ENCOURAGE TO ARREST ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2005 IN HELENA

Table of Contents

	Page Numbers
Goal Updates	**1**
New Grant Update And Plans For The Next 18 Months	**6**
Tribal Judges' Report	**6**
– Judge John Robinson	**6**
– Judge Maria Russell Big Fire	**11**
Victim Advocate Report	**11**
Council Membership	**12**
Victim Offender Dialogue	**12**
Meeting Evaluation Summary	**13**

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL'S FIVE GOALS:

Goal I. Address the inadequate reporting of Orders of Protection and firearm disqualifications into CJIN and NCIC.
- – CJIN Update
- – HotDocs

Goal II. Address the non-uniformity of the Full Faith and Credit (FF&C) training within the state.
- – Eleanor's trainings

Goal III. Grow the use of the Protection Order coversheet (first page).
- – Passport Project

Goal IV. Bring about the active support and commitment from major participants.

Goal V. Initiate and support key legislation

GOAL UPDATES

Goal I. Address the inadequate reporting of Orders of Protection (OOP) and firearm disqualifications into CJIN (Criminal Justice Information Network) and NCIC (National Criminal Information Center).

ORDER OF PROTECTION ENTRY INTO CJIN/NCIC – DAVID BLADE

David Blade, Compliance Auditor with the CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Bureau Training, Audit & Policy Section provided an informative presentation on the progress that has been made in the entry of Orders of Protection into CJIN/NCIC. David provided handouts that illustrated the improvement in NCIC Orders of Protection record quality from 2002 to present.

The main feedback David has received in the field from law enforcement is that the coversheets are great, but they can't always get them (properly completed) from the courts. Information provided on the coversheet is vital to law enforcement's statutory requirement to quickly and accurately enter protection order records in CJIN/NCIC. Most judges have been very receptive with a high level of implementation taking place in the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COLJ) and less progress in the District Courts.

Beth: We could share Dave's report at the COLJ spring conference, and we can ask Judge Krueger to talk about it at the District Court conference in May.

Matt: Which Tribes have the hardware and capacity to track OOP with terminals?

Nancy: The Crow, Blackfeet, and Flathead. Northern Cheyenne has it, though they aren't being entered right now. Fort Peck goes through Roosevelt County and is working on theirs. Rocky Boy goes through Hill County.

David reported that over one thousand officers can now get protection order "hits" through equipment in their cars.
In general, the ETA grant has provided a great deal of increased awareness re: OOP.

Question: Is there a difference between restraining orders and protection orders? In Gallatin County, a restraining order was issued and we discovered that restraining orders are not entered into NCIC .

Joan: The difference is restraining orders are typically used in non-intimate relationships, and do not fall under the same criteria (i.e. Brady) as do OOP.

CAPTURING STATISTICS – KAREN NELSON

Matt and Joan compiled a list of statistics that would be beneficial to capture and submitted that list to Karen Nelson, Information Technology Director of the Montana Supreme Court. Karen and Joan continue to work on implementing that list.

Constructing a system to capture that information will be a stepping-stone toward the interconnectivity we want on protection orders. We hope to have all the COLJ in Montana who handle more than 700 cases using FullCourt, a contemporary case management system, by July 2005 and a web-based central repository installed by September 2005.

As it is, each Court has its own case management system. They are not centralized in accumulating Orders of Protection and it makes it very difficult to share and connect information across courts. Our systems are decentralized. We are seeking to create a platform that not only will improve information sharing potential, but also support the disaster recovery requirements of Montana's courts.

Dave: Proof of service information would be a good thing to add to the statistic's wish list.

HOT DOCS - KATE BLADOW, TECHNOLOGY PROJECT COORDINATOR, MONTANA LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

HotDocs is a document-assembly software. The documents we are making available will be tested with consumers to make sure they are understandable and clear. The consumer can fill out the forms themselves and get help on-line with assistance from a live person. By answering a series of questions the person fills out a cover sheet and the order.

More forms for DV survivors will also be automated and available at MontanaLawHelp.org. Advocates can go to MontanaProBono.net. This will be up in the fall.

Question: How do Tribal people use this?
Kate: It will work for all Courts including the Tribal Courts.

Deb: The Friendship Center has been a pilot for this project. From both the advocates' and victims' perspectives, it has been great and has streamlined the process. We thought we would e-file these but solved it by Deb becoming a notary and we fax the orders to the Courts.

