

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
2 OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
3 OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
4 VICTIMS' ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5
6 Saturday, June 29, 2002
9:15 a.m.
7 Wyndham Albuquerque Hotel
2901 Yale Boulevard, Southeast
8 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

9
10 Conducted by:

11 Mr. John Gillis
12 Director of Office for Victims of Crime
13 Department of Justice/OJP
810 Seventh Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20531

14 Ms. Jeannie Gregori
15 Chief of Staff of Office for Victims of Crime
16 Department of Justice/OJP
810 Seventh Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20531

17 Ms. Inez M. Odom
18 Ms. Jennifer Ford
19 Ms. Ena Newell
IMO Productions, Inc.
4475 Mission Boulevard
Suite 217
20 San Diego, California 92109

21 Reported by:

22 Julie Goehl, RDR, RMR, CRR, NM CCR #95
23 Bean & Associates Professional Court Reporters
500 Marquette Boulevard, Northwest, Suite 280
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
24 (505)843-9494

25 JOB NUMBER 5788-15 (JUL)

1 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: Good morning. We are
2 going to go ahead and get started. And someone left
3 their breakfast up here, Corn Flakes.

4 MS. INEZ ODOM: Oh, my, breakfast of
5 Champions.

6 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: I want to thank
7 everybody for coming and spending their time with us on
8 Saturday, and I want to welcome you to New Mexico and
9 to the Office for Victims of Crime, our victims'
10 roundtable.

11 My name is Jeannie Gregori, and I'm the chief
12 of staff at the Office for Victims of Crime. And I
13 just wanted to make sure that everybody should have a
14 table tent and name tags. And I want to apologize.
15 Our database crashed, so if you don't have a printed
16 table tent, that's why. And that's why nobody has
17 printed name tags. And so we will work on that when we
18 get back.

19 But everybody should also have a blue
20 resource file, and if you open that real quickly --

21 MS. INEZ ODOM: If you don't have one, raise
22 your hand.

23 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: Yeah, if you don't have
24 one, we'll get you one. Okay. If you wanted to look
25 at the agenda for today, we did start a few minutes

1 late, just letting everybody have time to get to the
2 room. But then we're going to talk more about why
3 these bright lights are in here and the purpose of this
4 meeting as we move along. And we'll talk a little bit
5 about the Office for Victims of Crime and what we do.

6 But then after that, it's going to be your
7 turn to talk to us, and especially the survivors and
8 the victims, about what your needs are; what you didn't
9 get from the system; what you did get; what didn't go
10 well; what did go well; and just to kind of share with
11 us your thoughts.

12 And then the advocates and service providers
13 will also have an opportunity to talk to us, because
14 this is the first time that the Office for Victims of
15 Crime has ever gone out to the field to really listen
16 firsthand to the victims and to the survivors and to
17 the service providers. But we'll get more into that as
18 we talk about what's going to happen.

19 Right now, though, I would like to go back to
20 the resource folder, and so everybody should have an
21 agenda. And then we do have a sign-in sheet that by
22 after lunch, we're going to collect it. This is really
23 important so we can get in contact with you, and we
24 will be following up with some notes from this meeting.
25 And so we want to make sure that we know how to do

1 that. And so we'll collect these after lunch, if you
2 could fill those out.

3 And our letterhead said we were going to make
4 a little information booklet. Well, we didn't get all
5 of the victim information forms back, so we can still
6 do that. So if you did not fax this form to our
7 office, please go ahead and complete it and just make
8 sure we get that, and we'll go ahead when we send back
9 out the notes from this meeting and send out the
10 informational booklet.

11 And I'll stop there, and with that, I would
12 like to introduce the director of the Office for
13 Victims of Crime. He is appointed by President Bush.
14 He is the first Senate-confirmed and political
15 appointee to the Office for Victims of Crime, and he is
16 the first-ever crime victim who has headed up the
17 Office for Victims of Crime.

18 So with that, John Gillis.

19 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Thanks, Jeannie. Good
20 morning, everyone. And again, let me say welcome to
21 you. We're really pleased and honored that you took
22 time out of your busy schedule to be with us today.
23 It's quite an honor for us.

24 You know, when I first got to the Office for
25 Victims of Crime, I decided that one of the things that

1 I wanted to do was go out and talk to the victims, to
2 the crime victims, and find out what the system is
3 doing for you; where we've failed; and what we can do
4 to better serve crime victims.

5 So we've had one in California. The first
6 one was held in California; the second one was in
7 Boston; and then one in Phoenix. And this is the third
8 one, third of probably about eight or ten that we're
9 going to hold. They keep holding their fingers up,
10 telling me I can't count.

11 MS. INEZ ODOM: Four.

12 MR. JOHN GILLIS: It's four. Okay, this is
13 the fourth one. So we will have a few more of these
14 across the country. This is the first one that we've
15 held in Indian Country, and we appreciate your being
16 here, and we're hoping that we can find out from you
17 how we can better serve you.

18 As I say, this is for victims. We're here to
19 talk to victims. It's not for service providers,
20 although we will listen to you later on in the day. We
21 really want to hear from the crime victims.

22 Before I go any further, I want to read a
23 letter to you from the U.S. Senate. It says, "Dear
24 Friends: I am writing to express my appreciation for
25 the work that you are doing to assist victims of crime

1 and to call attention to the many problems faced by
2 victims of crime. As you all know, crime -- and
3 violent crime in particular -- is still on the rise in
4 Native communities across the United States.
5 Unfortunately, there is a group of victims of crime in
6 these communities that is growing every day.

7 "Your efforts to provide services and comfort
8 to these victims are to be heralded. I believe that
9 better efforts at law enforcement will also, in the
10 long run, reduce significantly the crime rate and
11 lessen the pain of crime's casualties.

12 "Our nation was shaken on September 11th by
13 the brutality and senselessness of the terrorist
14 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. In the months
15 since then, the families of the victims have put aside
16 their deep pain and loss and begun to rebuild their
17 lives one day at a time. In few other instances of
18 American history have we as a people committed to help
19 the victims of the 11th and help them shape a brighter
20 future for themselves.

21 "I commend President Bush, Attorney General
22 Ashcroft, and Director Gillis for their efforts to
23 include the victims of crime from Indian communities in
24 this ongoing dialogue and believe that together we can
25 make a brighter, safer future for all Americans."

1 And it's signed "Ben Nighthorse Campbell,
2 Vice-chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs."

3 And with that, I will turn it back over to
4 Jeannie.

5 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: We do have copies of
6 that letter if anybody is interested and they would
7 like one. It is a faxed copy, and we will have an
8 original copy sent out to you in the notes when we send
9 that back.

10 I would like to introduce now Judge William
11 Johnson, to have him say a few words to us.

12 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: Good morning,
13 everybody. My name is William Johnson. I work as a
14 tribal judge in three pueblos: the Pueblo of Laguna,
15 who I'm representing today; the Pueblo of Isleta; and
16 the Pueblo of Cochiti. I'm also a private attorney and
17 a musician.

18 I would like to welcome those of you from out
19 of state, from Washington, and thank you for showing up
20 here and providing us a forum to let you know just how
21 bad it is in Indian Country in terms of the crime,
22 criminal activity, and the victims that are suffering
23 these very bad acts that we have within our own
24 communities.

25 And I hope those of you that can make things

1 happen for us will listen real close and appreciate
2 that we do need assistance, and that's why we're
3 showing up here on a Saturday morning with our hearts
4 in hand and our open minds, and hope that we can all
5 accomplish much more than has been done.

6 Again, I welcome you all from out of state
7 and those of you from in state who had to drive in from
8 the surrounding areas. We have a large state, and I
9 know you've come a long ways to be here, and I thank
10 you all, as well. And I hope we have a good day.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you.

13 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: Thank you, Judge
14 Johnson. Now I would like to introduce Inez Odom, and
15 she is going to explain to us these lights.

16 MS. INEZ ODOM: Aha! The lights, the lights.
17 Well, good morning, everyone. I'm really happy to be
18 here. My production company is called IMO Productions,
19 we've been hired by the Office for Victims of Crime to
20 essentially go with them around the country,
21 documenting the roundtables.

22 So, as you see, there are some ladies and
23 gentlemen who are working with me today on this
24 project, and basically we are here to document this, as
25 well as I know John, because I've done quite a bit of

1 facilitation, doing a lot of law enforcement training.

2 And so I'll be facilitating today's meeting,
3 and so you'll see me. And actually my colleague, Ena
4 Newell, in the purple -- some of you met Ena; she's
5 waving her hand -- will be passing the mike around to
6 sort of facilitate how we progress in terms of the
7 agenda.

8 And truly, you know, the big trick here is:
9 Don't look at the lights. That's probably the easiest
10 thing. And it's a pretty soft light, but it's just to
11 give you a nice, even tone.

12 What we're going to be doing in terms of our
13 process and agenda is that I would like to take you
14 through a really short introduction. By that, I mean
15 I'd really like to have each person just give me your
16 name, where you're from, and just a quick thumbnail.
17 So if we can just go around and find out who is in the
18 room.

19 Because then I'm going to be giving you ample
20 time to actually really talk about the things that you
21 have on your minds and hearts. And so we just want to
22 make this as brief as possible.

23 So with that, I'm going to come around and
24 we'll just do a quick round-robin. And I personally
25 always like to start with prayer, so can we stand up

1 and hold hands? Because that's how I would do it.

2 Here we go. Hold your hands like this.

3 (Prayer.)

4 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you very much. Okay.

5 Very good. I'm going to start here, and we're just
6 going to go around.

7 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: My name is Irene
8 Eldridge, and I'm from Window Rock, Arizona.

9 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: I'm Michelle Cochran.
10 I'm from Laguna Pueblo.

11 MS. BETTY CARRILLO: I'm Betty Carrillo. I'm
12 also from Laguna Pueblo.

13 MS. NATASHA ABEITA: I'm Natasha Abeita. I'm
14 also from Laguna Pueblo.

15 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: I am Sheila Abeita, and
16 I'm also from Laguna Pueblo.

17 MS. LOURDES TALACHY: I am Lourdes Talachy
18 from Santa Clara Pueblo.

19 MR. ELTON NASWOOD: Good morning. I'm Elton
20 Naswood. I live in Los Angeles right now, but I'm
21 originally from White Horse Lake, New Mexico.

22 MS. MARY JANE SOUTHER: Good morning. I'm
23 Mary Jane Souther with the Nez Perce tribe of Idaho.

24 MS. ARDITH HILL: Ardith Hill with the
25 Shoshoni tribes in Fort Hall, Idaho.

1 MS. ADA PECOS MELTON: Good morning. I'm
2 Ada Pecos Melton. I'm from the Pueblo of Jemez, but I
3 currently live here in Albuquerque.

4 MS. CHRISTINE BUTLER: Good morning. My name
5 is Christine Butler, and I'm with the Navajo Nation,
6 and I'm from Tuba City.

7 MS. BROOKE CANYON: Good morning. I'm Brooke
8 Canyon, and I'm from the Navajo Nation, and I'm from
9 Tuba City also.

10 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: Good morning. I'm
11 Natalia Calhoun from the Lumme (?) Nation in Northwest
12 Washington.

13 MS. BEVERLY WILKINS: Good morning. I'm
14 Beverly Wilkins, and I represent the Muskogee Creek
15 Nation and Cherry Nation of Oklahoma.

