

**National Coordination Committee on the American Indian/Alaska Native
(AI/AN) Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Sexual Assault Response Team
(SANE-SART) Initiative**

**Interim Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
(Via Web Conference)
November 19, 2013**

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Background

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)—in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Indian Health Service (IHS), and other federal partners, tribal governments, and organizations, including training and technical assistance (TTA) providers—established the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative (Initiative) in 2010. The overall goal of the Initiative is to enhance AI/AN communities’ capacity to provide high-quality, multidisciplinary services and support for adult and child victims of sexual violence. In addition to funding three demonstration sites and a tribal TTA provider, OVC and its federal partners developed a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC), named the National Coordination Committee on the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative (Committee), to ensure that this Initiative is responsive to victims and survivors, families, and individuals in tribal communities. The goal of the Committee is to develop recommendations for OVC and its federal partners on how to increase the commitment of all key stakeholders to end sexual violence in AI/AN communities through collaboration.

The Committee convened its third meeting November 19, 2013, with the goal of refining the set of draft recommendations that were originally developed during the December 4–5, 2012 Committee meeting. Sarah Deer, Committee Chair, opened the meeting. This meeting took place at 12:00 pm (ET) via Web conference. A total of 19 individuals were in attendance, including 11 Committee members and 6 federal observers. Four Committee members were absent. (See Committee Member Biographies.)

Federal Advisory Committee Members Present*

Judge Peggy Bird
Hallie Bongar-White
Sarah Collins
Kim Day
Sarah Deer, Committee Chair
Bea Hanson
Dr. Susan Karol
David Little (designee of Darren Cruzan)
Shirley Moses
Kathryn Turman
Geri Wisner-Foley

*FAC members Darren Cruzan, Donna Keeler, Linda Logan, and Juana Majel Dixon were not present for this meeting.

Federal Observers

Joye E. Frost, Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime

Bob Cantrall, Deputy Director, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime

Beverly Cotton, National SANE-SART Coordinator, Indian Health Services Headquarters

Kathleen Gless, Designated Federal Official, SANE-SART Initiative Lead, Department of Justice
Office for Victims of Crime

Chris Holloway, Team Leader, Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime

Shannon May, AI/AN SANE-SART Coordinator, Federal Bureau of Investigation Office for Victim
Assistance

Additional Observers

Lisa Lampman, Meeting Facilitator

Jennifer Shewmake, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

Welcome and Introductions

Sarah Deer thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and looks forward to the feedback on the White Paper and recommendations.

OVC Director Joye Frost welcomed the Committee members and thanked everyone for their service on the committee. She added, “I also would like to thank our federal colleagues and partners the IHS, FBI, OVW, EOUSA, the USAO in South Dakota, and BIA. We have asked you to participate in this Initiative because of your expertise and your work with victims of sexual violence in tribal communities. Just for the record, I want to emphasize that this committee is in the position of advising U.S. Attorney General Holder and other executives in the DOJ on ways federal agencies can improve the way we respond to victims of sexual violence in Indian Country. We believe that your recommendations can serve as a blueprint for federal agencies. Quite frankly, from what I have reviewed to date, it is clear that your recommendations are going to be game changers. This is not a symbolic exercise; this is really changing the way that we respond to victims at the tribal community level. I think that your guidance will help to provide a clear path for federal agencies to change [how] we operate, the way we work with each other and with AI/AN communities.”

“I have to end on a very bittersweet note. I think that at this point most of you know that we are losing Kathleen Gless. She will be leaving OVC to take a position with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the area of sexual assault programming. I cannot emphasize how integral she has been to our work in Indian Country. OVC is still committed to forge ahead with this Initiative and build on Kathleen’s work in this area. This work is very important.”

Kathleen Gless thanked Joye for her kind words. She added, “I sent an e-mail to each of you this morning about my departure. I have really enjoyed working with all of you and appreciate all of your commitment. As Joye said, this is a big priority for OVC, and the work will continue. You

have a very committed staff on this end in Chris Holloway, Shannon May, Lisa Lampman, and Jenn Shewmake. I have enjoyed working with you and look forward to rolling up our sleeves today.”

Review of the Committee’s Work to Date

Shannon May reviewed the Committee’s work to date.

- At the December 2012 Committee meeting, small groups developed a list of 44 “potential recommendations” related to addressing sexual violence in AI/AN communities.
- The Committee then combined several and started refining the language of the highly prioritized recommendations.
- Three subcommittees met via Webinar to refine the language and distill the list to 18 draft recommendations, which fall into four topic areas: funding, federal, training, and medical.
- At the April 2013 Committee meeting (via Webinar), the Committee deliberated and assessed the 18 recommendations and further refined the language.
- During the summer/fall 2013, Chair Sarah Deer, in coordination with five Committee members, drafted a contextual White Paper and further revised the recommendations.
- During the summer/fall 2013, OVC re-chartered the National Coordination Committee on the AI/AN SANE-SART Initiative.

Meeting Objectives

Shannon May reviewed the objectives for the meeting.

- Discuss the content that should be included in the final document.
- Review and revise key issues.
- Discuss the Committee’s next steps.

White Paper/Recommendations Development Process

Chair Sarah Deer updated the Committee on the following:

- The current draft of the White Paper provides an overview of the problem of sexual violence in AI/AN communities and describes the need for coordinated community responses.
- The recommendations within the White Paper are structured to include:
 - The recommendation.
 - An explanation of the need for the recommendation.
 - Potential steps toward implementation.

Shannon May explained that Committee members need to take the White Paper to the “next level” over the next few months. She noted that Committee members may be asked to review content and provide further guidance on specific recommendations, based on their individual areas of expertise. A small group of Committee members will be asked to travel to Washington, D.C. in February 2014 to refine the final document.

Group Discussion of Key Issues

Kathleen Gless and Shannon May led a discussion of the following key issues, which are partially addressed in the current draft recommendations:

- VOCA/Victim Compensation.
- Forensic Interviewing.
- Medical Forensic Exam Kits.
- National Criminal Information Center (NCIC).

The Committee members agreed to continue to develop and refine the four specific recommendations which address the key issues above.

Next Steps

Shannon May summarized the next steps to follow after the meeting:

- Shannon May asked for a few volunteers to travel to Washington, D.C., in February 2014 to continue to develop the draft recommendations. Judge Peggy Bird, Sarah Collins, Geri Wisner-Foley, and Kim Day volunteered to attend the meeting. Halle Bongar-White, David Little, and Shirley Moses volunteered to be available by teleconference if needed.
- Shannon May and Lisa Lampman will contact Committee members to seek further guidance on specific recommendations.
- OVC will hold an in-person, interim Committee meeting with a select group of Committee members in Washington, D.C., in February 2014. During the meeting, Committee members will develop the final draft of recommendations.
- The full Committee will review the final draft of recommendations in February/March 2014.
- The final draft of recommendations will be edited and formatted to submit to the U.S. Attorney General’s Office in April 2014.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at the meeting.

Adjournment

Sarah Deer, Shannon May, and Kathleen Gless thanked the Committee members for their participation in the meeting and their service on the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Sarah Deer (Mvskoke)
Chair

National Coordination Committee on the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE-SART) Initiative

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

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Examiner – Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE-SART) Initiative**

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November 19, 2013

Agenda

- Welcome
- Committee's Work To Date
- Meeting Objectives
- White Paper/Recommendations Development Process
- Group Discussion of Four Key Issues
- Next Steps
- Public Comments
- Closing