



## *Domestic Violence and TANF Partnership in Indian Country*

June 27, 2011 ❖ 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Eastern Time

### Presenters:

- **Marylouise Kelley, PhD.**, *Director*, Family Violence Prevention & Services Program, Family & Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children and Families
- **Anne Menard**, *Director*, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- **Bonnie Clairmont**, *Victim Advocacy Program Specialist*, Tribal Law and Policy Institute
- **Tina Olson**, *Project Coordinator*, Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project
- **Bernie LaSarte**, *Program Manager*, STOP Violence, Victim Advocate for Domestic Violence, Coeur D'Alene Tribe (Idaho/Region X)
- **Al Fleming**, *Moderator*, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families

**Welcome! The session will start momentarily.**

## Webinar Learning Objectives

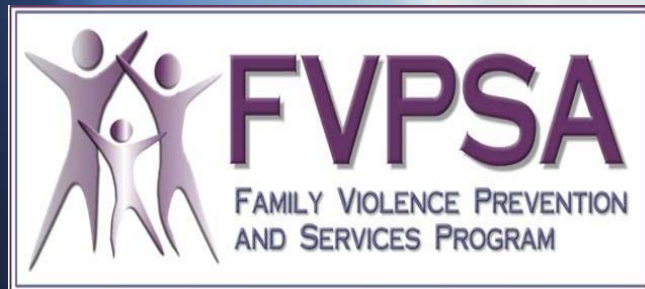
- Provide Tribal TANF agencies an overview of existing models for partnership to serve families escaping domestic violence who access Tribal TANF.
- Discuss culturally appropriate ways of handling domestic violence in a Tribal TANF agency and/or when working with Native victims.
- Encourage collaboration between Tribal TANF agencies and the domestic violence community.

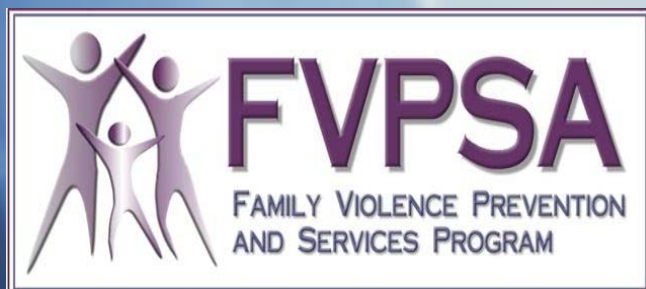


## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar Agenda

- 1:00–1:05 p.m. Welcome, Overview, and Webinar Logistics  
**Al Fleming**, Office of Family Assistance (OFA); and Welfare Peer TA Team
- 1:05–1:10 p.m. **Dr. Marylouise Kelley**, Director, Family Violence Prevention & Services Program, Family & Youth Services Bureau, ACF
- 1:10–1:20 p.m. **Anne Menard**, Director, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- 1:20–1:35 p.m. **Bonnie Clairmont**, Victim Advocacy Program Specialist, Tribal Law and Policy Institute
- 1:35–1:50 p.m. **Tina Olson**, Project Coordinator, Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Program, Minnesota
- 1:50–2:05 p.m. **Bernie LaSarte**, Program Manager, STOP Violence, Victim Advocate for Domestic Violence, Coeur D’Alene Tribe (Idaho/Region X)
- 2:05- 2:30 p.m. Q & A (*Al Fleming, OFA*)  
  
Webinar Poll (*Welfare Peer TA Team*)

# Domestic Violence and TANF Partnerships in Indian Country





**Marylouise Kelley**

Director

Division of Family Violence Prevention  
Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



**Anne Menard**

Director

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
[amenard@pcadv.org](mailto:amenard@pcadv.org)

# **Family Violence Prevention & Services Family & Youth Services Bureau Administration for Children & Families**

- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)
- Purpose: to assist States (and Territories) in establishing, maintaining, and expanding programs and projects to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents.