16 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: Good morning. My
17 name is Barb Scott-Rarick. I'm from the Navajo tribe.
18 I'm half Navajo and half Southern Ute. My clans are
19 the Bear Clan and the Folding Arm Clan.

20 MS. RUTH GARRETT: Hi. I'm Ruth Garrett, and
21 I'm from Southwest Washington State, representing the
22 Nasquallee (?) tribe, the Chehalis tribe, the Squaxin
23 Island tribe, the Skokomish tribe, and the Shoalwater
24 Bay tribe.

25 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: My name is Elaine Romero,

1 and I'm from Taos Pueblo in New Mexico.

2 MS. SHARON CLAIRMONT: Good morning. My name
3 is Sharon Clairmont. I'm Lakota. I'm from South
4 Dakota, the Rosebud Reservation, but I'm presently
5 living in Tesuque. And I thank you all.

6 MS. FRANCIS ONSTAD: Good morning. I'm
7 Francis Onstad from the Blackfeet Tribe in Northern
8 Montana, and I'm pleased to be here.

9 MS. FRANCES FLORES: Good morning. My name
10 is Frances Flores, and I'm the crime victims specialist
11 for the Pueblo of Laguna.

12 MS. INGRID MITCHELL: Ingrid Mitchell,
13 victims advocate with the Pueblo of Acoma.

14 MS. SHIRL PINTO-ROBINSON: I'm Shirl
15 Pinto-Robinson. I'm from the Navajo Nation, and I'm
16 working in Lame Deer, Montana, which is the Northern
17 Cheyenne reservation.

18 MS. RENONNEN SCOTT: I'm Renonnen Della
19 Scott, and I'm from Crow, and I work with the Crow
20 victims assistance program, and I'm a project
21 coordinator.

22 MS. MARIE CALICA: Good morning. I'm Marie
23 Calica, a member of the Confederated Tribes, Warm
24 Springs, state of Oregon, and I'm the director of
25 victims of crime for the tribe.

1 MS. GLADYS GRABEL: My name is Gladys Grabel.
2 I am from Warm Springs, Oregon, and I'm a youth
3 advocate for victims program.

4 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: My name is Rose Mary
5 Shaw, and I represent the Osage tribe from Oklahoma,
6 and I provide victim services for our tribe.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Thank you all
8 very much. And I see we have two new guests, and it's
9 hard to be popped right in and have to introduce
10 yourself, but please, if you would take it away.

11 MR. DANIEL ALBERT: Good morning. My name is
12 Daniel Albert. I belong to the Hopi tribe. I married
13 into Laguna. I would say our event is just now
14 current, so we're here to support Fran.

15 MS. KATHERINE ALBERT: Good morning. My name
16 is Katherine Albert. I'm a victim of crime.

17 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Would you shut the
18 door, please? Thank you. Okay. And I guess the other
19 thing -- let me just ask this question, because it's a
20 matter of courtesy, as well. Is there anyone who is
21 uncomfortable with being filmed, or did not know that
22 they were going to be filmed today? Because we
23 certainly want to honor that and respect that.

24 If anyone needs to, we can move you to
25 another part of the room or not film you, if someone

1 chooses not to be. Please.

2 MS. FRANCES FLORES: I'll just let you know
3 that the people from the Pueblo of Laguna weren't
4 advised they were going to be filmed, so in particular
5 if anyone from the pueblo that is here doesn't want to
6 be filmed, let us know.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Because the whole point of
8 this is that, you know, we really want folks to be able
9 to feel like they can be very candid and very honest.
10 So if you have any concerns, please let me know. All
11 right. Well, then we're going to march on, and I will
12 pass it back to Jeannie.

13 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: Before we jump into the
14 discussion, listening to you, I'll just give a brief
15 overview of what the Office for Victims of Crime is, so
16 you can have an idea of what we do. And then hopefully
17 we can start making some changes in response to what
18 you tell us.

19 Our office, the Office for Victims of Crime,
20 is part of a larger umbrella organization called the
21 Office of Justice Programs, or OJP, and it is part of
22 the United States Department of Justice. It was
23 created in 1984 through the Victims of Crime Act, or
24 VOCA.

25 We do have a mission, and our mission is to

1 enhance the nation's capacity to assist crime victims
2 and to provide leadership in changing attitudes,
3 policies, and practices that promote justice and
4 healing for all crime victims. OVC accomplishes its
5 mission in different ways.

6 One of the main ways is, we administer the
7 Crime Victims Fund, and I'll talk a little more about
8 that later, since that's our sole source of funding for
9 programs that go out through the nation and throughout
10 Indian Country.

11 We also support direct victim services, and
12 we provide training for different people throughout the
13 U.S. And we sponsor national projects and programs.

14 Now, going back to the Crime Victims Fund, or
15 the fund, that's our major funding source, and it's not
16 taxpayer based. And so what that means is, the money
17 that's collected yearly is from fines of convicted
18 federal offenders in like the U.S. Attorney's Office
19 and also through the Bureau of Prisons and through the
20 U.S. courts.

21 And what they do, they'll put fines,
22 penalties, special assessments, and forfeiture bonds on
23 these types of convicted offenders, and that's all
24 collected in a fund. So each year it fluctuates, but
25 there has been quite a lot of money in the fund.

1 And like you hear Enron, and when they get
2 hopefully big fines, like 500 million dollars, that
3 would go to us, if they have the money to pay it. And
4 so for example, in fiscal year 2000, there was 500
5 million dollars in this fund; and then in fiscal year
6 2001, it was 515 million; and for fiscal year 2002,
7 it's 550 million.

8 Now, what Congress has done, they put a cap
9 on the fund because some years we have low collections,
10 as they call it. So it might only be \$300,000. But by
11 Congress capping it at a certain set amount, we can
12 kind of regulate how much money is in that fund, to
13 make sure if we have a shortfall one year, that we
14 don't have to drastically cut back on programs.

15 And then recently, in October of 2001, after
16 the September 11 attacks on America, Congress passed
17 the -- and I'll say this in one breath; it's quite a
18 mouthful, though -- Uniting and Strengthening America
19 by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept
20 and Obstruct Terrorism Act. That's actually a statute.
21 The shortcut name is called the USA Patriot Act.

22 So Congress passed that, and it did have some
23 effect on OVC, and one of the main effects, it said
24 that not only could that money be collected in the fund
25 from the convicted offenders, but we could also now

1 have money that came from -- if someone wanted to
2 deposit a gift, like if someone just said, "I want to
3 give OVC 100 million dollars for crime victims," we
4 couldn't take that money before. We can now, because
5 of the USA Patriot Act, from bequests or donations into
6 the fund.

7 And so we're hoping with that new
8 legislation, we can also make sure that our collections
9 stay at a good level and we don't have shortfalls.

10 Now, of course when you have that much money
11 around, Congress is looking at it, and we do have
12 what's called congressional direction, which is the
13 politically correct term, which all that means is
14 earmarks, which means Congress is going to tell us how
15 to spend the money, in addition to the Victims of Crime
16 Act, which is our statute that tells us also how to
17 disburse this fund.

18 And so one of the first earmarks is for child
19 abuse. And so say you had the 500 million dollars.
20 The first 20 million is taken off of the top of the
21 fund annually to improve the investigation,
22 prosecution, and handling of child abuse cases.

23 Now, the money is actually divided between
24 the United States Department of Health and Human
25 Services and our office, OVC. And so Health and Human

1 Services receives 17 million dollars, and then OVC
2 receives three million dollars.

3 Now, with our three million, we use that
4 exclusively in Indian Country for the CJA programs, or
5 Children's Justice Act programs. Now, how many CJA
6 program people do we have here? I see Francis. Okay.
7 I see more people.

8 So with that three million, we fund CJA. And
9 for those of you who don't know what CJA is, it's money
10 that assists the Indian tribes and tribal communities
11 to improve the investigation, prosecution, and handling
12 of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse cases
13 in Indian Country.

14 And so what this program looks to do is to
15 fund either new tribes that want to create one of these
16 programs, or a tribal nonprofit that would work with
17 their cases. And so the program has to, of course, be
18 designed to help with the investigation, prosecution,
19 and handling of child sexual abuse cases in Indian
20 Country.

21 And so since 1989, OVC has provided this
22 Children's Justice Act funding, or CJA funding, to more
23 than 50 tribes. So that's been approximately 150
24 grants, or over 11 million dollars.

25 Now, some of these programs -- they do

1 different things, but generally, most of the programs
2 have established, expanded, and trained
3 multi-disciplinary and child protection teams.

4 Others have revised their tribal codes and
5 procedures so they can address child sexual abuse, or
6 they have provided child advocacy services for children
7 involved in court proceedings.

8 They have created written protocols so they
9 can look at the reporting, investigation, and
10 prosecution of these cases. They have developed
11 working agreements that would minimize the number of
12 child interviews that a child has to go through.
13 Because without these, sometimes, as all of you know, a
14 child might have to go through seven to fifteen
15 interviews, retelling their story.

16 There has also been enhanced case management
17 and treatment services for the victims. In some of the
18 programs, we were able to fund the creation of special
19 child center interview rooms that were just for the
20 child interviews, and then also to hire specialized
21 staff to handle child victim cases.

22 And so that's just some of the things that
23 the CJA programs can do. And we do solicit for new
24 programs, and so next year we will be soliciting for
25 new programs. It's three years of funding that we give

1 out for the programs that are continuing, but then we
2 also look for new programs, to bring them into this
3 type of program.

4 In addition to the CJA earmark, there are
5 other earmarks on the fund, and some are more aimed at
6 the federal system. And I won't go into a lot of
7 detail on them unless anybody has questions, but one is
8 basically it goes through the U.S. Attorney's Offices.

9 And probably you've had interaction with the
10 victim witness coordinators or the victim advocates in
11 the U.S. Attorney's Office. How many have interacted
12 with those types? Okay. This earmark funds those
13 positions.

14 And there's a second -- or a third earmark;
15 I'm not counting well today. It's for the FBI. And
16 actually, the FBI is now currently in the process; they
17 have gotten 112 positions supported out of this fund,
18 and some are specifically for Indian Country. But
19 they're going to be victim coordinators, victim
20 specialists, and victim advocates.

21 And what is happening there is, the thought
22 is if there is a crime where the Feds are prosecuting,
23 that during the investigation these victim specialists
24 would be reaching out to the victims, as well as when
25 it's prosecuted, in that when the case is indicted,

1 that then the U.S. Attorney's Office and their victim
2 folks would step in and help the victims.

3 There is also another earmark that's called
4 -- it's for the federal victim notification system,
5 which is supposed to support a huge automated database
6 in the federal system for both the FBI and the U.S.
7 Attorney's Office. So again, if you're a victim in a
8 federal crime, you'll get a letter. You'll get an
9 automatic notification. And you can call into this
10 number and get an update on your case.

11 The last part of the fund, by statute, that
12 money is directed to is called the emergency reserve,
13 and that allows up to 50 million dollars each year to
14 be set aside by the director, Director Gillis, to be
15 placed in what's called this emergency reserve account.

16 And this basically has two purposes. One is
17 to assist victims of terrorism or mass violence, and
18 the other would be to fund what we're newly creating.
19 It's called the International Terrorism Victim
20 Compensation Program.

