



**Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence
Public Hearing #2:
Children's Exposure to Violence in Rural and Tribal Communities**

January 31, 2012
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Vincent E. Griego Council Chambers
1 Civic Plaza
Albuquerque, NM 87102

- 8:30 a.m. Invocation by All Indian Pueblo Council Chairman Chandler Sanchez
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome by Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry
- 8:50 a.m. Comments by New Mexico U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales
- 8:55 a.m. Comments by Associate Attorney General Thomas J. Perrelli, U.S. Department of Justice
- 9:10 a.m. Comments by Defending Childhood Task Force Co-chairs Joe Torre and Robert Listenbee, Jr.
- 9:15 a.m. **Addressing Family Violence**
Esta Soler, President of Futures Without Violence
Ms. Soler has been an advocate and educator on the issue of family violence for three decades. She will speak about the cross-system involvement of children who are exposed to violence, the path from victim to perpetrator, and the need to invest in holistic prevention and intervention services.
- 9:45 a.m. **Violence in Rural and Remote Communities**
It is frightening and painful for children to experience violence at the hands of those who are supposed to love and protect. The challenges of seeking help and safety are compounded when the nearest neighbor is miles away, or when the perpetrator is close friends or a relative of the only public safety officer. Panelists will speak to the complexity of preventing and intervening in violent situations in rural communities.

Rochelle A., Vice President of Leaders Uniting Voices Youth Advocates (LUVYA) of New Mexico
Rochelle, currently a first-year university student, will speak as a former foster youth and survivor of childhood violence.

Elsie Boudreau, LMSW, Alaska Native Justice Center

Ms. Boudreau (Yup'ik Eskimo), a survivor of abuse, is a licensed master social worker from the village of St. Mary's, AK. In 2010 she established and began operating an Alaska Native Unit within Alaska CARES, a child advocacy center.

Ivy Wright-Bryan, National Director of Native American Mentoring, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

Ms. Wright-Bryan (Paiute) has practiced tribal law for 15 years in tribal justice systems in northern Nevada. She was the first Paiute woman to be appointed tribal court judge by the Pyramid Lake Tribal Council and presided over the juvenile court on her reservation. Ms. Wright-Bryan drafted the Family Protection Ordinance, which gained approval by the tribal council and stands today as one of the most comprehensive and fortified laws protecting families against domestic violence.

10:45 a.m. Break

11 a.m. **Life of a Teenager in Rural America**

Research indicates that youth in rural and tribal communities experience the same problems and similar levels of exposure to violence as their urban and suburban peers. However, rural youth more often encounter economic and physical barriers that prevent them from receiving adequate care and services necessary for healthy development. Panelists will examine some of the challenges specific to youth in rural and tribal communities.

Paul Smokowski, MSW, Ph.D., CP, Director of the North Carolina Academic Center for Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (NC-ACE)

In his role as director of NC-ACE, Dr. Smokowski oversees the nation's first rural youth violence prevention center, which serves Robeson County, one of the most ethnically diverse rural counties in the country. Dr. Smokowski is a professor at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill School of Social Work and directs the school's Latino Acculturation and Health Project. He co-authored *Becoming Bicultural: Risk, Resilience, and Latino Youth*.

Carole Justice, Coordinator of the Indian Country Methamphetamine Program

Ms. Justice (Northern Arapaho) has been involved in the development of service programs for children and youth as a social worker, educator, and prosecutor since 1972. In 1994, she became the tribal prosecutor for the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes. In this role, Ms. Justice guided and actively participated in the creation of a number of tribal programs in areas such as domestic violence and sexual assault, child and youth justice, and child mental health. Since 2005, Ms. Justice has coordinated the Indian Country Methamphetamine Initiative, which has resulted in the creation of a dozen culturally based programs, strategies, and services for addressing methamphetamine and other addictions.

Nate Monson, Executive Director of Iowa Safe Schools

Iowa Safe Schools, in partnership with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, is a coalition of educators, civil rights and LGBT advocates, working to create safer schools and communities for LGBT youth through public awareness, education, and policy. Since joining Iowa Safe Schools in 2007, Mr. Monson has developed the only proven statewide training model for teachers, principals, parents, and youth-serving professionals regarding LGBT students.

Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. **System Responses to Rural and Tribal Violence**

System responses to rural and tribal violence are complicated by many factors. These include jurisdictional issues involving Native land; negotiations among tribal, state, and federal court systems for both criminal and family issues (Indian Child Welfare Act); distrust of federal or state services; and notable instances of systems failure, such as the placement of American Indian/Alaska Native children in foster care outside their tribe. Panelists will explore the challenges of service provision in rural and tribal communities with an emphasis on strategies to address them.

Mato Standing High, Attorney General of Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Before he became Attorney General for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) in 2007, Mr. Standing High (Rosebud Sioux) worked as in-house counsel for the RST, taught at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD, and worked in private practice in Denver, CO. He is currently a member of the South Dakota and Colorado state bars and is admitted to practice in the Federal District for Colorado as well as the Sicangu Oyate Bar Association for the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Courts.