# **FVPSA Support for the Network of Domestic Violence Services - *Local Programs***

- FVPSA funds part of over 1,500 domestic violence shelter programs, and 960 non-residential service sites through formula grants to states and territories.
  - Served over 1.27 million adults and children
  - Provided more than 8.3 million bed nights for survivors and their dependents

# FVPSA Support for the Network of Domestic Violence Services - *Tribal Programs*

- That same year, under a 10% funding set aside, FVPSA funds were provided to 204 Native American Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, some of them as part of consortiums, to support 153 domestic violence programs.
- In 2009, these funded programs:
  - Provided residential services to over 4,802 women, 224 men, and 4,567 children
  - Provided non-residential services to 9,474 women, 1,203 men, and 5,913 children.



# **Not Enough: What TANF Offers Family Violence Victims**

*Findings from a national survey  
conducted in late 2009 by  
NRCDV and Legal Momentum*

[www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org) > Search: Not Enough

# THE SURVEY - Fall 2009

- Nearly 600 respondents, including individuals from all 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- The majority (78%) of respondents work at domestic violence or dual domestic violence/sexual assault programs. Also responding were staff from legal aid or other anti-poverty programs (13%) and from TANF/CSE agencies (5%).
- Most respondents (82%) provide direct services to victims.

# KEY RESULTS

- TANF is important to domestic violence victims (96%).
- TANF can have a significant impact - when it works well.
- TANF can have a significant impact- when it doesn't work well.

# KEY RESULTS

*When TANF does work well for victims --*

- Collaboration between DV and TANF and Child Support agencies
- Trained responders
- Flexible use of TANF funds
- Streamlined processes
- Benefits for immigrant victims

# KEY RESULTS

## *When TANF doesn't work well for victims --*

- Application process creates barriers
- Benefits too low and often delayed
- Screening is often inconsistent and ineffective
- Notification of FV specific waivers, services is often ineffective
- Disclosures may not lead to needed help
- Some responses make things worse = less safe
- Child support enforcement is also inconsistent in addressing safety and financial concerns

# MAKING TANF MORE EFFECTIVE

(top ranked from 1st)

- Employment services
- Child care
- DV training for CS/TANF workers
- Relocation assistance
- Transportation
- Improve FV screening
- Increase TANF benefit levels

# OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shorten application process/less documentation
- Flexible FV exemption and work requirements
- Access to mental health, substance abuse, and trauma services
- Onsite advocates, TANF workers
- Pre-sanction screening for domestic violence
- Improve confidentiality
- Remove barriers for immigrants
- More specialized services

# Domestic Violence and TANF Partnerships in Indian Country



**Bonnie Clairmont**  
**Victim Advocacy Program Specialist**  
**Tribal Law & Policy Institute**



# Statistics

- **61.4% of all American Indian women will be physically assaulted in their lifetime. (USDOJ/CDC 1998)**
- **Native women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States.**
- **17% of Native women will be stalked during their lifetime.**



Why Do Native Women Stay?  
vs.  
Why Does He Batter?