21 Now, after September 11, the special master
22 -- he has a separate program, but now OVC is going to
23 start a special compensation program specifically for
24 terrorism victims, and so we're currently working on
25 that right now.

1 Now, with what's left in the fund, that is
2 statutorily directed under our Victims of Crime Act
3 statute. And so there's basically, if you kind of look
4 at it as a percentage, about 95 percent of the fund is
5 left. That goes to what's called -- two different
6 programs -- victim compensation for the states, and
7 victim assistance in the states.

8 And so with the victim compensation programs,
9 each state runs one of these. And so if you're a
10 victim of crime, you can apply directly, actually
11 through -- the tribal programs can hook up with the
12 state programs to help the victim fill out the
13 application, because it's usually an application
14 process. And it's to reimburse victims for direct
15 expenses associated with their crime victimization.

16 And so, for example, it could pay some of
17 your medical, and some of the programs also pay
18 traditional medical people. It can pay for funeral and
19 burial costs, for mental health counseling, and for
20 lost wages or loss of support.

21 And so the counties run this, and I know like
22 Apache County, they do a lot of outreach with the
23 tribes. But all of the states are supposed to be
24 accepting your applications. And so if we hear today
25 that that's not happening, that's something we need to

1 hear.

2 Because they are funded to, you know, create
3 a system where all victims can apply for these types of
4 reimbursement for their crime victim expenses.

5 The second main program that each state runs
6 is called the victim assistance program, and what this
7 is, this is your direct services to crime victims. So
8 these can be anywhere from domestic violence shelters
9 to regular shelters, emergency shelters, crisis
10 counseling, counseling, criminal justice advocacy.

11 It's any of those sub grants, because the
12 state sub grants it out to a direct service provider,
13 who in turn provides services to all victims of crime.

14 And so again, if say your organization is
15 applying for one of these grants through the state, and
16 you keep being rejected, we need to hear that. Because
17 we can't control who they give the money to, but it's
18 supposed to go to, you know, crime victim organizations
19 serving crime victims.

20 Now, the remaining 5 percent of the fund,
21 that's called like our discretionary fund, and that
22 supports monies that go to the field, about 3 percent
23 of that, to what's called nongovernmental organizations
24 or nonprofits.

25 And that, again, would be a direct grant from

1 OVC for a direct service to a victim. And that could
2 be anywhere from a shelter, again, to special programs.
3 Like we have one that is trying to train attorneys now
4 on what victim rights are, and so victims can have
5 attorneys in the court system. And so we look to fund
6 those.

7 Then the other 2 percent of that money goes
8 to what is considered federal agencies or federal
9 programs. And that actually -- we fund also some
10 Indian Country programs under that 2 percent
11 discretionary money. And the largest one is called
12 Victim Assistance in Indian Country, or our VIAC
13 program.

14 Do I have any VIAC people here? Okay. I see
15 some familiar faces. I should have you guys stand up
16 and talk about VIAC.

17 But basically, VIAC is to provide direct
18 funding to either the tribe or nonprofit that is run by
19 Indian Country persons, to provide direct services on
20 the reservation to crime victims.

21 And so that, again, is the competitive
22 process and we give three years of funding, and we will
23 in fiscal year '03, which basically is in October, go
24 out to look for new tribes to fund in those programs.

25 And so the types of crimes that these VIAC

1 programs can serve include anywhere from gang violence
2 victims, DUI victims, child abuse victims, domestic
3 violence, and sexual assault victims, and others, as
4 long as it's a victim of a crime.

5 And that began actually in 1988. And we've
6 had 29 reservation-based programs under the VIAC
7 project.

8 Now, other than that, that's pretty much all
9 of our money, although we did get a new piece of
10 legislation called the Trafficking Victims Protection
11 Act of 2000. That was passed last year. And that
12 actually gave OVC the authority to administer any grant
13 program, and so the Attorney General can now make
14 grants to states, Indian tribes, units of local
15 government, nonprofit and nongovernmental victim
16 service organizations, to develop, expand, or
17 strengthen victim service programs for victims of human
18 trafficking.

19 And what that is, they're finding that over
20 50,000 women and children may be trafficked from other
21 countries into the U.S. And like some of them are
22 told, "Oh, you're going to have a great job," or "We're
23 going to hook you up in this great new service."

24 And actually when they come here, they find
25 out that they're not free to go; their passports or any

1 papers that they have are taken; and they're put in
2 either the sexual trade or they're put into like
3 slave-like conditions or sweat shops; or they can even
4 be like an indentured servant in someone's house.

5 We've heard stories where one woman, you
6 know, for 15 years was kept in like a little dog house
7 room, and she had a 25-pound tumor in her stomach
8 because they never got her medical care. They burned
9 her and just never paid her. She didn't speak the
10 language here in America.

11 And so one day when she was able to get out
12 of the house -- and it was a very well established
13 house, actually, in Beverly Hills. You know, she
14 couldn't talk English, and so she couldn't talk to the
15 neighbors. And so then when the owners came back and
16 found out she had gotten out, they were like, "Oh, just
17 ignore her, you know, she's -- just ignore her."

18 So they actually -- you know, she got put
19 back in the house again. But then people started to
20 realize: Wait, something's kind of funny here.

21 So when they investigated, they found out
22 that she had been sold, trafficked over here, and put
23 into this, you know, servant-like horrible situation
24 for 15 years.

25 And there are other cases. Sometimes there

1 are hundreds of people trafficked over here. But this
2 new grant program is to look at the services needed for
3 those people. Because like, you know, if they don't
4 speak English and they need a lot of counseling or
5 things like that, that's what the program is looking
6 for.

7 So we actually have a request for proposals
8 right now out and, you know, tribes can apply for it if
9 you're seeing any of those types of victims showing up
10 on your reservation. And the closing date for that is
11 July 29.

12 So I don't want to go on and on about OVC. I
13 just wanted to give you a brief highlight. But are
14 there any questions or comments about anything that I
15 talked about? Okay.

16 Now we're going to get you guys talking, and
17 we're going to start to get into the real discussion of
18 why we're here and how we can improve services to crime
19 victims.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Can you hear me?
21 Beautiful. Here we go. I'm going to now have you come
22 and join me up here. Also, just so you know, the
23 reason we're also documenting all of this process,
24 during lunch we're going to play the Boston roundtable
25 for you, just so that you can have a chance to see what

1 we're putting together.

2 Because the idea is that we want to be able
3 to show these roundtables to service providers back in
4 Washington, D.C., people who are working with these
5 issues so they can see the real people behind what they
6 do, as well as we're going to be doing some additional
7 trainings so that we create some video products that
8 will be used for victims and for service providers, to
9 better educate them. So that's the intention of all
10 the videotaping.

11 So with that, what we'd like to do is start
12 out and have you all, if there's anyone who would like
13 to start out. I know very much what we're very
14 interested in doing is hearing from those who are
15 victims and survivors, and making sure that you have
16 had an opportunity to speak. Not that we are not very
17 in love with our service providers, but that, you know,
18 we really want to make sure that folks get to speak.

19 So is there anyone who would like to start in
20 my inner circle? No one wants to start? Okay. Is
21 there anyone who would like to start in my outer
22 circle?

23 Do you have something you would like to say?
24 John would like to say something.

25 MR. JOHN GILLIS: You had already mentioned

1 that I was a crime victim, and I will start off by
2 telling you what had occurred to me and my family and
3 my daughter.

4 I was a police officer with the City of Los
5 Angeles. I was a sergeant at the time, and I had been
6 working on some very confidential kind of cases. My
7 daughter was targeted by some of the people that I had
8 worked on investigating. She was targeted to be
9 murdered. She was murdered. This was in 1979.

10 And the perpetrator was caught about eight
11 months later. It turned out he had been in and out of
12 prison. He wanted to move up in the hierarchy of the
13 gang. That was his buy-in to move into the narcotics
14 end of the business, so he targeted my daughter.

15 So that's how I became very active in crime
16 victims' issues. I found out that when we were at
17 trial, my wife and I had to sit out in the hall, while
18 the perpetrator and his family were all inside the
19 courtroom, so we never got to see what took place
20 inside the courtroom.

21 But that's how I got started working with
22 crime victims.

23 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, John. And John is
24 also on the Board of Prison Terms, as well. I don't
25 know if that was mentioned earlier, but that's a

1 commissioner position, the Board of Prison Terms. The
2 other thing, the little trick with these mikes is that
3 you just want to -- you get to feel like Janet Jackson
4 or something today.

5 But you just want to hold it like this,
6 because if you hold it like this, then you're off
7 access or -- you know, it's got to be right about here.
8 Okay. That's that.

9 Anybody care to start? Anyone? Okay. All
10 right. Irene, would you feel comfortable starting?
11 Thank you.

12 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: My name is Irene, and I
13 had a very close friend that was killed last year. And
14 maybe it would have been easier if he had been Navajo,
15 but he wasn't of the Navajo tribe. And that's why I
16 took it upon myself to help him. Excuse me, but it's
17 been really hard.

18 Phillip and I, we met about nine years ago,
19 and I took a special interest in him because he was
20 adopted out of his tribe, the Shoshoni tribe. And he
21 was a kind person, and he had his problems. And we
22 tried to make a life together, but because of some of
23 the problems that he had in the last year, I decided
24 not to be as close.

25 We still maintained contact in the last year.

1 We used to walk together. I asked him to go on a
2 hiking trip to the Grand Canyon. And he wanted to help
3 my family out, and I thought if he really meant it, I
4 would take him on home to do some woodcutting.

5 I called him on a Saturday morning, and he
6 had not returned on a Thursday. He was due back on a
7 Friday or something like that. And right away, I just
8 kind of knew something was wrong, but I didn't want to
9 worry, so I went on home.

10 And I checked on him the next, following
11 week, and he wasn't in. And so I knew something was
12 wrong, and I kept checking. And I have a very good
13 pastor from home, and I went to see him, and we prayed.
14 And he told me that everything was all peace, at peace,
15 and didn't think anything was wrong.

16 So it was still not right to me. And his
17 adoptive mother called me after a week and a half, and
18 I told her that Phillip had been missing. And she
19 couldn't locate him.

20 So I went -- she came on down, and we went to
21 the police department. I took her to the police
22 department, and we filed a missing person's report.
23 And I knew something had already happened to him,
24 because it was unlike him to not call me.

25 And that was on a Saturday that we filed the

1 report. And the next day, we got ready to go to
2 church, and I stopped by to see what had happened with
3 a report because I was checking into a body that had
4 been found somewhere in Arizona.

5 What happened was, I found out that the
6 report was never filed, or it was missing. Maybe it
7 was because it was during the Navajo tribal fair.

8 And I just knew that his mother couldn't
9 handle the possibility that her son was no longer
10 alive. So she nearly fainted when we received, over
11 the phone, that the description of his body was not
12 that of Phillip's.

13 MS. INEZ ODOM: What was your experience -- I
14 should grab this mike. What was your experience with
15 law enforcement or victim assistance in this process?

16 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: Okay. All right. First
17 is that the report was lost. It was not -- we had to
18 refile it, which I was getting to that. We had to
19 refile it and go over it again. And from there on, it
20 wasn't taken as serious.

21 When I see shows, national shows in other
22 parts of the country, they take missing persons
23 serious. And a few months -- a couple months had gone
24 by again, and I knew that -- I started looking on my
25 own, and I knew I wasn't going to get anywhere with the

1 police department.