Janell Regimbal, Senior Vice President, Children and Family Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Ms. Regimbal, a licensed professional clinical counselor with Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, has administered a variety of community-based services for at-risk youth and their families for the past 24 years. She has designed, implemented, and maintained a variety of services including Tracking, a supervision and mentoring program; Attendant Care, an alternative to jailing for juveniles; Offender Accountability Conferencing, a means of restorative justice; and Homebuilders, an intensive, in-home family therapy model.

Annie Pelletier Kerrick, Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project

Ms. Kerrick is an attorney at the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence. During her 4 years at the Coalition, she has served as a program manager for the Idaho Legal Assistance for Victims Project, the Center for Healthy Teen Relationships, and Start Strong Idaho. As program manager for the Center for Healthy Teen Relationships and Start Strong Idaho, Ms. Kerrick provided technical assistance and support for domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault prevention and response programs for adolescents.

2 p.m. Break

2:10 p.m. **Combating Childhood Exposure to Violence: Utilizing the Strengths of Native Communities**

Each Native American community and tribe has an individual story to tell about the violence it experiences. Each community also has unique needs and strengths. Historically, state and federal governments' attempts to help were made with little or no regard to Native traditions, preferences, or sovereignty. Panelists will provide information on Native community practices and strategies on how to heal.

Dolores Subia BigFoot, Ph.D., Director, Indian Country Child Trauma Center and Project Making Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC)

Dr. BigFoot (Caddo Nation of Oklahoma) is an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, OUHSC. She directs Project Making Medicine, a national training program for mental health providers in the treatment of child physical and sexual abuse, and the Indian Country Child Trauma Center, which is part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Dr. BigFoot is a counseling psychologist and provides consultation, training, and technical assistance to tribal, state, and federal agencies and mental health and family service agencies. She has written several publications on the effect of trauma on children and cultural interventions specifically designed for families in Indian country.

Lyle Claw, President, Changing Lives Around the World (CLAW) Inc.

Brothers Lyle and LaMonica Claw (Diné [Navajo]) formed CLAW Inc. to combat substance abuse, suicide, and other problems affecting youth and young adults. The Claw brothers grew up on the Navajo Reservation in Window Rock, AZ. Both have seen the effects of substance abuse and had their own struggles with substance abuse, but have broken free from addiction.

Coloradas Mangas, Youth Board Member for the Center for Native American Youth

Mr. Mangas (Mescalero Apache Tribe) became involved in suicide prevention efforts and Native youth advocacy after he was personally affected by a tragic cluster of suicides on his reservation. Mr. Mangas testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in March 2011. From this initial involvement, he has been elected as an executive member of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, which is a public-private partnership to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

Maria Brock, LISW, Tribal Home Visiting Project Director, Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc.

Ms. Brock (Laguna and Santa Clara Pueblos/German/Czech) is the Director of the Tribal Home Visiting Program at Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc., in Albuquerque, where she promotes best practice prevention efforts for Native American parents of children up to age 5. Ms. Brock worked as a child and family therapist for more than 10 years. Her direct practice focused on issues of recovery, resiliency, and early childhood mental health. Ms. Brock is also a

founding contributor to the Native American Community Academy, a charter school in Albuquerque for middle and high school students.

- 3:15 p.m. **Increasing Tribal Capacity to Prevent and Address Trauma and Violence Experienced by American Indian/Alaska Native Children**
Gil Vigil, National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Board Member and Tribal/Governmental Liaison for the Santa Fe Indian School
Mr. Vigil is a former Governor of the Tesuque Pueblo as well as a former Vice-Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council. He specializes in tribal and inter-governmental relations (tribal/state/federal) and Indian child welfare. Currently, Mr. Vigil serves in an administrative role as the Tribal/Governmental Liaison for the Santa Fe Indian School in New Mexico. He is a member of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and has been a NICWA board member since 1997.
- 3:45 p.m. Break
- 4 p.m. Testimony From Members of the Public
- 5 p.m. Closing Remarks From Task Force Co-Chairs

**Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence
Public Meeting**

Wednesday, February 1, 2012
8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Mexico
201 Third St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Multimedia Room, 10th Floor
(Reception and sign-in are on the 9th floor)

- 8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks
Dr. Gilbert Reyes of the Fielding Graduate Institute will also make brief comments.
- 9 a.m. Discussion of Hearing Presentations and Material
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Summary of Listening Session Conducted in Oakland, CA, on January 12, 2012
This listening session, facilitated by NCCD staff, brought together a group of community members, practitioners, and advocates to discuss children's exposure to violence.
- Summary of Teleconference Call Conducted on January 18, 2012
This call took place as a follow-up to the Baltimore hearing, allowing task force members to ask further questions of Baltimore panelists Dr. Phil Leaf, Dr. David Finkelhor, Dr. Ted Corbin, and Dr. Elizabeth Thompson.
- 11:15 a.m. Discussion of Final Report
- Noon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Closing Comments