
Event Agenda

2025 Women Are Sacred Conference

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Morning Offering: Water Ceremony

6:00 AM – 6:45 AM | Location: Baird Skyview Terrace - 4th Floor, North Building

MORNING OFFERING

Begin the day with a water ceremony led by the WWHL team. Together, we will honor water as life, acknowledging its role in our healing, our identities, and our responsibilities. Participants will learn about the importance of our water, and how she carries our prayers, memories, and commitments to future generations.

Check In & Registration

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

Nourish The Spirit Recovery Support Group

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

MORNING OFFERING

WELLNESS

A supportive space dedicated to centering peace, mindfulness, and relationship to self and others, grounded in the wellbriety movement.

Opening Session

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

PLENARY

NIWRC Welcome, Traditional Welcome, Posting of Colors, and Land Acknowledgement

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Introductions: Board, Staff, Federal Partners, and Co-Sponsors

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ACYF Remarks

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Remarks: TBD

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Cultural Presentation: Woodland Sky Dance Company

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Opening Plenary Session

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

PLENARY

Working Lunch: Presentation of Tillie Black Bear Memorial Award

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Drafting Strong Tribal Victim's Rights Codes: Key Considerations for Tribal Justice Systems

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Victims of crime in tribal communities deserve strong legal protections that uphold their rights and ensure access to justice. This session will provide practical guidance on drafting and implementing Tribal Victim's Rights Codes. Using TLPI's Tribal Legal Code Resource: Victim's Rights Condensed Guide for Drafting Tribal Victim's Rights Codes, the presentation will explore essential victim rights, including notification, participation, and restitution. Attendees will learn best practices for aligning victim protections with tribal values, strengthening enforcement mechanisms, and addressing common challenges in drafting and implementing these laws. This session will equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to enhance victim-centered justice within their tribal legal frameworks.

Securing Shelter: Addressing Alaska's Housing Crisis for Alaska Native Survivors

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Alaska Native survivors of domestic violence are facing a critical housing crisis in our state. From February 2023 to June 2024, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center conducted a comprehensive statewide assessment to identify housing challenges and potential solutions for Alaska Native survivors of gender-based violence. The findings reveal that domestic violence and housing insecurity are inextricably linked, creating a dangerous cycle where survivors must choose between staying with abusers or facing homelessness. With overcrowding rates four times the national average and over 44% of rural Native village households classified as severely overcrowded, Alaska's housing crisis particularly impacts our Alaska Native survivors and their children. These risks are compounded by geographical isolation, limited services, and socioeconomic factors. Emergency housing is limited and often inaccessible, while long-term housing remains scarce, expensive, and restricted by complex programs. Seasonal worker and tourist housing further reduce options for local survivors.

Our assessment proposes six actionable steps: increase funding and improve service provider collaboration; expand safe homes beyond DV service providers; limit local housing for seasonal workers and tourists; expand current voucher programs; renovate older or vacant structures; and consider options for removing harm-doers from homes. Progress requires a shift in priorities and resources, with Alaska Native communities leading locally-driven strategies that uphold Tribal sovereignty and cultural resilience. Change is essential to break the cycle of violence and provide safety, stability, and justice for Alaska Native survivors.

Elevate|Uplift

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Elevate|Uplift is a national TA project strengthening sexual assault services for cultural communities and communities of color. Elevate|Uplift was born out of the SADI Initiative, a project with key takeaways and lessons learned. The study didn't have a strong connection to tribal communities. Elevate|Uplift would like to present on the unique needs and the need for culturally sensitive services in tribal communities.

Human Rights—Indigenous Rights—Women's Rights: How international law addresses gender based violence

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Breaking the Silence: Increasing Access to Services for Tribal Sexual Assault Survivors

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

This workshop centers a deeply rooted and often unspoken reality: sexual violence within Tribal communities is widespread, silenced, and structurally overlooked. Drawing from a comprehensive community-based assessment conducted with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, facilitators will share findings from surveys, interviews, and focus groups that reveal the layered barriers survivors face—including shame, mistrust, secrecy, untreated trauma, and lack of culturally responsive services.

Through data storytelling and survivor-informed dialogue, participants will explore how normalized abuse, intergenerational trauma, and systemic failure contribute to a crisis of access. The facilitators will discuss the power of community-driven research and the urgent need for wraparound, culturally grounded, and trauma-informed responses.

