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E-BULLETIN

MAY 2017

Training & Technical Assistance Providers for the Office for Victims of Crime, Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance, and Children's Justice Act Grantees



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of Fox Valley Technical College



Unified Solutions Tribal Community
Development Group, Inc.

OVC News...

OVC releases the Vicarious Trauma Toolkit. The newly released OVC Vicarious Trauma Toolkit can be used to: conduct an assessment of your agency's current capacity as a vicarious trauma-informed organization; review your existing capacity, identify gaps, and prioritize needs; locate resources and tools to help meet your identified needs; and develop a comprehensive plan to address exposure to single incidents of crime or violence and acts of mass violence and terrorism. Additionally, the toolkit contains a state-of-the-art repository of nearly 500 resources tailored specifically to these fields that provides the knowledge and skills necessary for organizations to address the vicarious trauma needs of their staff and promote resiliency. <https://vt.ovc.ojp.gov/>



OVC TTAC offers live interactive, facilitated training sessions and conferences, which are recorded and transcribed for unlimited access. Current recorded webinar categories include: Campus Sexual Assault, Capacity Building Webinars for Human Trafficking Service Providers, Elder Justice Initiative Webinar Series, Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault: Strategies to Strengthen Community Collaboration to Respond to Survivors' Needs, Mass Violence and Terrorism, Specific Considerations for Providing Victim Services, Telemedicine: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Responding to Sexual Assault, Victims' Rights, and Vision 21 Talks: Engaging with Experts on Trending Topics. <https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/trainingmaterials/dspwebinars.cfm?ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=xbawbkkibi-xissekzz#capblgd>

View the photo gallery for the 2017 National Crime Victims' Service Award Recipients.

<https://ovcncvrv.ncjrs.gov/Awards/AwardGallery/gallerysearch.html?ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=qozponrzio-qarrimll>

Dates and theme for the 2018 National Crime Victim Rights Week have been announced. April 8 – 14, 2018. "Expand the Circle. Reach All Victims." <http://cap.navaa.org/>

For a complete list of current funding solicitations from OVC, visit <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Solicitation.aspx>

Resources...

Attorney General Announces New Actions to Support Tribal Public Safety. "It is paramount that tribal police have the tools they need to fight crime and maintain public safety in their communities," said Attorney General Sessions. "Law enforcement in Indian Country faces unique practical and jurisdictional challenges and The United States Department of Justice is committed to working with them to provide greater access to technology, information and necessary enforcement." <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-jeff-sessions-announces-new-actions-support-law-enforcement-and-maintain>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Seeks Tribal Input. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services has (HHS) sent out a request for information from tribes. This request for information seeks recommendations for future work for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Tribal leadership should submit recommendations that are in line with the Administration of Children and Families vision, which is "children, youth, families, individuals and communities who are



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resilient safe, healthy and economically secure.” Deadline for submissions is May 9, 2017. For more information, contact Camille Loya, Division of Policy Director at the Administration for Native Americans, Camille.loya@acf.hhs.gov, 202-401-5964 or Submit your recommendations online.

<https://www.regulations.gov/searchResults?rpp=25&so=DESC&sb=postedDate&po=0&a=ACF&cmd=05%7C09%7C17-05%7C09%7C17&docst=Public+Comment>



May is Mental Health Month 2017. This year for Mental Health Month, Mental Health America (MHA) is talking about Risky Business. MHA believes it's important to educate people about habits and behaviors that increase the risk of developing or exacerbating mental illnesses, or could be signs of mental health problems themselves. These include risk factors such as risky sex, prescription drug misuse, internet addiction, excessive spending, marijuana use, and troublesome exercise patterns. Download the complete 2017 Mental Health Toolkit. <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may>

New Emergency Recovery Options for Tribes: FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency offers guidelines for tribes seeking disaster relief. "The new rules also give tribal governments a greater degree of flexibility in how they interact with national disaster relief programs. "One of the things we saw prior to this change is just the sheer logistical challenge of these things," said Milo Booth, FEMA's national tribal affairs adviser." <http://www.govtech.com/em/disaster/EM-Mag-New-Options-for-Tribes.html>

Check out OptionB.org, a new website founded by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg that addresses building resilience in the face of grief, loss and trauma. Option B provides resources for adults, children and communities and offers forums where you can read and share personal stories, join groups for solidarity and support, and find information from experts. <https://optionb.org/>

Have you heard about the Tribal Legal Code Resource Guide?

The Guide for Drafting or Revising Tribal Civil Dependency and Related Laws is designed to assist Native nations in drafting or revising their civil dependency laws as part of the development or reform of their child welfare system. Topics covered range from incorporating custom and tradition, to child-in-need-of-assistance proceedings to foster care in Native nations.

This resource, funded under a grant to the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI), also contains guidance on federal legal issues that Native nations must keep in mind; including issues related to Title IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act.