**LEAVING DOES NOT MEAN SAFETY**

# Impact on Children

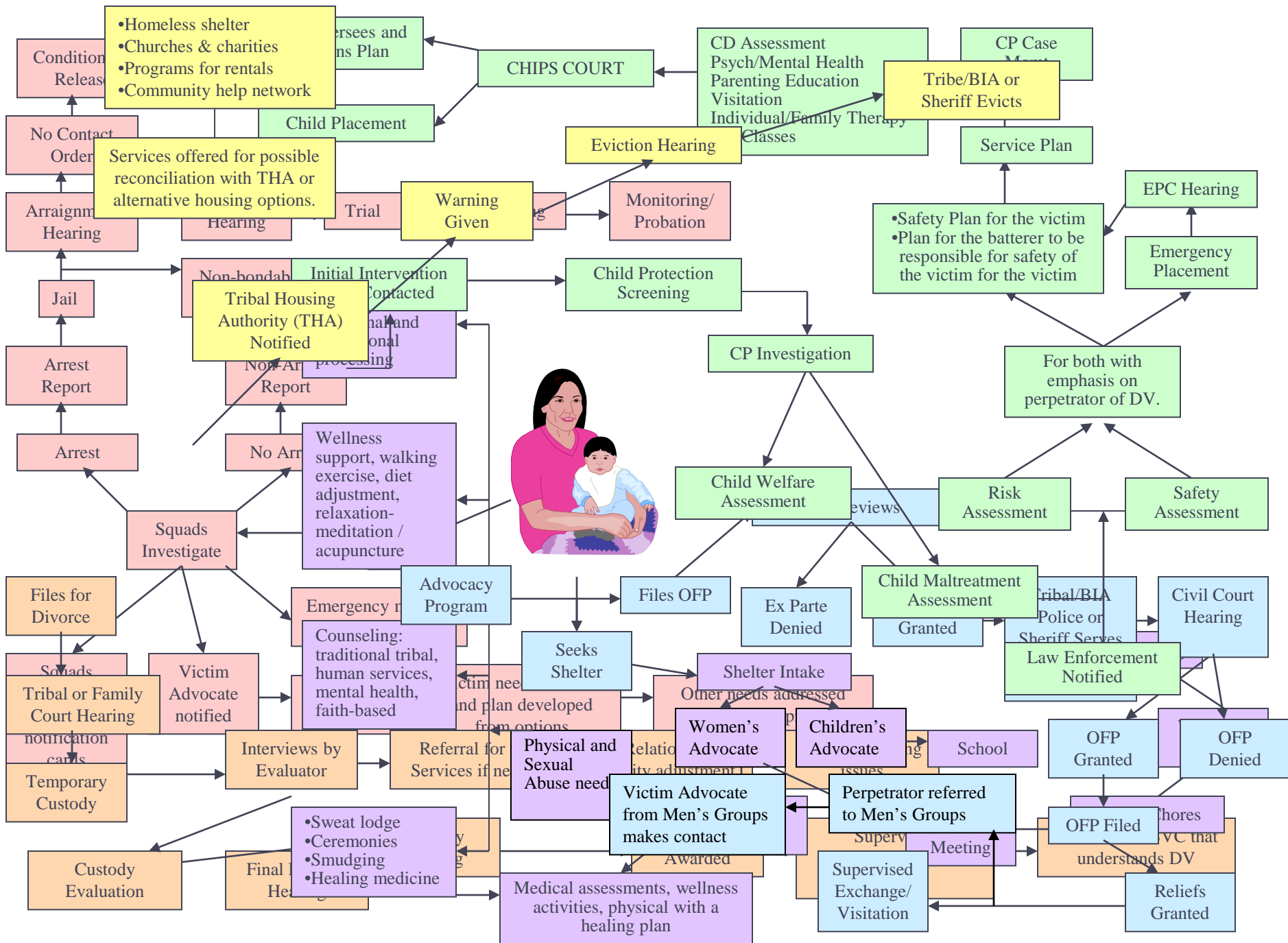
- Children witness or hear domestic violence
- Children may attempt to intervene in the violence
- The negative impact that a battering father or step-father has on the mother-child relationship can last long after the mother has left the batterer or he has stopped his use of violence



# Interference of Battered Woman's Parenting Role

- “Failure to protect”: Some jurisdictions criminally prosecute the battered woman for child neglect for remaining in a home where she is being battered.
- Undergo severance of parental rights proceedings (also known as dependency actions)
- Batterers may use the children as weapons against their partner
- Batterers often threaten to take custody of the children away from the mother if she attempts to leave.
- An Indian abuser may falsely threaten to use the Indian Child Welfare Act's Indian preference for child placement in order to prevent a non-Indian mother from leaving the abuse





# How do we better understand:

- How the helping systems and services can become the barriers?
- These are in addition to dealing with family and friends?
- The need for sound advocacy, appropriate response, coordinated response and developing partnerships?
- The need for cross training among disciplines?
- That this is automatically set in motion once 911 is called in many places?



# Our Responsibility to Every Family

What can you say or do to help restore the financial needs of the battered mother and children?

- How do children benefit?
- How do battered women benefit?
- How do batterers benefit?
- How will this help restore your community to balance and the teachings of our ancestors?





# Life Generated Risks

- Childcare
- Battered women in shelter
- Safety concerns
- Transportation
- Lack of support system



## Batterer Generated Risks:

- Engaging in violence before key events such as tests or job interviews
- Threatening or harassing partners at work
- Preventing them from going to work or school
- Failing to provide promised child care or transportation
- Refusing to pay bills



# Achieving economic justice and security is dependent upon:

- Availability of social and economic supports (child support, child care, housing, transportation, public benefits);
- Opportunities to retain a job that pays a living wage and based on a system of equal pay for women;
- Education and job training programs and
- Access to resources to aid them in developing life skills.



