

Developing Indian Country Child Protection Teams

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The National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

“In 2005 American Indian/Alaskan Native children were more likely than children of other races/ethnicities to be confirmed as victims of neglect (65.5 percent) and were least likely to be confirmed as victims of physical abuse (7.3 percent)

(US Department of Health and Human Services, 2007)”

The National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

“In 2005 American Indian/Alaskan Native children experienced a rate of child abuse and neglect of 16.5 per 1,000 American Indian/Alaskan Native children.


This rate compares to 19.5 for African American children, 16.1 for Pacific Islander children, 10.8 for White children, and 10.7 for Hispanic children.

(US Department of Health and Human Services, 2007)”

Establishing Child Protection Teams or
Multidisciplinary Teams is not a new concept


IHS/BIA Memorandum of Understanding
Child Protection Team 1986

Indian Child Protection and Family Violence
Protection Act
PL-101-630




Basically, these two documents provided "guidance"
to Native communities to:

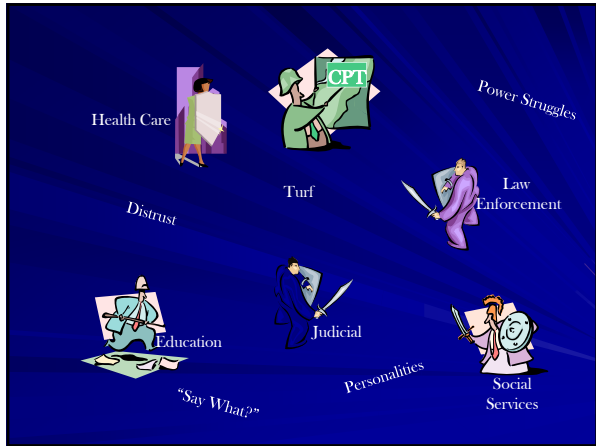
- Develop a working relationship between programs
- Collaborate
- Join forces
- Cooperate
- Unite

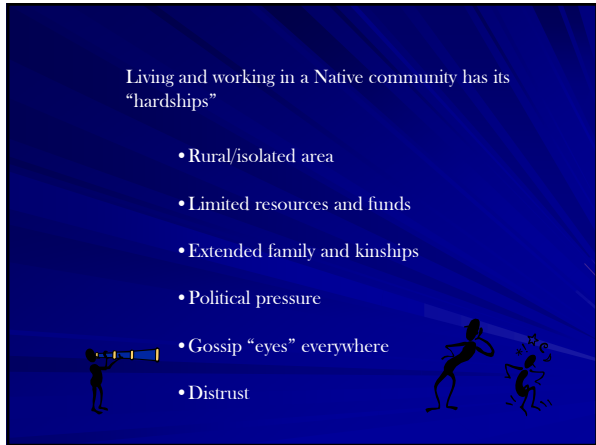


Establishing Collaborative Relationship in
Indian Country



What is the reality?









Define Membership: Identify "Essential Key" Players

- Social Service
- Law Enforcement (Tribal, BIA & FBI)
- Behavioral Health
- Health Care Provider
- School Counselor
- Victim Advocate *
- Prosecutor




Consider the following:

- What is the experience & knowledge each member brings?
- What authority does each member have?
- What "personal" skills do each have?
- Does their job involve children and families?
- Are they familiar with Tribal Codes and Laws?





Team's Roles and Responsibilities-Is this important?




Example:

Understanding each team member's 'roles and responsibilities' is important:


Social Service: Family focus History Familiar Knowledge on family relationships Knowledge on family dysfunctions, etc.		Law Enforcement: Investigate May know family relationships with the law & court Focus to gather evidence "Joe Friday" ...get the Facts Limited knowledge on emotional distress	
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Roles and Responsibilities:

Social Services: Family focus		Law Enforcement: Facts Evidence Investigation Perpetrator
→ Victim: Child Family ←		

Collaborative working relationship would bring a more complete report on a referral

Referrals-How are These Documents Managed?




Questions: How are 'referrals' managed?

Do we know the 'roles and responsibilities' of each team member?

What do we know about 'confidentiality'?

Can we identify victim of child maltreatment?



Referral:


"One form" for "everyone" to use when reporting suspected Abuse or Neglect.

Identify the "point of contact" for every referral


Design an "outline" on how referral will be managed

Determine "method" for follow-up

Determine "urgency"




Who are 'our' community resources?
These Programs are not Child Protection Team Members




We identified the "essential key" Team members.

Resources 'could' include:

- Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- Temporary Crisis Shelter
- Foster families
- Health Care
- Family members



Team Meetings: What is the plan?



Team Meetings:


- Develop criteria for "case/referral" review
- Promote and maintain "open" communication
- Establish "ground rules" for confidentiality
- Keep written notes
- Maintain secure area
- Promote training for all members



Confidentiality

“Key Players” *may* use confidentiality as a barrier for NOT sharing information or participating on the Team

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act provides guidance...agencies who have the responsibility to protect children confidential information is shared.



Practice and Maintain Team Meeting Rules

- Leave “politics” outside the meetings
- Respect each Team member
- Listen to all comments
- Ask meaningful questions
- Be patient



Train and/or Educate:

Community members Team members

 Community programs

News articles

 Local radio Health Fairs

Class rooms

 Tribal Council