2 And so what I did is, a former -- or a
3 co-worker of mine was a former police officer, and I
4 put together a letter to the police department,
5 requesting for their assistance to help because this
6 was a very suspicious type -- so that's what we did.

7 And I then went to the criminal investigator
8 department, investigation department. That
9 investigator said that they would look into it, and he
10 assigned an investigator. So I didn't want to be too
11 pushy, but I would follow up every now and then because
12 it was such a slow process.

13 By the time when I got with the investigator,
14 the investigator informed me that it was never really
15 referred to him, so the case -- so it was referred back
16 to the -- he told me to refer it back to the police
17 officer.

18 And by this time, the whole experience was
19 frustrating and emotionally wearing down on me. But my
20 support was --

21 MS. INEZ ODOM: Do you have a question, John?

22 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Yes. Was anyone ever taken
23 into custody on this?

24 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: No. It's still an
25 unsolved case.

1 MR. JOHN GILLIS: How long ago?

2 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: This happened in August.
3 I believe it happened on August 17th, and the remains
4 were not found until, I think, October 30th.

5 MR. JOHN GILLIS: And nobody has been in
6 contact with you to tell you --

7 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: I have to do the
8 contacting, myself.

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay.

10 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: I really believe in this
11 whole ordeal that it really was my pastor that helped
12 with prayer, because I believe that Phillip's body
13 would not have been found if we had not prayed. And we
14 received answers.

15 And the day before Phillip was found, we
16 prayed for days before, and we had a vision of his
17 thumb, that only the thumb was showing. And I already
18 knew that we had to go back to the police department
19 for some type of identification.

20 And within the following week, his remains
21 were found in an open grave in Clifton, Arizona. And
22 so the criminal investigator, investigation department,
23 started comparing Phillip's profile, personal profile,
24 and they started asking me. So they found his
25 identification through dental records.

1 So we're just -- since his adoptive mother
2 lived in California and she had just recently lost her
3 husband, and his sister was in Oregon, they turned
4 everything over to me to make the funeral arrangements.

5 MS. INEZ ODOM: You know, one of the products
6 that we're creating is a show called "How Can I Help?"
7 where we're actually targeting pastors, ministers,
8 clergy, neighbors, co-workers, caring friends on how
9 they can better support and help crime victims.

10 So I know you have some notes. If you have
11 some additional points, but I want to be able to just
12 share and let others -- if you had some additional
13 things you wanted to touch upon?

14 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: I guess really the
15 reason why I mentioned Phillip, too, because I have a
16 strong family support system, and family is really
17 important. And I saw my friend, Phillip, didn't have
18 that kind of support. So it seemed like there wasn't
19 really that much support for him.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay.

21 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: And I think my friends
22 offered to sit through with me, through -- the police
23 were going to interview me. And as I mentioned, my
24 pastor and his wife, and just with my family being
25 there, they were supportive, providing donations to

1 help with everything. So that's the kind of support I
2 received.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you very much, Irene.
4 Thank you.

5 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: Oh, I'm sorry.

6 MS. INEZ ODOM: Go ahead.

7 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: But the mortuary also
8 was helpful. But I just want to say in my concluding
9 remarks that sometimes people say that we have a lot of
10 tribal bureaucracy, and I think that's what I found out
11 in dealing with this whole issue. And I had to do a
12 lot of writing to the criminal investigation and just
13 to help.

14 I've written a memo to the chief of police
15 and just getting reports. No matter how many times I
16 asked them and requested them, I threatened to go to
17 the police department, I -- with his family, his son's
18 family and ex-wife, we thought that we might, you know,
19 try even a lawsuit to get some of these reports.

20 Because getting the death certificate, you
21 know, was really hard. And to this day, I don't think
22 we even have a death certificate.

23 MS. INEZ ODOM: And the greatest challenge
24 was with the tribal police or with the --

25 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: With, yes, the police

1 department, with the criminal investigation, even at
2 the higher levels, just getting assistance, for them to
3 respond with police reports. The police reports
4 weren't available for months.

5 And I understand that the police were -- the
6 police that went out to the initial site finally got
7 the reports in. But I told the police officer that
8 when people are in distress and emotional situations,
9 they need a lot of help, and it would be helpful if the
10 police officers, themselves, have this kind of
11 training, to let them know and to have some report
12 writing and technical writing involved.

13 MS. INEZ ODOM: And I'm sorry. I'm just
14 trying to be clear. Are you talking about the tribal
15 police, or are you talking about the police in the
16 community?

17 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: The tribal police.

18 MS. INEZ ODOM: The tribal police? Okay.

19 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: Uh-huh.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: Thank you.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Please.

23 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: I'm here as a -- I'm a
24 survivor of domestic violence. Mine occurred -- well,
25 it finally ended, I guess, ten years ago. I was

1 working with the Laguna police department at the time.
2 I had been with my ex-husband. We had been together
3 for about 12 years, up until then.

4 In those years, there was a lot of abuse,
5 physical abuse. There was verbal abuse. There was
6 emotional abuse. There was the substance abuse, the
7 alcohol. A lot of the -- the most violent incidents
8 occurred after he was drunk.

9 I don't remember my kids ever being there. I
10 had two kids at the time, but I know they saw. And I
11 never really thought about what they were seeing. I
12 think the worst of it came like in 1991.

13 I had been with the police department for
14 less than a year, and I got home from work, and he had
15 been out drinking. He got home. I don't even remember
16 what set it off but, you know, I got hit, I got kicked.
17 And eventually, he pulled out my duty weapon and
18 wrapped around it, threw me up against the wall, and
19 put the gun to my head and asked, "Are you ready to
20 die?"

21 By then, it was: "Just do it." It had been
22 years of abuse, and it wasn't shocking anymore. I
23 mean, that was just a way of life. And I told him,
24 "Just do it." I don't know what stopped him from doing
25 it, but it didn't happen.

1 I called the police. They got there. I
2 don't even remember calling the police. They got
3 there. He was arrested. He went through the tribal
4 court system, and I believe -- at the time, we didn't
5 have a code. We didn't have a domestic violence code.
6 The only thing we had was the tribal code.

7 He was charged with assault and battery. We
8 didn't have -- like I said, we didn't have a code at
9 the time that mandated a certain sentence. He got what
10 -- I think he got 90 days. And it was -- he probably
11 served 30 days of it and went to treatment for 60 days,
12 I think.

13 It was a tribal police officer that handled
14 the call and, you know, somebody that I worked with. I
15 never really thought -- at the time, I never really
16 thought about, you know, any follow-up.

17 You know, thinking about it now, there was no
18 follow-up. I worked there, and maybe he just assumed
19 that I knew what was going on. Well, I didn't. I only
20 knew because I was a victim, because I knew that my
21 husband didn't come home for 90 days. I was never told
22 whether -- I know my weapon was confiscated.

23 I had to go back to work, and of course my
24 sergeant by then knew what had happened. I was issued
25 another weapon. I was never told whether it got

1 referred through the federal system. I was never given
2 any reports. I didn't find one until -- well, I'll get
3 to that.

4 But my husband at the time got out of jail.
5 He was put on probation for a year. For a year, you
6 know, nothing happened. We argued, but it never got
7 physical again. And he would always tell me that he
8 wasn't going to do anything anymore because he knew I
9 would call the police. That was the first time,
10 actually, I had ever called the police in all the years
11 that this was going on.

12 MS. INEZ ODOM: And clarifying, were they the
13 tribal police?

14 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: They were the tribal
15 police.

16 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay.

17 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: Yeah. And he was on
18 probation for a year. That was June of 1991. In June
19 of 1992 his probation ended. And like I said, he'd
20 tell me that, you know, "I'm not stupid. I'm not going
21 to do anything. I know you're going to call the
22 police." And, you know, nothing happened. We had our
23 arguments, but that was it.

24 Then in August of 1992, he was out drinking
25 again. I came home from work, and nobody was home.

1 referred through the federal system. I was never given
2 any reports. I didn't find one until -- well, I'll get
3 to that.

4 But my husband at the time got out of jail.
5 He was put on probation for a year. For a year, you
6 know, nothing happened. We argued, but it never got
7 physical again. And he would always tell me that he
8 wasn't going to do anything anymore because he knew I
9 would call the police. That was the first time,
10 actually, I had ever called the police in all the years
11 that this was going on.

12 MS. INEZ ODOM: And clarifying, were they the
13 tribal police?

14 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: They were the tribal
15 police.

16 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay.

17 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: Yeah. And he was on
18 probation for a year. That was June of 1991. In June
19 of 1992 his probation ended. And like I said, he'd
20 tell me that, you know, "I'm not stupid. I'm not going
21 to do anything. I know you're going to call the
22 police." And, you know, nothing happened. We had our
23 arguments, but that was it.

24 Then in August of 1992, he was out drinking
25 again. I came home from work, and nobody was home.

1 Luckily, my kids were not -- were at their grandma's,
2 so they weren't there. When he got home, I didn't even
3 know again what set him off, but he started in on me,
4 and it was the verbal abuse, the accusations, you know.
5 He again started throwing things around, started
6 throwing me around, started hitting.

7 We didn't have a phone at the time. And I
8 had my portable radio on because I wanted to hear where
9 the officers were at. You know, during the time, he
10 was, you know, kicking me and hitting me and throwing
11 me around. Right after that, he went for the weapon
12 again.

13 By then, it had been a year since the first
14 time, and in that time I learned to take apart my
15 weapon. I had put -- I took the magazine out; I took
16 the whole weapon apart. The frame of the weapon was in
17 the holster. You know, I kind of had learned to put
18 different parts in different places in the room.

19 And he went for the weapon. When I saw him
20 go for the weapon, that's when I realized that, you
21 know, it's going to keep happening. And I didn't put
22 up a fight. I just knew that I was going to get
23 through it, and when I got through it, it was going to
24 be over.

25 He realized that the weapon was -- that I had

1 taken it apart, which got him more angry. And once he
2 had -- once, I guess, he was finished, he wanted to go
3 to the store. He wanted to get munchies. And, you
4 know, I didn't.

5 We went -- well, we argued about going. I
6 didn't want to go; he wanted to go. So I thought:
7 Okay, this is my opportunity. So I went. And I'm
8 looking around for the radio, get in my purse. And he
9 said, "Don't even think about your radio." So I
10 thought: Well, okay, on the way down he'll pass out
11 and I'll just drive to the police department.

12 So we're going down, and he's not passing
13 out, he's not passing out. And I'm like: Just go to
14 sleep. And then he said, "Don't even think about
15 driving to the PD." So it's like he already knew what
16 I was thinking. He knew what I was planning.

17 So we got to the gas station. We argued
18 about going in, and he wanted me to go in and get him
19 the munchies. And I said, "You go in. You're the one
20 that's hungry." Finally, I thought: Okay, that's my
21 chance.

22 I went in, and I just told them, "Can you
23 call the PD for me and give me the phone?" So they did
24 that, and I called. And I didn't tell them what had
25 happened. I just asked for -- I knew -- I had heard on

1 the radio the officer, you know, that had been on duty
2 when I went home, and I just told him, "Can you have
3 Vince come to the 108?"

