

WAS Session descriptions 2023

1. Advocacy Isn't Perfection, It Is Improving with Lived Experiences

Presenter: Valura Imus-Nasonhoya

Advocacy is a learning process that applies skills, experiences, and partnership with survivors. The speaker will engage participants through activity and discussion, by using lived experiences of grassroots advocacy that is embedded with cultural awareness, respect, and practical approaches that survivor response requires. This workshop will also cover how advocacy responses differ in domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, MMIP, and the collaborative relationship building required with justices' systems. To conclude this session, participants will focus on advocacy skill building, identifying advocate safety concerns, and the utilization of a safety planning model for advocates and their families. This workshop will encourage participant discussion, engagement, and exercises.

2. Advocates: Warrior/ Life Doula/ Sister - Plenary

Panelists: Jolene Engelking, Nicole Matthews, Carmen O'Leary

Advocates have always been a part of our communities. They traditionally were and currently are the healers, protectors, aunts, the folks who stood up for individuals and for lasting change. As advocacy has been more formalized and funded, the distinct and transformative role of the advocate can at times feel muddled. This plenary session will explore the unique and layered responsibilities advocates hold in communities and in the anti-violence movement. Presenters will navigate how to respect and anchor our relatives that came before us while being attune to the complexities of our changing world.

3. Advocating for Advocates: Strengthening our Programs Through Indigenous Values

Presenters: Jolene Engelking, Nicole Matthews

Advocates are essential to supporting survivors of violence, yet often are under appreciated, and under respected both by systems professionals and within their own organizations. This leads to high turnover, high burnout, and advocacy being seen by some as a stepping-stone or entry level position. This interactive session will focus on strategies that individuals and programs can take to shift that dynamic. Grounded in Indigenous values and a love of advocacy, attention will be given to increasing organizational capacity and sustainability, strengthening relationships with partners, and restoring the unique role advocates play in the anti-violence movement. Participants will leave with practical tips and ideas for implementing within their programs as well as a renewed excitement about advocate identity.

4. "Alaska Native Women: Ending the Violence, Reclaiming a Sacred Status"

Key Points from a New Book to Understand Violence Against Alaska Native Women

Presenter: Tami Truett Jerue

This session explores the new AKNWRC book, the first written text written from the perspective of Alaska Natives, which brings a new voice providing an Indigenous understanding of violence against Alaska Native women. Violence is not traditional, and women were respected in their nations. The safety and well-being of women were safeguarded by their status and today our culture continues,

despite colonization, to be protective factors. The title of the book is a political statement and provides direction to our movement in making the legal and policy reforms needed. We see ending the violence against Alaska Native Women organically linked to restoring the sacred status of women held within sovereign Indigenous nations. This book is written to support tribal leaders, advocates, and survivors in understanding the path forward to create the changes needed to end domestic and sexual violence. The book is dedicated to Shirley Moses, Inupiaq, a founding mother of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. The principal authors of the book are AKNWRC staff members Michelle Demmert, Debra O'Gara, Tami Truett Jerue, and Jacqueline Agtuca.

5. America's History and Legacy of Violence

Presenter: Christina Love

We know that trauma is the underlying cause of many experiences of mental health and substance use concerns. These topics help us to better understand the prevalence of individual, historical, generational, and community trauma and the connection that trauma has with health disparities like mental health and substance use experiences. Why are women abused more than men? Why are Native American, and our LGBTQ2S relatives physically and sexually assaulted at much higher rates than any other demographic? This training answers our biggest questions by exploring the roots of violence that have led to a culture of abuse and violence.

6. ARP Covid19 Resource Database and IT Tech Best Practices Bundles

Presenter: Cassandra Roy

This workshop will go over the ARP funded Covid-19 resource database and how to use/find resources. As well as the IT Tech bundles, showing the best practices to working hybrid or remote during the time of COVID-19.

7. Building Your Village: Creating a Survivor-Centered Network to Support Adult Native Victims of Human Trafficking

Presenters: Mitzi Pope

Walking the healing path with a survivor of human trafficking can feel like an overwhelming journey. Identifying someone who is experiencing human trafficking may be challenging without knowing what signs to look out for and which trauma-informed questions to ask. Supporting adult survivors of human trafficking starts with educating staff about the issue, followed by adapting existing screening tools to be culturally applicable, and then identifying needed survivor services, from crisis response to long-term healing. This workshop will address these areas while highlighting how to build your village using survivor-centered advocacy and community collaboration. Learn strategies for identifying human trafficking, creating partnerships, and utilizing culture as a means of healing and a protective factor for survivors.

8. Circles of Strength: Cultural Healing In Urban Environments

Presenter: Alaina Hanks and Carrie Scott-Haney

The Circles of Strength (COS) program at the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center (GLIHC) addresses violence amongst urban Indians across the lifespan with services focused on sexual assault, human

trafficking and domestic violence. This presentation will explore dynamics of how violence presents in urban settings and highlight cultural approaches we use with survivors of violence in our community. Our programming is developed using a culturally centered lens and includes core components of trauma treatment. Some of the practices we will share include our Survivors Healing Retreat, the integration of equine therapy and the development of our peer leadership program.

9. Culture and Healing - Responding to Violence Against Indigenous Survivors

Presenters: Sandra Pilgrim-Lewis, Rachel Carr-Shunk, Casey Kasper-Welles, Andrea (Andy) Jackson

It is key to acknowledge that each Tribal Nation is separate and different as sovereign entities. It is equally important to acknowledge our shared historical trauma, similar cultural practices and our shared ideology that recognizes the sacredness of women and caring for our first Mother, Mother Earth and all of creation. Our worldview is rooted in our ancestral knowledge and traditional cultural practices that are foundational across our nations. It is through interaction and dialog with women from diverse tribal nations that Uniting Three Fires Against Violence set upon a journey to bring together the voices of women to create resources that connect healing from the violence against our native sisters, mothers, aunts, daughters, two spirit, and all of our relatives with the support of cultural practices, traditions, and medicines. UTFAV has developed a series of cultural videos connecting healing from the violence against our women and children with cultural traditions and practices. The workshop will inspire participants to replicate the process in their home Tribal communities, meeting survivors where they are, while better understanding the different ways historical trauma has impacted many of us similarly and/or differently.