Participants will leave with key insights from a Tribal-led needs assessment on sexual assault, actionable recommendations for improving trust, access, and services for Native survivors, and tools to initiate or expand community-based conversations around sexual violence, healing, and systemic accountability.

Reclaiming Power: Understanding and Responding to Mental Health and Substance Use Coercion

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

This interactive workshop explores the intersections of domestic violence, mental health coercion, and substance use coercion. Participants will gain insight into how unsafe partners manipulate and weaponize mental health and substance use to isolate, destabilize, and exert control. Through scenarios and guided discussions, we will examine common coercive tactics and their impacts on well-being, autonomy, and the ability to access support.

The workshop introduces two practical tools—the "Mental Health Coercion Palm Card" and the "Substance Use Coercion Palm Card"—providing a framework for:

- Initiating safe conversations about mental health and substance use coercion.
- Offering validating and affirming responses to survivors' experiences.
- Collaborating with survivors to develop strategies for access to desired services.

Advocates and others supporting survivors will enhance their capacity to recognize subtle forms of coercion and provide more effective, trauma-informed support. This workshop strengthens the bridge between domestic violence services, mental health care, and substance use treatment to create more comprehensive safety nets for survivors.

Speakers



Amanda Lyon

TTA Specialist | National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health



Victoria Wynecoop-Abrahamson

Training and Technical Assistance Manager | National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health



Gabriela Zapata-Alma

Associate Director | National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health

Restoring Dignity: The Medical Forensic Exam as a Path to Healing

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

The experience of sexual violence can strip a woman of her dignity and causes trauma to the mind, body, and spirit. Typically, with medical care in general, the focus is most often fixated on a physical correction of whatever area of the body is ill or injured. This type of care does not account for addressing the whole person, the mind, body, and spirit of the person. If medical care after a sexual assault is not provided in a way that respects the woman as a whole person, it can compound the harm. Providing medical forensic care in a manner that respects individual traditions and healing needs allows for the care to remain patient-centered while restoring dignity and healing for Tribal women who have experienced sexual violence.

A WAS Conversation with Community: DV Victim Services in Indian Country

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

"Conversations with Community" (CWC) centers on the lived experiences of community members to address the unique challenges in Indian Country due to violence against Native women. This closed session is a facilitated discussion in a semi-structured group interview with tribal leaders, tribal coalitions, advocates, and survivors. This CWC will explore the current landscape of domestic violence victim services in Indian Country, highlighting both existing resources and the unique challenges that impact approachability, availability, and effectiveness. 4 out of 5 Native women experience some form of violence in their lifetime, and they face murder rates more than 10 times the national average. Despite this crisis, there are only 56 Native-led DV shelters for 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States, leaving many American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) survivors without access to safe housing and essential services. AI/AN survivors of domestic violence face compounded obstacles, including geographic location, jurisdictional complexities, insufficient funding, and limited tribal resources and support systems. These challenges make it difficult for AI/AN survivors to utilize emergency shelter, victim advocate services, legal assistance, and other vital resources. This discussion underscores the importance of increasing support for AI/AN DV programs, expanding shelter availability, and addressing policy gaps to ensure AI/AN survivors receive the protection and services needed to heal and rebuild their lives. Note: This is a closed session.

Life in the Shelter: Centering Culture, Care, and Case Management

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

ARP

Strengthening Housing Protections for Native Survivors: Rights, Resources, and Culturally Grounded Solutions

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

STTARS HOUSING

Break

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Serving Urban Indigenous Victims and Survivors of Sex Trafficking: Lessons from Project Beacon

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Project Beacon, funded by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), was created to increase the quantity and quality of services currently available to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) victims of sex trafficking who reside in urban areas. Project Beacon is meant to help bridge the divide between urban Indian centers and AI/AN victims of sex trafficking. Join us for a panel discussion and Q&A with grantees as we share about lessons learned as part of Project Beacon.

Speaker



Becki Jordan

National Projects Director | Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

Data You Can Use

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Violence in Indian Country and Alaska Native communities is a critical and deeply rooted issue, shaped by a complex history of colonization, systemic neglect, jurisdictional challenges, and intergenerational trauma. Here's an overview of what violence in these communities looks like, what we've learned over the past eight years, and how StrongHearts Native Helpline data can support community-driven solutions.

