind of gets back into the grassroots question in some ways, right, and I feel that the Task Forces in the states with all of the legislation coming out to identify scope of problem and to think about all of these issues. But it seems as if everything is still very much top down, where if law enforcement is a perceived problem from Indian country, law enforcement has now been tasked to fix the problem, and I don't see where the advocates for MMIP have any authority, right.

So we've given them access, but we haven't given them any authority to work on behalf of victims which does a disservice, really, to the people who are trying to effect change in those areas. And similarly, I've talked to other (inaudible) people at the OJ about this. You know, we've become increasingly concerned about data, and the way that data is both unavailable, or marginally available or, you know, if you're a victim or a family member, you can access more information through (Nameth), but (Nameth) is really shortsighted in the ways that it provides any sort of data that would help scholars, such as myself, working on this and think about prevention or intervention efforts.

So I'm curious what it is the Task Force is going to do to address more of the prevention side of things, because by the time we get to the law enforcement side of it, we've already lost people, where we're not talking about juvenile justice, we're not talking about child protective services, we're not talking about social conditions. I – and often framing it as trafficking.

Makes it an issue of otherness where we know that a lot of these things are happening in our communities, just our communities simply don't have the officers or the support, the social service support, the housing, any of the things that really get bound up in the Federal shackles due to reservation systems and the IRA governance.

So I'm curious how people are thinking about these issues, in particular, having worked for a number of years now and still finding that despite the work that everybody's doing, like those of us who are doing the work from around the outside when we have Task Forces like this constructed.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you for your questions. You raise some extremely important points and when the discussions began about how the Federal government was going to respond to missing and murdered American Indians and Alaskan Natives, it became apparent to so many stakeholders within the administration, and those that are on this call, that data and data deficiency was something that really needed to be addressed.

And so, I'd like to turn the – provide – or I would like to turn the floor over to Charles Addington and to Trent Shores to address some of the questions regarding data deficiency and the recognition that the Task Force has for why this is important. Charlie.

Charles Addington: Yes, well thank you, Tara.

Yes, you know, the data, we have been looking at how can we get a system to put it in place to get the accurate data. How can we find out exactly what the problem is in each one of our communities. And, you know, prior to utilizing the (Nameth) system, which is a great system to input all of our data into and be able to track those and find folks at (Nameth) worked hand in hand with those to develop some Tribal affiliation specific dropdown categories, so we could actually track what – missing persons, whether they lived on the reservation, whether they were missing from the reservation or if they were off the reservation.

So that way we could actually track the numbers better. And we've been working with them to try to get that system up and running where all of our Tribal law enforcement programs are entering all of the missing person and murdered cases into the system. So we've been working very – hand in hand with our Tribal law enforcement departments to try to get them to do that, since (inaudible) (Nameth) are a voluntary reporting system.

But we think once we are able to get all of our cases that we've identified through law enforcement and through the community – we do hear from community members that tell us, you know, "Hey, I've got a loved one that's come up missing, and we don't know if it's been reported to law enforcement or not."

And that's one of the things that we're going to do as we develop and stand up these cold case Task Forces to address missing persons, and cold cases of investigations is looking at how do we get all of that data from the community members and from law enforcement and get it all into a system, so you know exactly what the problem is.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Mr. Shores, did you have anything to add? OK, I appreciate the question also about preventative measures. When you look at the executive order in section four, there is a subsection. I believe it is C or D, where it calls for the Task Force to develop and to execute an education and outreach campaign for those communities that are most affected. And it calls for the Task Force to identify how we can reduce those types of crimes. And so, you're suggestions on prevention and data capture are certainly well noted. So, thank you for that.

Operator, next speaker please.

Operator: OK, next I have Rachel Carr. Rachel, go ahead, you're on the line.

Rachel Carr: Hello, can you hear me?

Operator: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

Rachel Carr: Hello. Oh, yes.

Operator: Yes, go ahead.

Rachel Carr: Rachel Carr. Hi everyone. My name is Rachel Carr. I'm with the Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, we're Michigan's Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition. And I just had a question following up from (Jamie Moran's) earlier question regarding the Task Force intention to include all law enforcement partners, including the Federal partners for MMIW cases that occur off trust land, because we know that a good majority of American Indian, Alaskan Natives live off trust land.