Question: Are the standards for these equal to those of the State?
Kate: They should be able to be used in pockets at first to insure adequate security and then eventually the whole state. Montana is ahead of the whole country on this.

Question: What will keep people from using these forms inappropriately?

Kate: We do our best to give as much information as possible; it's written at a 5th grade reading level. The good of having the forms available, we think, will outweigh the risks of abusing them. We remind ourselves the Judge is the determiner, and the person filling out the form has to come before the Judge and swear that it's true and correct. There are ramifications to providing false information; that helps curb a lot of petitioners making false claims. You can't go to a notary for a TRO. You have to go before a Judge or clerk.

In October, it has been suggested that Kate give us a progress report on HotDocs.

GOAL II. ADDRESS THE NON-UNIFORMITY OF THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT (FF&C) TRAINING WITHIN THE STATE.

FULL FAITH AND CREDIT TRAININGS - REPORTED BY DONETTA KLEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MONTANA COALITION OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Eleanor is with the Billings' police force today, so Donetta will recap her trainings since July: Eleanor presents on FF&C to law enforcement, Judges and advocates. More than 500 people have received the training, including the US Attorney's Office, Kalispell police, Northern Cheyenne advocates, Crow doctors and nurses, the Great Falls Police, a Blackfeet Chief, Judges and clerks, Missoula County Sheriff's personnel, Lake County Sheriff's Office, and others. Eleanor has been an attorney for 25 years and is a former Tribal prosecutor. When she is in an

area doing a FFC training; we can invite the local advocates to join the program. Her phone number is 446-9102.

Matt: These trainings are a huge part of our grant work. If your group or organization or Tribe is interested, please arrange a FFC training with Eleanor. There is also a FFC manual, which is 100 pages long available from the website at: www.doj.state.mt.us. under the Crime Victim Services drop down menu.

One of Eleanor's goals is to shrink the FFC manual to a handbook for officers to use in their cars. We expect this to be completed shortly. Eleanor had done a great job; meeting with her is very beneficial.

GOAL III. GROW THE USE OF THE PROTECTION ORDER COVER SHEET (FIRST PAGE).

PROJECT PASSPORT – JOAN ELIEL

The Passport Project is a national push to implement the use of a uniform first page for all Protection Orders. When a law enforcement officer goes to a call, they need to know if there is a valid Order of Protection (OOP) in place to insure the victim's safety as well as their own. It is also helpful for law enforcement to be able to validate the OOP through the NCIC database. This project began in Kentucky due to the fact that Kentucky has the most states bordering it and was therefore, an ideal pilot site.

When our council formed in 2002, Ali Bovingdon with the Montana AGO had already begun the process of a uniform first page. Our group took the form she had crafted, applied feedback from the field and our own experiences, tweaked the form to include tribal information and other modifications and began a statewide campaign using Karen Nelson, Ali and myself as a traveling road show to get the form implemented. A laminated first page and instruction sheet on how to complete the first page and OOP was created and distributed to all the clerks of the District and COLJ. The COLJ have adopted it carte blanche and the District Courts to a lesser degree. We have a very knowledgeable group assembled here who know what the problems are, and we are good at identifying ways to help victims. As Dave Blade reported earlier, we have seen substantial increases in the input of protection orders into CJIN and that success that can be attributed to the work of this council.

Part of our new goal for the next two years is to get the uniform first page implemented in our neighboring states of Wyoming, Idaho, North and South Dakota. In March, Matt and I were invited to serve as faculty at a National Passport Conference in Phoenix, and talk about Montana's success in getting the first page implemented and our work with the Tribal Courts. Two Tribal Court Judges were able to accompany us – Judge Mariah Big Fire from the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Court and Judge Brad Pluff from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court. They came back from the conference committed to implementing the First Page as part

of their Orders of Protection. In fact, Judge Big Fire has adopted not only the First page, but the entire form as the Northern Cheyenne Order of Protection.

GOAL IV. BRING ABOUT THE ACTIVE SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT FROM THE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS.

PROJECT PASSPORT – PART II – MATT DALE

As many of you remember we constructed lists and lists of important people to include on our Council. We realized in Arizona that we need people who are closer to the ground. We now have a better sense of how to move effectively. Through our association with Judges Pluff and Big Fire, the epiphany we experienced in Phoenix, was that Tribal Judges are key participants in implementing the first page in the tribal courts. While in the past we worked diligently to get the right people at our table, the Judges told us they could say it's so, and it's implemented! So now we understand the importance of having the Tribal Judges at our Council table. Judge Big Fire implemented not only the uniform first page, but adopted the entire state order immediately upon her return from Phoenix. The great turnout today by the Northern Cheyenne exemplifies the importance that their Nation has committed to this project.

A Tribal Judges Conference is also coming up at a Restorative Justice Conference, which Joan is spearheading. The conference will be held in Whitefish later this month. Eleanor is one of the presenters at the Conference and both Judge Big Fire and Judge St. Clair (from the Shoshone-Arapahoe Tribal Court in Wyoming) will be on hand to promote the use of the uniform cover page to the other tribal attendees.

Joan: Part of our goal is to reach out to our neighboring states. All of our neighboring states were present in Arizona. Matt facilitated the Wyoming group and that team is committed to implementing the first page – off and on the reservation.

GOAL V. INITIATE AND SUPPORT KEY LEGISLATION

UPDATES BY: ALI BOVINGDON AND MATT DALE

All of the bills the Department of Justice sponsored have passed or are still alive. The bills I will be reporting on were supported or requested by the Department of Justice. Some of these didn't come directly from this group, but many will be of interest to us. There are a lot of good things going on, and there is support for issues regarding domestic violence. Again, most of the following bills are still alive.

HB 90 extends the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team to 2008. This bill is ready to be signed by the Governor. This project seeks to learn more about the dynamics of domestic violence fatalities. Other bills revise the definition of victims to include reasonable apprehension of bodily harm and clarify a victim's right to attend court proceedings.

These passed.

Another bill allows domestic violence victims to route mail through The Office of Victim Services. It creates a dummy address to protect victims of DV, stalking and sexual assault. This also passed.

A third bill creates grants for the Board of Crime Control to administer to monitor domestic violence offenders. Flathead and Lewis and Clark Counties have programs that model the benefits of holding offenders accountable. The intent is that counties become self-sufficient within three years.

A fourth bill exempts a minor in possession offense from being issued when an underage victim or witness reports a sexual assault. The hope is this will encourage reporting by rape victims.

A fifth bill appropriates funds for rape kits and examinations and creates a "Jane Doe" option. This allows the victim to have the evidence collected and then can take up to 30 days to decide whether to prosecute.

A bill introduced by Representative Windy Boy increases penalties for partner family member assaults. Initially it had a huge fiscal note. Now the compromise position is mandatory jail time from 24 to 72 hours. The bill is currently tabled and probably won't survive.

There is a bill to fund legal assistance for indigent victims of domestic violence. The Montana Legal Services Association lost their Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding which will cause most counties to lose their legal representation. This bill will try to replace a portion of those resources.

A bill making DUI and stalking subject to fingerprinting will improve our criminal history information and registration.

Senator Perry's bill imposes a $10 fee on offenders to underwrite victim witness programs in counties.

Another bill sponsored by Senator Perry on behalf of the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team creates an automatic no contact order. It would give Judges the option of implementing a standing, blanket no contact order that would stay in effect for 72 hours or until the offender's appearance in court. What we're trying to prevent is harassment of victims.

A bill was proposed to revise the definition of Partner and Family Member Assault to include same sex couples and to make strangulation a felony. This bill died.

GRANT UPDATE AND PLANS FOR THE NEXT 18 MONTHS

MATT DALE

The following six goals are the roadmap and cumulative agenda for the Attorney General's Office. This Council is a large part of the grant's work:

Goal 1. Eleanor provides two trainings per month on Full Faith and Credit.
Goal 2. Eleanor's one-on-one trainings with Tribes.
Goal 3. An electronic information exchange and anything that works toward the ability to electronically share information.
Goal 4. Passport Project: We've made progress and we want to share it with our neighboring states.
Goal 5: Convene this group two times a year. This objective covers the cost of these meetings, with no cost absorbed by our Council members.

Goal 6: Our staff works with other agencies and organizations in collaboration to achieve our goals. We – Joan, Eleanor and Matt – are willing to undertake almost anything with anyone to achieve this. This meeting is an excellent illustration of this effort.

These six goals supersede our previous five goals, with a great deal of overlap and continuity with our original five goals.

JUDGE REPORTS

JUDGE JOHN ROBINSON – NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COURT

We have a team of experts from our Tribe who can address problems. I have been a Judge since 1979 in all sorts of capacities.

We're talking about enforcement and arrests. I want to qualify a few things. We have a criminal code, but not enough civil code to address these issues. We have a program called "Healthy Hearts." Our code is weak in that domestic violence does not include children in the home, while it does include spouses and former spouses. We have to patch together codes to address the children. In 1979, I started an effort to improve the code to address children. The laws we have now give us a lot of latitude. In 1988, I saw the loopholes and the codes we need. At the time domestic violence wasn't an offense; there was a $50 fee or 25 days in jail. Intoxication was $90 and 120 days in jail at the time. As we applied federal laws, I wondered how our Tribe applied these in pre-Reservation time.

To the Northern Cheyenne people, domestic abuse is a fairly recent phenomenon. Prior to 1883, there are few instances of reported abuse. A domestic abuse perpetrator was dealt with harshly and swiftly and in a unique fashion. A married woman had considerable legal status and if she was mistreated, she had the right to divorce her spouse, move to the home of her mother, and the perpetrator was subject to justice sanctioned by the Tribe and imposed by usually the women of the band.

A man named She Bear came home after a trip in the winter. When he got home, his wife was gone, there was no fire, and no food. He went to her mother's home, walked in on her and struck her in the face. Apparently he had been abusing her for some time and this is why she used the opportunity to leave him. This time, he hit her in the presence of his mother-in-law, who immediately hollered at him, jumped on his back, and stabbed him. The daughter grabbed a club and began beating him. He left and found nobody who would back him in his claim against his wife and mother-in-law. He eventually persuaded his wife to come home, and there were no reports of any other incidents of him abusing his wife. Other perpetrators were beaten by groups of women, had all their belongings destroyed, and occasionally set out on the prairie by the societies. Domestic abuse was rare, and dealt with severely. There was alot of incentive not to become a perpetrator.

1883 began the dark ages for the family institution of the Northern Cheyenne. The reservation era had begun. Children were forcibly removed from homes and placed into institutions such as government boarding schools and Christian boarding schools. Children as young as five years' old were unable to be with their families for up to 15 years. Some never returned, and those that did lost forever the opportunity to learn from their parents the skills, ethics, responsibilities,

duties, and traditional laws that governed spousal relationships. The government and the churches set the rules for relationships. In the American society at that time, women had a markedly lesser status in society than did Cheyenne women in the Cheyenne culture. American women were chattel with no legal status. They were not allowed to vote, participate in the government affairs, independently own property, enter into contracts, or even smoke in public. Women could not inherit property. Women could be beaten and killed by their spouse and authorities looked the other way because it was the man's right to take what measures he had to in order to control is household. It was a family affair, and a man had a near sacred role in controlling his spouse. A woman could be raped by her husband. If a woman spoke up against mistreatment, she was viewed as crazy and often locked up. The legal status of the foreign American women was ordained by the law and justified by the Christian bible. These were the teachings our people began receiving after 1883.

A man could no longer meet the needs of his family by hunting when the family needed meat. He could own no weapons. A man could no longer be a warrior to protect his family from harm. Practice of Cheyenne religion was forbidden and those who were caught practicing were punished. Our Tribe was forced to live within a specific geographical boundary, and could not freely travel. The people experienced for the first time as a nation, poverty. There was no work for a man, no identifiable role, and frustration sat in.

A Cheyenne person was not allowed to express feelings in this new era. A child would be physically punished by the authorities it they spoke up out of turn. An adult could be arrested, imprisoned, denied food rations, denied visitation with children, or other consequences if the agent did not like his attitude. A Cheyenne learned to stand in line with his hand out in order to feed and clothe his family. Most of the work that eventually became available was for women, leaving the men to care for the home and children. It was humiliating, a feeling that quickly turned into a loss of self worth, high stress and suppressed anger. Many families turned to alcohol. Alcohol created an opportunity to release the pent up anger but at a devastating expense to the family.

The equation is now humiliation plus stress plus anger plus poverty plus unemployment divided by the foreign government multiplied by alcohol and more recently drugs equals domestic abuse.

My personal view of domestic violence is that it is an illness that can be diagnosed, isolated, treated and held in remission. The treatment is summed up in my next equation. Abstinence from alcohol and drugs plus healthy attitude plus positive stress release plus regular physical and mental exercise plus healthy diet plus spiritual grounding equals the ability to cope. The ability to cope keeps a person mentally, spiritually, and physically healthy, and for most of us is a learned behavior.

In the year 2000, there were 75 charges of Domestic Violence. 100% of these included a second charge of Intoxication. There were no civil petitions for an order of protection. In 2001, the number of arrests jumped to 101, again all drug and alcohol related. 23 civil petitions for orders of protection were filed. In 2002, there were 116 arrests, and 63 orders of protection issued. In 2003, there were 102 arrests, and 60 petitions filed. In 2004, 106 charges of domestic abuse, and

42 petitions for orders of protection were filed. From October 1, 2004 until yesterday, 42 petitions have already been filed.

25% of the defendants in a criminal proceeding for domestic abuse plead guilty to the charge either at arraignment or in a plea agreement. The rest are dismissed for lack of probable cause to arrest the defendant, lack of evidence, and the victim refusing to testify.

By contrast, 75% of the civil petitions are granted.

If a person is convicted in criminal court, he or she must attend 25 sessions of anger management, usually get a drug and alcohol evaluation and follow all recommendations, and a fine of up to $5000 and a jail term of up to one year is imposed, with most of the fine and jail term suspended. An Order of Protection is not routinely issued in criminal matters.

Incidents of Domestic Violence may not have actually increased since 2001, but it is more likely that arrests and convictions did. This was due in part to increased training for the judges, police, and prosecutors in 2000 and 2001. Healing Hearts is a program that assists victims of domestic violence, and was the catalyst in ensuring we got the training. On going training is essential. The employee turnover for tribal employment and elected positions is extensive, creating a greater need for more frequent training.

So, how are we going to address domestic violence? Right now we are just shotgunning. We as individuals and tribal entities are concerned over the epidemic of domestic violence, and we are individually doing our best to convict the perpetrator and protect the victim, but we are not making enough headway. At the Court, we set have redefined “anger management counseling” to include counseling from a minister for those that are so inclined, and for the more traditional element, a perpetrator selects a respected elder whom the person will document the 25 sessions. These are sometimes conducted in a sweat lodge, but not necessarily. We have had some successes, but we are overlooking an important element of our society. In the Cheyenne culture, the smallest unit within the tribe is not the individual. This is another concept forced upon the tribe through the implementation of the Indian Civil Rights Act. The smallest unit of the tribe has always been the family. If someone committed violence upon his spouse, traditionally the victim was the spouse and her entire family. The role of the traditional judge was to allow the families of the victim and the perpetrator to determine restitution and rule on whether the restitution was sufficient to keep peace in the village. If the restitution was offered, ruled acceptable, and accepted, the matter was closed and could not be raised again. Often the admission by the perpetrator was sufficient for reconciliation with the injured spouse, but restitution was still necessary for the family. This is our modern shortcoming. We focus on rehabilitation of the perpetrator, protection of the victim, but are missing the mark by not treating the family for the disease. The avenue to heal is closed. We need to include the family in the treatment, but where do we start?

We start by bringing together the people who have an interest in eradicating domestic violence, and the power to act with authority. These are the tribal councilmen, judges, health professionals, mental health professionals, traditional leaders, police officers, prosecutors, recovery professionals, community leaders, school officials, social workers, victims advocates, church

officials, victims, and even perpetrators who have chosen to turn their lives around and are willing to disclose. We need to develop a strategic plan. I think it is important that we do not simply get together to decide that there is a law against domestic violence, and that we will work together to enforce federal law and create similar tribal legislation. We need to view domestic violence from the perspective that domestic violence is a disease with significant social ramifications that are contrary to our culture, destructive to family life, and infectious to the victim and children. We need to develop a unified approach to treat the disease in order that if at all possible, the family can be made healthy. We need to identify our strengths and weaknesses. Notable strengths are we are a small population of about 8,000 on a small geographical base with a people connected by a strong cultural base. A major weakness is the unique blend of tribal and federal entities with varying funding goals and objectives that do not overlap or sometimes even border has created an institutional unwillingness to think outside the box, an unwillingness to think first of what can be done to address the problem but instead think this is the court's problem or the police problem, not mine. Separate funding creates a desire to limit our scope of work in order to justify a specialization of spending that often rules out the capability to work effectively with others towards a common goal. If the Tribal Council sets eradication of domestic abuse as a priority, then funding will be shaped toward that goal, and perceived barriers to working together in a team effort will vanish. MOA's are a wonderful tool.

We all have the responsibility to challenge this disease.

The act of arresting the offender should serve as the start of the diagnosis and treatment of the disease, not the start of punishment. The entire family needs treatment for the disease. Arrest the disease and you may not have to arrest the children infected by the disease when they become adults.

We need to begin preventive medicine through a massive and on-going community education program beginning in pre-schools, all the way through the school years, at public community meetings, and even going door to door. The tribal council can take the lead by speaking up publicly against domestic violence. Churches need to denounce domestic violence. Families need to know they can safely disclose domestic violence without fear of punishment. We need to take domestic violence out of the family closet of secrets. You can't treat a secret.

We will not make a dent in domestic violence unless we get serious about treating drug addiction and alcoholism hand in hand with domestic violence. A person will never learn to cope if they are an active addict or alcoholic. That's like treating insanity with aspirin.

I am not advocating decriminalizing domestic violence. I am advocating seeking solutions by examining our own culture, and not simply and thoughtlessly enforcing federal law. We should view the federal law as the alternative to address those few offenders that are incapable or unwilling to accept the treatment for the disease.

JUDGE MARIA RUSSELL BIG FIRE – NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

I've made it known to our perpetrators and prosecutors that I have zero tolerance for domestic violence. The domestic violence code I've requested hasn't been enacted; it's currently

tabled. I wanted words added about stalking. We have requested changes regarding choking and strangling. It's not taken seriously enough and amending these codes is our priority. I've spoken to the President of the Council about this, and hopefully the Council will remain in place for a time.

Matt: Please keep us informed of your progress and changes regarding the law.

VICTIM ADVOCATE REPORT

SUSIE COUGHREN, CONFEDERATED SALISH KOOTENAI TRIBE

On our Reservation it's called Concurrent Jurisdictions. The perpetrators are convicted in Tribal Court and then the third offense is considered a felony. In 2004, in Lake County there were 795 responses to domestic violence calls. 465 or 475 of these came from the Tribe – a huge amount.

What's happening to the kids? They aren't even mentioned by the officers in their reports. This is only one little county. There is a blight.

What we're doing: The Tribe sought a Memorandum of Understanding with Sanders County. Tootie Welker wrote a grant for a civil attorney to do divorces and child custody cases. They have complex problems. We're coordinating with Child Protective Services, which is especially important because children are so frequently involved. I want to know how to help the kids.

Regarding the cover sheet, and where it quotes the gun law, the federal laws regarding guns don't apply to Reservations. I still have questions about this. We need to remedy this, and change the federal law or the Reservation laws. Initially the cover sheet felt like too much paper work, but now it's being used regularly.

Dave: Another problem I noticed was the number of no contact orders that were being used instead of Orders of Protection.

Jim: They do have them.

Joan: Is it a law enforcement training issue?

Susie: Partially.

Maria: On our Reservation, we split the group into two and trained the police force and Court Judges in two shifts.

Susie: We also don't have enough officers. Also we have a large amount of turnover in dispatchers. We also need to get our officers to write better reports. They already work 12 hour shifts.

Jim: Our Judges are good; they put a bond on everyone. The jail is full all the time. I have clients I've represented 25 times. We aren't addressing the root of the problem.

Jason: The main thing is to hold them accountable. If, I as a prosecutor won't, who will?

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

We have contacted everyone who was unable to attend today's meeting and who is currently serving on the Council and asked them whether they would like to continue to be a part of this council . To simplify this process we will assume everyone here today who is a part of the council will be willing to serve another two year commitment. If that's not the case, please let Matt or Joan know.

Do we have any gaps in membership?

Joan: I feel we need to have more Tribal Judges, along with everyone else here, to get things implemented.

Marilyn: A CASA worker to represent and protect the interests of children.

Shirley: I'm with Urban Indians. I need Eleanor to come because I'm dealing with child abuse. I'm trying to work with the police department in Great Falls, but they are afraid of Native Americans. They say there's nothing they can do unless there is blood. We call DFS and they say there's nothing they can do. I get nothing for kids. Great Falls High lost 72 kids, CMR High School lost 4, and they don't know to where. I'm dealing with agencies that are dysfunctional.

If we think of additions for the Council, we can contact Joan or Matt with our suggestions.

VICTIM OFFENDER DIALOGUE

This is not one of our goals, but thought it would be of interest to this council. The dialogue is with incarcerated individuals. It's victim-driven. If a victim wants to meet with their offender while he or she is in custody or on probation or parole, they may initiate it. Perpetrators cannot initiate this, but victims can and if we hear of anyone interested we can get in touch with the Department of Corrections. It's brand new and there is a partnership with us to make sure it's victim-sensitive. Victims frequently need closure and this is about healing for victims with a holistic approach. The offender can decline the contact, and must admit they perpetrated the crime in order to participate.

MEETING EVALUATIONS SUMMARY

1. What were the most productive or helpful or interesting segments of today's meeting?

– Always learn a lot.
– Open dialogue about some existing problems.

– I was impressed with the Native American participation. The more we understand about Reservations – their beliefs and laws – the more we can cross the lines that prohibit helping victims. I was also impressed with the legislation that was processed by Matt, Joan, etc.
– Discussion of progress of goals and status of things now.
– Information regarding Tribal law and courts, as well as sociological and cultural perspective of domestic violence.
– Different points of view, perspectives, and life experiences. It's great to see the wide variety of interested and caring people.
– Information from the Tribal members.
– All the updates were helpful. Judge Robinson's presentation was especially thought-provoking. Gaining a better understanding of Tribal issues was important and it was encouraging to see improvements in reporting to CJIN even if there's still a long way to go.
– Presentations by Tribal representatives and involvement from all of the Tribal representatives present today.
– Judge Robinson's narrative.
– Information about CJIN and NCIC. Orders of protection – first page, Project Passport, and HotDocs.
– The most interesting thing was the NCIC and the Brady law not being effective on the Reservation.
– Tribal presentations.
– Round table.
– Kate Bladow – the internet forms and how they will be accessible to everyone. I will want to keep up-to-date on this. The information on CJIN.
– Discussions on protection orders and CJIN / NCIC.
– All of it.
– Judge Robinson's presentation.

2. What were the least productive or helpful or interesting segments of the today's meeting?
– None.
– There were none; it was all good.
– Lunch.
– All segments were interesting and useful information.
– Tone down and focus some of the rambling stories.
– It was all good.
– None, it was all either helpful or interesting.
– I am amazed that many victims and witness advocates are operating outside the State law!! We need some education regarding State law. How about a question and answer session with Mike McGrath!!

3. Did you accomplish what you wanted to accomplish? If so, what subjects or issues or topics were they? What, if anything, did you get out of the meeting?
– I'd like to see more closure and solutions to problems expressed. Also, maybe we could have follow-up on unresolved problems in future meetings.
– Mostly information and understanding of how many differences there are in our great state.

– Possibly getting law enforcement trained locally. Up-to-date on legal forms and legislation.
– Information regarding Tribal law and courts, as well as sociological and cultural perspective of domestic violence.
– Yes.
– Learning more about forms and actions from John Robinson.
– Yes. I appreciated the good participation (increased numbers and diverse representation).
– We are moving toward better communication between state, Tribal and federal government which is a major feat – one often discussed, but rarely accomplished.
– Yes, information on CJIN / NCIC.
– Learned about Protection Orders and how domestic violence is in other areas.
– Knowledge.
– I learned a lot and met a lot of nice people.
– Yes. Protection orders information.
– I had no preconceived notions.
– Yes.

4.a. What changes and improvements do you suggest for future meetings like this one?
– Run it from 9:30 to 3:30.
– Location – more central in state.
– Bigger meeting room.
– More time.

– Maybe not only focus on the victim, but also focus on the children involved.
– Involvement from other Tribes, because I feel it would be a great benefit.
– Establish measurable goals and objectives. Assign areas for research and report.
– None.
– Larger room.
– None.
– Shouldn't we have a Child Protective Service person on this committee? Where are the District Court Judge's representatives? CASA members? DPHHS member? Indian Health member?

4.b. What would you like to have left exactly as it was at this meeting? Keep these characteristics:
– Schedule.
– We have a great facilitator; keep Beki. Your timeliness is appreciated.
– Great meeting facilitator, keeps meeting moving.
– Good facilitation.
– Good variety of ideas and subjects.
– Openness.
– Lunch was great.
– The relaxed atmosphere. The mutual respect for all spoke – the range of participants.

5. Any other feedback, suggestions or ideas?
– So great to see this Council invite and address domestic violence problems in Indian Country. Thanks for including us.

– Good meeting.
– Time and facility are great.

October 28 meeting plans
Kate will give us a progress report on HotDocs.