10. Elevating the Voices of Male Survivors

Presenter: Brandon Nasonhoya

During this session, the presenter will use their experiences, cultural knowledge, and their work with healing. This session will cover the challenges Indigenous men face in telling their story as survivors, and the paths to healing they confront in recovery, accountability, and recognizing the need for change. There will be a sharing of how the presenter has overcome victimization using self-assessment and healing that is culturally specific, and how that journey is now being used to help other men heal and gain emotional and spiritual strength. Lastly, his session will discuss and recognize the importance of cultural identity, healing, and recovery in achieving a healthier life for self, children, and family.

11. Envisioning Our Futures" Gender Violence Prevention Strategies

Presenter: Tai Simpson

The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, alongside the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, seeks to build individual and community resilience to prevent gender-based violence through the development of the Lupine Circle Project, a model program to re-imagine a future free of violence for girls who are incarcerated through the juvenile criminal system. This program builds effective system-level prevention programming centering and building on input from youth most likely to experience gender violence. Girls in the juvenile criminal system are impacted by sexual violence at alarming rates before, during, and after incarceration. Furthermore, girls who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, or LGBTQ are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence and the criminal legal

system. By centering the voices and lived experiences of girls who are incarcerated, Lupine Circle will co-create a replicable model of prevention programming that is developed through the lens and lived experiences by one of the groups of people most impacted by gender violence.

12. Evolution of Safe Housing Workgroup: Building the Bridge Between GBV and Safe Housing

Presenter: Caroline LaPorte

This session will highlight lessons learned from the National Workgroup on Safe Housing for Indigenous Survivors of Gender-Based Violence. Participants will hear from three national TA providers on their effort to create an intersectional space for domestic violence advocates and homelessness/housing insecurity advocates. This session will have an additional focus of housing as an integral part of the response to global pandemics and as a preventative factor in addressing violence.

13. Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) Legislative Update – Plenary

Presenters: Paula Julian, Kerri Colfer

Since the 1970s, advocates, including survivors of domestic violence (mostly women), their advocates, shelters, and domestic violence programs have organized at the grassroots level to effect social change to protect survivors better and hold those who abuse and cause women harm accountable. In 1984 one of these herstorical changes was the FVPSA becoming federal law. Survivors and advocates shifted our nation's culture with the passage of FVPSA, which provides resources to support programs and projects to prevent domestic violence and provide shelter and supportive services. This shift helped to pave the way for the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. Advocates have been the nexus of this social change and continue to lead ongoing grassroots organizing, including FVPSA reauthorization. FVPSA authorization expired in 2015, and a coalition of Tribal and non-Tribal organizations have worked since then to educate our federal policymakers about key Tribal and other enhancements that must be included in any FVPSA reauthorization, including the following:

1. Increase the Tribal government set aside from 10% to 12.5%
2. Authorize permanent funding for the AKNWRC to serve as the Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence
3. Authorize permanent funding of the StrongHearts Native Helpline to serve as the National Indian Domestic Violence Helpline
4. Authorize formula funding for the Tribal Domestic Violence Coalitions to provide training and technical assistance (TTA) similarly to what the State Domestic Violence Coalitions provide through a separate set aside
5. Authorize permanent funding for the Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence

14. From Hotels to Housing: Creating Safe Living Space

Presenter: Lisa Huval, Deputy Director of Housing, City of Albuquerque

We are experiencing a severe crisis across the housing spectrum. There simply are not enough housing units to accommodate the existing and future demand for housing. How can we address our current housing stock, how can we create shelter, how can we insure safe housing? One key

strategy is by converting Hotel/Motel Properties to Housing. This workshop is designed to help us learn what one community is doing to increase the availability of safe housing in our communities.

15. Gentle Action Theory and Traditional Ways in Bringing Hope and Healing to Women's Experience of Incarceration and the Intersection of Experiences of Abuse

Presenter: Carma Corcoran

The workshop applies Gentle Action Theory alongside Traditional Ways of Knowing and Being to bring hope and healing to women's experience of incarceration and the societal ills that they have experienced that are not traditional. The majority of Native American women who experience incarceration have suffered abuse from childhood abuse to sexual abuse to domestic violence. The traumas they have experienced are only heightened by being incarcerated. Prison is not a place of hope or healing. Instead, we need to build on their resilience by first addressing their trauma and then assisting them in using the cultural knowledge and tools they need for healing and a better future.

16. Growing Our Own Advocates

Presenters: Janelle Chapin and Tami Truett Jerue

We will talk about how AKNWRC created a program to best meet the needs of our tribal communities. We will talk about how we developed a 40-hour advocates training and how to continue to grow to meet tribal needs.

17. Healing Our Nations through Respect, Responsibility, Relationship and Reciprocity

Presenters: Kelly R. Vallo, Anissa McKenna, Melodie Lopez, Virjinya Torrez, Ruthy Ross

As an inter-tribal Indigenous community, we create "real Sovereignty moves", by implementing, maintaining and upholding our Four Rs, to create more support and love for one another. We address and educate the negative impacts of lateral violence amongst one another to instead build relationship through the strengths of our community. Our main focus is not to re-traumatize but re-establish a sense of self-worth and determination. We provide healing by incorporating Indigenous art and storytelling which support cultural and traditional values with respect to each Indigenous tribe, village and community and their beliefs.