Tara Sweeney: And so, can you reframe your question?

Rachel Carr. I mean, when you're – so for the Federal – for the – you know, all law enforcement to collaborate when an MMIW happens, you know, and to involve Federal partners, is it a requirement, or is it the Task Force belief that the – you know, that the person that's gone missing has to be missing from Indian country specifically, or reservation or trust land, or that these are not a requirement?

Tara Sweeney: Yep.

Tara Sweeney: So I want to turn – I'll turn it over to Shannon Cozzoni to provide some background.

Shannon Cozzoni: Yes. And I would say "not necessarily", and that's something we – certainly, we want the Federal partners involved. All partners: Tribal, state, Federal. Because as you just mentioned, one of the issues we have is this crossing of lines. But sometimes those crossing of lines give us a Federal jurisdiction, even when they're not on Indian country.

So, in events of domestic violence, for instance, we have the VAWA statutes that may kick in. If there's trafficking or drug – even drug trafficking to some degree, we might be able to get a Federal hook to be able to focus on that. Having said that, there's still going to be options. For instance, the FBI, and then they can probably enter that – their response teams, BIA's response teams, through certain – either cross commissioning or through their abilities to be involved in their searches.

So I don't think it's – I mean, what we want to do is expand people's thinking on that, and being able to think outside of the box in how – what ways can we encourage all involvement.

(Jay): Yes, hi, this is (Jay Greenberg) again.

Tara Sweeney: Sure.

(Jay): Hello. Hey, and Charlie, you may want to – you may want to come in here after me as well. But, you know, great question. And, as you know, the jurisdiction for the FBI, in particular, when it comes to missing people is different in each state, and it's the – the jurisdiction is just incredibly complex. So there are some states where we have no jurisdiction on Tribal lands, off Tribal lands.

There's some states where it's mixed or where we have secondary jurisdiction. But in the case of missing people, when we focus on what we can do and where we have jurisdiction, we will move forward with all available resources

to try and bring somebody home who is reported missing. And that is consistent with how we have operated in the past and how we will operate today and we'll continue to operate in the future.

Charles Addington: Yes, thanks so much, (Jay). Hey, this is Charlie as well. Just to – just to add onto that. We've just seen a perfect example of this. You know, in the past we've had – you know, there's been issues with the coordination of missing person responses from law enforcement agencies, you know, even that border each other. You know, say, the off reservation law enforcement and the Tribal law enforcement that border each other, because there's been, you know, some areas of just lack of coordinating in the beginning.

And a very good example of this is we just had an unfortunate case months back in Montana and the local sheriff's office actually contacted the BIA, Office of Justice Services and the FBI to come in immediately to help them with the search of a missing Native female up there. And I can tell you, immediately, the BIA and the FBI responded in force up there and worked hand in hand with those Tribal and county officers to bring that to a resolution, and do the searches and everything to find that missing female.

So, it is getting better. We hear what you're saying. And I think we – everyone recognizes there's been a gap there, but we're doing a lot to really close those gaps up.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Operator, next speaker.

Operator: Next, I have Elizabeth Carr. Elizabeth, your line is open, go ahead.

Elizabeth Carr: Hi, good afternoon, this is Liz Carr with NIWRC. I just have a few questions to follow up from the conversations that have taken place earlier this afternoon.

So the first is, thinking about the function of the MMIP coordinators, how are communities being made aware of their existence when they're finally on board of, and then how do community members engage with them? Is there going to be a website, a phone number, an instructional guide for folks to be

able to access? Just thinking about, you know, the onboarding process and what that looks like in terms of folks being able to access those coordinators.

And then, in the term – in terms of the app that Mr. Addington mentioned, how is that tool being promoted across Indian country, and is there a coordinated outreach plan to promote that tool in any way? Thank you.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. We will start with Department of Justice regarding the MMIP coordinators, and then over to Charlie Addington to talk about the BIA OJS apps. Department of Justice, either (Jay) or Shannon, or Jessica.

Jessica Hart: Yes, this is Jessica. I think, you know, communication is obviously going to be a key piece of this, and every U.S. Attorney's office is obviously going to operate in a different way, depending on, you know, their relationships. Shannon, I know – I think you guys have said you were just getting someone on board, the coordinator, or just about to. Can you all talk about maybe your plans, how to communicate that?