# Strategies for Improving Services

- Working with the TANF and child support enforcement system to provide needed support for women leaving abusive relationships with children.
- College applications/financial aid assistance information
- Employment seeking skills/Interview techniques
- Housing advocacy: Work with tribal housing authorities to prioritize housing needs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking to obtain affordable, decent housing, home weatherization and grants for home improvements.



# Strategies for Using TANF Funds to Better DV clients

- Economic Advocacy with tribal leadership, programs to leverage and direct more resources for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- Some tribes are developing buffalo herds and; as well as developing projects to grow/produce traditional foods distributing food products to tribal members.
- Economic advocacy would include advocating that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking would be priority for receiving such resources in order to improve the health conditions for women leaving abusive relationships and helping them extend their food budgets.



# Strategies for Using TANF Funds to Better DV clients

- Development of Tribal Child care co-ops
- Development of Private entrepreneurships & co-ops for victims to enter small business to sell crafts, beadwork, etc.
- Availability of life skills classes taught by aunties, grandmothers on making money stretch, feeding large families on a budget, cooking of traditional foods in order to improve nutritional needs of low income families.
- Navigating the Victims Compensation Assistance Program



# Advocacy is one part of a Coordinated Community Response

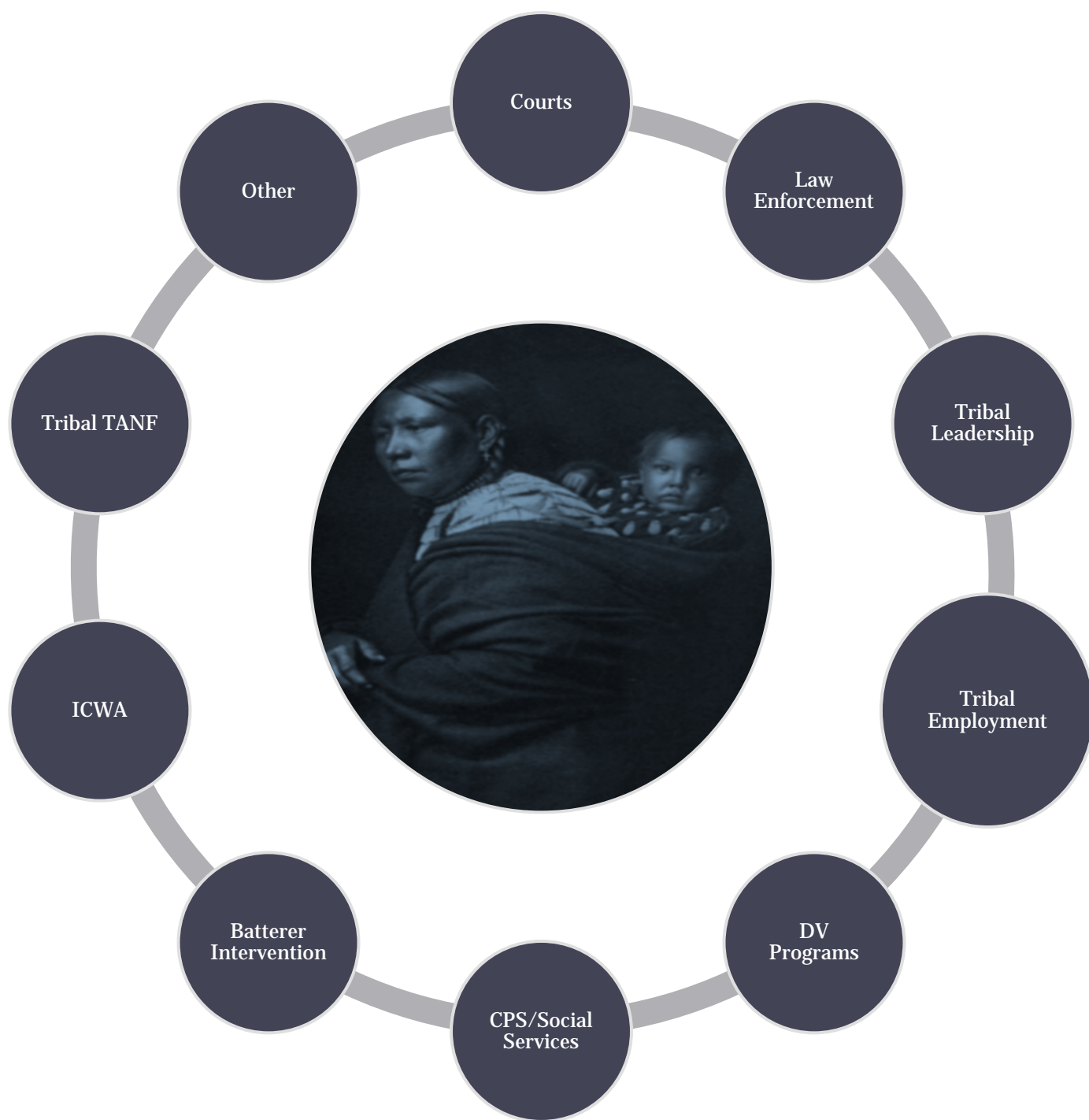
Advocate for the expressed interests and safety of the woman, and her children, including finding a safe space and any other resources necessary for the woman to regain control of her life.

