

Attorney General's Task Force on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence

In 2009, the U. S. Department of Justice released a study with alarming statistics about the safety and well-being of our nation's children. It concluded that ***"60 percent of children are exposed to some form of violence, crime, or abuse, ranging from brief encounters as witnesses to serious violent episodes."*** We learned that almost 40% were direct victims of two or more violent acts, and one in ten were victims of violence 5 or more times. While this study was not focused on tribal communities and had a relatively small sampling of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) respondents, anecdotal evidence suggests that on some reservations the percentage of children exposed to violence may be even higher. The consequences of this problem are significant and widespread. Children's exposure to violence, whether as victims or witnesses, is often associated with long-term physical, psychological, and emotional harm. They are also at a higher risk of being victimized again and becoming involved in the juvenile and criminal justice system

In 2012, the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence found that AI/AN children have exceptional unmet needs for services and support to prevent and respond to the violence they experience. The Task Force called for the Attorney General to ***"Appoint a federal task force or commission to examine the needs of American Indian/Alaska Native children exposed to violence."*** (www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf.) Based on that recommendation, the Attorney General has established a Task Force on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence. This new Task Force is anchored by an Advisory Committee consisting of non-federal experts in the area of AI/AN children exposed to violence and a Federal Working Group consisting of federal experts working in areas related to AI/AN children exposed to violence.

The Advisory Committee will examine the scope and impact of violence facing AI/AN children and make policy recommendations to Attorney General Holder on ways to address it. The Task Force, through the Advisory Committee, will convene four public hearings and several listening sessions to examine the pervasive problems associated with AI/AN children exposed to violence in their homes, schools and communities. The information gleaned from these hearings and listening sessions will assist the Task Force, through the Advisory Committee, in developing policy recommendations to Attorney General Holder.

The Advisory Committee is in the process of identifying witnesses. If you are interested in providing information or recommendations through testimony (oral or written) to the Advisory Committee, please see reverse.

For questions or additional information contact Kelly Stoner at 323.650.5467 or kelly@tlpi.org.



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Hearing #1 – Bismarck, North Dakota
Monday, December 9, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Theme: American Indian Children Exposed to Violence in the Home

Best Western Ramkota Hotel,
800 South 3rd Street
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-258-7700

This meeting is open to the public. Members of the public who wish to attend this meeting must provide photo identification upon entering the hearing facility. Those wishing to provide written testimony and/or request the opportunity to provide oral testimony for this specific hearing should register through the registration link at www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting. Registrations will be accepted on a space available basis. Testimony will not be allowed without prior registration. Please bring photo identification and allow extra time prior to the meeting for your arrival. Persons interested in providing general written testimony not connected to a specific hearing should submit their written comments to testimony@tlpi.org.

**Members of the Advisory Committee on
American Indian/Alaska Native
Children Exposed to Violence**

Dolores Subia Bigfoot

Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Director, Indian Child Trauma Center, University of Oklahoma

Eddie Brown

Pasqua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O'odham Nation, Executive Director of the American Indian Policy Institute and Professor of American Indian Studies, Arizona State University

The Hon. Byron Dorgan (Committee Co-Chair)

Chairman, Board of Advisors, Center for Native American Youth; former U.S. Senator and chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Matthew Fletcher

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Director, Indigenous Law and Policy Center, Michigan State University

Joanne Shenandoah (Committee Co-Chair)

Iroquois, composer and musical artist

Ron Whitener

Squaxin Island Tribe, Executive Director, Native American Law Center, University of Washington School of Law

Rear Admiral Eric Broderick

Former Deputy Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Valerie Davidson

Orutsararmiut Native Council Member, Senior Director, Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Anita Fineday

White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Director, Indian Child Welfare, Casey Family Programs

Alicia Lieberman

Director, Child Trauma Research Program, University of California at San Francisco

Chaske Spencer

Lakota, actor

Marilyn J. Bruguier Zimmerman

Assiniboine-Sioux/Fort Peck Reservation, Director, National Native Children's Trauma Center, University of Montana