4 And he got over there. Well, when I was
5 giving the phone back, that's when my husband came in,
6 saw that I was on the phone, and got angry. And I
7 said, "Just go. They're on their way. Just go. Get
8 out of here."

9 When I gave the phone back, I gave it back,
10 and the receiver was bloody. I didn't know I was
11 bleeding. And the gas attendant really just -- he
12 didn't know what to do. I think that was the last
13 thing he expected.

14 My husband got real nervous, started looking
15 to the road, and finally he took off. And I just told
16 the attendant, you know, "When Vince gets here" --
17 there was a garage that was attached to it, and I just
18 told him, you know, "I'll be in the garage."

19 I stood there, and I waited. And he got
20 there, and I just told him that, you know, "Just take
21 me to the PD. I need to fill out the paperwork." He
22 took me to the PD, kind of asked me what had happened.
23 I briefly told him. He got me there. He went to get
24 me the paperwork. I sat in the day room and filled out
25 the criminal complaint.

1 And he went to call my sergeant and let him
2 know what happened. The sergeant told him, "Call the
3 EMTs." So he called them. They got over there, and
4 that's when I think everybody realized that, you know,
5 something had happened. I didn't tell anybody; I just
6 went in and just told them I wanted to fill out the
7 paperwork.

8 They took me to the hospital, to the
9 emergency room. The sergeant got there, and I told him
10 what had happened. I told him -- they made a decision
11 to go ahead, to go arrest him. All I told him was, you
12 know, "Be careful. He fights dirty." He fought me
13 like I was a guy, you know, with boots, kicking,
14 hitting.

15 I told the officers, the sergeant and the
16 officers, that he'll fight dirty. There was a weapon
17 in the house. It was taken apart, but I didn't know if
18 he knew how to put it back together. I told them the
19 portable was there, it was on, so they were going to
20 hear him coming -- he was going to hear them coming.

21 They called out another officer. There were
22 two of them on at the time, and they called out a third
23 one to go, so they could go pick him up. They
24 eventually arrested him.

25 Again, he was charged with assault and

1 battery. He went through the tribal court system
2 again. He got 90 days, and he went for treatment.

3 This was about maybe 5:00 in the morning when
4 he was finally arrested. I got back home, and by then,
5 you know, my mom was bringing my kids down. She knew
6 something had happened. My in-laws lived across the
7 street, which was -- I moved him out.

8 And his brothers woke up that morning and saw
9 the police cars over there, knew something had
10 happened. They came over, and they were upset with
11 their brother. All they asked was, you know, what had
12 he done this time. I told them he was in jail; I
13 wasn't going to deal with this anymore; I was going to
14 pack up his stuff that day; and I needed them to come
15 after his stuff; he was their problem now.

16 They gave me their support, told me that it
17 was his own fault, and they would support me in
18 whatever I did, just let them know.

19 MS. INEZ ODOM: John has a question for you,
20 Michelle.

21 MR. JOHN GILLIS: I was going to ask you,
22 what is it that the system could have done that would
23 have helped in your situation, or what can we do that
24 will help other victims from going through the same
25 thing that you went through?

1 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: At the time, we didn't
2 have a victim advocate. There was -- I have family.
3 Again, like Irene said, I had a strong family support.
4 And not many people are that lucky. There was nobody
5 there to guide me through what paperwork needed to be
6 filled out. I only knew because I worked there.

7 I guess I was one of the lucky ones. I knew
8 what I needed to complete. Nobody was there to tell
9 me. Nobody was there to walk me through and help me
10 with a restraining order, help me with filing
11 separation papers.

12 I knew what I needed to do, but like I said,
13 I worked there. But that's what would have been
14 helpful, would have been somebody to -- I know that the
15 victim advocate now does that.

16 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Have you had any training
17 as a police officer?

18 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: No. No. We had very
19 -- I was there a little over a year. The first time it
20 happened, I wasn't even there for a year. But there
21 wasn't the kind of training that there is now. We
22 didn't have the report writing. We didn't have the
23 crime scene investigation. We didn't know how to deal
24 with domestic abuse cases.

25 MR. JOHN GILLIS: So let me ask you, when you

1 were called to the scene where there was domestic
2 violence or domestic abuse, how were you trained to
3 handle that? Or were you trained to handle it?

4 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: We called family
5 services, you know. Nobody -- I don't know if anybody
6 was called in my case. Nobody showed up. And maybe
7 they didn't because I was an officer. I don't know. I
8 never questioned. I never asked anybody, "Did they
9 call?"

10 Like I said, there was no -- nobody told me
11 whether it was referred to the federal authorities.
12 Nobody got with me to say, "I referred it to the
13 criminal investigator." We did have a criminal
14 investigator at the agency. He worked with BIA.

15 He never came to me to say, "I got a report"
16 and asked, you know, my situation. I didn't find out
17 until about a year ago, almost two years ago, when I
18 was -- I was a sergeant at the time, and I was looking
19 for -- actually, this was just a year ago, because I
20 had just become the chief, and I was looking for -- we
21 were cleaning out paperwork, and I was looking through
22 the old files, and we were laughing about how we used
23 to do reports.

24 And I picked one up, and it caught my eye
25 because it had my name on it, and that was the police

1 report from the last incident in 1992. And that was --
2 when I read the report, that's when I knew that it had
3 been referred to the criminal investigator. A report
4 had been done, and that report had been referred to the
5 U.S. Attorney's Office, and it had been declined for
6 prosecution.

7 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Has anybody else had that
8 kind of experience, where there was domestic violence
9 and nobody knew how to handle, law enforcement didn't
10 handle?

11 Do you have any comments on that, Judge?
12 Maybe the judge has some comments.

13 MS. INEZ ODOM: Judge Johnson?

14 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: Well, as you can
15 imagine, I've seen a few domestic violence cases in the
16 tribal court systems that I've worked in. And we have
17 such high incidence of alcohol-related violence,
18 including domestic violence, that it's just
19 unbelievable.

20 We still find many of the different parts
21 that have to act in response are either not trained or
22 don't take it as serious as they should. I just
23 recently had a -- it wasn't domestic violence, but it
24 was a violent crime, an assault and battery with a lot
25 of violence involved, where still an officer, for

1 whatever reason he wanted to, dismissed the action.

2 And I didn't dismiss it. I had a hearing on
3 the motion, to find out: Why? What's the basis?
4 What's wrong? Why can't you prosecute? Because I read
5 the complaint, and it seemed a pretty strong case to
6 win.

7 If you were analyzing it from the
8 prosecution's point of view, it looked pretty solid.
9 There were witnesses; the victim was willing to
10 cooperate. Yet, the officer had chosen to request that
11 it be dismissed. And when I brought all the parties in
12 to find out what was holding up the prosecution, it
13 turns out it was, again, the officer admitted he had
14 neglected the case, for whatever reason, and agreed to
15 continue the prosecution. I denied the motion to
16 dismiss.

17 Police training is extremely important.
18 Judge training is important. Codes are important, so
19 that we have elements of a crime that are clear and
20 concise and can be easily proven. Investigators
21 responding to scenes and interviewing, and things like
22 that, are extremely necessary.

23 And in Indian Country, we have a limitation
24 in our jurisdiction in terms of sentencing. We are
25 limited to -- the maximum penalty for any one crime, I

1 don't care how violent it is, the worst that a judge
2 can give to a criminal defendant, for the worst
3 violence they can commit, is one year in jail and a
4 \$5,000 fine, one or the other or both.

5 I mean, right then and there, sure, somebody
6 is going to say to the judge, "But Judge, what do you
7 mean you gave him a year? He deserves ten years. He
8 deserves to be banished."

9 That's another option that some pueblos do
10 have. But again, the parts that have to work, the
11 individuals, the offices, the positions from tribal
12 chief, governor, to the councilmen, to the people that
13 make the laws, we're just the -- I'm just the one --
14 I'm the judge.

15 The officers have the worst job in the
16 pueblo, then the judges, because our hands are tied;
17 the laws aren't strict enough; there aren't enough laws
18 clear enough to be able to prosecute.

19 And like I say, this incredible limitation on
20 our punishment power forces us to hope and pray that
21 the federal government will be there in time to
22 prosecute on an extremely violent case that could be a
23 felony. In other words, we have misdemeanor
24 jurisdiction, is all we have.

25 MS. INEZ ODOM: But Judge Johnson, isn't part

1 of what even the purpose of this whole meeting today
2 is, for us to be able to determine, well, then, how do
3 we create some remedies to these things, correct? I
4 mean, isn't that -- correct me, John, if I'm wrong, but
5 isn't that what we're here to do, is to say -- I mean,
6 that's messed up. I'm sorry. I don't work for the
7 federal government, ha-ha-ha.

8 I mean, that's messed up. One year for a
9 violent crime? So what -- and is it that it's
10 inconsistent depending on where it occurs? I mean --

11 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: It's anywhere in
12 Indian Country, any tribal government that exercises
13 police power.

14 MS. INEZ ODOM: So even if I'm in California,
15 that's the case?

16 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: Any tribe in the
17 United States, all 480 tribes that have tribal
18 governments, the tribal judges are limited to this
19 maximum penalty.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Is there a rationale for
21 that? I mean, I'm not trying to be challenging here.
22 Sorry. Okay. I'll be quiet. I'm just --

23 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: That's a long and
24 deep discussion that has to do with tribal sovereignty
25 and the United States government.

1 MS. INEZ ODOM: I'll behave. I'll do my job.

2 I'll pass the mike.

3 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: If I can insert, what
4 the Judge is talking about, it's under the Indian Civil
5 Rights Act, which limited what tribes can do throughout
6 the nation, and that was one of them. So that's what
7 the U.S. did to the tribes.

8 MS. INEZ ODOM: I see.

9 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: Because they are
10 considered independent domestic nations, even though
11 they are a sovereign jurisdiction. I should also note
12 I used to teach Indian law.

13 MR. JOHN GILLIS: One of the things I wanted
14 to ask you before you give up the mike is: The
15 training of law enforcement and judges and other
16 personnel, is that something you and I, and maybe some
17 other people, should talk about?

18 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: Certainly. I think
19 that is extremely important. I think every tribal
20 judge, and I would hope even the tribal councils who
21 make the laws, who approve the on-reservation laws,
22 that can fashion the on-reservation laws, should be in
23 on this discussion, in my opinion. Because we can only
24 execute what they allow us to do.

25 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay.

1 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: I mean, I could
2 stretch it as far as I can without violating the Indian
3 Civil Rights Act, which is what I have to do.

4 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay. We'll schedule
5 something and get a chance to sit and talk.

6 JUDGE WILLIAM JOHNSON: Yes, please. All
7 right.

8 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Thank you.

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: I see hands going up. Okay.
10 Thank you. You hang on to that, John. There are some
11 hands going up, but I really wanted to make sure now,
12 is this a direct response to this issue? May I go to
13 the -- she had her hand up first. Then I'll move over
14 here, and then for sure we are coming back.

15 And did you get to conclude, Michelle?

16 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: Yes.

17 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

18 MS. MARGARET HENRY HAYES: Sometimes the
19 dynamics in Indian Country is probably familiar in all
20 Indian Country, is the relative issues. Who's working
21 for the police department? Who's working for the
22 court? Who's working -- who's doing what?

23 I mean, we have family that works for tribal
24 police. It may be the intake; it may be the --
25 whoever. But if her brother is the one that's the

1 perpetrator, she doesn't want to give the calls. She
2 doesn't give the calls. Things that should happen
3 don't happen.