Shannon Cozzoni: Yes, ours starts Monday. I think, Trent, at the last – at the last meeting had given out her email address even, and I apologize, I don't know that I have it yet. So I will see what I can find. But yes, they should be – you should be able to call the office and get a hold of them.

I – you know, again, it's going to be different for each U.S. Attorney's office, but our intention at least in our office in Oklahoma is that our MMIP coordinator, which is Patti Buhl, will actually start reaching out and, again, I said "going out", but that again will depend on, kind of, the comfort level of tread, and reaching out to those individuals. We've identified those – we've tried to identify the people in our state that are – have groups in place to start with, and that's been where we'll (inaudible) first.

And then, you know, just showing up at – showing up and being part of the community and talking to people there, you will naturally find the groups you need to find. But certainly, they can call our office and ask for Patti Buhl.

Elizabeth Carr: Thank you.

Charles Addington: Yes.

Elizabeth Carr: And to Director Addington.

Charles Addington: Yes, just to follow up on the app, what we did is we actually developed this initially for our Division of Drug Enforcement. So, we've developed it a couple of years ago, and now we're in the process of expanding that tip line, and we've actually put it out on social media. We have it up on our Facebook pages, and out on social media, and then we've also put flyers up out in the communities.

And the platform is through tip411. So tip411 has actually helped us develop all those tools and push those out to the communities as well. And then we'll be developing additional tip lines and those type of things as we move down the road on our cold case Task Forces. So we'll be putting our tip lines for those cases as well as the reward lines and different things as we stand up our cold case Task Forces.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Operator, next speaker?

Operator: On the line now we have (Renee). (Renee), your line is open.

(Renee): Yes, I have a quick question. When it was mentioned that people can be able – will be able to access a app, here in Southern California we have numerous places that pop up within the community, and just for the general public that qualify as low income, would phones also be provided to those in need on reservations, so they have the opportunity to have access to the app?

Charles Addington: Well, there's – this is Charlie. There's not any type of phones that come with the app, but there is some services out there now. As a matter of fact, I just got – just spoke with one yesterday with (track phone) where they're actually putting – there's Federal programs out there to assist Tribal members if they can't afford any phone to either report crimes or those type of things.

And it's a really low, low cost if you go through some of these programs that they have out there. So, that's something that we're looking into to see if we can – some of those programs that are available, so we can get the word out to

Tribal communities, to where folks that can't afford a full phone – be able to – able to afford a – these really reduced rates so they have a phone with so many minutes and so many gigabytes of data on them.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Any further questions?

Operator: I have Kristen Walsh. Kristen, your line is open. Go ahead.

Kristen Walsh: Hello, again. So I just had some questions about what are doing to examine like the root causes of MMIW like the Federal imposed policies that diminish Tribal rights to self determine? So Tribes have the right to create their own codes, you know, against human trafficking, against resource extraction but often times like through decisions like the Oliphant decision, there's very limited sovereignty and the ability to enact and uphold those rights to self determine and even in OVW, there are some protections but not enough.

So what are doing to examine those issues of like preventative measures and looking at Federal policy as causative of MMIW? And also, are you examining the issue of resource extraction, like the KXL Pipeline, like Line 3, like Line 3, no Back Forty here in Wisconsin, where cases of violence against Indigenous women are increased by 70 percent because of Man Camp and how are you going to support Tribes and their rights to self-determine through the ...

Tara Sweeney: Thank you for your question. You've raised some very compelling points. I want to point you to the executive order that, in section 4, it clearly defines what the mission and what the topics that the Task Force must report on to the President. Operator, next speaker?

Operator: OK, next we have Hollie Mackey. Hollie, go ahead, your line is open.

Hollie Mackey: Hi, thank you, again. I've got two questions, first is, you know, it has occurred as somebody else was speaking, I was wondering if or to what level perhaps FBI or the BIA or DOJ has considered their ability to increase the number of officers who are available in Indian country?

Because somebody had spoken about having a very positive response but we also know that for example juvenile offenders in North Central Montana are often not apprehended or taken in because there isn't a facility close enough that they can actually do that within the legal framework of the Federal Government or – you know, I know somebody was – said there were in charge of crimes against children because you know we have FBI agents, right, in Indian country who have, you know, 75 to 100 different cases that they're working in at any given point in time and they're working so hard, right, to help us but they're just stretched so thin that I'm curious about that.