# What Makes an Effective Intervention?

- Every intervener (individual or agency) will fully understand the dynamics of battering and what women and children experience
- A coordinated community response
- Accountability for stopping the behavior rests solely on the perpetrator
- Help to repair the harm caused by a batterers violence and control







# Strengths in Indigenous Beliefs

“Our cultures have always held women in high esteem. As life and care giver, nurtures and providers women have always been the most crucial element to a healthy society and healthy family. That respect and that value must endure for Indian Country.”

-Tex Hall, President, NCAI, August 2003

# **Domestic Violence & TANF Partnerships in Indian Country**

**Mending the Sacred Hoop**

[www.mshoop.org](http://www.mshoop.org)

**Presented by: Tina Olson-Co Director**

**June 27, 2011**

# Guiding Philosophy

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- The vast majority of those victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault are female
- Violence must be framed in a historical context
- Women & children are vulnerable to violence because of their un-equal status in society
- All forms of oppression, including racism, classism, heterosexism, and ageism perpetuate both individual and institutional acts of violence

# Working from a Common Framework of Understanding

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*Power & Control Theory puts domestic violence in a social context, looking at violence in relationships as a result of learned social behaviors that are rooted in many institutions and re-enforced as cultural values.*

# Definition

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Pattern

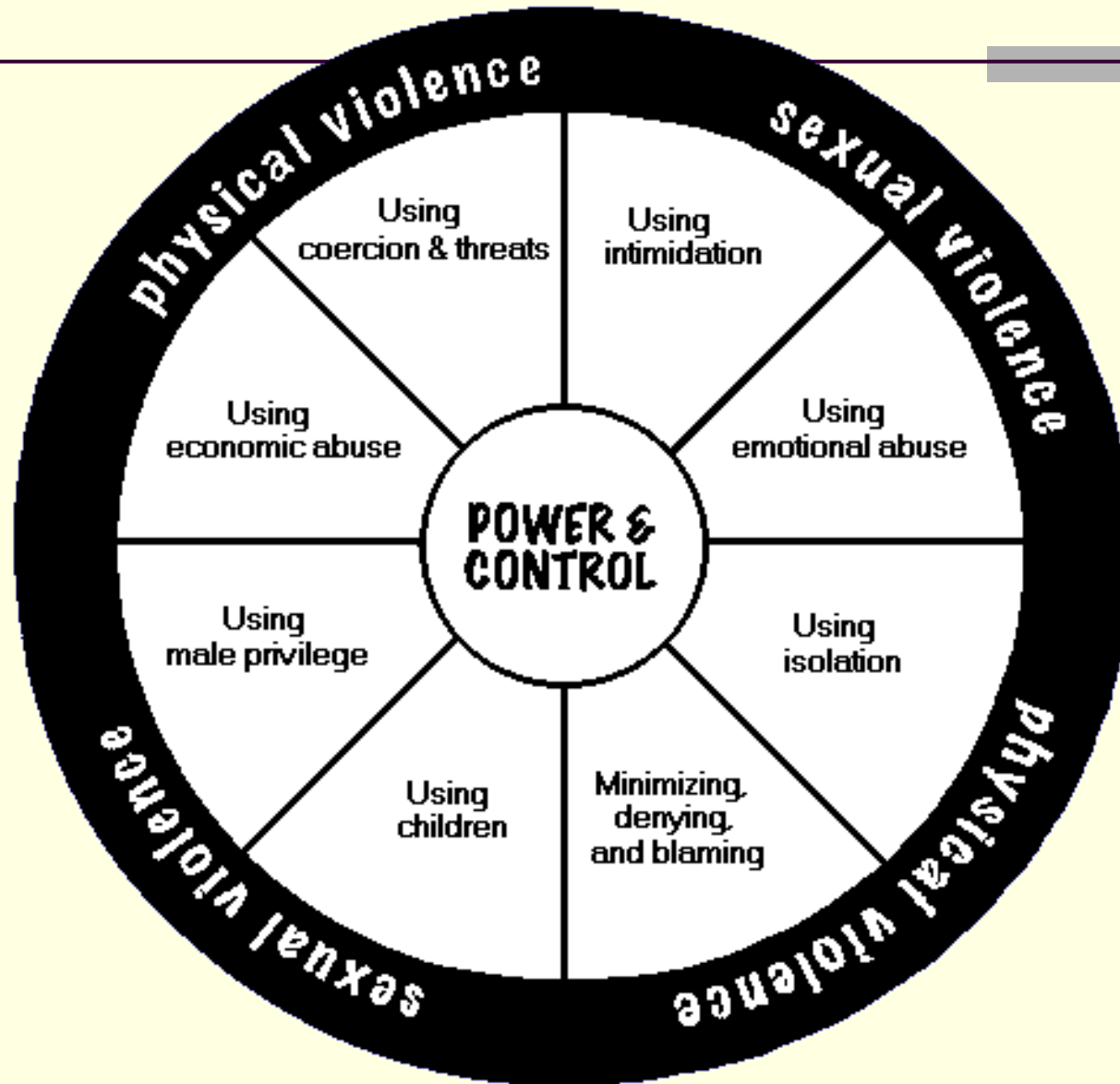
Assaultive

Coercive

Behaviors

Compliance

# Power and Control Wheel



# Snapshot of Violence

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Mending the Sacred Hoop: Native Videos  
Examining Domestic Violence Part I



# Observations

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- How did you feel or relate to the video?
- What are the safety concerns?
- What are the challenges of confidentiality for the victim?

# Safety Planning

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- One end of the continuum is ***imminent physical violence***