4 That's just how tribal government runs. And
5 I don't know how you get by that type of issues in
6 tribal land.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Next?

8 MS. MARGARET HENRY HAYES: I agree with the
9 judge over here. You know, the tribes have only
10 misdemeanor courts, and what we find is because we have
11 a high turnover in our law enforcement -- our law
12 enforcement go through police academies.

13 From what I understand, they do have a
14 segment in there that addresses domestic violence, but
15 it's very small; it's not sufficient training for the
16 officers, and they don't receive a lot of other
17 training, aside from that, on domestic violence.

18 Their report writing could be better. And
19 there are officers that are very good when they are
20 called out to a scene of domestic violence. There are
21 some that don't want to report domestic violence, for
22 whatever their own reasons are.

23 So I believe that more training is a very
24 great need for the police officers.

25 Because we have only a misdemeanor court,

1 when we do have a felony, it's the FBI that takes
2 jurisdiction. And we have a very, very hard time
3 trying to get FBI to take jurisdiction in our cases of
4 domestic violence, sexual assault, you know, our
5 violent crimes.

6 We've only had one investigator in our area.
7 That's from -- well, covers from Whatcom County, north
8 of Seattle. And from what I understand right now, the
9 FBI's priorities are in other areas. One of them is
10 protecting the border crossing. We're close to the
11 border. They tell us that, you know, "Our priorities
12 are protecting the border," you know.

13 So any of our cases that we have, it's
14 basically left up to our investigator to try to put
15 together the whole case for them and present it to them
16 on a silver platter, you know. They don't want to do
17 any investigation.

18 So I think it's important that we get more
19 FBI agents, you know, that have a direction, you know,
20 to perform this service in Indian Country, because
21 we're not finding that it's working.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Margaret.

23 MS. MARGARET HENRY HAYES: And our jails; we
24 have so little money for jails that even when we do
25 prosecute cases, we can't put people in jail because

1 our money is so limited. We don't have the money for
2 it. Jail time is very costly.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. What I would like
4 to have folks do, when you get the microphone, if you
5 would just say your name, please, once you have gotten
6 the microphone, say your full name for the record so we
7 have that.

8 Thank you. And I'm mindful, too, that I'm
9 going to give you a little bit of a break, but I want
10 to let us pick up the last couple of people. So
11 Barbara, I think you were next.

12 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: Well, I just
13 wanted to say that in reference to law enforcement,
14 judges, and prosecution, they did have that money, that
15 there was training out for those people specifically in
16 how to handle domestic violence cases. So there was a
17 pod of money.

18 And when we sit here and we talk about
19 solutions, I don't think anybody wants to lose any of
20 their funding. So my suggestion is that your office
21 put recommendations, or whatever you want to call them,
22 guidelines, that you have to follow X, Y, and Z; you
23 have to get law enforcement trained; you have to get
24 judges trained.

25 And it's our tribes -- we have to go out

1 there, and we're the ones that have to bring the judges
2 to the training; we're the ones that have to keep the
3 prosecutors trained on domestic violence and law
4 enforcement.

5 And if something doesn't go right or
6 something happens within law enforcement, it's up to us
7 to handle the situation. And again, we don't want to
8 lose the money. You know, you're the ones that are
9 paying for the program, so put guidelines in effect,
10 that if you don't do X, Y, and Z, you're not going to
11 get the money.

12 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Barbara. And we
13 have Mary Jane.

14 MS. MARY JANE SOUTHER: My name is Mary Jane.
15 I was going to comment in regard to the banishment. We
16 had a team -- a gang rape in Lapwai. And there were
17 seven boys involved in getting her into this room, and
18 four of them were actual rapers, rapists. And two were
19 nonIndian, and two were tribal.

20 The two tribal got banished from the
21 reservation; and the other two, nonIndian, not even a
22 slap of the wrist, and they were given community
23 service hours.

24 So, you know, where is the justice? And I
25 know maybe the tightening of our law and order code --

1 jurisdiction is a big thing in our country. Whenever
2 we have a tribal woman with a nontribal man, he knows
3 he's safe because neither -- you know, they will not
4 come onto tribal property to release -- to arrest the
5 nontribal. And the nontribal police officer cannot go
6 on and arrest the nontribal member.

7 I mean, I've had one case where the woman was
8 beat severely. The children had been also beat
9 severely. I got ahold of CPS, both tribal and
10 nontribal. He was nontribal.

11 And nobody would take him. They just
12 escorted him off the property. And so I pursued it
13 into the county, and I finally got the ears of an
14 investigator, and so she contacted FBI. And that's
15 been two years ago.

16 So he still, you know, does the threatening
17 bit of wanting to get back onto the property, and he
18 claims that he has squatter's rights. And, you know,
19 then the tribal police will say, "Well, this was his
20 place of residence, too." And the nontribal law
21 enforcement say, "Well, this is his residence."

22 So, you know, one of our biggest things is
23 the jurisdiction.

24 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you.

25 MR. JOHN GILLIS: I think what I'm hearing

1 from all of this -- I guess the overriding theme is:

2 The victim is not getting justice, either.

3 And I think that's what everybody is saying.

4 And that's something that we will take back with us and

5 take a look at. But that is the overriding theme,

6 beginning here and talking about the domestic violence,

7 and then when we talked about what the officers do when

8 they come to the scene, and you talked about the cases

9 that are prosecuted. It's all talking about the victim

10 getting justice.

11 MS. INEZ ODOM: I see you, but what I would

12 like to do, we definitely want to pick it up. I think

13 it's Mrs. Carrillo. We're going to pick it up with you

14 when we come back, but I would like to give you -- and

15 when I say five minutes, I really mean five minutes;

16 not seven, not two. Five-minute break. Okay? Just

17 everyone go to the bathroom. When we come back, and I

18 saw your hand up. Five minutes.

19 (Recess from 10:40 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.)

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: We're going to get back

21 underway. We're going to be sending some lists around.

22 We have a sign-in sheet or list that we need to be able

23 to cross-reference. I know it's like: How many lists

24 do I have to fill out today? But I don't know what to

25 say, other than we don't want to miss you.

1 Also, some folks were asking for sodas and
2 whatnot. We're going to be having lunch catered, and
3 so just hang tough for another hour, and I think soda
4 is in your future. So just hang tough. Okay?

5 But there is coffee and tea, you know, and
6 whatnot. If someone is truly dying for a soda, the
7 people next door have kindly said we can take one of
8 theirs. So if you really need a soda right now, it's
9 all about you. Go get the soda. Okay. Exactly. They
10 took my soda.

11 Jeannie, did you want me to run down the list
12 here, just do a quick --

13 MS. FORD: Yes.

14 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Because we just keep
15 making sure you're here, I'm just going to again go
16 through and make sure who's here and who's not here.
17 So we are kind of quickly back to grammar school. And
18 if I don't do well by your name, I apologize.

19 Natasha Abeita I see. Right? Yes? Just say
20 "Here" or "Present" or wave a hand. That's good.
21 Okay. Daniel Albert? Okay. Katherine Albert? Okay.
22 Natasha, you have your -- is that your mom with you?
23 And what was your first name again?

24 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: Sheila.

25 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Great. Sheila, I'm

1 going to put you down, too. Geraldine Benally? Is
2 there a Geraldine Benally? Okay. Roe Bubar?
3 Christine Butler I know is here, because Christine gets
4 the mike when we come back. Okay. Natalia Calhoun I
5 know is here, correct? Marie Calica?

6 MS. MARIE CALICA: Here.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Yes? Okay. These folks are
8 not there. Okay. That much I know. All right.
9 Brooke Canyon I know is here. Beautiful. Betty
10 Carrillo is here. Good. Byron Cheromiah? Byron is
11 not here, nor is Deborah? No? Okay. Sharon Clairmont
12 I know is here, correct? Sharon Clairmont? Good.

13 Michelle Cochran is here, I believe, right?
14 Yes. Kim Dahle? Kim Dahle? No Kim. Okay. Larry
15 Douglas? Okay. Irene Eldridge is here for sure.
16 Frances Flores. Okay. Very good. All right. Lila
17 Garrett? Lila Garrett? Ruth Garrett? Ruth Garrett is
18 here. Okay.

19 Norman Wolf Gorneau? No. Gladys Grabel?
20 Gladys is here. All right. Jeannie Gregori. Julie
21 Risner? No? She's not here? Okay. Margaret Henry
22 Hayes? Yes. Okay. Ardith Hill is here, I know.
23 Okay.

24 John Houle. John Houle? No John. Okay.
25 William Johnson of course is here. Sheila Kasero?

1 Sheila Kasero?

2 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: That was me.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: Oh, that's you? Okay. Very
4 good. Got it. Okay. Cheryl Kennedy is not here, and
5 she's not here. Tyler Lastiyano? Okay. Pamela Leach?
6 Nora Lujan?

7 AUDIENCE: Lujan.

8 MS. INEZ ODOM: Lujan. She's not here.
9 Okay. Bob Lipke? And then Nora Lujan we have again.
10 Patty McGeshick? Okay. Ada Melton is here, of course.
11 Roy Mendoza? Roy is not here. Ingrid Mitchell?
12 Ingrid is here. Paula Moody? Okay. Elton is here.

13 Betty Nez is here. Betty, you didn't get a
14 chance to introduce yourself, so you might wave your
15 hand there. And I see you have a little one with you,
16 a little cute person. You wave your hand, too. Thank
17 you. That's what I love. All right. Excellent.
18 Okay.

19 And then Francis Onstad is here, right?
20 Francis, do you spell your first name "F-R-A-N-C-E-S"?
21 Correct? Or "I"?

22 MS. FRANCIS ONSTAD: "I."

23 MS. INEZ ODOM: "I." Okay. Very good.
24 Shirl Pinto Robinson? Yes. Okay. Jane Powers? Janet
25 Reeves? Okay. Betty Ridgely? Elaine Romero? Okay,

1 Elaine is here. Patty Young Running Crane? Okay.

2 Eddie Screechowl? Okay. Renonnen Scott?

3 Barbara Scott-Rarick? Barbara, my girl.

4 Barbara was here at 7:00 a.m., people, because of
5 misinformation. Got nothing but love.

6 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: Renonnen Scott is here.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Oh, Renonnen Scott is here?

8 I'm sorry. Okay. Wave your hand as I'm -- there we
9 go. Okay. Thank you.

10 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: Yes.

11 MS. INEZ ODOM: Rose Mary Shaw? Beautiful,
12 Rose Mary. Jane Souther I know is here because we ran
13 into each other in bathroom. Okay. Lourdes Talachy?
14 Lourdes is here. Becky Thomas? Okay. Rick Thomas?

15 Sharon Tom is here, correct? Sharon, make
16 some noise. Is Sharon here? I would have sworn Sharon
17 Tom was here. All right. Vera Tsethlikai? Okay.

18 Karma Tucson? Okay. John Vinich? Beverly Wilkins?
19 Beverly. All right. And Ella Wilson? Okay.

20 Very good. All right. Anyone who is here,
21 whose name did not get called? That's always a good
22 question.

23 MR. JOHN GILLIS: You didn't call me.

24 MS. INEZ ODOM: All right. Christine is
25 going to kick us off.

1 MS. CHRISTINE BUTLER: I was talking with
2 Brooke, and I was telling her that I'm married to a
3 police sergeant with the Navajo Nation police force,
4 and we've been married -- well, he has been in the
5 police force for 21 years. He's a sergeant right now.