18. Healing Through Ancestral Teachings

Presenter: Amanda Takes War Bonnett and Carmen O'Leary

From a traditional and cultural perspective group work has always had a place in traditional Native life. When doing group work for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors, cultural activities and crafts are help reinforce cultural concepts that have always assisted women in finding some identity and connection to their culture. Women can gain healing, strengthen identity, wisdom and philosophy using culturally specific knowledge through fun and challenging activities. These cultural concepts can empowered women and promote healing. This workshop will provide facilitation skills and activities.

19. Herstory of Indigenous Me, a Grassroots Movement in OK

Presenters: Carmen Harvie M.S.-Not Invisible Act Commission Member Taskforce; Vice President Cindy Famero; Secretary-Henrietta Nelson; Legal- Darcie Parton Scoon- Private Investigator

In this session we will tell our story of the beginning Indigenous Me- creating support and organizing for grassroots work of increasing safety of NW in Oklahoma.

20. Historical Overview of Tribal Housing

Presenter: Theodore Jojola

Community planning practices in Indigenous communities primarily consist of ill-suited western approaches, mostly derived from colonial and neo-colonial traditions. Planning outcomes have failed to reflect the rights and interests of Indigenous people, and as a result attempts to reclaim planning have become a priority for many Indigenous nations throughout the world.

There is a critical need for Indigenous communities to reclaim control of the political, socio-economic and cultural systems at work in order to improve outcomes. This presentation on reclaiming Indigenous planning will examine the impacts of western housing practices on culture and community and speaks to why we must incorporate Indigenous concepts that promote traditional knowledge, cultural identity, and stewardship over land and resources.

21. Honoring Consent - Protecting Indigenous Peoples' Right to Autonomy for our Land and Bodies

Presenter: Nicole Begay

This training will provide an overview and definition of consent and Indigenous considerations, how consent is applied, Free, Prior and Informed Consent relating to sexual violence in Indian Country and resources available to students & our community members.

22. How to Use International Advocacy to Restore Safety for Indigenous Women

Presenters: Chris Foley and Jana Walker

The extreme and disparate rate of violence against indigenous women in the United States is a violation of international human rights law. Advocacy at the international level can complement and strengthen domestic efforts to end this violence. This session will review some of the work indigenous women, tribes, and indigenous organizations have done in the past decade to advance indigenous women's rights and to hold the United States accountable. We will look at recent work with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Council, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and more. In addition to discussion of the history of specific advocacy efforts at these international bodies, we will offer practical information about what these international bodies are, what they can do, how we can engage with them, and we will share information about upcoming international meetings and events.

23. Housing and The Violence Against Women Act: Policy Update

Presenter: Caroline LaPorte

This session will provide a law and policy update regarding Violence Against Women Act, the McKinney-Vento Act, and the intersection of housing, homelessness and gender-based violence in on and off reservation communities. This session will also provide an overview to tribal codes and ordinances that impact this intersection and will highlight promising practices by Tribes. The voices of survivors, their needs and lived experiences, will be central to this discussion in order to address necessary change in tribal and federal policy.

24. INVITATION ONLY: Housing Listening Session for Survivors of DV/SA

Presenters: Gwendolyn Packard and Caroline LaPorte

The Indigenous Safe Housing Center is conducting this “Listening Session” with AI/AN Survivors of DV/SA Dating Violence and Trafficking. The purpose of this “Listening Session” is to advocate for and increase or create safe housing options for survivors of domestic and sexual violence across Tribal Nations, Alaska Native Villages, and Hawaiian and Tribal Communities. This “Listening Session” will help gather critical input toward shaping needed change at the tribal, state and national levels. Space is limited and all participants will be compensated.

25. Human Rights—Indigenous Rights—Women’s Rights: How international law addresses gender-based violence.

Presenters: Rick A. Garcia, Esquire and Kendra Kloster

The session will discuss the international human rights framework that is relevant for work related to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence committed against indigenous women. It will provide an overview of the human rights systems of both the United Nations and the Organization of American States and explain how each can be used by Indian Nations and Indigenous women’s organizations. We will discuss key human rights treaties and instruments, focusing on the UN and American Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and consider how women’s rights are recognized and protected by this legal framework. Rights affirmed in these Declarations include the right of self-determination, rights to lands and resources, right of indigenous women and children to be protected against violence, and many others.

26. Implementation of VAWA 2022

Presenters: Jerry Gardner and Kelly Gaines Stoner

This plenary session will provide an overview of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) including jurisdiction over nine “covered crimes”: assault of Tribal justice personnel; child violence; dating violence; domestic violence; obstruction of justice; sexual violence; sex trafficking; stalking; and a violation of a protection order. In addition, the Alaska Pilot Program for Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction will be discussed. The session will provide an overview of the issues tribes need to address if they are interested in exercising the Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction provisions under VAWA 2022. The session will also discuss the assistance, guidance and benefits from the Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) on VAWA and the tribal provisions.

27. Imposter Syndrome

Presenter: Lori Jump

Imposter syndrome is the condition of feeling anxious and not experiencing success internally, despite being high performing in external, objective ways. This will be an interactive discussion on imposter syndrome, what it is and why so many within our field suffer from it.

28. Incorporating Community Voice in Evaluation in Native Communities: A Case Study of a Human Trafficking Program Evaluation

Presenters: Ada Pecos Melton, Rita Martinez

A case study of participatory and Indigenous evaluation approaches incorporated into a formative evaluation of the Administration for Children and Families' Demonstration Grants to Strengthen the Response to Victims of Human Trafficking in Native Communities Program, which provides services to people who have experienced human trafficking in six Native communities.