Transformative Work with Our Relatives: Tribal Advocate Program Development

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

We come to this work as Advocates wanting to make a difference within our own Tribe. Advocate Programs get built because they are needed in the community, and at times, in the process, we might not get the help or support we need to create a program that will stand the test of time.

This session will discuss how we design an impactful Tribal Advocate Program tailored to the intricate needs of Native victims and Survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Our methodology is anchored in a holistic framework that encompasses social change and addressing the competing requirements the program has. In this comprehensive workshop, you'll discover how to craft a program that not only addresses the immediate needs but also weaves in the cultural identities of Survivors. Participants will strengthen their understanding of how to be responsive to the needs of Survivors while also engaging them in social change and social justice frameworks. Participants will gain an understanding of building the framework to ensure they are being responsive to the requirements from their multiple funders.

Healing Through Tech Agency: Technology-Facilitated Abuse Training

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

MMIW: Honoring our Murdered Relatives through Culturally Sensitive Medicolegal Death Investigation

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

This 1.5 hour presentation will review the medicolegal death investigation process in Indian Country and Alaska. Participants will learn how to advocate for American Indian/Alaska Native homicide survivors and the deceased while promoting tribal sovereignty and respect for Indigenous communities. Government systems can accommodate the unique spiritual and cultural beliefs around death while maintaining the integrity of the investigative process.

Speaker



Jamie Kallan

Forensic Pathologist | UWSMPH

Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence Navigate Experiences of Suicidality: A Response Guide for Tribal Advocates

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act 2018

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

This workshop explores the Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act, a pivotal piece of legislation that strengthened emergency response efforts in Native communities following the tragic abduction and murder of 11-year-old Ashlynnne Mike in 2016. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the Act's purpose, its legislative journey, and the critical gaps it aimed to address in child abduction alert systems across tribal lands.

The session will also highlight the development and implementation of programs that emerged as a direct result of the Act, including tribal access to the AMBER Alert system, enhanced training and technical assistance, and interagency collaboration. Attendees will leave with knowledge of how these efforts are improving response times, increasing community awareness, and ultimately saving lives.

This presentation is ideal for tribal leaders, law enforcement, emergency responders, child advocates, and anyone invested in the safety and well-being of Native youth.

A Summary of the Conversation with Community: Invisible Disabilities

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Kahua Waiwai: A Sense of Place

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

ARP

Sheltering Sovereignty: Integrating Trauma-Informed and Culturally Grounded Approaches to Domestic Violence and Narcissistic Abuse Survivors in Tribal Housing Programs

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

STTARS HOUSING

WAS Talks Sessions

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

N8V Dance Fitness Session

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

Special Event: Bring Your Own Craft

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Event: Dollmaking

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Morning Offering: Sunrise Songs & Giving Thanks

6:00 AM – 6:45 AM | Location: Baird Skyview Terrace - 4th Floor, North Building

MORNING OFFERING

Join WWHI at sunrise for a morning of giving thanks and morning songs. As the day begins, we will gather to honor the importance of sunrise. Welcoming the light with joy, reflection, and traditional songs that uplift our spirits. This pre-session will center teachings on gratitude and the power of starting each day in a good way, grounded in Indigenous knowledge and cultural practice.

Check In & Registration

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

Nourish The Spirit Recovery Support Group

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

MORNING OFFERING

WELLNESS

A supportive space dedicated to centering peace, mindfulness, and relationship to self and others, grounded in the wellbriety movement.

Breakout Sessions

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TBD

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Strengthening Collaborations to Enhance Safety and Services

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

This workshop will focus on strengthening collaborations among state funding administrators, state domestic violence coalitions, local domestic violence programs, tribal programs, and other key partners to enhance services and safety for survivors. This workshop is specifically intended for FVPSA State Administrators, state domestic violence coalitions, and FVPSA Tribal grantees.

Recognizing and Responding to Elder Abuse in Tribal Communities: Building Culturally Responsive Protection Systems

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

TBD

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

MMIP Peer Support Group development & Integrating Direct Services

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

This workshop highlights how peer support groups function as essential components within the MMIP movement while demonstrating their progression into direct service models. MMIP support groups with their foundations in community, culture, and resilience deliver emotional care and advocacy while creating connections for families affected by violence and systemic neglect.