The new publication includes chapters on some of the following:

1. **How to Effectively Use This Guide:** recommends the best way to use this publication.
2. **Preliminary Considerations to Guide Code Development:** Discusses Title IV-E, code development and creating a Children's Code.
3. **Incorporating Custom, Tradition, and Generally Accepted Practices into Your Children's Code:** Discusses the definition of a parent, Tribal court recognition and application of tradition and customs, training service providers on Tribal history.
4. **Jurisdiction, ICWA Transfers, and ICWA Interventions:** Discusses ICWA transfers from the State and Interventions of ICWA in State cases.
5. **Procedural Rules, Evidence Rules, and Related Matters:** Provides an overview of rule of civil procedure, confidentiality in proceedings, rules of evidence: reports, children's testimony, sovereign immunity and severability, and appeals
6. **Reporting and Investigation:** Discusses a duty to report child maltreatment, agencies responsible for receiving and investigating reports of child maltreatment, multidisciplinary teams, required activities and reports, requirement to draft forensic interview protocols, and social services' findings, conclusions and recommendations.
7. **Preventing Physical Removal of Children from Their Homes:** Discusses reasonable efforts, strategies to support families, and removal of offending person from the home.
8. **Emergency Removal of a Child:** Provides information on designating a responsible agency, emergency custody without court order, filing an emergency custody petition, emergency placement, notice of removal, and release of the child from emergency custody.
9. **Child-in-Need-of-Assistance Proceeding:** Discusses the subsection's purpose, regular dependency petitions, rights of parties, informal resolution, default and pretrial hearings, conduct of the trial and ruling of the court, and disposition.
10. **Permanency Planning:** Discusses status review hearings, permanency planning and permanency plan review hearings, concurrent planning requirements, and aggravated circumstances.
11. **Disposition, Placement, and Visitation:** Discusses informal conference dispositions, emergency placement dispositions, regular child-in-need-of-assistance disposition and placement, placement prohibitions on secure detention facilities, and visitation.

To download a copy of this publication, visit Home.TLPI.org/publications.



Training & Events...

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners' (SANE) Expert Witness Training (July 12-14, 2017) Now Open for Enrollment. The U.S. Department of Justice's National Indian Country Training Initiative, in partnership with the International Association of Forensic Nurses, is pleased to announce the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners' Expert Witness Training. The seminar will be held July 12-14, 2017, at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina. The costs of travel and lodging will be provided by the Office of Legal Education. There is no tuition charge for this training.

Indian Country Homicide and Child Abuse Training Seminar (July 17-21, 2017) Now Open for Enrollment. The National Indian Country Training Initiative, together with the FBI's Indian Country Crimes Unit, is pleased to announce that they are co-sponsoring an Indian Country Homicide and Child Abuse Training Seminar. The seminar is July 17-21, 2017, at the FBI Office in Denver, Colorado. Lodging and travel accommodations will be provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

To apply for the SANE or Indian Country Homicide training, please contact Leslie A. Hagen, National Indian Country Training Coordinator at the US Department of Justice, at leslie.hagen3@usdoj.gov for a PDF application.



Registration Open for School Resource Officer Training Conference. The National Criminal Justice Training Center will host the School Resource Officer Training Conference on June 13—15, 2017, in Appleton, WI.

<https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/training/details/TR00000091/TRI0000145/school-resource-officer-training?ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=snbccycxyxo-sxyllodd>

Events in Crime Victim Services. The National Calendar of Crime Victim Assistance-Related Events is a resource created by OVC to help victims, victim service providers, allied professionals, and other interested individuals plan, promote, and locate events of interest to the victim service community in their area. Browse events and search for and add information about your own conference, meeting, training opportunity, ceremony, or upcoming occasion. <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar/default.asp>

Registration Open for Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, in partnership with OJJDP and Rights4Girls, will host the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking on June 5-7, 2017, in San Diego, CA. <http://www.ncjfcj.org/DCST-June-2017?ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=lohfofgsds-lgsstwwk>

CTAS Spotlight: Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIAI)

"Gaps in Services: Assisting Alaskan Native Crime Victims Cultural/ Spiritual/ Traditional Assistance for Victims of Crime in St. George, Alaska"

Barbara Robertson, Office for Victims of Crime Program Manager, received a request from Dr. Tara Ford, Regional Administrator, with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA), requesting support for its CTAS Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance (CTVA) program. To assist APIAI with the requested training on cultural debriefing, Ms. Robertson contacted Unified Solutions, APIAI's designated TTA provider. In April 2017 Unified Solutions Project Director, Stanley Pryor, and retired FBI consultant, Gayle Thom, made the trip to St. George Island to deliver evidence-based and experience-based trainings and activities.



History of St. George Island...

The community of St. George; primarily populated by Aleuts, the indigenous people of the Aleutian Islands is located on the northeast shore of St. George Island, the southernmost of five islands in the Pribilof's chain. St. George lies 750 air miles west of Anchorage in the Bering Sea off the western coast of the state. With a current population of approximately 60 people, the settlement's dependence upon the seal population and commercial halibut and crab fishing has been a major influence on the local culture. More than a million seals typically congregate on the Pribilof Aleutian Islands during summer months.