29. Indian Country Counts! Domestic Violence Services in Indian Country

Presenter: Dawn Stover

A key component of the Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence's (ATCEV) strategy to enhance the response to violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women is supporting research that will identify existing gaps, inform victim services programming, and enhance access to essential services to domestic and sexual violence victims in Indian Country. Join the ATCEV and the tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions as we recognize the importance of supporting critical victim-related research and kick off a new research project in and for Indian Country entitled Indian Country Counts. Note that ATCEV includes Alaska in the definition of Indian Country.

30. Indigenizing Harm Reduction at The Intersections Of Domestic Violence, Mental Health, And Substance Use

Presenter: Victoria Wynecoop-Abrahamson

Indigenous communities of Turtle Island are grounded in cultural teachings that center the strength of the feminine spirit, the sacredness of medicinal plants, and our innate connections with the spirit world and one another. Today, these teachings are often labeled as harm reduction, a modern-term used to overcome genocidal and oppressive practices imposed by settler-colonial governments. These interconnected teachings have diminished over the centuries due to these oppressive practices stigmatizing Indigenous survivors experiencing the intersections of domestic violence, substance use, and mental health. Through these teachings advocates and service providers, must continue to utilize to support Indigenous survivors. In this workshop, we will center survivors' experiences and reconnect with Indigenous teachings that uplift harm reduction values and disrupt genocidal practices at the individual, community, and institutional levels. By reconnecting and identifying these harm reduction values, it provides an opportunity for participants to collaborate and discuss the variety of ways we can reclaim and uplift the experiences of Indigenous women, children, and two-spirit relatives that have or are experiencing the intersections of domestic violence, substance use, and mental health.

31. BY INVITATION ONLY Indigenous Intersections on Gender-Based and Land Violence: Voices from the Field. Presenters: Heather Bruegl, Kendra Root

This Conversation With the Field (CWTF) is in collaboration with NIWRC Research and Policy Teams as part 1 of a 2-part research conversation with the field series. This closed key informant CWTF will lead our discussions to understand the intersectionality of colonial violence for Native American womxn and biodiversity. Indigenous pedagogies center the importance of kinship, honoring the kinship among womxn as women, girls, Two-Spirit, Queer, Trans, Non-binary, and variations of gender, and our lands, plants, animals, skies, and water. Our lands, plants, animals, skies, and water are explored in this research as biodiversity. The purpose of this discussion is part of NIWRC's Research pilot study and helps NIWRC's Policy team thoroughly explore #6 of the 6-points action plan. With the CWTF space, it is our hope and intent to uplift our Indigenous voices, knowledge systems and practices to help understand feminine intersectionality of Indigenous womxn and biodiversity as we are encouraging the reclamation of our Indigenous ways of being and calling for land and body justice in our communities.

32. Indigenous Me-Oklahoma State Chapter of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Presenters: Carmen Harvie, Not Invisible Act Commission Member Taskforce; Vice President -Cindy Famero, Secretary-Henrietta Nelson, Legal- Darcie Parton Scoon- Private Investigator

In this session the OK MMIP chapter will teach about how to engage in Self-care, including stress free techniques which will be fun and relaxing. It has been clinically proven to reduce stress. We will share a ribbon Ceremony that will uplift each person in the room. Self-Care is important to the Mental, physical, emotional and Spirit. We volunteer with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Movement for years in searches and bring awareness to the communities.

33. Indigenous Domestic Violence Survivors' Wellness Services: Uplifting Our Voices

Presenter: Kendra Root

High rates of domestic violence (DV) disproportionately affect our Native American homes and communities. In 2022-2023 NIWRC Research and Evaluation explored holistic wellness journeys from Native American women who are domestic violence survivors. Survivors' stories captured the needs for physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual restoration of balance in their lives. Using a feminist intersectional approach, two distinct focus group listening sessions were conducted for DV survivors to understand their wellness journey needs from interactions with healthcare providers in partnership with FUTURES Without Violence and DV service programs and providers. The Native American women stories were told from women representing Indian Country from the Northwest, Southwest, Midwest, South, Northeast, and Alaska regions. The critical stories will inform and grow knowledge, inform evaluation components, and provide culturally specific prevention efforts that will be used for the development of materials, resources, improve healthcare, wellness and healing services. Barriers, limitations, themes, and suggestions and recommendations for changes will be discussed. Results of both focus group listening sessions bring strong recommendations and attention that is needed to the desired interventions and preventions of our communities that are experiencing disproportionately high rates of DV.

34. Intentionally Growing: Culturally Based Healing Centered Approaches in Organizational Leadership and Supervisory Practices

Presenters: Cathy Cave and Christina Love

This interactive round table offers opportunities for collective conversation about what is and is not working in our organizations as we focus on ending violence. The ideas discussed offer pathways to move toward organizational transformation and healing through supportive relationships and effective supervisory practices. In our work, the professional identity of staff is sometimes rooted in their lived experience that includes both personal strengths and vulnerabilities. Discussion will include strategies and solutions that need to be foundational in organizations that aspire to truly value diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, cultural responsiveness, and a trauma-informed, person-centered, empowerment-focused workplace. These healing-centered solutions create potential for all staff to feel seen, accepted, understood, valued, and celebrated! These practices also create an organizational climate in which all staff can be their whole selves and create an organizational culture that counters the legacies of supremacy that have shaped and influenced our structures. Examples and practices will be shared.

35. Intersection of Climate Change, Housing Crisis, and Gender-Based Violence

Presenters: Caroline LaPorte, Lora Ann Chaisson

This panel presentation will focus on climate change, the housing crisis, and the impact on GBV in Indigenous communities. In responding to the real and alarming increase in climate change, it is critical we understand the connections to gender-based violence in addressing the future of our planet. Understanding connections between heat and violence is increasingly important as we witness the warming of our planet and anticipate more intense and longer-lasting heatwaves. The call to address climate change is a desperate cry for the future of our planet as well as an urgent call to address the safety and well-being of our women and girls. Climate change will continue to spur weather-related disasters, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts, extreme weather, and other consequences, it will lead to higher rates of violence and women will continue to bear the burden of climate change.