Participants will learn about the guiding principles these support groups operate under as well as their dedication to cultural awareness and trauma-sensitive approaches. The session demonstrates essential methods for establishing and maintaining a support group which includes group organization and participation rules as well as trust development and outreach methods.

The workshop investigates developing direct service capabilities which provide essential crisis response support together with legal advocacy and mental health navigation. Participants will examine both opportunities and obstacles related to this growth through real-world insights and lived experiences with a focus training and infrastructure development.

The workshop provides service providers and advocates alongside family members with a practical approach based on cultural understanding to build and reinforce support systems for MMIP families while respecting the vital processes of community healing and justice.

Indigenizing Harm Reduction at the Intersection of Domestic Violence, Mental Health, and Substance Use

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

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. These interconnected teachings have diminished over the centuries due to historical and intergenerational trauma, stigmatizing Indigenous survivors experiencing the intersection of domestic violence, substance use, and mental health.

It is through these teachings, that we as 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 historical and intergenerational trauma 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 intersection of domestic violence, substance use, and mental health.

Calling your Spirit Home: Strategies for Taking Care of Yourself

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Walking alongside victims of crime as they heal and connect to themselves, relatives, and the broader community can be a difficult journey with ups, downs, and potential setbacks. As victim service providers, community members, and Tribal leaders, we can feel the heaviness of carrying our relatives' stories. Creating a support network, leaning on traditional practices, and remembering the resilience of Native people can sustain us and strengthen our ability to move through our difficult emotions so we can support loved ones in their struggles. Join this conversation hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Tribal Victim Services Training and Technical Assistance (T-VSTTA) to learn about harnessing the power of traditional healing, taking care of yourself, and cultivating compassion in challenging situations.

A WAS Conversation with Community: Traumatic Brain Injury

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

A "Conversation with Community" (CWC) centers on the lived experiences of community members to address the unique challenges in Indian Country due to violence against Native women. This closed session is a facilitated discussion in a semi-structured group interview with participants who have lived experience or have provided support to survivors. This CWC will focus primarily on traumatic brain injury (TBI) among Native women survivors of domestic violence. Violence, including traumatic impacts to the head, strangulation, and choking, are among the leading causes of TBI. These actions can cause temporary to lifelong damage to the brain, resulting in behavioral/cognitive symptoms, altered perception symptoms, and/or negatively impact physical symptoms. Some common symptoms caused by TBI are concussions, memory loss, balance problems, irritability, inability to focus or pay attention, headaches, and many other unseen effects. The impact of TBI can be debilitating, interfering with daily function and disrupting the dynamics of relationships. The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) aims to identify the most effective ways to support survivors living with TBI.

Working at the Intersection of Housing Insecurity/Homelessness and Human Trafficking

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM



Shelter Basics: The Day-to-Day Operations of Native Safe Houses

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

STTARS HOUSING

Break

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

Breakout Sessions

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Utilizing VAWA 2022 Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction to address Safety in Tribal Communities: Lessons Learned, Practical Tips, and Available Resources

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

NCAI VAW Task Force Working Group Discussion to Restore Sovereignty and Increase Women's Safety

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Kuleana: Sacred Responsibilities

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Creating Safe Spaces

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

This will be a safe and sacred space to share your thoughts, your truths, your successes, and even your challenges and failures as we continue the vital work of supporting victim-survivors in Indian Country and Alaska Native communities.

We acknowledge the strength it takes to do this work — and the weight it often carries. Whether you're a frontline advocate, a counselor, an elder, or someone impacted by violence in your community, your voice matters here.

Be a Revolutionary: Storying the Future

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

This interactive session centers the brilliance of Indigenous survivors, cultural workers, and community leaders who are reimagining anti-violence work rooted in sovereignty, futurism, and tradition. Grounded in Nimiipuu teachings and personal storytelling, tai simpson will guide participants through a transformative journey exploring how our traditional practices, matriarchal wisdom, and collective memory are tools for both surviving and thriving.

This session will:

- Offer community-led, culturally based strategies for addressing domestic and sexual violence, trafficking, and MMIR
- Share place-based, land-rooted stories from our Nations
- Introduce anti-carceral, survivor-led alternatives to safety and accountability that uplift our sovereignty and ancestral intelligence
- Explore storytelling as a practice of healing, organizing, and policy-shifting in Tribal communities

With laughter, language, and love, we'll tap into what it means to radically move from trauma to transformation.

