

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 (www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood).

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 the reverse side of this flyer.

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

Hearing #2 – Phoenix, Arizona

Tuesday, February 11, 2014, from 8:30AM – 6:30PM

Theme: Juvenile Justice Systems' (Tribal, State, Federal)

Response to AI/AN Children Exposed to Violence

Salt River Talking Stick Hotel ♦ 9800 E Indian Bend Rd. ♦ Scottsdale, AZ 85256 ♦ 866-877-9897

This meeting is open to the public. It is anticipated that scheduled oral public testimony will be offered during both the morning and afternoon hearing sessions including an open microphone session just prior to the conclusion of the hearing.

- While on-site registration will also be provided, those wishing to provide oral public testimony are encouraged to register at: www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood in advance of the meeting.
- Those wishing to provide written testimony – please send written testimony to testimony@tli.org.
- While not required, those wishing to attend the February 11th hearing are also encouraged to register through the registration link at: www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood in advance of the hearing.

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

Dolores Subia Bigfoot <i>Caddo Nation of Oklahoma</i> , Director, Indian Child Trauma Center, University of Oklahoma	Rear Admiral Eric Broderick Former Deputy Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Eddie Brown <i>Pasqua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O'odham Nation</i> , Executive Director of the American Indian Policy Institute and Professor of American Indian Studies, Arizona State University	Valerie Davidson (<i>Yup'ik</i>), Senior Director, Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
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	Anita Fineday <i>White Earth Band of Ojibwe</i> , Director, Indian Child Welfare, Casey Family Programs
Matthew Fletcher <i>Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians</i> , Director, Indigenous Law and Policy Center, Michigan State University	Alicia Lieberman Director, Child Trauma Research Program, University of California at San Francisco
Joanne Shenandoah (Committee Co-Chair) <i>Iroquois</i> , composer and musical artist	Chaske Spencer <i>Lakota</i> , actor
Ron Whitener <i>Squaxin Island Tribe</i> , Executive Director, Native American Law Center, University of Washington School of Law	Marilyn J. Bruguier Zimmerman <i>Assiniboine-Sioux/Fort Peck Reservation</i> , Director, National Native Children's Trauma Center, University of Montana
Jefferson Keel <i>Chickasaw Nation</i> , Lieutenant Governor of the Chickasaw Nation	