35. Invisible Injuries: Traumatic Brain Injury, Strangulation and Domestic Violence

Presenter: Rachal Ramirez

Domestic violence is a traumatic experience that changes a person's life forever. Coercion and control can have far reaching consequences, including a substantial impact on a person's overall well-being. When relationships become physically violent, abusers often target the head, neck and face for violence—through blows to the head and/or strangulation that can cause brain injuries. The traumatic, personal, and intimate source of this brain injury causes significant psychological and neurological trauma. Brain injury is rarely identified and almost never immediately treated, and results in short and long-term physical, emotional, and cognitive consequences that are often misidentified as other concerns—such as mental health or substance use, or survivors being labeled as “uncooperative” or “difficult.” Service providers and survivors often fail to recognize the ways that brain injury can impact every area of a person's life-- their overall well-being and ability to successfully access and participate in services to support their safety, health and healing. This session will introduce CARE, an innovative framework to address brain injury that includes practical, hands-on tools available to assist you in raising awareness on brain injury with survivors and within your organization.

36 Kai'u wai lani - Sacred Water of Heaven

Presenter: Dolly Tatofi, LCSW, Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy. D.,LSW,CSAC

This presentation focuses on the safety of women, mother earth and water as a protective factor to the continuation of all sources of life; and how the desecration of this most important resource and climate change affects the violence against the sacredness of women. Hawaii has been under severe drought conditions for a number of years and water sources in several areas are contaminated and causing illness which threatens the safety and well-being of wahine and the sources of life. Water the life force of all living - 'āina, kai, kānaka, la'au, i'a, limu is imperative to the survival of wahine and kānaka. Without this resource we cannot survive. When a wahine is hapai the child within her is surrounded by water up to the time this new life enters the world. Protecting the water and women as the givers of life is essential.

37. Leading Efforts for MMIP Policy Change: A Template for Tribes Across the Country

Presenters: Katherine Katcher, Abby Abinanti, Taralyn Ipina, Jessica Carter, Rosemary Deck

The Yurok Tribe presenters will share the model and mechanisms they currently use to push for policy change in California, with regard to legislation and funding. There has been much written about the issue of MMIP, but not enough tangible solutions and action plans have been developed that can be shared with tribes and Native people to leverage as a model in their own state. In California, the Yurok Tribe has led the first ever statewide policy summit on MMIP, successfully led efforts to create the Feather Alert (AB 1314), the first statewide missing endangered alert system for Native people, and secured \$12 million in funding from the state to address the issue. In 2023, we are pushing for further change--asking for more dollars to be committed and invested in MMIP prevention as well as pushing two additional bills forward that will address tribal public safety and missing children in the foster care system. All of this work came out of Yurok-led and driven research on MMIP. Through this presentation, attendees will learn how the Yurok team has developed its MMIP Policy action plan and will be able to take ideas back to their own states about how to push this work forward.

38. Local, Tribal Responses to Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women: Violence Against Women Act 2022 Implementation Panel

Presenter: TBD

This panel will feature tribal leaders from both Alaska and lower 48 states who will discuss the Violence Against Women Act 2013 and 2022 as it is implemented across Indian Country, including 2022 amendments expanding tribal jurisdiction over crimes of sexual assault, sex trafficking and child abuse. Tribal leaders and justice system practitioners will have the opportunity to share both successes associated with the act, as well as any challenges Tribal Nations face as they move to put VAWA 2022 into action in their communities. Workshop participants will walk away with vital insights into the state of implementation of this legislation across Indian Country.

39. Mapping Victim Rights to Tribal Laws in Tribal Law Enforcement Victim Services Programs

Presenters: Ada Pecos Melton; Rita Martinez

This session presents strategies for preparing profiles of law enforcement victim services programs describing services available to victims from tribal, state, and federal sources. It includes mapping victim rights to tribal, state, and federal laws and strategies using the information for educating victims, local service providers, and communities.

40. Maximizing OVW Funding Opportunities to Support Safety and Justice in Your Tribal Community

Presenters: Rebekah Jones, Renee Stapp, and Sydney West

OVW grant programs support tribal communities nationwide to provide victims with protection and services and improve capacity to hold offenders accountable through direct grant funding and training and technical assistance. This session will provide an overview of the OVW Tribal Affairs Division (TAD) grant programs, technical assistance projects, policy and legislation, special initiatives, and other activities facilitated through TAD to address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking in tribal communities.

41. Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls in Hawaii

Presenters: Presenter: Dolly Tatofi, LCSW, Dr. Dayna Schultz, Psy. D., LSW, CSAC

We focus this presentation on sharing the intersection of domestic violence and sexual assault on women and girls in Hawaii within the sex trafficking trade and the missing and murdered. We will

highlight the first Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls task force convened in 2021 December to address the crisis that until recently was not addressed systematically. We will share a study done by the University of Arizona and the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, and the first report of the MMNHWG task force to be presented to the State of Hawaii legislature in December of 2022 for the upcoming 2023 legislative session.

42. MMIW Families for Justice and Healing

Presenters: Patricia Whitefoot, Dr. Grace Bulltail, Leanne Guy, Tami Jerue

In 2021, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) convened an MMIW Family Advisory working group to further our collective work to strategically advance the movement for the safety of Indigenous women and justice for MMIW. By centering their voices, we continue to collectively increase public awareness and organize for action. This session seeks to share how their unity in action within the national grassroots movement can advance our strategy of increasing the safety of Native women through strengthening the sovereignty of Indian nations. In partnership with NIWRC, the MMIW Family Advisory working group will share how they have provided national public education and grassroots organizing campaign to increase the understanding of the crisis of MMIW, share their experience(s) with the multi-layers of systemic barriers, and how they continue to provide culturally grounded recommendations to strengthen local, state and federal responses to violence and MMIW in tribal and Native Hawaiian communities.