Culturally Honoring Trauma Informed Care for Indigenous Communities

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Honoring Healing: From Trauma-Informed Care to Healing-Centered Engagement

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Fireside Session: Advocate Storytelling

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Best Practices for Trauma- Informed Care with Native Sex Trafficking Victims

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

ARP

This workshop will concentrate on the services offered by Pathfinder Center for Native Sex Trafficking Victims. Pathfinder Center is the sole long-term shelter in South Dakota that provides unique services specifically tailored for Native victims of sex trafficking and their children. The workshop will cover trauma-informed approaches and best practices. Participants will be educated on how to effectively work with victims, avoid triggers, being more trauma informed and assist victims in establishing self-worth, discover their purpose, and begin their healing journey

Rooted in Care: Housing Practices That Honor Every Survivor's Journey

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

STTARS HOUSING

Lunch on your Own

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

"Voices from the Land: Digital Storytelling & Land-Based Healing for First Nations Survivors" An Experiential Training in Culturally-Rooted Tools for Wellness & Transformation

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

TBD

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Creating a transnational Indigenous women's movement: ILRC work in Peru

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Soul Retrieval Through Meditation: Creating A Space for Healing

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

In the Oglala Sioux spiritual tradition, it emphasizes the importance of wholeness and balance in the individual. This interactive workshop will address the practice of meditation as a positive tool for (soul loss).

Many indigenous women who have faced domestic violence, cultural and personal trauma are subjected what is referred to as soul loss. Soul loss is described in many ingenious cultures as the belief that a person's soul can become fragmented or lost due to trauma, illness or other overwhelming circumstances.

Through spiritual practices like meditation, it allows the individual to regain balance and restoration.

Meditation is an inward journey and a practice that involves systematic calming of the mind and body and leads to greater self-awareness.

This workshop will include discussion, interactive instruction, and the practice of meditation.

The Wisawa Project - Safety Planning

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

This safety training will provide more than physical defensive tactics, we'll cover the mindset & heart set our warriors need to ensure they make it back home. Bring an open mind, open heart along with a pen & paper. We'll dive deep into practical measures and steps to take when considering your safety & security, for you, your friends & loved ones.

Presenting Uncomfortable Topics of Violence to Youth from a Cultural Perspective

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

YOUTH

Native youth carry a heightened risk for experiencing violence. 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.

Yolngu, Traditional Indigenous Approaches to Wellbeing

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

The Guruttu framework is a Kinship system that promotes the cultural well being of Yolngu people – (Aboriginal people from Northeast part of Australia).

Bettina will go through the Yolngu metaphor and the fibres that bring women and children together. Especially when going through Domestic and Family Violence.

Through the Guruttu framework kinship system, Rhoda will try and showcase the success, failures and journey that Galiwinku Womens space has gone through in fighting the government and society to use Guruttu to build an organization and support women and children going through Domestic, Family and Sexual violence in a culturally safe way.

The Work of the Not Invisible Act Commission

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

NON FEDERAL

Reclaim, Rebuild and Heal: The Spirit Journey Healing Village

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

ARP

Co-Sheltering Survivors and Their Pets Together: A Review of Models

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

STTARS HOUSING

The experience of sexual violence can strip a woman of her dignity and causes trauma to the mind, body, and spirit. Typically, with medical care in general, the focus is most often fixated on a physical correction of whatever area of the body is ill or injured. This type of care does not account for addressing the whole person, the mind, body, and spirit of the person. If medical care after a sexual assault is not provided in a way that respects the woman as a whole person, it can compound the harm. Providing medical forensic care in a manner that respects individual traditions and healing needs allows for the care to remain patient-centered while restoring dignity and healing for Tribal women who have experienced sexual violence.

Speaker



Chenel Vanden Berk

Forensic Nursing Specialist | International Association Of Forensic Nurses

Break

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Igniting Spaces of Healing: Land & Cultural-Based Approaches to Ending Violence in First Nations Communities

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Strengthening Collaborations to Enhance Safety and Services

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

This workshop will focus on strengthening collaborations among state funding administrators, state domestic violence coalitions, local domestic violence programs, tribal programs, and other key partners to enhance services and safety for survivors. This workshop is specifically intended for FVPSA State Administrators, state domestic violence coalitions, and FVPSA Tribal grantees.

