Traditional Status of Elders

• Honor
• Respect
• Custodians of Tribal history, culture, and tradition
Contemporary Reality

• Changes leading to increasing the risk of elder abuse and neglect.
  – Loss of traditional lifestyle
  – Changes to the traditional family unit
  – Poor social and economic conditions
  – High rates of violence in many communities
Outline

• Elder abuse issues from 3 points of view:
  – Tribal Judges
  – Senior Service Program Directors
  – Tribal Elders

• Examples of AoA activities to address elder abuse in Tribal communities
Elder Abuse in Indian Country Today – How do Elders, Service Providers, and the Legal System Define It?
Elder Abuse Survey

• Tribal Judges
• Title VI (Senior Program) Directors
• Tribal Elders
Questionnaire

• Core questions:
  – Define elder abuse and neglect
  – What are the issues in your community?
  – Share an example that you have seen or heard about in your community.
Questionnaire

• Tribal Judges:
  – Identify current legal practices in your community to address elder abuse and neglect.
  – Identify any cultural/customary law practices being used.
  – Identify prevention/intervention systems for your community.
Questionnaire

• Title VI Directors and Tribal Elders:
  – What traditional cultural practices are used to resolve elder abuse?
  – What can you do to work with the Tribal judicial system?
  – How can this survey information and the AoA help you reduce elder abuse in your community?
Definitions of Elder Abuse

• All three groups:
  – Physical abuse
  – Emotional abuse
  – Neglect
  – Exploitation

• Tribal Judges and Title VI Directors:
  – Sexual abuse
Elder Abuse Issues

- Exploitation
- Neglect
- Physical
- Alcohol

Judges
Directors
Elders
Elder Abuse Issues

![Bar chart showing reported and unreported abuse by judges, directors, and elders.](chart.png)
Elder Abuse Issues

![Bar chart showing issues with resources, housing, and no issues for judges, directors, and elders.]
Examples: Physical Abuse

• Tribal Judges and Title VI Directors
  – Physical abuse by spouses, children, and grandchildren

• Tribal Elders
  – No examples of physical abuse
Examples: Emotional Abuse

• Tribal Elders
  – Related to their role in the family:
    • Treating them as if they didn’t matter anymore
    • Not listening when elders speak
Examples: Neglect and Exploitation

• All Three Groups
  – Family members using an elder’s money, car, food, and medications
  – Family members have little time to care for elders
  – Failure to report abuse
Examples: Neglect and Exploitation

• Title VI Directors and Tribal Elders
  - Excessive use as a baby sitter
Examples: Neglect

• Tribal Elders
  – Not including elders in gatherings
Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

• Tribal Judges
  – Community Training
  – Create Community Elder Abuse Task Force
  – Create simple elder abuse criminal and civil codes
Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

• Title VI Directors
  – Community Training
  – Refer families and clients to appropriate services
  – Encourage Tribal Council to approve Tribal Elder Abuse Codes
Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

- Tribal Elders
  - Social Services and elders programs need to keep a closer watch on elders at home
  - Encourage people to report
  - Work with Tribal courts for stricter sentencing
Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

- Entire community should work together
- Increased socialization activities for elders
- Promote community awareness
- Adult Protective Services
Administration on Aging

- Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (Title VII-A3)
- National Center on Elder Abuse (Title II)
- Training and Technical Assistance
Administration on Aging

- Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (Title VII-A3)
Administration on Aging

• National Center on Elder Abuse (Title II)
National Center on Elder Abuse Mini-Grants

- 2007
  - Sault Ste. Marie Tribe
  - Eagle Shield Senior Center
- 2008
  - DNA People’s Legal Services
  - Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- 2009
  - Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe
National Center on Elder Abuse

Creating Effective Local Elder Abuse Prevention Networks:
A Planning Guide
Administration on Aging

• Training and Technical Assistance
Training and Technical Assistance

http://www.olderindians.org/chatsession.cfm

**UPCOMING TITLE VI CHATS/TELE-TRAININGS**

**Date:** May 12, 2010

**Topic:** Physical or Emotional Elder Abuse and Neglect

- 1000 a.m. (AKDT) - 1100 a.m. (PDT) - 1100 a.m. (AZ) - 1200 p.m. (MDT) - 100 p.m. (CDT) - 200 p.m. (EDT)

**Description:** Protecting tribal elders from elder abuse and neglect is a responsibility that everyone involved in Title VI shares, but funds are not provided to Title VI Grantees through the Older Americans Act. Many Tribes have established successful elder abuse and neglect programs and codes through inter-departmental efforts; coordination with outside agencies, or by successfully accessing other funding.

Please join us on May 12, 2010 to discuss physical or emotional elder abuse and neglect, and learn how successful Tribal programs have been developed.

**Facilitator:** Jane Raymond, Advocate and Protection Systems Developer, Wisconsin Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources, WI

**Date:** June 9, 2010

**Topic:** Fraud and Financial Exploitation of Tribal Elders

- 1000 a.m. (AKDT) - 1100 a.m. (PDT) - 1100 a.m. (AZ) - 1200 p.m. (MDT) - 100 p.m. (CDT) - 200 p.m. (EDT)

**Description:** Sadly there are predators “out there” that are looking for seniors just like yours, and many know a senior who has been a victim of fraud or financial abuse. Some of these predators are acquaintances, close friends or family members.

Title VI Directors and staff can assist seniors to be ready for these predators simply by providing information...
Thank you.

yvonne.jackson@aoo.hhs.gov