43. Navigating the Housing Spectrum, A Roadmap for Advocates

Presenters: Gwen Packard and Eileen Hudon

Tribal domestic violence advocates wear many hats, and this presentation focuses on the "housing hat". Since the early days of our movement to end the violence, we as advocates are deeply aware of the critical role of safe housing and shelter for survivors. We know it is often the number one reason women stay, because they don't want to be homeless or out on the streets with their children. We know there is a serious lack of housing, shelter and resources in tribal communities. We know that domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking and MMIW can be the precursor to and the result of the lack of safe, available and affordable housing. We know that the lack of safe housing is one of the top reasons for removing children. Knowing all these things, it is critical that we, as advocates, learn more about the housing spectrum to expand and create additional options and resources for survivors. This interactive session will provide a road map for advocates to navigate the housing spectrum.

44. Offenders Re-education Programs

Presenter: Gene Red Hail

Culturally based offender re-education programs are integral to ending intimate partner violence, and re-indigenizing our relationships and communities, yet very few exist, especially in Indian Country. This session is an opportunity to learn about the purpose, dynamics, and steps in facilitating a respectful learning process that emphasizes survivor safety and offender accountability within a culturally based framework. Presenter Gene Red Hail offers his expertise based on his work with Oneida Nation's program from 1999 until 2021.

45. Oneida Tribe Coordinated Community Response Team

Presenter: Gene Red Hail

This workshop will identify concepts, purpose, and principles of a coordinated community response (CCR) team with focus on Indian Country, address consideration of diversity in working effectively with Indian Nations within the context of the development and programming of the Oneida Nations CCR. The presenter, Gene Red Hail, brings with him over two decades of experience within the Oneida program as offender program facilitator and coordinating the CCR for the Oneida Nation from a culturally based foundation.

46. Our Voice - Plenary

Presenter: Brenda Hill

This poem written by an indigenous woman/advocate/survivor, speaks to her own experience and the experiences of other indigenous women who honored her with their stories. The poem was born from prayer about concerns for loss of voice, heart and leadership of women who are survivors and seeming loss of acknowledgement or understanding of the dynamics, tactics of battering/violence from the perspective of their lived experiences. It speaks of the impact of violence against women, and power of grassroots advocacy, relationships and hearts of women.

47. Partnering for Justice: Role of Advocates Within Law Enforcement Response

Presenter: Bonnie Clairmont

This session will focus on basic best practices for advocates and domestic violence programs working with Tribal law enforcement in Indian Country. Building knowledge and networking within these systems is essential to increasing the safety of Native women and their children and other relatives experiencing intimate partner violence. It will also provide steppingstones and basic foundations to working with relatives who are navigating through law enforcement systems in our communities and how we as advocates can help. Focus areas- Advocacy Safety Basics, Navigating Tribal Law Enforcement Systems Basics, Federal Updates that Impact Tribal Law Enforcement and Survivor Safety, Knowing Tribal Codes in Your Community, and Forward Thinking: Tribal Community System Networking Efforts to Increase Survivor Support and Safety.

48. Planting Seeds of Healing in Our Community

Presenter: Lucille Grignon

Dive into healing, dig your hands into the soil, and plant seeds of love in your community. Learn about connecting to ancestral knowledge of Indigenous ways of life through homesteading, food sovereignty, and traditional seed keeping. The Ancient Roots Homestead journey—as we take time to heal ourselves, the people around us will heal.

49. The Power of Adaptation: Shifting Our Understanding & Response to Sex Trafficking

Presenters: Nicole Matthews

Those who cause harm have always been quick to adapt to changing circumstances and resources. This is incredibly apparent when it comes to sex trafficking. Often, our responses as advocates and others in the work have felt a step behind. Both the pandemic and fast-changing technology have made it even harder to know what realities are and how to adapt our programming and framework. This interactive session will talk about what we know about trafficking against Indigenous people as well as explore what we can do to both know the realities of sex trafficking and meet the complex and ever-changing needs of survivors. Curiosity, intentionality, and openness to shifting our practices

and frameworks are essential to supporting survivors and creating lasting change within communities.

50. Presenting Uncomfortable Topics of Violence to Teens from a Cultural Perspective

Presenters: Kirby Williams

Native youth are not immune to violence and informing them of warning signs, risks, consequences, and available resources is essential to promoting knowledgeable, confident individuals and safer communities. This workshop will address how to discuss uncomfortable topics of violence (domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, etc.) with Native youth. The presentation will include information on promoting body sovereignty/consent, addressing violence in a culturally appropriate way, unique and active ways to engage teen discussion and attention, and how to respond to teen inquiries in an intersectional and trauma-informed manner.

51. Protecting Our Children and Youth from Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Showcasing the Work Being Done Between Tribal Nation and County Child Welfare Agency in a PL 280 State

Presenter: Bonnie Clairmont, Kelly Stoner

Under federal law, state child welfare agencies must have certain processes and protocols in place to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Alpine County, in California, worked with partners at the Washoe Tribe to develop their program. Initially, the county and tribe worked to develop protocols, processes and tools to identify and support CSEC victims and their families. Recently, their focus shifted to developing programs emphasizing prevention of CSEC. This workshop provides discussion of federal laws that mandate a response from child welfare, overview of the history of the relationship between the Tribe and the county, the response tools, protocols and processes developed, and how they are putting together their prevention program. Participants will gain knowledge of: History and role of child welfare system & impact of separation on Native children/families; Relevant federal, state, and tribal laws that address CSEC and the protection of children involved in child welfare systems; Team development and collaboration with child welfare agencies to address and prevent the CSEC; response protocol developed by the tribe and county; how CSEC identifiers tip sheets and screening and case planning tools are used by the county and tribe to serve youth and families; type of training needed by child welfare workers and their partners to better serve youth and families; Identifying solutions to protect Native children and youth.