Historical timelines reflect the difficulties experienced by St. George Islanders in the pursuit of their native way of life. Enslavement, evacuation, and relocation of native Aleut residents between 1870 and 1946 reflect the effects of historical intrusion upon this culture by non-Aleut persons. After World War II and the internment of St. George's population, life on the islands would never quite revert to its previous stability.



Current Challenges St. George Island faces...

Due in part to the closeness of the small, interconnected village, crime is most often unreported. The most common calls reported to the current Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) for the island are suicide intervention calls where the individual in crisis has self-medicated with alcohol trying to erase previous victimization experiences. The Certified Physician Assistant (APA-C) at the St. George Traditional Clinic described unmet Cultural/ Spiritual/ Traditional healing services for children and adult victims of all types of crime. Currently behavioral health services are provided through an electronic connection at the community's Traditional Health Clinic. Air-travel from the lower forty-eight states to Anchorage is expensive; cost for the roundtrip flight from St. George to Anchorage (5 hours one-way) is prohibitive for most residents at approximately \$1000.00. Consequently, unless life is at risk, one is not typically able to receive in-person behavioral health assistance or fly to Anchorage for any medical treatment. Community members in individual one-on-one conversations expressed similar concerns.

Evidence-based and Experience-based Trainings and Activities Provided to Help Address these Challenges...

- **Cultural Debriefing Training:** This workshop provided discussions related to cultural debriefing for service providers in Alaskan villages who are impacted by responding to critical incidents.
- **Community Health Fair:** Most residents of St. George came to the school gym and visited several different display tables. Unified Solutions provided age-appropriate victimization awareness information, individual debriefing opportunities and training to residents between the ages of 6 and 86.



Unified Solutions Project Manager, Stanley Pryor, and retired FBI consultant, Gayle Thom at the Community Health Fair



Cultural Debriefing workshop with eleven staff and allied professionals

- **Educator Training and Student Activity at the St. George School:** In continuation of the "Changing Minds" talk from the previous night, a "Healthy Coping for Children" activity was enjoyed by the 6 students and by the teacher. Training materials for ongoing development of resilience were provided to the teacher who stated that she intends to continue using this activity and will share trauma and victimization resources with parents.
- **Presentation of the OVC/Unified Solutions "Healing Journey" Video and Training Manual:** Presented to increase staff capacity to respond to Alaskan victims of crime. An additional OVC resource, "A Healing Journey for Alaska Natives" video series was presented to educate those who work with Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.



Student Activity Workshop with all six students at the St. George Island School. Each child was given a Unified backpack full of goodies to include fruit, snacks, hats & gloves, and school supplies.

So, what do we know and where can we go from here?

Tradition and spirituality has always been an important aspect of Alaskan Native life. Utilizing a traditional way of healing the soul after trauma is an important concept to victim-service delivery in Alaskan Native villages. Trusted Elders within the community play a key role within village life. Cultural/ Spiritual/ Traditional healers and respected elders are a tremendous source of strength and healing. Respected and trusted Elders, however, may need familiarization in basic victimology in order to play a key and effective role in providing victim services. Establishing clear guidelines and protocols while still being culturally and spiritually sensitive to victim backgrounds is extremely important. Victims may have a strong sense of cultural identity and/or spiritual identity. They may choose guidance from an Elder they are familiar with instead of medical intervention. Or, a victim may instead, be in need of skills of others



outside of the village. When that is the case, village leaders/Elders need training regarding referral processes. The ability to connect each individual victim of crime with appropriate resources is important.

Goals of Cultural/ Spiritual/ Traditional Victim Assistance programs might include the following objectives:

- Utilizing existing collaborative relationships, trusted and respected leaders and elders need to be identified.
- Training may be necessary for identified community leaders/Elders to increase their understanding of how spirituality, culture and tradition can provide a positive impact on the healing process for victims of crime.
- Community leaders/Elders should be provided training to understand the importance of setting protocols and guidelines for providing or for referring victims to services of their choice.
- A routine plan may be needed to provide face-to-face behavioral health services for crime victims when electronic connections are not effective.
- Money should never be an object when it comes to helping a victim in remote or underserved native communities. However, an acceptable practice must be explored in order to compensate volunteer village leaders/Elder victim service providers in gratefulness, in addition to paying their transportation expenses.
- A sustainability plan may need to be developed for program personnel and financial support for delivery of a quality standard of Cultural/ Spiritual/ Traditional assistance for all victims of crime.

From the huge hugs and big grins of children playing outside in their galoshes, big coats, gloves and stocking caps, to the hard-earned character lines of cheerful Elders, Unified Solutions found welcoming smiles wherever we went. *Qagaasakung* (Aleut for Thank-you) to all the residents of St. George Island for giving us the opportunity to share in the wonder of your community. The people of St. George, Alaska are to be respected as persevering, hardy individuals.



Gayle Thom looks on to see the goodies found in this student's Unified book bag.

If you feel your program could benefit from any of the above trainings provided to the Aleutian Island CTAS program, please contact your OVC Program Manager.

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