And then – I understand what the purpose of the Task Force is, right, and facilitating out the executive order but just speaking to the last speaker's comments – for those of us who are really doing this every day, it is problematic when we have issues like pipelines that contribute to trafficking, that contribute to MMIP when we have an executive order from a president who then has an executive order permit to allow the KXL Pipeline to get built as timely as possible through COVID, as deeming oil workers like essential workers, so we can get the pipeline in the ground before the court hearing prevents it or – you know, similarly, just the extracted resources in general where we have, you know, the State of Montana current attorney general trying to advocate on behalf of putting pipelines in when we have data from the FBI linking Man Camps to trafficking from (Boston).

So I'm really curious (a) like are we going to have more law enforcement, right? That's the basic question. But then (b) how are we going to reconcile this because it seems very disingenuous to have on one hand a Task Force to address these issues but then everything else is then the Federal Government working against and trying to really facilitate all these conditions that lead to the crisis in the first place?

Terry Sweeney: Thank you for your questions, Ms Mackey. In terms of reconciling, one of the comments that I had at the beginning of the session, the start of the session, was that these sessions are being recorded and will become part of the transcript so as we go through the comments that are provided, as we look at the transcripts of our listening sessions and consultations, the comments that are made here help guide those discussions and recommendations.

So in terms of the Task Force and its capabilities, raising those types of concerns through these fora is an appropriate way to do that one and one that is included in the record so I appreciate the comments that you're making. I want to turn it over to Jay Greenberg to talk about the FBI hiring issues and then over to Charles Addington to add some additional background on BIA/OJS hiring. Jay?

Jay Greenberg: Hi, Ms Mackey. Thank you for your question and your comments. Certainly, we take all the investigative responsibilities that are entrusted to us to heart, nothing more so than Indian country matters. We have escalated the amount of staffing that we have in different Indian country areas and offices and that is a – the balancing of the resources across offices and across the violations that we cover within those offices and between our offices – is something that is a constant source of analysis and it's really kind of a moving – constantly moving target about where we're putting our people, so I do appreciate that are regularly re evaluating how to staff our people, where to staff our people and where to assign them to and certainly, this remains a priority for the organization to continue to staff.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Charlie?

Charles Addington: This is Charlie, just to add on to what Jay said – same thing with the BIA/Office of Justice Services. We just continue to make sure we're filling vacant positions out there because that's one of things, exactly what you say, you know, if you don't have boots on the ground out there, it is hard to make a difference and actually do proactive things to actually address these issues before they can occur and that's what we're doing right now. We've been aggressively filling vacant law enforcement positions throughout the country.

We have also reallocated some of our resources to the higher crime areas where we have previously had different programs. We consolidated some of those and honed our skills in on making sure that we've got the boots on the ground to answer these calls for service. And then we did add additional special agents for division of drug enforcement who also work in border crimes/human trafficking and some of the specialty investigations. We were

able to add 20 new agents to our division of drug enforcement over the last year and a half.

We were able to add 20 new agents to our division of drug enforcement over the last year and a half. And also, adding these new cold case Task Force special agents throughout Indian country. There's going to be ten of those, so it's going to be new, that's coming on board as well to help us work on these specific issues. So now you don't have your police officers on the ground, who should be there responding to calls for service and doing the preventative patrols and those kind of things, trying to address all of these other issues. We're going to have new folks on the ground to help us.

Tara Sweeney: And then Jessica Hart for DOJ.

Jessica Hart: Yes, thanks, Tara. I want to say, too, Attorney General Barr visited kind of remote areas of Alaska about this time last year and I think, you know, saw a lot of what you are talking about. One of the remote villages we went to, you know, did not have any law enforcement officers and he, you know, really saw this as you know a law enforcement emergency and after returning from that trip, like I said, about this time last year, reallocated resources to – through our Office of Justice programs and our community oriented policing service programs to hire village public safety officers and village police officers and so, you know, I think the Department of Justice and Attorney General Barr really see this as an area that he would like to invest and have invested more resources. So thank you for bringing this up and I think it's an area that we'll continue to work in.

Tara Sweeney: Thank you. Are there any additional questions?