52. Safe Housing as a Mitigating Factor in MMIW

Presenters: Caroline LaPorte and Gwendolyn Packard

The movement to bring attention and awareness to the epidemic of MMIW has largely been driven by indigenous families and communities for decades. There is so much we all can do to respond when one of our relatives goes missing. This session highlights how access to safe and affordable housing plays a critical role in preventing and responding to the MMIW crisis, it provides valuable practice and policy recommendations for Tribal Nations, Alaska Native Villages, Native Hawaiian Villages and Indian communities.

53. Sex Trafficking of Indigenous Youth: Current State and Future Action

Presenters: Kirby Williams and Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie

We will address the past contributions, current state, and future actions addressing trafficking and exploitation of Indigenous youth. Topics will include historical context and current systems of oppression impacting trafficking and exploitation against Indigenous youth. The presenters will present their work and findings as part of NHTTAC's Human Trafficking Leadership Academy to address culture as a protective factor in preventing trafficking among all Indigenous youth. This workshop will give examples of the presenters' current work, while providing actionable steps to move forward in solidarity with the Indigenous community to address trafficking and exploitation of Indigenous youth.

54. "Taringe Akngiringalria Aki" (Yupik for To Understand Trauma Response)

Presenter: Janelle Chapin

Trauma can trigger different responses in people. We don't often talk about that as providers. If we as providers do not understand how trauma impacts victim/survivors and how it has multiple ways that a person may react in periods of crisis, we can often misread situations resulting in people not always getting the services they may need. This session will cover many issues that often are misread while working with victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. Having a better understand of behavioral health, substance use, and trauma history will help us respond better to victims/survivors.

55. Tillie Black Bear Women Are Sacred Seasonal Healing Camp: Talking Circles of Healing

Presenters: Carmen O'Leary, Heather Bruegl

In honor of Tillie Black Bear, Wa Wokiye Win (Woman Who Helps Everyone) Women Are Sacred Day and inspired by healing camps that Tillie organized on behalf of survivors of sexual assault, NIWRC offers a healing camp session for survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence and advocates. Wa Wokiye Win offered hope and healing and inspired generations of survivors and advocates, and we hope this inspires everyone to more intentionally plan and regularly implement self-care throughout the year to improve overall health outcomes for Indigenous women.

This healing session for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and advocates will convene as a talking circle to promote an opportunity to learn, heal and share. Being in a safe and judgement free environment is one of the most important factors in creating a space to talk freely. Please join Native Women's Society of the Great Plains Director and NIWRC Board President Carmen O'Leary as she leads a Talking Circle to promote healing.

56. T-LGBQ2S 101

Presenter: Renae Gray

T-LGBQ2S 101 introduces individuals to key concepts and terminology pertaining to the Transgender, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Two-Spirits community, in order to promote a greater understanding and awareness. We will also discuss how to be a good ally and identify strategies for effective advocacy for transgender and gender nonconforming relatives experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

57. Understanding the Nexus of Violence and the Science of Addiction

Presenter: Christina Love

Many people do not understand why or how people become addicted. They may mistakenly think that those who use drugs lack moral principles or willpower and that they could stop their use simply by choice. Studies of trauma and substance use show a strong association between the two.

Drug addiction is a complex issue, and access to resources takes more than good intentions or a strong will. Drugs change the brain in ways that makes addiction an equity issue. Fortunately, we know more than ever about how drugs affect the brain and behavior. Participants will learn the science of trauma and addiction and leave with the ability to explain why substance use disorders are a disease of the brain as well as a disability. Together in group activity, we will stand up and walk through the cycles and stages of addiction and explore addiction as an issue of disparity while learning about the many pathways of recovery.

58. VAWA Implementation and the Role of Survivor and Legal Advocates in Successful Implementation

Presenters: Rick A. Garcia, Esquire and Kendra Kloster

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013 and 2022 included historic tribal provisions that recognized the inherent authority of “participating Tribes” to exercise “special tribal criminal jurisdiction” (STCJ) over certain defendants, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, who commit certain “covered crimes” of domestic violence in Indian country. In addition, Subtitle “B” of VAWA 2022 creates an Alaska Pilot Project program where Alaska Tribes may also exercise STCJ to protect their tribal citizens and communities in the same manner as lower-48 tribes have had the opportunity to do since 2013. The Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center will present a workshop that discusses VAWA history and reauthorizations, VAWA implementation, and the Alaska Pilot Project, as well as highlight the important roles of Survivor and Legal Advocates in implementation and success of VAWA within a Tribe and their community. After attending this workshop, participants will gain an increased knowledge of VAWA and how tribal implementation of VAWA helps to protect tribal citizens, as well as an understanding of the importance of VAWA in protecting tribal sovereignty.

59. VAWA Sovereignty Initiative

Presenter: Mary Kathryn Nagle

This presentation will focus on the recent cases the VAWA Sovereignty Initiative has focused on, specifically *Denezpi v. United States*, *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*, *L.B. v. United States* and *Brackeen v. Haaland*. Details of the cases, the legal issues and the implications for safety for Native women and children. The presentation then explains the arguments the NIWRC made in each case in the amicus briefs filed by NIWRC. Finally, the presentation explains the outcome in each case, giving examples NIWRC’s VSI impact on the outcome. The presentation will also give final analysis of how the outcome in each particular case increases or decreases safety for Native women and children.