TBD

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Culture As Protective Factors

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Sharing our story and using culture as a protective factor and a key in our healing journey. How I've used my lived experience to be an advocate and traditional healer in my region. From victim to advocate, to owning my story and helping others.

Creative Civil Remedies Against Non-Indian Offenders in Indian Country

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Violent crime committed by non-Indians against Native people on tribal lands can be challenging for sovereign Tribal nations to address effectively. Exercising expansive, creative civil jurisdiction (in addition to or as an alternative to exercising criminal jurisdiction) can increase safety and justice for tribal communities. Nations subject to Public Law 280 as well as smaller tribal communities lacking robust, developed court systems can utilize these tools to impose impactful consequences for both Indian and non-Indian perpetrators.

Remembering our Sisters: Youth Storytelling, and Advocacy

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

As there is no one way to be affected by the MMIWG2SP+ epidemic, there is not one correct way to advocate for visibility and justice. Six young advocates through the Center for Native American Youth's Remembering Our Sisters Fellowship bring new and diverse perspectives to MMIP advocacy. The 2025 Remembering Our Sisters Fellows include Jori Cowley (Cherokee and Shawnee), Jaden Shirley (Navajo), Fabian Mendoza (Muckleshoot), Sophia Madrigal (Cahuilla Band of Indians and Turtle Mountain Chippewa descent), Angelina Hinojosa (Pinoleville Pomo Nation), Carrie Johnson (Chickasaw and Pawnee). Finding their way to advocacy through separate journeys and communities, the Remembering Our Sisters fellows bring a youth perspective to the MMIP movement, along with each of their communities' stories and practices to combat the epidemic.

Please join these fellows in an audience involved panel discussion on their experiences combatting the MMIP+ epidemic in their own communities, as well as sharing their current work on advocacy projects. Through the panel discussion, the Fellows will highlight how the intersection of culturally-informed practices, data tracking and digital storytelling, mental health and substance abuse advocacy and youth-centered practices can progress the fight against MMIP. The session will highlight the importance of including youth voices in policy and advocacy discussion to combat the epidemic and allow space for meaningful intergeneration discussion about the best path forward for all.

Transforming a Trauma Memory into Healing: A Cultural Perspective (Non Federal)

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

NON FEDERAL

VAWA Sovereignty Initiative Update (non Federal)

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

NON FEDERAL

Sheltering Our Relatives

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

ARP

Let's Talk Housing: A Guide for Working with Tribal Housing

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

STTARS HOUSING

Celebrating All Things Feminine POWWOW + Threads of Community Regalia Parade

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

Thursday, July 31, 2025

Morning Offering: Grounding & Breathwork with the Earth

6:00 AM – 6:45 AM | Location: Baird Skyview Terrace - 4th Floor, North Building

MORNING OFFERING

In this gentle morning session WWHL will guide participants through grounding breathwork, gentle stretching, and connection to traditional plant medicines. Rooted in land-based healing, this experience offers tools to support daily balance and wellness. Through connection with the earth beneath us and the air within us, we will explore simple, powerful practices to stay centered in times of stress or transition.

*participants can bring a small blanket or yoga mat

Nourish The Spirit Recovery Support Group

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

MORNING OFFERING

WELLNESS

A supportive space dedicated to centering peace, mindfulness, and relationship to self and others, grounded in the wellbriety movement.

Breakout Sessions

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM | Location: Baird Center - 2nd Floor - North Building

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Care Session

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Tech

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Mens Session

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Supporting Survivors Together: Building Trauma-Informed Response Teams for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

The Awareness Journey

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Healing Together: Empowering Native Youth for a Violence-Free Future

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

YOUTH

This session will explore how Native youth can reclaim and strengthen their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness by drawing on traditional knowledge and collective healing practices, particularly in response to the deep impact of the pandemic on Native communities. Native youth have been on the frontlines of navigating challenges in their communities, while imagining a violence-free future for their people.

OFVPS

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Tribal FVPSA TTA Resource Network Meeting

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Financial and Reporting Practices for ARP Funding

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

ARP

Advocacy Strategies for Survivors with Housing Issues Navigating the Legal System

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

STTARS HOUSING

Break

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

Closing Session

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM | Location: Baird Center - 4th Floor - DEFG Ballroom

Closing Plenary Session 1

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Closing Plenary Session 2

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Traditional Closing

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM