

LIGHTLY EDITED FILE

NRCDV Webinar – Collaborations and Connections
Between Tribal Child Support Agencies and Tribal
Domestic Violence Providers: Resources to Make It
Real

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Remote

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Welcome, everyone, to this webinar, "Collaborations and

Connections Between Tribal Child Support Agencies and Tribal Domestic Violence Providers."

We're thrilled to be able to come together to offer this webinar to you during domestic violence awareness month, and we would like to take a moment to commemorate the lives of those we have lost and to celebrate those who continue to confront the issue and thrive and overcome and continue to pursue a life that is free of violence, and as we all work together to ensure that survivors and their families have long-term social and emotional well-being.

My name is Ken Noyes and I'm a senior program specialist at the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program in the Family and Youth Services Bureau at the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. That puts me out of breath there.

I'm an advocate for the rights of domestic violence survivors and abused and neglected children for more than 20 years.

I am also the former executive director of the D.C. coalition against domestic violence.

We have some great speakers here for you today and a focused agenda as well as a wonderful mix of participants from national and tribal levels.

Joining me today as presenters are Michael Hayes from the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement.

Charged with supporting and implementing family centered child support innovations and national child support demonstration grant projects.

In that role, he leads OCSE's domestic violence policy and program development, heads up their parenting time portfolio and manages the state access and visitation grant program.

Prior to his position, Michael spent 12 years in the Texas Child Support Division where he was the Deputy Director for Family Initiatives.

We also have with us today Tami Masuca.

She's a program specialist in OCSE region 5 office in Chicago.

She provides oversight, training, and technical assistance to the State of Minnesota Child Support Division, the four tribal IV-D programs within Minnesota, and to three tribal IV-D programs in Wisconsin.

Prior to coming to OCSE in 2013, Tami worked within the tribal child support agencies since 1999 and with a tribal domestic abuse shelter from 1993 to 1999.

Lisa Skenandore is the interim area manager of social services as of April 2015 when the position became

vacated.

She holds the role of director of the Oneida Nation Child Support Agency which became a comprehensive tribal child support program in April of 2008.

She began her career in child support when their tribe received its startup grant in 2006.

Prior to this position she worked for her tribe in various positions within the social services area for 18 years.

In June of 2014, Lisa was elected as president of the National Tribal Child Support Association.

Next we have Jacquelyn Pische.

Jacquelyn Pische is the IV-D director of the Forest County Potawatomi tribe in Wisconsin.

Jackie received her paralegal degree in 1994 and worked as a litigation paralegal until 2001.

In 2003, she accepted a position with the Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Child Support Agency and serves as the IV-D director.

Jackie is licensed to practice law in the Forest County Potawatomi tribal court.

She is the past president and current treasurer of the National Association of Tribal Child Support Directors.

We also have with us Sandy Rourke.

Since November 2011, Sandy has been the St. Regis

Mohawk Tribe's IV-D program director in Akwesasne, New York, which is located in the most northern part of New York state, and the Akwesasne territory straddles the U.S. and Canada border.

Akwesasne territory is within Franklin County, New York, Quebec, Canada, and Ontario, Canada.

Sandy supervises and oversees all aspects of the child support development including budget development, staff and program components while ensuring tribal and federal regulations are met.

I'm gonna review today's agenda, and then we will dive right into it.

As you can see from slide two, we will provide brief overviews of the family violence prevention and services program as well as the child support program. We will identify key connections between domestic violence and child support, introduce new resources that support collaboration and promote safe access to child support, and highlight the successful examples of work being done by the Oneida Nation, the Forest County Potawatomie tribe, and the St. Regis Mohawk tribe.

Next we will take a poll of everyone.

>> Okay, we are working on loading the polling question now.

Sorry for the delay.

Please sit tight.

Okay, so the question will be, we're gonna ask you to note your primary identification.

The options are -- and actually I'm -- yes, so the options are tribal child support program, um, oh, I'm so sorry, tribal child support program manager, slash, administrator, tribal child support frontline staff. Tribal domestic violence program manager, slash, administrator.

Or tribal domestic violence program frontline staff.

We are finalizing the question now.

And you should be seeing it on your screen.

Please select the answer that pertains to your role.

We'll share the results as soon as they come in.

We see that people are responding.

Okay, we're gonna go ahead and share the results now.

So it looks like we've got 41% identified as tribal child support program managers and administrators.

And another 15% identified as tribal child support frontline staff.

So it looks like we do not have tribal domestic violence program staff on board today, Ken.

We'll go ahead and withdraw the question, and we can move forward.

>> Great, thank you.

If you could pop the slides back up, that would be great.

Next slide, please.

And the next one.

Next one.

One more.

One more.

And I'm not seeing -- sorry, everyone, I'm not seeing the PowerPoint anymore.

I'm not seeing the session anymore.

There we go.

Excellent, thank you.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which is also known as FPVSA, was signed into law in 1984. Just celebrated its 30th anniversary a little over a year ago, and we wanted to just present to you the enormity of the problem in terms of data.

And as you can see here, intimate partner violence, sexual violence and stalking are horrendous in this country.

20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States.

Next slide, please.

According to the Centers for Disease Control National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, which is

the first of its kind, in 2010 was released in -- had polled 18,000 people, by telephone, and then was followed up a year later and the most recent report is from 2014, shows that 27% of women and 12% of men have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner and reported significant short or long term impacts such as post traumatic stress disorder symptoms and injury.

Next slide.

So we want to talk a little bit about FPVSA funding purposes.

FPVSA is designed to assist states and tribes in efforts to prevent domestic and dating violence, so this is what we all know as either direct formula grants to states or direct formula grants to tribes which then fund domestic violence shelter programs and/or nonresidential programs.

FPVSA also provides for a national domestic violence hot line and provides for technical assist and training relating to programs to states, tribes, public agencies, community based programs ant the public.

Next slide.

FPVSA is primarily a formula administered program pursuant to statute.

70% of overall congressional annual appropriations go

to states and territory grants where those awards are based on population formulas and they're managed by a state FPVSA administrator.

10% of the congressional appropriations is done by tribal grants, and the awards to tribes and tribal organizations through an annual application to receive funding.

10% of the appropriation goes to state domestic violence coalitions and those are awarded to designated statewide domestic violence coalitions as described in the FPVSA, and they are 501(c)(3) organizations and also apply annually.

Next slide, please.

So the funding to tribes and tribal programs, as I said a minute ago, is 10% of the approved appropriation which is based on tribal enrollment numbers from the us census, the awards are based on base allocation and the number of tribes applying.

We have also recently created a framing paper for the history of award amounts and we can provide that information to you all via email at a later time.

Next slide.

So this gives us the break down for fiscal year 15 tribal awards.

As you can see, the total congressional appropriation

was 13,500,000.

The range of awards from was 16,356 to \$1,472,000.

The number of total tribes funded were 256 and the number of grants, 140, the number of grants at the base level of \$16,356 were 184 of the 256.

So we know that we all need greater resources, we challenge everyone to work with their elected rinks to see if -- if greater resources can be put into these grants specifically.

Next slide, please.

This is the data from the performance progress report in the FPVSA program as of 2014, the data for 2015 won't come in until dye.

In 2014, we funded 1,250 domestic violence shelter programs, about 250 non-shelter programs and 137 tribal domestic violence programs and as I briefly mentioned, primarily FPVSA funded programs are for shelter services, but they are also for crisis response as well as the really critical services that you see there including counseling and safety planning.

We had just under 900,000 women served, nearly 75,000 men served, and nearly 300,000 children served.

Next slide.

This gives -- this just is a overall slide that tells us that we have 56 state and territorial domestic

violence coalitions.

The territorial coalitions are the Virgin Islands and then the four Pacific territories, Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa.

I'm sorry, those are three and then the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico and D.C. are actually for purposes of FPVSA allocated as states.

We also have 52 FPVSA state administrators.

The territorial state funds actually go through the office of community services and through the community block grants.

Next slide, please.

FPVSA also funds with 6% of the annual appropriation national, cultural, and special issue resource centers. They are known as the domestic violence resource network, the DVRN.

And this slide shows you the range of issues that are addressed.

We have a national health resource center, we have a resource center on domestic violence.

There are culturally specific -- go ahead to the next slide.

The culturally specific special issue resource centers address civil and criminal justice, Asian Pacific islander, domestic violence issues, there's the

institute on domestic violence in the African-American community, and the national Latina network for healthy families and communities.

Next slide.

FPVSA is also the primary federal funder of the national domestic violence hot line, which answers approximately 22,000 calls a month.

They are -- they will be celebrating their 20th anniversary next year, and part of that funding is for the national teen dating abuse help line which is also -- love is respect, a partnership between the hot line and "Break the cycle."

We've also added the national sexual assault hot line or RAINN here even though it is not included in the actual statute or funded, but is provided as a resource for you.

Next slide.

So back in January, the FPVSA program staff, the formula team, broke up into regions and this map just shows you the regional map that HHS follows and it has offices in all of those regions and the staff has split up the regions so that they have portfolios of tribal nations and tribal organizations as well as states and state domestic violence coalitions, and the principal reason for this was to be able to ensure that

closer collaborations and connections are created through the FPVSA program to help support survivors ultimately but to ensure that, to the extent that tribes and tribal nations are interested and it is appropriate, certainly understanding that tribal sovereignty is critically important here, but if tribes wish to pursue these collaborations, that the FPVSA program be a part of helping to make those connections with state domestic violence coalitions and states.

Next slide, please.

So we just want to make sure that we're all on the same page as Michael and the rest of our presenters move forward.

About what is domestic violence, lots of folks think about this differently, so this is the FPVSA program's working definition.

It doesn't match exactly what is in the statute, but we just recently published, a notice of proposed rule making on October 14th with public comment ending on December 14th where the regulatory definitions pick up on what you see here.

Domestic violence being a pattern of abusive behaviors that adults and adolescents use against an intimate part center, and it is characterized by one partner's effort to control the other by use of a range of

tactics.

So at this time, it is now my pleasure to turn the webinar over to Michael Hayes from the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement.

>> Thank you very much, Ken.

And I'm just gonna check to make sure that my volume is okay.

If it's not --

>> Loud and clear.

>> Okay, great.

So thanks again to the FPVSA program, Family Youth Services Bureau for their partnership in putting on this webinar and to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence for hosting and providing the technology to make this all happen.

Thank you and for putting together our survey, poll at the very last minute, that was great, great work on the fly.

And I also am really pleased to have our three tribal directors and my colleague in one of our regional offices, Tami Masuca, to share their expertise.

And really they are the ones with the expertise that's going to be I think most valuable for you today so I'm gonna frame the discussion as to why the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement has picked up its efforts

around promoting collaborations and connections between the child support program and domestic violence agencies.

Just to kind of frame our conversation before we turn it over to Tami and the three tribal directors.

So I think there's kind of two factors that are driving some of this, right, because there are the survivor concerns about child support, so that's one reason for us to have collaborations and connections between the D.V. coalitions and service providers and child support agencies, and survivor concerns are varied.

There's concern that filing for child support is gonna lead to this increased contact and harassment.

There's a clear concerns about address confidentiality and how their address may be -- and personal contact information may be made available.

And located by the abuser.

I think there's also this, you know, the whole filing for and/or trying to get child support can trigger greater violence.

If, you know, thinking about the definition Ken used about domestic violence, and economic coercion being part of that definition, if a tribal child support agency is engaged in collecting child support from a batterer and distributing it then to the family, that

is really thrown the balance of power off there, and thrown that economic coercion -- stood it on its head in many ways, so that can trigger retaliation.

Another reason for this increased focus is the new understanding that we're gaining in the child support system about the incidents of domestic violence and its coexistence in the child support program, and so thinking about how, for child support agencies, this impacts our ability to effectively driver child -- deliver child support services.

So some new data that's just been made available on this is that one in ten unmarried mothers who sign a paternity form at the hospital report domestic violence with the father.

For those of us who work in child support, I'm thinking about those voluntary paternity documents, it's not a very voluntary document if a mom is being coerced by a battering dad to sign that acknowledgment of paternity. Then if you look at the rate of domestic violence among mothers who are in the child support program, that almost four out of ten report having had some domestic violence from the other parent, and 1/3 of mothers in the child support system report domestic violence as one reason for ending their relationship with the other parent.

So clearly within the child support program, there's this incidence of domestic violence, but perhaps even more troubling is that in this new survey research, almost -- almost half of mothers, it was like 48% of mothers who have no formal child support order and are receiving no informal support, report domestic violence with the other parent.

And what we don't know is how many of those mothers have an acre -- haven't accessed the formal child support system out of their fear, that there's some older research out there that found that 90% of domestic violence survivors would like to pursue child support if they could do so safely.

And so the fact that many mothers have opted out of the formal child support system when there's domestic violence present is especially troubling for us. Thinking about people maybe not getting the child support they need out of their fear.

I want to emphasize, this is not data that was specific to the American Indian community, the Native American community.

It was pulled from the state of Texas, statewide, but I think it does give us a window into some of what is happening among families in the child support system. So OCSE has put together two new -- two brand-new

resources for supporting collaborations between domestic violence programs and the child support program and building safer access to child support services.

One of them is an information memo that went out two days so you in the tribal child support programs probably already got this link to the information memo on safe access to child support services, and then in that information memo is the new inventory for the title 40 child support program and planning resource to enhance safe access to child support.

We will also be sending both of those documents in the follow-up to everyone who registered for this webinar, so if you didn't get the I.M. earlier in the week, the information memo, sorry, used an acronym there, but if you didn't the information memo earlier in the week, you will get that in the follow-up from the webinar. And I'm just gonna give you a very high overview of these two new resources.

So it really is a road map for implementation, and the value of establishing a partner and rather than killing two birds with one stone, I like to call this feeding two birds with one seed.

It leads to positive outcomes in the child support program because it builds capacity for us to provide

child support services to survivors and it promotes economic stability for survivors by connecting them to child support services.

And we note some of the data exists that financial reasons, financial instability is one of the primary reasons that domestic violence survivors either stay with or go back to a battering relationship, while child support can be a really valuable part of that mix of building economic security so that a survivor can stay in a violence-free environment.

And so I'm just gonna give you a very high level overview of what's in the these documents.

So there's some guidance of convening a first meeting that brings together key leaders from child support and domestic violence programs.

And part of that means identifying who in each of those areas would be, and especially within the child support program, would be a domestic violence partnership lead, who's gonna help keep the fire going and nurture this along because you don't want to have just one meeting and then everybody say we had our meeting and then go your separate ways.

Important to have some leadership identified in both the child support program and the domestic violence program.

And important part of that first meeting as well could be just to describe the services that each of you provide.

So how does child support work and how does domestic violence local program services work.

It's important to identify critical issues for survivors, maybe some short term responses, for the child support program to listen to the input from the advocates, the program staff in working with survivors who maybe have gone through child support and had some struggles as they've gone through that.

And so identify those critical issues for short term response.

I think it's important to identify clear expectations and con straining factors, so what's possible, you know, as Ken highlighted, funding being an issue, I think it's also all that maybe an issue on the domestic violence provision side of the equation, it's also a challenge on the child support side.

So, you know, what's possible and what are the con straining factors.

And then to lay out a clear plan for next steps and whose going to follow up on those next steps.

The inventory tool that's a part of the new resource touches upon a number of key areas.

It doesn't provide answers.

It really just lays out the questions that we hope that the child support program and partnership with the domestic violence coalition or domestic violence providers will address, and so this is -- it's questions about screening for and promoting disclosure of domestic violence in the child support process, the procedures for that.

It's identifying if there are any kind of specialized case management for cases with domestic violence disclosure and what might be possible there.

Identifying safety procedures for courts or hearings or in-office conferences.

Laying out what kinds of training child support workers might need or have had.

Advocates who are working in the domestic violence field, they have a better understanding of how child support works.

They can help survivors navigate that system.

And so that helps the survivor get the services safely.

It also helps communicate better.

Questions about the legal practice in the judicial context.

And then finally, kind of identifying some ways to promote accountability and feedback so that we know if

the changes we're making in the child support program are working or not for survivors.

Then I just wanted to highlight a couple of examples of first follow-up actions.

I'm hopeful that Tami and Jackie and Lisa and Sandy will also address some of the first important -- kind of follow-up steps or first steps to building this kind of connection.

So I think some easy first steps include putting together domestic violence resources and referral guides and making sure that all child support staff have those so that when someone discloses in the child support process that staff have a good list of resources and know how to make referrals to those local service providers.

I think it's important for domestic violence resources to be displayed in child support offices and lobbies and courts.

It starts to communicate that we talk about that here. We talk about domestic violence here.

That it's important for us to know.

I've seen in fact examples of where people have put information and the women's rest room in the child support office because they feel like that's a safe private place where a person might go if they were

feeling like they need to collect their thoughts and they could look at that privately.

I think it's really great to invite child support staff to attend DV conferences and to provide a child support 101 to DV advocates in that.

And another really good first step is just to row the child support application and refine questions there related to domestic violence.

And then for domestic violence advocates, I think it's really valuable to attend and observe child support hearings.

See what happens in that world.

One final thing I want to highlight here, and this is some policy guidance that the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement that we put in December of 2012, a PIQ just standing for a policy information question, but -- so it's a policy document, and in that it highlights ways that federal child support funds can be used to promote partnerships with other programs outside of the child support system.

And it highlights many other kinds of partnerships that I pulled out the specific points that are related to domestic violence.

And so you see here that federal IV-D funds can be used to provide information about family violence and

screening and for referrals to develop education and outreach materials and curricula, to promote safe access to child support.

And also to even to create domestic violence units that create trained case workers, that include trained case workers to provide specialized child support services for survivors.

So there's clear guidance in that PIQ, that policy document, about what is an allowable use of IV-D funds. There is a whole bunch of resources.

This is the home page that highlights training resources, desk cards, public information that can be used for -- to educate survivors.

So with that, I want to pass it now to the real experts, and the first one you're gonna hear from is Tami Masuca who is in our regional office, and brings, though, a very deep background of working in tribal domestic violence and tribal child support programs.

So Tami, I'm gonna turn to over to you.

>> Thank you, Michael, and thank you, Ken.

Initially I had a couple screens that I wanted to go over the information about tribal child support programs themselves.

And this is was for the primary purpose of any domestic violence staff that were online, and unless if anybody

has joined us since we initially did the poll, I'll touch briefly on this because most child support staff should already know this information.

>> Hi, Tami, if I could just interrupt.

It seems we do have a couple participants who do identify as coming from DV programs, but if we could just take a quick poll.

Can you launch the feedback?

We're gonna do a quick poll, a yes or no.

And if you see the yes or no poll, if you could just click yes if you are representing a domestic violence tribal program, that would be great.

If you are representing a domestic violence domestic violence tribal program, that would be great.

Okay, so perhaps -- we see one person responds yes.

So up to you, Tami, how you to want to proceed.

There is at least one or two participants.

>> Okay, well, thank you.

So I'll go ahead and just talk a little bit about the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996.

That was a direct result of welfare reform legislation regarding child support issues, was the first availability to tribes to get funding to establish a child support program.

And then with the new legislation included -- for startup programs, there were nine initial tribal child support programs that started with that new funding, and they were programs that were pretty much ready and able to just start doing child support services.

And then in March of 2014, OCSE published the final rules, and then that federal regulation that gave funding available to any tribal organization who wanted to start a child support program and gave them funding to be able to develop a program and to establish their policies and their procedures and tribal codes and whatever.

The start-up funding available for tribes is 100% federal funding for the first two years.

After that, they would transition to what we call a comprehensive child support program, and for years one through three, the tribe would receive 90% federal funding, and then starting in year four going forward, they would receive 80% federal funding.

The 10 or 20% funding would have to be matched by the tribe either in cash or in kind.

So as of today, we have 59 comprehensive tribal child support programs and 4 tribes that are in their startup phase that are working on developing a program to get it over to a comprehensive status.

Based on the federal regulations that the tribes have to follow, they do -- the tribal child support programs follow 45 -- 309.

State child support programs follow the regulations in 45, CFR302.

But there are some basic requirements that both states and tribes have to do, and those are listed here.

They have to establish paternity.

Establish, enforce and modify child support orders and locate parents and their assets.

So with states and tribes working together, along with their federal counterparts, child support agencies really have to coordinate and collaborate with each other to be able to provide the most quality services to the children and families that they serve.

And so many tribal agencies lack some of the resources that states have, so for instance, some of the tribes do all of their paperwork and their case management manually, just pen and paper.

Other tribes have opted to use their state automated system for case management.

So depending on where the tribe is with their program, they have to have or may choose to have memorandums of understanding or plans to identify who's gonna be responsible for what types of things, service

agreements, especially when it comes to automated systems, a lot of the tribes choose to meet on a regular basis with their state and county child support counterparts just to build relations and meet each other.

Talk to these folks on the phone day-to-day, it's nice to put a face to the voice.

And then there's training and technical assistance that states and tribes can do for each other, but also from OCSE, we have training and technical assistance that we provide to both states and tribes.

So the other thing is tribal programs collaborating with other tribal programs, and this can be done either just on an informal basis, verbal agreements, or with interagency agreements using a referral process.

And those other agencies would include like your domestic violence, Indian child welfare, fatherhood programs, parenting programs and others.

Michael mentioned earlier some statistics on domestic violence and I pulled up some statistics specific to Native Americans and Alaska natives.

Unfortunately a lot of the statistics that I would find were pretty old, but it's still gonna give you an idea of domestic violence in Indian country.

So on this screen, Native Americans and Alaska natives

are some of the poorest people in the United States.

With a much lower than average national income.

And 24% of native people live in poverty.

And I'm sure that doesn't surprise anybody on the phone call.

27% are uninsured compared to 15% nationally.

Even though Native American people have access in a lot of cases to Indian health services, in a lot of tribal communities, those services may not be as readily available as they would be in other communities.

I know when I was living and working in Oklahoma and working for the Chickasaw Nation, they actually had IHS clinics and hops.

When I was working in northern Wisconsin and Michigan, they had IHS clinics, but for any kind of specific test or blood test or x-rays and all that, the clinic would have to refer it to the local hospital.

So the amount of availability of healthcare in a lot of the rural areas especially can be very minimal.

So American Indian Alaska native women, unfortunately, are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of violent crimes than any other race and four times more likely to be victims of rape and sexual assault.

Three out of five of native women, which is 61%, have been assaulted at some point in their lifetime, and 67%

reported sexual assault, reported the offender as a non-native and yet American Indians and Alaska natives experience higher incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault than any other group.

So 71% who reported rape and sexual assault knew their perpetrator.

And American Indian Alaska native women are murdered more than ten times -- more than ten times the national average.

I find that statistic just astounding.

Domestic violence and sexual assaults are highly underreported because native women believe that nothing will be done about it anyway.

, you know, you've all been seeing the black lives matter initiatives, you know, in the news and Facebook and social media.

I think about this, you know, having lived and worked within Indian country for over 20 years, I've seen it firsthand where, because of the -- because of racism, a lot of times, things aren't taken care of the way they should be by law enforcement or because they're repeat victims.

Sometimes the police that get called to domestic violence and it's like they look up the address and it's like, oh, it's so and so again and they would just

take their dear time getting there.

I just think there's something fundamentally wrong with that, but it's the reality in a lot of Native American communities.

So and this is a big change from, you know, 40 years ago when a lot of child support money was collected and redirected back to the state for reimbursement.

Currently most child support that you all are collecting is going directly to families.

And child support for the majority of families represents 45% of their income, especially, you know, for those living in poverty level.

So this, again, this ties in with -- for tribal communities where there may not be a lot of employment opportunities, not a lot of places to go, you know, and leave and find a place to republican, getting child -- rent, getting child support can mean the difference between staying in an abusive relationship or not.

The child support statistics for 2014, and these are preliminary statistics that will eventually go into the report to congress, out of the tribal child support programs that we currently have operating comprehensively, they have almost 51,000 cases, tribal cases, tribal families.

They've concluded almost 34,000 paternities, and when

we say concluded, that definition kind of says either paternity was established or the paternity case that they had, they found that maybe they -- the potential dad wasn't the father and so the case was closed.

Child support orders established were almost 35,000, but what really impressed me is the collections.

Tribal child support agencies in the year 2014 collected over \$47 million for tribal children and families.

So moving beyond the conversation, some practical advice.

Having worked in a domestic violence shelter on a reservation and having also worked with a domestic violence program run -- operated by a county, and then moving over into the child support world, I really had my eyes opened.

It's important for child support staff to understand the dynamics of domestic violence and post traumatic stress disorder.

When I was working in the child support program, a lot of the clients coming through the door were the staple client -- same clients that I may have been working with at the shelter.

So being a small community, oftentimes, you know, all you have to do is look at a name and I knew that this

was a domestic violence case.

Having had a lot of training, domestic violence training when I was at the shelter really served me well once I moved over to the child support arena. So as the years went by and I was, you know, working with different tribes in different child support agencies, I found that it was really important for child support staff to have some working knowledge about domestic violence and the dynamics of the power and control.

And I also found that it was important for the domestic violence staff to know about child support and paternity establishment.

More often than not, I would see women in a domestic violence shelter being given 30 days, you have to get your act together in 30 days because our funding only allows here to -- allows you to stay here that long. That may vary from shelter to shelter.

But I couldn't help but wonder, you know, for these women that were in the shelter for 30 days, if they filed for child support even on the first day that they went to the shelter, in a lot of situations, it takes longer than 30 days just to get the next parent served. Then you have to get on the court calendar, then you have to go to court.

So it's really important to work with the domestic violence programs, the child support programs to try to expedite things.

It's important for domestic violence workers to understand that -- to establish paternity, what the tribal laws are regarding who has custody.

The voluntary paternity acknowledgment form, if the dad finds that, it gives him legal paternity, but it doesn't -- signs that, it gives him legal paternity, but it doesn't necessarily give him custody or visitation.

A lot of times, especially victims in a domestic violence shelter, they have such immediate needs, you know, they need a place to stay, they need food to eat, they need a way to keep their children safe, they're not always thinking about all of the little nuances of, oh, gee, if he signs this, yeah, it makes him the legal dad, but he doesn't have any of these other, you know, custody and visitation rights.

They don't always think about that.

So it's really important for the staff to be working together between these programs so they can iron out these little bumps and really give those details to survivors and victims of domestic violence.

So that they're not so afraid to move forward with

trying to establish a support order.

Some of the other practical things is for the child support agencies establishing policies and practice so that their clients stay safe but also so the staff stay safe.

When a party to a child support case is a known abuser, child support staff can request security or law enforcement to be present during court hearings.

They could be present during interviews or meetings, collection of DNA appointments, and if the abuser is really volatile, they can try to coordinate an appearance by phone for the victim for a court hearing.

They need to establish policies to keep child support staff safe when meeting with clients, whether the person is a known abuser or not.

Your child support staff should always know how to keep the -- a lot of child support agencies don't have the space or the room available, but if you do, having a special interview room with safety glass on the windows, you call in somebody from security or tribal police, use like a code word, set up with other staff ahead of time, that would be an emergency word, that would alert other workers to potentially call 911 or have another worker in the room with you.

So cross-training domestic violence/sexual assault

staff and child support staff with basic information about the services they each provide is really crucial. And Michael touched on this before about, you know, displaying program brochures from each other's programs in your respective offices, domestic violence programs putting up their posters and their business cards in not only the lobby but in the bathroom.

That always is very helpful.

And then there's the confidentiality issue.

Again, working in Indian country for as long as I did, in small tribal communities, everybody knows everybody, so the confidentiality issue was always very, um, it was a big priority.

A lot of people didn't want to be seen coming into the child support office.

Some people didn't want to be seen going to the domestic abuse office.

They were afraid that if they told this person, everybody else would find out about it.

So working on your policies and procedures and ensuring your clients that confidentiality is not only a priority within your agency but it's also, you know, a -- one of the federal requirements, and having the ability, whether you're doing a manual system or you're doing an automated system, to flag the child support

cases when domestic violence or sexual assault is identified.

And never, ever give out personal identifying information over the phone, by email, or to anyone who is not a party to the case or when the case is flagged by a family violence indicator.

Over the years I've heard horror stories about, for instance, in one case, a woman calls up the child support agency, this wasn't a tribal child support agency, by the way, it was a county one, but she calls up the child support agency and said, I've recently moved, and I'm not getting my mail and I don't remember if I called you guys and told you or not.

Can you tell me what address you have on file for me?

And the worker, trying to be helpful, just gave out the address and the lady says, okay, thank you very much and hangs up.

Hangs up.

And it turned out that the woman who had called was the new girlfriend of the noncustodial parent.

And then she in turn gave the address of the custodial parent to him, and he went over to the House later and shot and killed her.

Now, that's a really extreme example, but it shows the importance of never giving out person identifying

information, because you don't know who's on the other end of the phone.

You don't know who really is emailing you.

Especially today there's so much identity fraud and schemes going.

So always be careful about that.

Request the presence of law enforcement at court hearings on cases that are flagged by domestic violence.

Even if the custodial parent might say, well, you know, I don't think it'll be a problem.

If it's a domestic violence flagged case, bring in your security or your tribal police just for safety.

The other thing too is collaboration and coordination between tribal programs is already widely practiced. But coordinating services whenever possible is always helpful.

Oftentimes victims staying in the shelter won't have transportation to a court hearing, to your child support office, so work together with the D.V. programs and child support programs so that you can make sure the custodial parent either has a ride to court by a domestic violence advocate, bringing him or her there, or by your child support staff going and picking them up and bringing, or working with your tribal court to

allow the custodial parent to appear by phone.

Also, developing flexible child support practices that will allow a staff member to visit their client at the shelter if needed.

I know in all of the tribal child support programs that I've worked with in the past, our policies allowed us to go out to the homes, the social services agencies, to the jail, to collect DNA samples, whether it was from the custodial or the noncustodial parent.

So having flexible policies and working with your domestic violence shelters to have a place to go there and meet with your child support clients can be very helpful.

And just always be flexible and think outside the box.

What are some unique ways that you can help clients stay safe and yet get the child support they need?

So those were some of the observations I've made over the years.

I'm very passionate about both domestic violence and child support programs.

And getting that money to the custodial parent and those families oftentimes that's the only money that they're gonna have coming in that will make them be able to go out and put a deposit down on an apartment, buy groceries, to put gas in their car to Drive to a

family or friend's home in a different area.

So it's really important that these two programs work together to keep custodial parents and their children safe and get child support to help them move beyond domestic violence.

So thank you very much.

And with that, I'll turn this conversation over to Lisa, with Oneida Nation.

Thank you.

>> Thank you, Tami.

And thank you for inviting me to speak today on our programs in Oneida.

It's interesting, currently as you were all given in my bio up front, I am currently the interim area manager and part what we've been charged with in our human service department is reorganization of our current services.

We're nearing the end of that, and as a piece of it, I am fortunate enough to be still the child support director, but I will also be taking leadership and oversight of some of our other programs, one of which is our domestic violence unit.

Here in Oneida, the majority of our human services are located on the same property in the same building.

So it's more of a one-stop shop concept.

It's -- and I have to say, it's been really, really helpful with child support matters if we have a custodial parent in the office that we believe or she admits to that there's an issue of domestic violence at hand.

With that unit in the same building, we're able to usually get ahold of one of the domestic violence advocates and get them in.

Almost immediately to follow up with the individual.

And start the work soon.

I'll briefly talk about a little bit about the services we offer through our Oneida domestic violence group.

Currently we have domestic abuse coordinator who handles the batterer's intervention program for us.

And he's done this work for approximately the last 15 years and he runs a really successful batterers intervention education group.

He's been nationally recognized by our governor's council, and our local probation and parole agencies really enjoy working with him and the program itself because they've been tracking recidivism rates and they're finding that the curriculum used here, they're having much less recidivism rates than they're seeing in the local community.

And I'll talk a little bit about that later on.

Victim advocacy, that's another area that we provide services to the victim.

And they go out and they're also authorized to accompany victims to court hearings.

So if it's a child support matter, or more often than not, it's the custody placement hearing that we'll see our advocates accompanying victims to court.

And then we also offer children's services.

We have both a male and a female children's advocate, prevention specialist that work with our school district, and go in and they do different group programs, specifically to those age categories, and they also do some one on one individual work with the children of the families that are experiencing domestic violence.

One of the things we started doing about a handful of years ago, it wasn't immediate when our agency formed in child support, but it was a few years later, we recognized the need to provide training to not only the child support staff but also the domestic violence staff.

So we do that usually once a year, sometimes twice a year, depending on staff turnover and such, but the domestic violence advocates will come in as Michael and Tami had pointed out, as a promising practice, to give

training to the child support workers, recognizing signs of domestic violence, what the process is, what the referral process is here, as well as the services that they offer.

And we include restraining order process as well.

Here in Oneida, we do not have our own domestic violence code in our nation.

And all restraining order issues are handled in county court.

And Wisconsin historically, through the child support program, they have, as far as I'm aware, they have always addressed custody and placement matters when setting the initial child support order.

When we came in existence in child support, we continued that.

So our initial orders will include the custody and placement provision.

Or parenting time as it's somewhat now called.

We try very hard on the front end for parties to come to an agreed stipulation that's recognized by our court.

And if that doesn't occur, we will refer the custody placement matters over to the court to be handled separately in a separate hearing from the child support piece.

One of the items that came up early on with our judicial system was the need tomorrow a safe place with families that have family violence concerns to do the child exchange.

And locally, our -- our local county that we reside in, actually at the sheriff's department, has space designated up front by the front doors of the offices, and it's a safe child dropoff/pickup place.

So that was one of the important things for us is try to mitigate any kind of contact without supervision with that happening.

Keeping in mind that our belief is still that it's important for the children to have access to both parents.

If that can be done in a safe way.

Unfortunately, the last bullet I have on here regarding redacting address information on all orders actually came from an incident that we had very early on after we had first opened our doors.

At that time our policy did not call for redacting address information, and local demographic information, and we had an instance where, thankfully, there was no further domestic violence, but we were contacted by the custodial parent who had alerted us that they had a domestic violence order in place, a restraining order,

there was to be no contact.

And subsequently we reacted very quick, and from that point on, we have no identifying information on the order and instead we will file a confidential petition addendum with all petitions and orders through our judicial services.

And one of the things I didn't mention that I wanted to highlight, that I'm very proud of in our community is we've had a very strong community court -- community coordinated response team in Oneida.

It's been running for 15 years.

It's a monthly meeting over the noon hour where all different facets of programs and services and organizations that cover D.V. services get together and meet.

We share promising practices, we share different tips, we collaborated on different domestic violence campaigns.

And we've been fortunate to be able to include both of our two counties that Oneida reservation lies within, we include both of the domestic violence shelters, staff from there, we're fortunate that we have D.A.s from both of our respective counties as well, we've had judges from our respective counties as well as our tribal system apartment along with our local law

enforcement, our probation and parole, or state probation and parole joins in.

As well as the tribal domestic violence staff and in child support, approximately two years ago, I saw the need that we should have a child support worker sitting in monthly coordinated community response meetings as well.

And that's been a wonderful collaboration.

I can't say enough good things about the work and the information sharing and the different campaigns that have come from that.

Another item that, like Tami, I think might have alluded to or touched on this briefly that we found helpful was judicial collaboration with our tribal judicial system and some of the things that we'll informally do that we're fortunate we can do is just to give the clerk a call, the clerk of court, excuse me, a phone call or an email to alert them that a potential hearing has domestic violence attached in other areas, and that they may want to be prepared for that or please be prepared by bringing in security or law enforcement.

Our judicial system as well does allow for appearance by phone for either party as long as it's requested ahead of time.

And sometimes what we've seen happen is some of our promising practices just have naturally occurred over time.

Unfortunately, it's sometimes in response to different concerns or issues that have come up.

But we're always working hard and trying to move forward.

The next slide talks about some of the resources and support that we provide for the family.

I explained many of the services that our domestic violence unit currently provides.

The batterer's program I spoke about briefly provides an educational programming that also addresses spiritual teaching from a native perspective.

It does include sweat lodge and different native customs.

Another piece that he covers is the general rules, addressing the general rules from native perspective, and specifically with Oneida, because Oneida is a natural linear matrilineal society.

So he does a lot of education and treatment work on addressing some of those barriers and where -- how they ended up, and taking a look at the historical trauma perhaps in the family or how they were raised and providing alternatives and resources and continued

education.

Once they leave the program, they're always welcome to come back at any point, join in a session, take in a group, or even come just for the sweat lodge piece.

And they're allowed to bring their young boys too.

Again, advocacy for the victim, we do include attendance at court hearings on either side, whether it's specifically child support related in matters, or if is around custody and placement matters, they also offer a 16-week educational program.

And both roles will work toted for the overall betterment of the family, and by that I mean both the advocates and the men on the batters's side will each present at each other's respective educational programming to go in and talker about the issue -- talk about the issues and what's happening, or the services offered on each side.

We also include child support into that, so I child support worker will go into either of the group settings, one time during their session, and talk about the services child support offers.

And on the victim advocacy side, we talk about the preventive measures that take place in our agency to assure no further harm is done.

And because we're a native community, one of the

things, family for us is of utmost important and I am not in any way, shape, or form diminishing domestic violence or sexual assault.

One of the things that we've seen in some cases that the goal may not be with the parties themselves to break up, but it may be to receive treatment and services for the betterment of the individuals and as the family unit as a whole.

We do try to support them through that.

We will work with all the parties in our domestic violence programming, including the children, around healthy relationships and what this should look like.

We also do provide referrals to other supportive agencies such as Oneida behavioral health for substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and I'm sure others have seen this as well that in our community, at any rate, when we see domestic violence issues, there's usually other underlying factors involved.

Many times there's mental health issues that are untreated.

Or substance abuse issues that are untreated as well.

So we do coordinate and try to provide holistic services to the families.

They reside under our health umbrella but they are housed here in the social services complex as well.

Interesting recently, we're starting to see more cases in the domestic violence area with same-sex relationships, and I would like to know or if any of the others participating in call know of different resources, to help us address those, I would love to share information.

We're just starting to see a rise in this area.

I'll end this with that these are just some of our promising practices and we hope to move forward and learn from everyone else.

At this point I'll end here and turn it over to my colleague, Jackie from the Forest County Potawatomie tribe.

>> Thank you, Lisa, and thank you, Tami and the rest of the presenters.

I guess the great thing about coming in at this point of the presence is the experts have really focused, and a lot of what they talked about are a lot of the same practices that Forest County Potawatomie has utilized and adopted throughout the years.

I think one of the most important things is to be able to recognize that there's been a lot of trauma in the tribes, and some of that is obviously domestic violence is unfortunately alive and well, and not many people have been talking about that.

Until just recently, I've been noticing -- I think this is a great -- a great start to telling about our organization, that I think thanks to the family resource program that we have which falls into the family resource program or family services program that people are now starting to talk about domestic violence and they're starting to come out about perhaps violence or other things that have happened within their childhood.

So even within the last six months to a year, I think people are starting to talk about this more and more, and we appreciate OCSE taking a stronger role in advocating for education and for our families.

The Forest County Potawatomi agency operates under a family services team, what I call a team and I've listed some of the programs that are currently under the family services team which includes child support and TANF and Medicaid, child care, Indian child welfare, and I failed to mention family resource program which I think can be credited with a lot of the assistance that they provide in helping us with families and in this situation.

The next slide, please.

Our processes are really formal and informal.

We've done a lot of what Lisa described and you kind of

learn as you go along.

We were blessed to have some really great staff throughout the years and one of them has been Tami Masuca, and we were able to take advantage of her and getting some domestic violence training very early on for the child support staff.

We've been using that same training.

We haven't had a turn over in staff, we're very lucky and we've been using a lot of that same training in identifying people that are in need.

Sometimes you can see in the application that there might be information that's out at the application that might be pertinent and it requires a phone call.

The two case workers are very, very careful to listen for subtle hints or signs that somebody may be emotionally or physically abused.

And unfortunately with child support given out per capita, a lot of time that's financial abuse as well.

We also train our child support workers to reach out to the appropriate workers in other departments.

Unfortunately, our domestic violence program under the family services team is no longer in existence, but we do have our family resource program, and we also provide information to our county's domestic violence program.

To our clients.

And we do that by setting up folders for brand-new clients and even for some existing ones that have been around for a long time but maybe we don't have a whole lot of contact with.

We have a whole folder with all of the family resources that are available within Forest County and within the Forest County Potawatomie tribe.

So people have the ability to pull out a card and if they feel that maybe they qualify for Medicaid and they need health insurance that they have a phone number at the ready.

Same thing goes for domestic violence.

We make sure that we provide information regarding domestic violence resources to our customers.

Knowing that they might not want to talk to us about it.

Maybe they're not quite there yet.

But they still need the financial assistance and they're taking that first step and coming and applying for child support services.

Those are some of the informal things that we do and some of the more formal things we have done in the past is we have a written referral form that if we have a customer that comes into our office and says I think

I'm a victim of domestic abuse and I'd like to talk to somebody about that, we will use a referral form to refer them to someone either within our county or within our tribe.

And we keep track of those referrals.

There aren't many.

A lot of times people don't necessarily want to do a written referral.

They would rather get a phone number and call on their own, feeling for comfortable.

But we have done them in the past.

We've also used domestic abuse advocates that appear in the office or in court.

We try to give that person a heads-up and see if they're comfortable as a domestic abuse advocate being present in those situations.

A lot of times what we found is that if we call an advocate up because we think there's a domestic abuse situation, the abuser sees that person in court or near the office and things -- and so we really do leave that up to the customer or the client to see whether or not they really want an advocate present.

Advocates can be a great tool to use whether be in court or whether it be in your office.

We also do an official referral process to social

services or Indian child welfare if the child isn't enrolled in our tribe if we feel the child is in danger.

Again, it's kind of a screening process that we do and the child support workers do that based on the training that they have received.

We don't use it often, but we do use it.

We're not the experts, quite frankly, in domestic abuse or in child welfare things and we put that up to the experts to determine what the next steps are.

I wanted to talk briefly about -- we do have a situation currently going on within in our office and in the courts right now of a case where there is a known abuser.

He's, I believe, to be physically and emotionally abusive to one of our tribal members.

He is not a tribal member of Forest County Potawatomie, the mother is and the parties have two children in common.

And this case has gone back and forth where the mom has come in for child support services and then backs out at the last minute.

Then we've had situations where dad will manipulate the mother so much that she gives voluntary placement of the children to the father and then the father turned

around and filed for child support services with our agencies.

We know these kind of tactics are going on within this case.

We recognized it.

We staffed it.

We informed the court of it.

But unfortunately because the abuse is so intense, this mother is now paying child support to the father.

We also found that within the past year, the placement of the children has returned to the mother, so this particular abuser is so strong that he's -- that he's convinced the mother to pay him child support even though he no longer has placement of these children.

Just recently she's come into our office and had a number of conversations with the child support worker who spent hours with her, and she's gotten brave enough and strong enough finally with the assistance of the case worker to modify the child support and to let the court and the public know that she does have placement of these children, she has for a very long time and she should not be paying child support.

And I think that story is important because a lot of times what I've found in the past 14 years that I've been doing tribal child support is that oftentimes the

people who are being abused are the ones that come into our office and file for child support and then come in the next day and say they don't want child support. They have to be supported, and I think if our staff members are compassionate enough and trained well enough, we can help provide the strength to those customers to move forward with their lives and provide them with the financial assistance that they truly do need.

So my advice to some of the tribes, if you're new, and a lot of the tribes have been around for quite some time, I'm not exactly sure who's on the phone today, but really to train -- to do the cross-training that Lisa and Tami talked about.

There's a lot of cross-training that really is needed in order to be effective with this clientele base.

To teach our case workers to really listen and to try to really get down to the story of what's going on.

I think listening skills are one of the best things you could possibly have.

We also keep all data confidential.

Now, we've been -- we were the ninth tribe in the country to receive federal funding.

And our policy has always been we never give any information out at all.

It doesn't matter if it's a domestic violence case or if it's non-domestic violence case.

We simply don't give out personal information on any case to anybody, unless you're that person or there's a need to know.

That has kind of helped us with having to make some calls that maybe we don't -- we didn't need to do, so we've made it a policy across the board throughout time.

And we also do provide that new client packet and people have really responded really well to this folder that the case workers have taken the time to put together with all the resources that are available.

I really think that that's probably one of the best things that child support agencies can do is put all of that stuff together for the customers because you never know if they're gonna need something, whether it be DV service or another service.

Lisa and Tami also talked about being flexible and maybe going to shelters to assist or going to homes. Make sure that the child support worker is not going alone and that you know where they are at all times. We also are mindful of security if we meet with clients.

When we know that there is somebody who may be an

abuser, we always make sure that there are two case workers in the office at the same time.

If for some reason that's not appropriate, we make sure that there's somebody at the ready.

If we need to call security or if we need to even call the sheriff's department, we'll do that.

We do have offices that do have some windows in it so that you can see within the conference room what's going on.

I think that's all I have, and I really think Lisa and Tami -- I really thank Lisa and Tami for doing a lot of the leg work for me.

The next presenter is Sandy Rourke.

She is from the St. Regis Mohawk tribe.

And I'll be happy to pass it off to Sandy.

>> Thanks, Jackie.

Can everyone hear me?

>> Coming through great.

>> Okay.

So I just wanted to thank everyone for including us to participate in this call and we're glad to be able to share some of our protocols and processes that we use as it relates to domestic violence.

So just as a little bit of background, our child support program became comprehensive in March 2014.

And we realized how important child support is for, especially people who are victims of domestic violence. So one of our goals is to establish cooperative relationships with all agencies involved with the family so that we can provide the best possible outcomes for our families.

Next slide, please.

So some of the partnerships we have with our other tribal programs.

Can you go back one?

One slide?

There.

One of the programs we work with is our three sisters program, and they are a stop domestic violence program, so some of the services that they offer are safety planning, 24-hour crisis response, and all different levels of advocacy, personal, medical, criminal justice, family court, transitional Housing, and transportation.

They also help with orders of protection and supervised visitation and exchange.

And we also have a safe home here on our territory for anyone that needs that.

And then some of the other partnerships we have which is on the next slide is community partnerships.

We have one group that is called the "Seven Dancers Coalition and one of the many purposes of coalition is to increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault against native American women and their families through education and prevention programs while incorporating the culture of our peoples.

So this group and this staff with -- within our program get together at various community events throughout the year and have things that promote healthy choices, and it's a way of being, I guess, proactive in trying to have healthy family relationships develop.

Some of the things quickly they do that they're a part of is something called a "me and my guy dance" and that's a dance, and what they do is dress up in formal wear and have their fathers or uncles or grandfathers also dress up with them and they take them to a dance hosted at the elementary school.

And then they also have a "Diva Dinner" for the older girls and they have role models come in from the community and discuss different topics with them and they give them an opportunity to ask them questions relating to relationships, violence, careers, families, et cetera.

And then they also do another event with the boys, that's called "Boys night out" and that's for ages 11

to 18 and they take them camping for a weekend and they have some strong positive role models from our community and they participate with them with cultural activities and it's also an opportunity for the boys to ask them the same type of questions that they might not be comfortable asking other people.

So those are some of the things that we participate in to be proactive, again, for healthy relationship building.

And on the next slide, just to give you a background on the domestic violence in Akwesasne, our Three Sisters program give us some statistics and they have served more than 120 domestic violence victims and 9 victims of sexual assault since January of 2014.

And their safe House has provided 450 shelter nights in our safe home for 11 women and 12 children just since January of this year.

So kind of give you a background of the issues and the amount of domestic violence that we deal with in our community.

So on the next slide, there's some promising practices. We decide to get together, like I said, with our Three Sisters program, and collaborate on how we can provide the best services, and the first thing we decide to do was some cross-training between our two programs.

So we're coordinating efforts for the Three Sisters program to come in and give us an idea of the services they provide and how they identify domestic violence and how to talk to victims.

And we're also developing training that we can provide them on letting people know what we do and the services we provide and that, you know, they have the opportunity, if they need child support, to obtain that in a safe way.

We've also gotten each other's information so their office has our brochures and pamphlets, just like we will have their information.

And contacts information that we can share with anybody that comes in looking for services.

So we realize sometimes that people coming in requesting child support services on their application, it's their first opportunity to let someone know that they're a victim of domestic violence.

So some of the things we do to protect their -- to protect them is we do things like -- we have participant protected stamp, we stamp all the documents that way.

We file our domestic violence files in color coded case files.

And then if anything happens to go to court, we have

all their location information redacted so that nobody knows where they live, their addresses, their phone numbers.

We also require a mandatory mediation for child support, so in the case of domestic violence, we give them opportunity, we don't force them to come into the same meeting and mediate.

They could do that over the phone or through case manager.

So we give them the opportunity if they don't feel safe to be in the same room with the other party.

Some of the other things that, I mean, we have -- we have -- if they do disclose domestic violence and they're seeking help, because we're located all in the same area, we can bring them to the other program as well as that program, bringing the clients to us, so we work with them that way.

Also, as far as tribal court, our tribal court is located in the same building as our tribal police department, so there's, you know, extra assistance there if needed.

Um, and I guess, we follow some of the same practices as Jackie and Lisa had mentioned before.

We've learned from their expertise.

Being that we're new and we got a lot of information

from them, so that's about all I have.

What we do.

We're working on more cross-training.

We have other departments that we're also gonna do the same type of cross-training and just making people aware, because we have our own ISLA.

We have our family advocate program.

We have lots of different opportunities to let everyone know that we have child support services that they can get in a safe environment if they're victims of domestic violence.

So that's all I have.

Thank you.

>> Thank you, Sandy.

Thank you, Sandy, Jackie, and Lisa.

You all provided an -- and Tami, you guys provided such great information about the work that you're doing in your tribes and that, Tami, you did previously.

I think you've covered so many of the important issues, and I want to encourage people on the call, if you have questions that you'd like any of us to answer, if you'd type those into the chat down below, I'm going to ask one question of our -- of the three tribal directors, but before I do, I also want to highlight the fact that in the materials that you receive after today's

webinar, there will be information about a new domestic violence and child support network of professionals, those from the domestic violence field and the child support field who want to continue this conversation, who want to share best practices, who are interested in getting examples of screening questions, of training materials, of policy documents, so that network will be -- include a curated clearing House of those kinds of resources and policy documents and also provide a way for you to ask questions, to experts across the country who are working on this, and get their responses.

And so information how to sign up for that will be included in the follow-up materials that go to everybody that's registered for the training.

So while we're waiting maybe for other people to type questions, this is for you, Lisa and Sandy and Jackie. So if you were a tribal director who was, you know, in a startup program maybe or, you know, very early stages -- I know Sandy, you all became comprehensive in 2014, so you're a fairly young program, but there are programs that are even younger in the process, right, of developing, so if you were just getting started, or if you are an existing child support tribal child support program but you haven't done the, you know,

you've not done extensive work on domestic violence, so if you were just starting to develop your domestic violence collaboration and response, what would be a couple of first steps that you'd recommend?

Your colleagues on -- who are listening in, what would you recommend that they take?

Some first steps?

And, Jackie, you kind of touched on this.

Sandy or Lisa, if you'd like to chime in too.

>> Yes, this is Jackie.

I think with the tribal child support program in particular, my colleagues have been the ones I've learned the most from, and they're so willing to share information, I think that it's great that OCSE is going to be providing more of a networking opportunity.

To us.

But I think your best resources are truly our other child support agencies that are in existence.

>> Yeah, this is Sandy.

I agree with Jackie.

It was a great help to us because in region 2, we were the first comprehensive tribal program, so it was great to be able to reach out to Jackie and Lisa and get their expertise because, you know, they've been there, done that.

And they were a great resource of information for us.

>> Great, thank you.

Lisa, any final things you'd like to add to?

>> I will.

I concur with both Sandy and Jackie that the other programs are our best resources, and even now today, we're certainly in a different position by the sheer number of tribal programs.

And I think we're all very willing to help each other.

So just a matter of reaching out.

We have some sound networking opportunities including with our tribal directors' association, so I would encourage new tribal programs and their respective designee to be involved in that group.

That was really one of the best resources for me.

And it's a good place to find collaboration and best practices.

>> Great.

Thank you.

So there was one question that was posted from Patricia asking about how to print the presentation.

You'll get a copy of the presentation as a PDF in the follow-up materials, so everyone who's listening in and even those who maybe registered but weren't able to listen in will get the PowerPoint on a PDF along with

the link -- the new OCSE resources that I mentioned and the information on the network.

So with that, I want to, again, just thank our presenters, all of our contact information is here on this final slide.

Tami, who's our program specialist in reason 5, Lisa, Sandy, and Jackie, you all provided great information, and a special thanks to Ken Noyes at FPVSA and I'll turn it over to you for any final words you have to wrap up.

>> Great, thanks, Michael.

I know that you've got a flight to catch, so we wish you well and safe travels.

I would also like to thank the Office of Child Support Enforcement and specifically commissioner Turetsky, specifically child support enforcement, and it's been our collaboration with them that has been so valuable as we've worked together to empower those accessing those child support and domestic violence services in the United States.

I'd like to thank the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, specifically Casey and Justine for supporting us and planning the webinar and again to thank all the speakers for the great expertise.

We thank all of you for joining us today and wish you a

great evening.

Thanks very much.

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