60. Victim Advocacy on the Prairie: Supporting Native Survivors in Iowa

Presenters: Jourdan Reynolds, Alanna Holiday

Iowa has one federally recognized tribe, Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi, within it. Join us in learning about the challenges and unique opportunities of supporting Native survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Hawkeye State. Although the Meskwaki Nation has been present in Iowa

since the 18th century, there are still lowans that are unaware of the tribal community. RISE not only serves the Meskwaki Nation but is able to assist Native survivors of any tribal nation within Iowa's 99 counties. This presents a great opportunity and resource for Native victims, but at the same time is quite challenging when working within a U.S. state that is still learning about its one and only federally recognized tribal nation.

61. Violence Against Women Act 2022 Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction

Presenters: Kelly Gaines Stoner and Chia Halpern Beetso

This session will provide an overview of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) and provide a detailed examination of the changes/additions made to the tribal provisions of VAWA 2013. This includes jurisdiction over “covered crimes” including assault of Tribal justice personnel; child violence; dating violence; domestic violence; obstruction of justice; sexual violence; sex trafficking; stalking; and a violation of a protection order. The ability of tribes utilizing the Bureau of Prisons will be discussed. In addition, the Alaska Pilot Program for Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction will be examined. The session will explore the issues tribes need to address if they are interested in exercising the Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction provisions under VAWA 2022. The session will also discuss the assistance, guidance and benefits from the Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) on VAWA and the tribal provisions.

62. Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Task Force Update

Presenter: Annie Forsman Adams

This session will present the work of the Washington State MMIWP Task Force to date, including our 2022 Interim Report. We will also focus on the how the Task Force engages with the community and MMIWP families to ensure that the work is family led and trauma informed. Additionally, this session will provide legislative updates and updates to our efforts understand the true scope of MMIWP in the Pacific Northwest Region. Finally, we will look at the future of the Task Force as we pursue justice and accountability.

63. We Are Born of Spirit Through Mother Earth and the Womb of a Woman: Exploration of Identity - Plenary

Panel: Dolly Tatofi, Wendy Schlater and Tai Simpson. Moderator: Paula Julian

We envision the panel helping to raise awareness and inspire Conference participants to understand that "we are spirits on a human journey," as Tillie Black Bear often reminded us, and that centering violence against Indigenous women is not exclusive of addressing the intersections of and fluid nature of Indigenous identities—including racial/ethnic, relations with Mother Earth and all life, gender identity, age, living off/on Indigenous homelands, persons with disabilities. Exploring and connecting with our Indigenous identities is at the root of ending violence against Mother Earth, Indigenous women, communities, and sovereign Nations. The pathway to safety, balance, and thriving for everyone is by centering the needs of Mother Earth and women.

64. Weaving a Braid of Sovereignty, Safety and Support

Presenter: Lori Jump

This workshop will introduce attendees to StrongHearts Native Helpline, our history and development. Attendees will also receive up-to-date statistics from the Helpline.

65. Working with Tribal Housing Authorities- A Guide for Advocates

Presenters: Linda Lee Reitka, NAIHC and Victoria Ybanez, Red Wind

Survivors of domestic violence often face housing discrimination because of their history or the acts of their abusers. Women and children are often discriminated against, denied access to, and even evicted from public and subsidized housing because of their status as victims of domestic violence. Some tribes have zero-tolerance crime policies, and survivors are often evicted after repeated calls to the police for domestic violence incidents because of allegations of disturbance to other tenants. Survivors are also evicted because of property damage caused by their abusers and in some instances adverse housing actions punish survivors for the violence inflicted upon them causing a “double victimization” which is unfair and, in many situations, illegal. It’s important that advocates understand the role of tribal housing authorities to better serve their community. This important presentation outlines effective ways tribal domestic violence advocates can work with tribal housing authorities to increase safe housing options for survivors.

66. Youth Track- Community Care by Cleaning the Air

Presenter: Marquel Musgrave

Marquel Musgrave will share much needed information about how to protect ourselves from COVID-19 and other helpful information to keep our communities safe. We will learn about what a Corsi-Rosenthal box is and how to make one. We will make CR boxes together.

67. Youth Track- Community Organizing 101

Presenters: Jovita Belgarde and Selena Guerrero

We will discuss what community organizing is and what it looks like. We will break down white supremacy and privilege and introduce the different roles people can take on as organizers. We will have a conversation about what it means to be a water protector/land defender. We will explore what community groups exist already that organize around resource extraction and MMIR and what they are doing to take action.

68. Youth Track- Consent and Boundaries

Presenter: Jovita Belgarde

We will discuss consent and body autonomy and how and why we ask for consent. We will explore what to do when consent is unclear and how to navigate that situation. We will also talk about what boundaries are, how to set them, and we will practice boundary setting together. We will do some group activities and get comfortable with consent and boundaries as a community.

69. Youth Track- Hand Games Workshop

Facilitator: Alysia Coriz

Alysia Coriz will lead this fun filled workshop where we will learn about Indigenous hand games, how to play, and try it out together. We will learn about material games and play some open games.

70. Youth Track- Ending Teen Dating Violence and Cultivating Healthy Relationships

Presenter: Jovita Belgarde

We will discuss what Teen Dating Violence is and what it looks like. We will break down the dynamics of power and control. We will teach young folks how to recognize the signs of Teen Dating Violence and where to get help. We will also talk about green flags in relationships and positive coping skills to keep relationships healthy.

71. Youth Track- Missing and Murdered Relatives and Resource Extraction

Presenter: Jennifer Marley

We will explore the relationships between land/body violence and learn about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives epidemic and how it is shaped by ongoing settler colonialism and resource extraction. We will talk about community care, the justice system, and how to uplift the voices of survivors. We will discuss what is already being done and how young folks can get involved.

72. Youth Track- Punabay

Presenters: Pat Cate, Ryan Martinez, Nicole Soderberg

Tewa Roots Society will teach about the history of the game Punabay, how the Punabay ball is made, and how the Pueblos still play to this day. We will learn how to play it and we will play Punabay together.