Holding Up Both Ends of the Sky: Juvenile Justice Partners in Indian Country

A Live National Satellite Broadcast on OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Programs

Produced by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice and the Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Assistance Project, Eastern Kentucky University—Training Resource Center
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AGENDA

Holding Up Both Ends of the Sky: Juvenile Justice Partners in Indian Country
July 1, 2003

*All times listed are Eastern Daylight Time and approximate

- 12:30-1:00 PM  Pre-conference Site Activities; Test Slate
- 1:00-1:02 PM  Overview Videotape
- 1:02-1:12 PM  Welcome, Opening Remarks, Panel Introduction
- 1:12-1:18 PM  Video-Tribal Youth Program-Window Rock, AZ
- 1:18-1:29 PM  Panel Discussion
- 1:29-1:35 PM  Video-Tribal Youth Program – Choctaw, MS
- 1:35-1:46 PM  Panel Discussion
- 1:46-1:52 PM  Video – Tribal Youth Program, Cherokee, NC
- 1:52-2:03 PM  Panel Discussion
- 2:03-2:09 PM  Video-Tribal Youth Program, Spokane, WA
- 2:09-2:30 PM  Panel Discussion
- 2:20-2:26 PM  Video-Tribal Youth Program-Wind River, WY
- 2:26-2:37 PM  Panel Discussion
- 2:37-2:43 PM  Video-Tribal Youth Program-Alaska
- 2:43-2:53 PM  Panel Discussion
- 2:53-3:00 PM  Closing Comments
- 3:00 PM  Sign-off
Broadcast Overview

Holding Up Both Ends of the Sky: Juvenile Justice Partners in Indian Country

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, manages and supports the Tribal Youth Program (TYP). TYP is part of the Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative, a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of Justice and the Interior to improve law enforcement and juvenile justice in Indian Country. Since FY 1999, approximately $12 million annually has been appropriated for TYP. TYP, in turn, provides resources to federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native villages. The funding distribution is based on service population on or near reservations. Program funding is for 36 months. Since 1999, 10 percent of the TYP appropriation has been used for research and evaluation activities and 2 percent has been used for training and technical assistance. TYP continues to be a set-aside of the Title V Incentive Grants Program.

Purpose

The purpose of the Office Of Justice Programs’ (OJP’s) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP’s) Tribal Youth Program (TYP) is to support and enhance tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth.

Authority

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2003, Public Law 108 (February 20, 2003) appropriated $12.47 million to OJJDP to support and enhance tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for AI/AN youth. Of the $12.47 million appropriated for TYP, OJJDP will allocate $1.25 million to support program-related research, evaluation, and statistics; $250,000 to provide training and technical assistance to tribal programs; $8 million for discretionary grants; $1 million to fund discretionary programs to support the TYP Mental Health Initiative, with remaining funds going to enhance other tribal efforts and program support.

Background

Many of the 1.9 million American Indians living on or near Indian lands lack sufficient law enforcement services. Indian communities face chronic underfunding for their justice systems, lack access to meaningful training for law enforcement and justice personnel, and lack comprehensive programs that focus on preventing juvenile delinquency, providing intervention services, and imposing appropriate sanctions.

Although violent crime arrest rates have declined throughout the United States, they continue to rise in Indian Country. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Special Report Violent Victimization and Race, 1993–98 (Rennison, 2001), American Indians experience violent crime at a rate twice that of the general population. Of particular concern to tribes and the federal
government, especially OJJDP, is the increasing number of violent crimes committed by and against juveniles in Indian Country. Thus, the Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative and OJJDP seek to address these problems by enhancing Indian Country law enforcement and improving the quality of life in tribal communities.

Since FY 1999, OJJDP has awarded 145 grants to tribes throughout the United States to develop and implement culturally sensitive delinquency prevention programs, alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs, and intervention for court-involved youth, and to improve the juvenile justice system. In addition, OJJDP uses $1 million annually in discretionary funding to enable eligible tribes to provide substance abuse and mental health prevention/intervention services to AI/AN youth who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, tribal and/or state juvenile justice systems.

**Tribal Youth Mental Health Initiative**

Statistics indicate that the age of first involvement with alcohol is lower, the frequency of drinking and the amount of alcohol consumed are higher, and the negative consequences of drinking are more prevalent and severe for AI/AN youth. The number of alcohol-related arrests for AI/AN youth under age 18 is twice the national average according to the *American Indians and Crime* report (Greenfeld and Smith, 1999).