  - If she is not ready to leave how does she keep herself safe?

Further down the continuum is ***deciding to leave the batterer***

The most dangerous time for a woman as her batterer loses control over her & typically escalates the tactics

# Barriers to Confidentiality

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- Tribal Communities & the “Indian Telegraph”
- Rural communities – Scanners
- “For all my relations”
- Storytelling vs. Gossip
- Privacy & location of programs

# Strategies for Ensuring Confidentiality

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- Respect for the Safety of Women
- Leadership; be a role model
- Do not require written safety plan
- Use Sovereignty
  - *Create statutory privilege communications*
  - *Tribal Judges have the ability & authority to issue opinions*
  - *Look to your own common law or court decisions to see whether there were or are any type of privileges*

# Written Policies

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- Family Violence Option – Purpose
  - *Identify applicants who are abuse victims while protecting their confidentiality; how?*
  - *Refer abuse victims to domestic violence supportive services; who are they?*
  - *Waive TANF requirements that applicant currently not met because of abuse.*

# Closing Comments

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- Departments that manage TANF influence policies & procedures; education vs. social services
- Annual training on domestic and sexual violence affecting women
- Evaluate periodically for any unintended consequences
  - Examine your protocol for informing women
  - Review complaints or grievances on confidentiality
  - Review denials of waivers

# Resources

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- Mending the Sacred Hoop
- 202 East Superior Street
- Duluth, MN 55802
- 888-305-1650
- Resources
- [www.mshoop.org](http://www.mshoop.org)

# TRIBAL TANF AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COLLABORATIVE



**COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE OF  
IDAHO  
PLUMMER, IDAHO**



# CHALLENGES WE HAVE



- **Funding—programs federally funded**
- **Staffing—minimal staff for volume**
- **Limited Resources—lack of adequate office space**
- **Acceptance—denial more prevalent**
- **Remote, Rural communities**
- **Tribal Territorial Issues**
- **Lack of Anonymity**
- **Confidentiality**

# WAYS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES



- **Set priorities and goals.**
- **Think outside the box.**
- **Market your program within your department, to other Tribal Departments, Tribal Council, Tribal Community and surrounding community. Do community awareness trainings.**
- **Keep focused on your program's goals and priorities (Mission Statement). Client safety.**
- **Maintain professionalism.**
- **Know your community and culture.**

# CONFIDENTIALITY CHALLENGES



- **Reservations are commonly in small, remote areas.**
- **Everyone knows everyone else.**
- **Many people are related in some fashion.**
- **Tribal employment generally mostly native people.**
- **Tribe's cultures and values.**

# Ways to Overcome Confidentiality Challenges



- Confidentiality education and signed agreement from all employees.
- Signed client releases on both TANF and DV sides.
- Determine how communication will be the safest (e.g., use of approved forms, interoffice mail, confidentiality specific envelopes, mail, e-mail, or phone).
- Use of coding system instead of using clients name (keep reference to coding system in secure place).

# CONTINUED



- **Determine your program's need for documentation. Limit if possible.**
- **Practice what you preach. Be a good role model for your staff.**
- **Hold regular meetings such as case managing and/or CCR Team meetings.**

# EXAMPLES OF REFERRAL/REPORT FORM



**STOP VIOLENCE PROGRAM  
COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE  
CLIENT REFERRAL/REPORT FORM**

**REFERRAL**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Referral to** \_\_\_\_\_

**Client Code Symbol** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person Referring** \_\_\_\_\_

**Barrier Identification:**

\_\_\_\_ Health    \_\_\_\_ Custody    \_\_\_\_ Safety    \_\_\_\_ Employment    \_\_\_\_ Housing

\_\_\_\_ Child Abduction    \_\_\_\_ Family Support    \_\_\_\_ Parenting Classes

**ESTIMATED TIME TO REMOVE BARRIERS** \_\_\_\_\_

**REPORT**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Client was seen in office**    \_\_\_\_ Y    \_\_\_\_ N

**Client has completed**    \_\_\_\_ Attended all appts.

\_\_\_\_ Other

**CLIENT PROGRESS**

\_\_\_\_ Good  
\_\_\_\_ Fair  
\_\_\_\_ Poor

**Name of Reporter** \_\_\_\_\_

# WAYS TO MARKET YOUR PROGRAM



- **Definition—to sell (in this case promote your program).**
- **Outreach—other departments, Tribal Council, community using brochures, posters, media (e.g., Tribal paper and radio station).**
- **Community awareness tables set up at Pow Wows and community functions.**
- **Good customer service everywhere.**

# MARKETING CONTINUED



- Outreach to surrounding reservation community.
- Promote collaborative efforts with other Tribal departments, Tribal Council, and community organizations including neighboring DV Programs.



# COEUR D'ALENE TRIBAL STOP VIOLENCE AND TANF STAFF



## STOP VIOLENCE

- **Bernie LaSarte, 208-686-0900**
- **Angella Pulkownik, 208-686-5098**
- **Kathryn Jimenez, 208-686-5910**
- **Amanda Aripa, 208-686-5206**

## TANF

- **Janette Taylor, 208-686-5621**
- **Joey Buckner, 208-686-5621**



## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

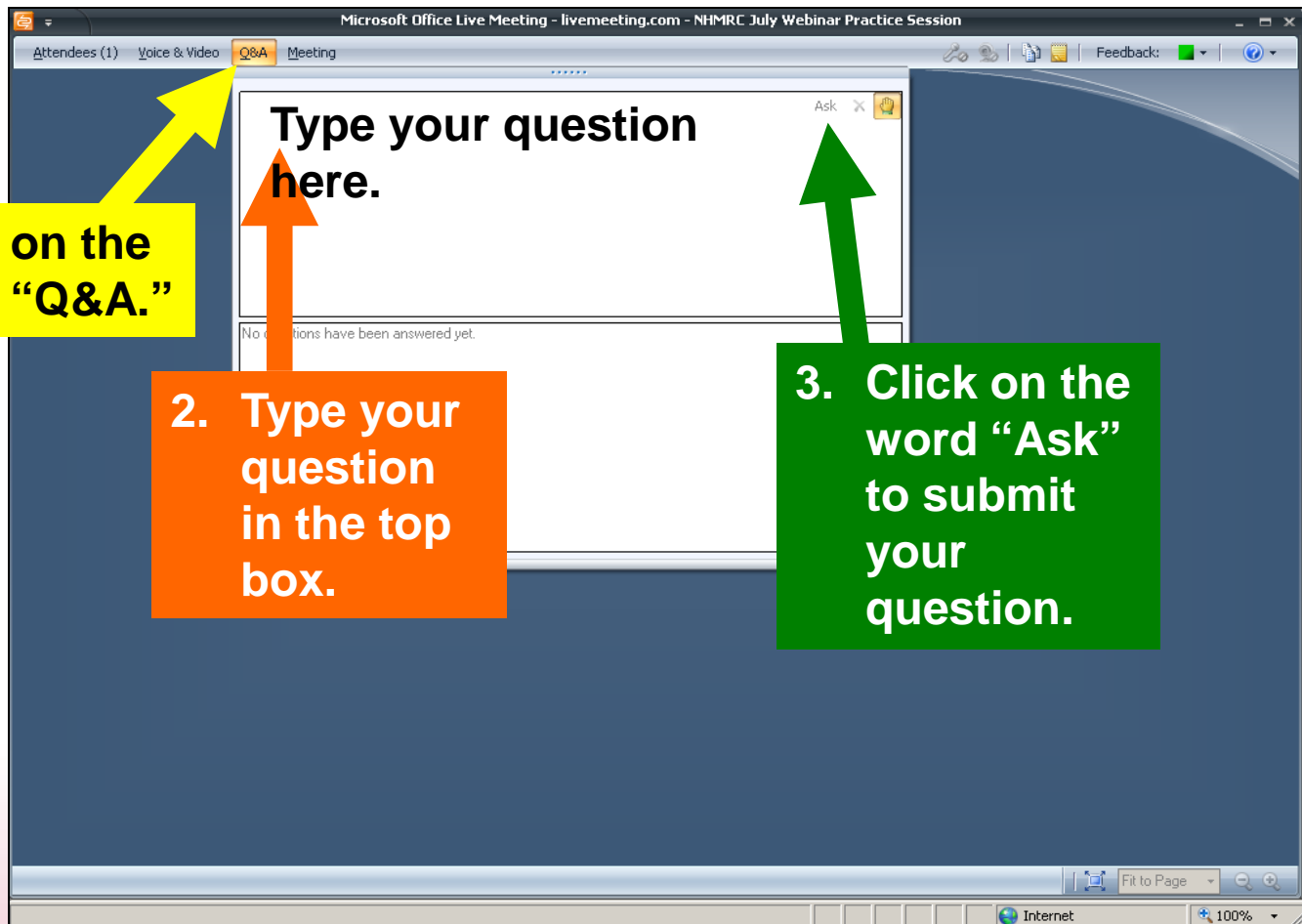
# Question and Answer Session

## How Do I Ask a Question?

1. Click on the word "Q&A."

2. Type your question in the top box.

3. Click on the word "Ask" to submit your question.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Office Live Meeting window titled "Microsoft Office Live Meeting - livemeeting.com - NHMRC July Webinar Practice Session". The window has a menu bar with "Attendees (1)", "Voice & Video", "Q&A", and "Meeting". The "Q&A" tab is active, showing a text input area with the placeholder text "Type your question here." and a button labeled "Ask" with a question mark icon. Below the input area, it says "No questions have been answered yet." The window also includes a "Feedback" section with a green indicator and a "Fit to Page" button in the bottom right corner.



## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

### Thank You for Participating in Our Poll.

Please help us to expand our network and reach a greater number of people by directing interested colleagues from your local and State networks and agencies to [peerta.acf.hhs.gov](https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov).





## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

**THANK YOU** for attending the Webinar!

A transcript and audio recording will be available in 5-10 days on the Welfare Peer TA Web site at [peerta.acf.hhs.gov](http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov).

Please be sure to register for additional upcoming Webinars through the Welfare Peer TA Network Web site.