Introductions

• Patti Gosch
  • 25 Years State service
  • 22 Years Criminal Intelligence Specialist
  • 21 Years Tribal LEA Liaison
  • Authored “Criminal Exploitation of Washington State Tribal Lands”
  • ICW Foster Parent
  • Boarding School Descendant

• Dawn Pullin
  • 20 years of service to the Native community
  • Chief Executive Director Spokane Tribal Enterprises
  • Director Spokane Tribal TANIF
  • Contracting Officer Indian Health Service
  • Enrolled Spokane Tribal Member

Combining Case Investigation and Tribal Government Experience
Goals: Job Description

• Build Relationships that Increase Trust Between Government and Native Communities.

• Facilitate WSP communication among
  • Indian Tribes
  • Urban Indian Organizations and Communities
  • Tribal Liaisons in other State Agencies
  • Law Enforcement agencies at the federal, state, local and tribal levels;
  • Nongovernmental entities that provide services to Native Americans

What else do we do?

- Research data to get a better understanding of challenges, data errors and information, and identify barriers
- Assist families in making missing person reports
- Electronic searches of long-term missing persons to extend across the nation
- Work with other agencies across the country and internationally to share and bring home best practices
Disclaimer

- Washington State Patrol does not have proprietary ownership of other agency cases
- Washington State Patrol does not manage other law enforcement agencies
- Washington State Patrol Tribal Liaisons are not commissioned law enforcement
Tribal Liaison
Patti Gosch
Dawn Pullin
State Executive Branch

Tribal Liaison
Asa Washines
Policy Analyst
Annie Forsman-Adams
State Legislative Branch

Tribal Liaison
David Rogers
Federal Branch
• Community Advocacy Groups
• Grassroots Organizations
• Social Media Managers
• News Media
• Public and Private Entities
• Tribal, Municipal, County & Federal Agencies

YOU
Who is Native

• A person who carries full Native blood, but not enough blood quantum of any one tribe to be enrolled

• Person identified or acknowledged as Native American by:
  • Tribal government/enrollment offices
  • Family
  • Self
Different from a minority or racial classification, Indian tribes are separate and independent political entities, sovereign nations possessing inherent governmental authority and powers.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS)
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
FBI CJIS NCIC Database
“Electronic clearinghouse of crime data available to virtually every criminal justice agency nationwide”

State
County
Local

Private
Tribal

Tribal Access Programs (TAPS)
https://www.justice.gov/tribal/tribal-access-program-tap
TYPES OF MISSING

Lost/Abducted/Unknown
Lost in the Wilderness
Domestic Violence
Custody Disputes

Runaways
First Time Survivor
Habitual

Lured/Stranded/Trafficked
Internet and Social Media
Night Clubs and Bars
Entertainment Venues

Suicide and Accidental Deaths
Witnessed but not found

Homicide
Believed deceased but not found

Chose to leave; Do Not want to be found
Warrants
Family Disputes

Did not know they were missing
Started over

WA State MMIP Update September 2021
Reporting Problems

Quality of data input
  Racial misidentification
  Inaccurate spelling, hyphenation, combination, and transposition of names and dates

Jurisdictional Confusion
  Where a person resides vs where they went missing from
  Delayed Response

Interstate/International missing
  Who to report to

Not knowing where a person is enrolled
  Unable to notify family or community
  Searching – did the person go home

Mistrust within the community of outside law enforcement and government
  System is intimidating and complex when in crisis mode
Do NOT Wait to Report a Missing Person

• CALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES FIRST!
  Initial report must be taken by local law enforcement.

• REPORT RACE ACCURATELY!
  Giving the wrong information may prevent being found.

• PHOTOS are important!

• KEEP MISSING VISIBLE!
  The Washington State Patrol Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit can assist with poster distribution.

• STRANGER DANGER!
  Be cautious of stranger information. Report ALL tips or requests for monies to investigators.

• ACCOUNTABILITY!
  Keep records of contact with investigators and tipsters.

• NEVER GIVE UP!
  Missing persons have been found alive decades after being reported

• IT'S WASHINGTON STATE LAW, Legislators enacted HB2792, which states if a crime is suspected or after 30 days of being reported a person is not found, LAW ENFORCEMENT MUST enter the missing into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC*).
When people are found, WSP will not release the name of the found person or their family. Families have a right to their privacy, and are free to make public their experience.
CONTACTS

**Tribal Liaisons**

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**Missing & Unidentified Persons Unit Manager**

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