To address these problems, the TYP Mental Health Initiative was established to promote mental health and substance abuse (both alcohol and drugs) services for AI/AN youth and to support juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention efforts by creating and implementing culturally sensitive mental health programs. This special initiative helps tribes provide a range of youth support services and programs to address the mental health and related needs of AI/AN youth and their families in various community settings (e.g., schools, violence prevention education programs, healthcare treatment programs, and the juvenile justice system).

Interagency programs included in this federal effort support combining the potential of community groups to comprehensively address mental health, juvenile justice, and related issues. As part of the mental health initiative, tribes are encouraged to promote coordination and collaboration among the local programs in their communities that serve young people. To date, OJJDP has awarded grants focusing on improving mental health services in AI/AN juvenile justice systems to 16 tribal entities.

**Funding Levels**

TYP grantees receive funds for 3-year periods. Population statistics are used to determine funding amounts.
Featured Programs

Tanana Chiefs Conference
Tribal Youth Court Pilot Project
The Tanana Chiefs Conference evaluates, designs, and implements tribal youth courts in 14 pilot villages to address youth crime and related behaviors and to promote accountability and responsibility of youth actions through the elders and peers in the villages. The project includes six interior Alaska villages in the first year and eight more villages in the second year. Grant information, training, and technical assistance are offered to the 14 villages to organize, implement, and evaluate tribal youth courts. The tribal courts are based on tribal principles, incorporating culture and tradition in dealing with young people. Native youth are important to the tribal courts and the emphasis will be on youth ownership and accountability through support from their peers. The project drafts and adopts juvenile codes and ordinances for use by youth courts and develops sections for inclusion in tribal court handbooks. Curriculums on youth courts are being developed for training seminars and to assist villages in implementing the Contracted Services: King County Superior Court contracts for truancy intervention services with community agencies in an effort to improve community and school response to truancy.

For more information contact: Sue Hollingworth, 907-452-8251x3273

Navajo Nation
Hozhooji Youth Diversion Program
The Navajo Nation Hozhooji Youth Diversion Program is creating an intensive 3-week diversion program incorporating traditional and western education and therapy that targets court-involved youth and their families. Program participants and their families are provided information and training on a range of topics that includes communication, drug and alcohol abuse, juvenile crime and consequences, the impact of crime on victims and the community, and the Navajo view of offenses against the community.

For more information contact: Kendall Long, 928-871-6622

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Tribal Youth Programs
The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is proposing a series of youth programs to address the issues of violent crime among Native American youth. The culture-based Cherokee Challenge Prevention program targets 6th grade youth by focusing on adventure, service, and culture-based experiences to strengthen cultural awareness and prevent substance abuse. The Cherokee Challenge Seven Clans intervention program is structured around traditional learning circles for
court-involved youth. The Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Program is conducted in schools. For truancy mediation, a preventive program mediator works with youth, family, and school personnel. The juvenile court mediation program provides interventions for court-involved youth based on traditional and restorative justice approaches. The RESOLVE: Life Skills Program addresses communication issues within families before and during court involvement.

For more information contact: Stan Beinick, 828-497-5001

**Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**  
**Project Free Mental Health Program**

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians serves 12- to 18-year-old youth who are involved in the local juvenile justice system and who have known or suspected mental health problems. The project increases the capacity of the local service system to effectively serve youth and their families, improve clinical outcomes, and reduce juvenile offender recidivism. Capacity building occurs through the development of an interagency team composed of service providers in the tribal community. The team is trained to conduct mental health screenings of youth to ensure that they are receiving immediate access to needed services. The project also focuses on improving parent and child relationships through family therapy sessions. A primary goal of the project is to coordinate all programs that address the needs of youth in the community.

For more information contact: Betty Tate Gardner, 601-389-6291

**Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations**  
**Juvenile Justice Improvement Project**

The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations is enhancing its services to include a program to divert nonviolent juvenile offenders into culturally relevant residential treatment. The project is assisting in developing a formalized referral system through memoranda of understanding with tribes and tribal courts to ensure the immediate placement of Indian juvenile offenders in need of residential chemical dependency treatment. The project is improving current data collection and tracking systems to coordinate information between law enforcement, tribal courts, and treatment services in targeted tribal communities. By improving these areas of its tribal juvenile justice systems, the project will reduce, control, and prevent crime both by and against tribal youth.

For more information contact: Victor LaSarte, 509-533-6910

**Eastern Shoshone Tribe of Wind River**  
**Wind River Youth Justice Project**

The Wind River Youth Justice Project provides services to juveniles on the Wind River Reservation, located in rural Wyoming and home to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes. The program serves youth of all ages who are referred to the office of the Wind River tribal prosecutor and the Wind River juvenile court. The program addresses the problem of violent crime committed by reservation youth through the creation of a sentence accountability program; timely intervention in juvenile court cases; appropriate case resolution through the development of a culturally competent system and alternative dispute resolutions, and the
promotion of continuity through development, adoption, and implementation of a comprehensive plan for juvenile services.

For more information contact: Donna Trosper, 307-332-5050
RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Justice

The American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Affairs Desk  
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/americannative/whats_new.htm

The American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Affairs Desk has been established in the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, to enhance access to information by federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes regarding funding opportunities, training and technical assistance, and other relevant information.

FBI Indian Country Unit  
http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/indian/about.htm

Within the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, the Indian Country unit (ICU) is responsible for developing and implementing strategies, programs, and policies to address identified crime problems in Indian Country for which the FBI has responsibility. The ICU's responsibilities include management of manpower resources; oversight of budgetary and resource issues; procurement of services and equipment; and provision of assistance and training to Special Agents of the FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and tribal officers to ensure that criminal investigations are performed in an effective, professional manner.

Office of Justice Programs  
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov

Since 1984, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has provided federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims. The bureaus and offices in OJP administer various initiatives for Native American communities. For example, the Bureau of Justice Assistance administers the Tribal Courts Assistance Program, the Office on Violence Against Women administers the STOP Violence Against Indian Women Grants, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention administers the Tribal Youth Program.

OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Program  
http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/typ/index.html

OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Program provides funding to help tribes improve the quality of life in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities by addressing the problem of crimes committed by and against AI/AN youth. Support is provided to enhance tribal efforts to
prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for AI/AN youth. TYP also provides funding of mental health and substance abuse prevention services for both alcohol and drugs to AI/AN youth who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, tribal and/or State juvenile justice systems

**The Office of Tribal Justice**

[http://www.usdoj.gov/otj](http://www.usdoj.gov/otj)

The Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ) was established to provide a single point of contact within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for meeting the broad and complex federal responsibilities owed to Native American tribes. The Office facilitates coordination between departmental components working on Native American issues and provides a permanent channel of communication between tribal governments and DOJ. OTJ represents the Department in its dealing with Native American tribes, federal agencies, Congress, state and local governments, professional associations, and public interest groups. Because Native American issues cut across so many entities within the Executive Branch, OTJ, in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, serves to unify the federal response.

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

**Administration for Native Americans**

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana)

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) promotes the goal of social and economic self-sufficiency of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders, including Native Samoans. ANA is the only federal agency serving all Native Americans, including more than 556 federally recognized tribes, 60 tribes that are state recognized or seeking federal recognition, all Indian and Alaska Native organizations, Native Hawaiian communities, and Native populations throughout the Pacific basin. ANA provides grants, training, and technical assistance to eligible tribes and Native American organizations representing 2.2 million individuals.

**Indian Health Service**

[http://www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov)

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Its mission is to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. IHS’s goal is to ensure that comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indians and Alaska Natives.
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Code Talk  
http://www.codetalk.fed.us  

Code Talk is a federal interagency Native American Web site designed specifically to deliver electronic information from government agencies and other organizations to Native American communities. Code Talk is hosted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Native American Programs.

U.S. General Services Administration

FirstGov.gov - For Tribal Governments and Native Americans  

This Web site provides information on education, jobs, economic development, family, health, housing, environment, and legal resources for Native Americans. It also offers links to other Web sites of interest to Native Americans.

The Office of the White House

White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities  

The Office of the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities (WHITCU) leads the implementation of Executive Order 13270, ensuring that the Tribal Colleges are more fully recognized and have full access to federal programs benefiting other higher education institutions.

Private Agencies and Organizations

Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country  
http://www.naclubs.org  

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. A Boys & Girls Club in Indian Country provides a positive place where Native American young people can go to celebrate their culture and community, to enjoy healthy fun with their peers, and to learn new skills and self-confidence under the guidance of responsible adults.
The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was founded in 1944 and is the oldest and largest tribal government organization in the United States. NCAI serves as a forum for consensus-based policy development among its membership of more than 250 tribal governments from every region of the country. NCAI's mission is to inform the public and the federal government on tribal self-government, treaty rights, and a broad range of federal policy issues affecting tribal governments.

The National Tribal Justice Resource Center provides a wide range of technical assistance services and resources relating to the development and enhancement of American Indian and Alaska Native justice systems.

The Tribal Court Clearinghouse is the first Web site devoted to providing information to people working in Native American tribal courts. It is a resource for tribal justice systems and others involved in the enhancement of justice in Indian country.

UNITY’s mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of Native youth and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through involving its youth. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, UNITY has served American Indian and Alaska Native youth since 1976.
Program Panelists

William H. “Bill” Burke, Chief
Walla Walla Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umitilla Reservation, PO Box 638, Pendleton, Oregon 97801, 541 276-3165, http://www.umatilla.nsn.us/
Chief Burke’s homeland is located near Pendleton in northeast Oregon in the village of Mission. The Umatilla Indian Reservation is about 178,000 acres in size with a population of about 2,300 Tribal members. The Chief’s service to the Tribes has been widespread. He has served in Education, Health, Science, Government, Culture and Elders projects and programs. Chief Burke graduated from the Pendleton High School with the Class of 1948. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Oregon College in La Grande, Oregon. He is married and the father of six children, three surviving, and five step-children and many wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Frank J. Dayish, Jr., Vice President
Navajo Nation, P.O. Box 9000, Window Rock, AZ 86515, www.navajo.org

J. Robert Flores, Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 810 7th St. NW, Washington, DC 20531
J. Robert Flores was confirmed by the Senate on April 12, 2002, and was sworn in on April 17, 2002, as the Administrator of OJJDP, at the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice. As Administrator, Bob Flores provides executive direction to the agency responsible for leading the Nation in addressing juvenile delinquency, crime, and victimization. Bob directs activities that support States and local communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective prevention and intervention programs and improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects the public safety, holds offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of families and each individual juvenile. Prior to his OJJDP appointment, Bob was Vice President and Senior Counsel for the National Law Center for Children and Families. Prior to that, he was Senior Trial Attorney and Acting Deputy Chief in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Criminal Division, of the U.S. Department of Justice; he has also served as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan; and has acted as consultant to federal and state legislators and government officials.

Willie Noseep, Councilman
Wind River Reservation, Shoshone Business Council, P.O. Box 538, Ft. Washakie, WY 82514, http://www.washakie.net/

Mindy Shannon Phelps, Moderator
Ms. Phelps has moderated numerous national satellite videoconferences produced by OJJDP. Her Professional experience includes serving as a co-anchor of WLEX-TV's evening newscast. WLEX is an NBC affiliate located in Lexington, Kentucky. Ms. Phelps has served as Press Secretary for the Governor’s Office in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
Previous Satellite Videoconferences
Produced by the
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Conditions of Confinement in Juvenile Corrections and Detention Facilities
September 1993

Community Collaboration
June 1995

Effective Programs for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders
October 1995

Youth-Oriented Community Policing
December 1995

Juvenile Boot Camps
February 1996

Conflict Resolution for Youth
May 1996

Reducing Youth Gun Violence
August 1996

Youth Out of the Education Mainstream
October 1996

Has the Juvenile Court Outlived Its Usefulness?
December 1996

Youth Gangs in America
March 1997

Preventing Drug Abuse Among Youth
June 1997

Mentoring for Youth in Schools and Communities
September 1997

Juvenile Offenders and Drug Treatment: Promising Approaches
December 1997

Comprehensive Juvenile Justice in State Legislatures
February 1998

Protecting Children Online
March 1998

Youth Courts: A National Movement
May 1998

Risk Factors and Successful Interventions for Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders
September 1998

White House Conference on School Safety: Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence

October 1998

Juveniles and the Criminal Justice System
December 1998

Females and the Juvenile Justice System
May 1999

Promising Practices for Safe and Effective Schools
September 1999

Online Safety for Children: A Primer for Parents and Teachers
November 1999

Model Court Practices in Abuse and Neglect Cases
February 2000

Crowding in Juvenile Detention: A Problem Solving Approach
April 2000

“How Shall We Respond to the Dreams of Youth?” A National Juvenile Justice Summit
June 2000

Combating Underage Drinking
September 2000

Child Delinquency: Early Intervention and Prevention
November, 2000

Employment and Training for Court-Involved Youth
February, 2001

Mental Health Issues and Juvenile Justice
April, 2001

Restorative Justice: Repairing Harm, Reducing Risk and Building Community
June, 2001

Going Home: Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative
February, 2002

OJJDP Report: A Discussion with J. Robert Flores
December, 2002

Mentoring Matters
February, 2003

Community Responses to Truancy: Engaging Students in School
April, 2003

For Further Information

For videos of previous OJJDP videoconferences, please contact the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000; call 800-638-8736; fax 301-251-5212; or email askncjrs@ncjrs.org.

For information on future OJJDP videoconferences, contact Jenny McWilliams, Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Assistance Project, Eastern Kentucky University, 102 Perkins Bldg., 521 Lancaster Ave., Richmond, KY 40475-3102; call 859-622-6671; Fax 859-622-4397; or email ekujjtap@aol.com.