Roger Smith: Hello ...

Operator: Hello, everybody, we have Roger Smith here.

Tara Sweeney: Pardon?

Operator: We have ...

Roger Smith: Hello, this is representative, Roger Smith, from Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Tara Sweeney: OK, go ahead.

Roger Smith: I have nearly 20 years in law enforcement and also a travel council representative and I also sit on Minnesota Governor's Task Force on MMIW and through this process of COVID, it really – I look at Fond du Lac as being, I thought, as good relationships with the different state agencies but through COVID, it really shines the light on that we still need some work to do. And then looking at how that is with like Department of Health and things of that nature but it is on the data, to look at the data and how is it that recorded and how is that given back to the travel law enforcement?

And how that relationship, these travel law enforcement agencies have with counties? There are some counties in Minnesota that do not, I guess, cooperate with Tribal law enforcement and makes policing difficult and – but of sharing that data with one another, how is the position for the Minnesota office going to improve those relationships and also, looking at – like I said, on the other hand, with the different agencies, look at like the Department of Corrections, when they realize people from their prisons and we look at sex offenders, they can be released in any county and some of those places that they're released, their listed addresses are within the confines of the reservations of – I'll just speak for Minnesota.

We've had one that actually gave the address to our Tribal casino as his place of residence and – but to look at – of – they're realizing some of their sex offenders into our travel communities and without notifying the – the reservation or the travel council or the travel law enforcement that this is going to be done and I believe that the Tribes should have a say in it, of who are they going to allow within their communities and ...

Maria Good: OK, thank you. Jay Greenberg, would you like to talk about the protocols the Task Force is charged with developing?

Jay Greenberg: Sure, Marcia, I'd be happy to. So everyone knows, as part of the executive order on MMIP, one of the outcomes that is expected is a set of protocols as it

relates to how to jointly respond to and best serve allegations of missing or murdered individuals. So we are currently in the process with – we've been meeting with Ernie and with other members of the Task Force from marshals and BIA and I – if I start to list them, I'll miss them, so I won't list everybody individually but just a number of Federal partners, everybody looking at how we can expand what we bring to the search for missing or murdered people and enhance what we already do today.

So there is a plan in place. We have been working diligently as a Task Force with Ernie and with all the other members of MMIP to document what we do today and make sure that those are protocols that we can publish and then actively train all of our state, local and other Federal partners on so that we have a unified response going forward, much better than we have in the past.

Maria Good: Thank you. I also want to go back to Commissioner Hovland. The questions in the comments box as well as the questions raised on the phone by several members regarding the extractive industry – Commissioner Hovland, can you talk about the Office about trafficking in persons and what they have developed?

Jeannie Hovland: Sure. And thank you. The Office on Trafficking in Persons is an agency within the Administration for children and families and AMA, who are an administration for Native Americans, I apologize for the alphabet soup here. So we've partnered with the Office on Trafficking in Persons to really try to train on prevention, intervention and healing of human trafficking victims in their communities and they have learned lessons from the extract industry and have talked about how we can partner in communities where there could be any high risk of human trafficking.

I mean, we hear it at Super Bowls, we hear it at large events, so I mean, business will continue and there will be ways that people are going to find large events and susceptible populations to perpetrate on. So learning lessons specific to certain industries is – the extraction industry is one of them that the Office on Trafficking in Persons has said that they'd be willing to go and train communities on prevention. How do we keep our people safe from falling victim to human trafficking? And that's where if you want to follow up with

myself, I can put you in touch with the Office In Trafficking in Persons and we can talk about training communities that have that concern. I hope that's helpful.

Maria Good: Thank you. It looks like we are now on 3.30. I just want to close the listening session with just a couple of comments about recognizing that many of us have family members who are victims of domestic violence, some are still missing and others have been murdered – a reminder that these tensions across the country escalated due to the riots. It's important that we all remember that violence isn't the answer.

I'm hearing reports of our men and women who are being called up to defend our communities and that there are Native organizations who have been impacted by this violence. I appreciate your willingness to work with this Task Force and to keep our work moving forward by engaging on this issue and for being the community support for those who may be suffering. The only way I strongly feel to progress is by working together and so I appreciate the partnership and the information that has been shared today.

Be safe and be well. Thank you.

END