6 And what happened, I'm just newly hired as an
7 advocate for six months now, and I am just -- what I
8 was thinking was what Barbara was thinking. We, as
9 service providers, need to go out, and we know what
10 victims go through. We know what they need. We need
11 to go out and advocate our services that we provide to
12 our victims to the police department, and to the
13 criminal investigators.

14 Because I do work a lot with the criminal
15 investigators, also, and, you know, lot of times I
16 would think: What do you guys do with the victims?
17 What happens with the victims? What do you guys -- you
18 know, before I became a victim advocate.

19 Because I would listen to the scanner 24/7,
20 and I would ask my husband, "What do you do with
21 elderly people? What do you do with domestic violence?
22 How do you work with these people?"

23 And he's like, "I don't know. I never had"
24 -- I didn't know what to do when he first came on. And
25 as domestic violence, I have a case right now where a

1 lady fled from Colorado, and I got upset because our
2 judges kind of gave her a hard time about her
3 restraining order. They wouldn't honor her restraining
4 order. They wanted her to go through the courts again
5 and get a tribal restraining order.

6 And I said, "Why do you have to do that, when
7 a judge had already signed it, you know? And does she
8 have to be revictimized again? Because, you know, she
9 wants help on the reservation."

10 And I went through with my husband, also. We
11 kind of like -- I guess he had his opinions; I had my
12 own opinions. But I told him, I said, "With domestic
13 violence, the ladies are really afraid of the person."

14 And this man -- the lady -- he was going to
15 kill her. And this is off the reservation. And I
16 really was stressing to him, "You guys need to know
17 about your full faith and credit, you know. You, as
18 officers, go through the training, and you know that we
19 should be honoring anybody's restraining orders, you
20 know, protection orders."

21 But it's kind of hard when I hear people
22 talking about, "Well, the officers don't do this; the
23 officers don't do that." But I know if you really go
24 and talk to the captains or to certain sergeants, they
25 will push their officers to do what is needed for the

1 victim.

2 And also, our laws are really poor on the
3 reservation. But we need -- as community people, we
4 have delegates that we vote into that, into those
5 positions. We need to tell them what we want. When
6 they're -- like this year is a political season for the
7 reservation, for the Navajo reservation. The people
8 that are running for the seats, we need to go out and
9 let them know what we want, as community people.

10 Because they're the ones that are going to be
11 changing the laws. They're the ones that are going to
12 be fighting for the victims or getting what the victims
13 or the community people want for the reservation.

14 So our voices are strong as community people,
15 but at the same time, when we get the people into their
16 positions, they need to remember, you know, what we
17 wanted as the community people.

18 So that's what I'm stressing, out in Tuba
19 City.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you so much. Nicely
21 done. Okay. Betty?

22 MS. BETTY CARRILLO: Thank you. My name is
23 Betty Carrillo. I'm originally from Montana, but my
24 husband was from Laguna, and I was married -- would be
25 married now for like 57 years. He passed away about

1 eight years ago.

2 But six years ago, my son was murdered at
3 Laguna. He had an apartment behind the Rainbow Center,
4 which is the elderly center, and he had been living
5 there for ten years. And he called me every morning at
6 7:30. Every morning, without fail, he called me.

7 And I had called him the night before, to
8 tell him that I had picked up a coffee-maker he wanted
9 because he made so much coffee, he burned them up about
10 every three months.

11 But anyway, I called him, and he said, "Well,
12 you can bring it in the morning, Mom, that's okay,
13 because I'll make cowboy coffee in the morning, and
14 then you can bring the coffee-maker." So the next
15 morning I got up and got ready, and I called him
16 because I was coming to Albuquerque. It was before
17 Easter. I was going to get Easter things for my little
18 ones. I have great-grandchildren.

19 And I called him, and there was no answer.
20 And so I said, "Well, he knows I'm coming to his
21 apartment. I better go on down and take his
22 coffee-maker."

23 So he always kept his door locked. He kept
24 his screen locked and his door locked. And so if I got
25 down there and the doors were locked, I'd knock on his

1 window and he'd peek out and he would say, "I'll be
2 right there, Mom, and I'll open up the door." Okay.

3 So his phone -- he didn't answer when I
4 called him, and so I thought: Well, he may have gone
5 up to check on his mail and I'll just go on down
6 because he knows I'm coming.

7 So when I got down, I knocked on his door,
8 and there was no answer. And I thought: Well, maybe
9 if he went for mail, he would have left the door open
10 for me. So I opened the screen, and it was open. And
11 I opened the door, and it was open. And I went in, and
12 my son was laying on the floor in the living room.

13 And I thought: Well, why did you go to sleep
14 here? So I went in, and I reached down to get ahold of
15 his arm to shake him and wake him, and he was dead. I
16 found him. No one came to tell me that my son was
17 dead. I found him.

18 And I went out, screaming my head off,
19 "Somebody help me. Call the police. My son is dead."
20 And someone called the police, and they came right
21 away, and they told me I had to leave his apartment. I
22 didn't want to leave him. I wanted to stay with him.
23 He was my baby. He was my only son.

24 And they said, "You can't stay here. This is
25 a crime scene." So okay. So I went up to the office

1 and called my daughters to tell them that their brother
2 was dead.

3 And the police came right away. The tribal
4 police came right away, and then they sent for the FBI,
5 and they came right away, and they roped off the crime
6 scene. And then they told me that when they were ready
7 -- I told them, I said, "When you get ready to take my
8 son's body from his apartment, please tell me. I want
9 to go out with him. I want to walk out with him." So
10 they said, "Okay, we'll tell you."

11 Well, I waited and waited and waited. I
12 wasn't leaving that area until I knew that it was time
13 to take my son. So I went down and I asked them, I
14 said, "Have you taken him yet, or is he still in his
15 apartment?"

16 They said, "We already took him." I said,
17 "Well, no one told me." So I didn't know that they had
18 already taken him, that they had taken him to
19 Albuquerque for an autopsy.

20 And so after that, there were so many things
21 that no one ever, ever told me. No one told me what
22 the court was going to be like, that I could have a
23 right to speak at that court or that I could get
24 letters to present.

25 My son was a good person. He was a very good

1 person, and everybody at Laguna knew David. The
2 hardest thing for me in my whole life was to find my
3 son dead. No mother should ever have to go through
4 this. No mother. I don't care who she is. She should
5 not have to lose her child.

6 And I went down to the police department at
7 Laguna practically every day, and I bugged them and I
8 pestered them and I said, "I want to know." They
9 didn't tell me who they had arrested, or if they were
10 going to arrest, if they were investigating. Nobody
11 told me anything.

12 So I said, "You're not sweeping this under
13 the rug like you do everything else. You're going to
14 tell me. This is my son. You're going to find out who
15 in the hell killed my son." And pardon my language.

16 But anyway, I was so angry. I called the FBI
17 every day. I never got an answer. And then finally,
18 they made an arrest. But they couldn't tell me
19 anything. Now I realize that if they tell you
20 anything, they may jeopardize their investigation. Now
21 I know that.

22 But they should at least tell the people, you
23 know, "We can't tell you anything because we may
24 jeopardize what we're doing." And this way, you don't
25 know anything. You think they're not doing anything,

1 and so you think: Well, they're just sitting there,
2 doing nothing, and my child is dead, and they're not
3 trying to do anything.

4 And no one comes to tell you anything. No
5 one talks to you.

6 And my husband is from Laguna, and he has a
7 lot of relatives, and they were very supportive. But
8 my people are all in Montana. So I had a lot of
9 support from my family, though, and I have two
10 daughters. One daughter lives at Laguna, and one
11 daughter lives in Grants, so they're both nearby.

12 But I said that instead of writing a letter
13 to someone -- you're so traumatized at this time, I
14 don't even know if you open letters. I don't even know
15 if you read them. Maybe the FBI or the federal people
16 wrote me a letter. I don't know. And now I don't know
17 what I did with it, if I did get it.

18 But a week ago I went to New Mexico Victims
19 of Violent Crime. They have a conference every year
20 here in Albuquerque. And one of the ladies, her
21 brother was murdered at Laguna. She's not -- they're
22 not from there, but her brother was murdered there.
23 And she said that her mother receives a check from the
24 person who murdered her son. I mean who murdered --
25 yes, the mom receives the check from the person.

1 And I said, "Well, no one ever told me that
2 the person who is in jail for this can be held
3 accountable and send you something for it."

4 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Some states do have what
5 they call restitution, and the prisoner, if he has a
6 job or if he has resources outside, they will collect
7 that money and send it to the victim's family if the
8 judge has ordered restitution at the time of
9 sentencing.

10 MS. BETTY CARRILLO: How do you know if the
11 judge is going to order that?

12 MR. JOHN GILLIS: That's one of the things
13 that you have to talk with the prosecutor about, or the
14 prosecutor should have been talking to you about. It
15 shouldn't be on you to do that. But there is a lot of
16 information that was not given to you.

17 One of the things that we're trying to do is
18 create some -- we've done some videos. We're trying to
19 do some training for law enforcement, to tell them what
20 they need to do when they're talking with victims and
21 the information that they need to give them.

22 So that's part of what this is all about, to
23 find out what it is that we can do to make it better
24 for other victims. It may not help you, in your case,
25 but for the future.

1 MS. BETTY CARRILLO: Well, this was a federal
2 -- it was under the federal jurisdiction. It happened
3 on the reservation, and this person was arrested on the
4 reservation and then went to trial in the federal
5 system.

6 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Strangely enough, we've
7 been working very hard with the states. We just about
8 have the states where they understand that they have to
9 do this and that they have to talk with victims;
10 they've got to notify them of hearings that are coming
11 up; they've got to tell them about the perpetrator
12 being released.

13 We've not gotten that message across yet at
14 the federal level, so that's the next level that we're
15 working on.

16 MS. BETTY CARRILLO: Well, I think that there
17 is a lot of work to be done.

18 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Oh, yes.

19 MS. BETTY CARRILLO: Thank you very much.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you very much. Thank
21 you very much. Natasha or Sheila? Who would like to
22 speak?

23 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: Hi. My name is Sheila.
24 My daughter is Natasha. I'm here on behalf of my
25 daughter. My daughter was a victim of rape when she

1 was 11 years old, by her biological father.

2 We have several issues. I would like to say
3 first of all, with our advocate, Fran, she was very
4 supportive. The system itself was somewhat supportive.
5 They came to our needs. But it is true, none of --
6 anything can happen without us being there to support
7 ourselves.

8 When this happened to my daughter, I was the
9 one that asked for the rape kit to be done, you know,
10 to make sure and find out what really happened, you
11 know. It's easy to say, "Let's leave it on the
12 individuals," you know. But we can't, as victims, or
13 else we will stay victims. We can't.

14 We have to be knowledgeable, not only in our
15 law, in our ways. It is hard when you are on a
16 reservation. We went through the courts here in
17 Albuquerque. We found advocates that worked with us
18 through the courts here in Albuquerque.

19 My daughter came back and forth to meetings,
20 to safe houses where they could question her and nobody
21 was around. She was in her own little area, you know.
22 Counseling was my first priority.

23 And as a parent, you try not to break down.
24 You try not to, you know, go ballistic here. Because
25 these are your kids, you know, and this is the last

1 thing you would ever want to happen to them.

2 But right now, I'm living with cancer. This
3 is the reason why I needed to be here. I don't know
4 how long I have with my kids. But we have to stay
5 strong. We have to support each other.

6 There is a lot with our tribal officers, that
7 they do need a lot of training. They need to
8 understand us a lot. Not only our officers, but our
9 officials, our governors, those that support us.
10 Because they do need to be knowledgeable in the law.
11 And honestly, they are not.

12 We have the same tribal members from every
13 year to every year. You know, it's fine, but we're the
14 ones left hanging. Our reservation is going down
15 because there is no knowledge. Hearsay. Hearsay. We
16 don't know this.

17 We do need to have more training, not just --
18 but in counseling, also, you know, because emotions
19 hit. You know, we need to learn to calm people down.
20 Otherwise, it will, you know, go out of hand.

21 I'm going through a matter now where my
22 ex-husband has threatened -- has called the schools,
23 told my daughter and my sons -- I have five kids all
24 together, four boys, and this is my oldest -- that I
25 had passed away; "Please notify my kids." This was

1 done March 11. Nothing has been done about it.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: Clarify that for me, Sheila.
3 Say that again.

4 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: I had an incident where
5 the schools had called home. My ex-husband called the
6 schools, him and his girlfriend. They called the
7 schools, the elementary, the Head Start, the middle
8 school, and talked with the office people and told
9 them, "Can you let Natasha know that her mother had
10 passed away this morning?"

11 MS. INEZ ODOM: Just to be cruel?

12 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: Yes, just to be cruel.
13 I'm going through a big ordeal with my divorce. I have
14 custody of my kids. The same day this happened, I got
15 letters from the schools, everywhere I needed, and gave
16 it to an officer and asked them what could be done.

17 My response was to me: Well, they're going
18 to deny it anyway, and you still have time.

19 Well, it's gone by. Nothing has been done to
20 this person, you know. Like I said, it's very hard,
21 you know, because we do want to trust our officials.
22 We do want to trust the people that are taking care of
23 us because they hold us in their hands, you know. And
24 when you try to tell the higher-up people, you know,
25 "Hey, what about this?" you get sarcasm from them, you

1 know. "Well, you don't know this, and you don't know
2 that."

3 But if you look at it and don't let anybody
4 tell you wrong, because whatever you feel inside is
5 right. Most of what goes on in life, in our life every
6 day, is common sense. You know, we have to learn to
7 not sit on the sidelines. We have to learn to get up
8 and voice what is wrong.

9 Because if you don't, this is what is going
10 to happen. It's going to keep going to the back
11 burners, going to the back burners. Even our officials
12 are -- because we have the -- what's it called? --
13 Court of Appeals.

14 Well, honestly, our Court of Appeals is a
15 lawyer. It is not our officials. That is our Court of
16 Appeals. And that is not right. Because we are led to
17 believe that our Court of Appeals are our officials
18 that are there to hear our grievances or whatever
19 there. But it is not that, you know.

20 I mean, I could bring so many cases that I'm
21 dealing with, with my own kids. The biological father
22 -- the judge relinquished parental rights to my two
23 older ones, but wouldn't relinquish parental rights to
24 my three younger ones. And why is that?

25 And these are questions that I can't get

1 answered. All I hear is, "Well, that's my judgment.
2 That's my judgment. There's no one that will overrule
3 my judgment. You can try the Court of Appeals, but it
4 won't go through."

5 I mean, we have a lot of issues, not just
6 domestic violence, not just violence, but issues in
7 itself, that our laws and our rights, they are being
8 pushed aside. And like I said, we really need to have
9 somebody, you know, come to our pueblo, come and find
10 out what's going on and let the majority of us know
11 what rights we actually have.

12 Because like I said, the rights they tell us
13 are the rights that they're giving us. You know, even
14 though we may have these others, well, they're going to
15 leave them there on the back burner.

16 But we do need this issue to be opened up and
17 brought up, you know. And like I said, what if
18 something did happen, you know, very tragically to me,
19 myself, you know? My ex-husband would take my kids.

20 And the reason why I have the parental rights
21 relinquishment, this man has not paid no child support.
22 He has not come to see them. He is not involved in
23 their lives. But yet, he can let the older ones go,
24 and the judge kept the ones, for the younger ones. I
25 don't understand that.

1 You know, it should be pretty much fair. My
2 olders were adopted, and my younger ones were biological.
3 But he did take the same responsibility for them as he
4 did for his own, and that's where the conflict is for
5 me.

6 And along with not taking things seriously --
7 I mean, like I said, no, I'm not dead, thank God. You
8 know, I am here. I am alive. But why is it that this
9 man or person, his girlfriend, get the right to play
10 with somebody's life and then they get away with it?

11 He is not incarcerated. He lives on -- I'm
12 from Laguna, but he lives on the Acoma side. But we do
13 have, I think, this jurisdiction where Laguna cops help
14 Acoma cops; Acoma cops help Laguna cops. It does not
15 help.

16 I've had many warrants for him because of the
17 nonpayment. It does not go through. I mean, I get so
18 many hearsays from the judge. It changes. The first
19 time was, "When we first incarcerate him, he will not
20 be let out on bond until the balance is paid."

21 Well, the balance then was \$2,200. He got
22 out on a \$300 bond, and we have not seen him since.

23 MR. JOHN GILLIS: You've made some very good
24 points, and I agree with 99.9 percent of what you said,
25 and I hate to pick out the one little thing to say

1 something about. But that one little thing was the
2 statement that you made about the victims have to be
3 knowledgeable about what's going on.

4 And that's the one thing that I want victims
5 to understand, that it's up to the service providers
6 and the courts and the law enforcement people to know
7 what victims need. And victims shouldn't have to go
8 looking for it. They ought to be provided with that
9 service.

10 You know, they're the only group of people
11 who really don't plan to become a victim. I'll dare
12 say there's nobody in here who said, "I'm going to
13 study all the victim's rights because next week I'm
14 going to be a victim."

15 No. You don't plan for that. And when it
16 does happen, you are literally brain dead, so to speak.
17 So law enforcement, the federal agencies, the local and
18 the state agencies, they need to know what services
19 victims should have, and they ought to respond to that
20 automatically.

21 You shouldn't have to go back and read to
22 find out what your rights are. You shouldn't even have
23 to worry about that, because they ought to be taking
24 care of those things.

25 And that's one of the things that I'm trying

1 to do, is change the attitude of victims, to tell them
2 that "It's not your responsibility; it's not your fault
3 that it happened to you."

4 The people who were there at the time they
5 provided the service, they're the ones who should have
6 advised you of the things that you need and the best
7 way to go.

8 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: With the case of my
9 daughter, we had great support. Like I say, we worked
10 with Fran Flores on this. We had tremendous support.
11 She walked us through everything, explained it to us.

12 We did go -- like I say, we had to come here
13 to Albuquerque, bring her through court. She didn't
14 have to testify, you know, which was one good thing.
15 She made us aware of our rights at the time, you know,
16 with what was going on.

17 But like I said, unfortunately not everybody
18 is that lucky. And unfortunately, there are some of us
19 that have to learn our laws, learn our ways, you know,
20 so that we don't become blind. And it's not nothing
21 bad. It's just taking care of your own, you know,
22 looking after yourself.

23 Also -- and I'm not saying don't trust in
24 your officers and your tribal, you know. I'm not
25 saying that. Not all tribes are like this way. But,

1 you know, all I'm saying is, those of us that need the
2 help, you know, and need the knowledge, you know, if
3 somebody could be there to help us in this way.

4 Like I said, every system is different.
5 Every pueblo is different. We all have our own ways,
6 traditions, in that aspect.

7 But it's time to stop putting everything on
8 the back burner and waiting for it to get better. It's
9 time to bring them out and start working with them and
10 start dealing with it, whether it be good or bad.

11 Yeah, somewhere along the line we are all
12 going to get hurt or we're going to be upset or we're
13 going to feel some kind of emotion. But we have to
14 deal with it, because if we don't, look what happened
15 to me. Nothing is being done.

16 MR. JOHN GILLIS: I agree with you 100
17 percent. I agree with you.

18 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you.

19 MS. LOURDES TALACHY: I'm Lourdes Talachy, a
20 victim of domestic violence. When I went to report,
21 make a police report, the chief of police, she told me
22 that she had a transport to make so she couldn't help
23 me at the time. So I never made a police report. But
24 I will be going to court without it.

25 MS. INEZ ODOM: Is there anything

1 specifically -- see, I'm breaking my own rule; I have
2 to have the mike. Is there anything specifically that
3 you can think of, in terms of your experience, that the
4 Office for Victims of Crime could have been helpful
5 with? And I know your advocate came with you, did she
6 not? She's behind you; is that correct?

7 MS. LOURDES TALACHY: Yes. Yes. She will be
8 going to court with me. She's only my witness, I
9 guess.

10 MS. INEZ ODOM: Anything that you can think
11 of that would be helpful or that would assist you?

12 MS. LOURDES TALACHY: No. Just the lawyer
13 that I have will be protecting, and that's about it.

14 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Thank you very much.

15 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: Could I just say -- I'm
16 sorry.

17 MS. INEZ ODOM: No problem.

18 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: I think if we can, I mean
19 if possible, all our officers or, you know, people that
20 are there, they need to take every crime as a crime, as
21 serious, and not just blow it off as: Oh, it's okay,
22 you'll be all right.

23 Because I think that's where a lot of the
24 conflict comes, is not knowing what serious crime is
25 and what isn't a serious crime. But, you know, if an

1 officer has to be called, it's some type of crime, so
2 it should be taken seriously, you know.

3 Because if it isn't, something really bad
4 might hurt somebody else, you know. And if we keep
5 blowing it off -- and we need to learn how our
6 restraining orders work because that's really hard,
7 because the jurisdictions -- you know, it's hard.

8 Do you get a state? Or do you get it from
9 the tribe? We, as Indians, we have to deal with things
10 like that, but we need to know our boundaries also, on
11 that.

12 MS. INEZ ODOM: Lourdes, do you have a
13 follow-up remark? Okay. And then I see Margaret.

14 MS. LOURDES TALACHY: Just a comment, that
15 that would be neglect on a police officer, or neglect
16 on me by a police officer.

17 MS. INEZ ODOM: Precisely, and it's profound
18 neglect. Thank you. Okay. It's Margaret Henry Hayes.

19 MS. MARGARET HENRY HAYES: I know that a lot
20 of times just the words "domestic violence" sometimes
21 takes a lower place than other hate crimes, and it's
22 too bad that domestic violence, itself, can't be a hate
23 crime and said so, and legislator, or whatever,
24 legislation, put it down as a hate crime instead of
25 just domestic violence. A lot of times, domestic

1 violence just gets swept under the carpet.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Did you want to
3 make a point? Rose Mary?

4 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: I'm Rose Mary from the
5 Osage tribe. One of the things I think that all the
6 tribes feel is that the crimes committed in Indian
7 Country are not taken seriously either by the tribal
8 members, by the tribal governments, or by the state.

9 And I feel like all the training in the world
10 may not change this. I think it's an attitude change,
11 and I think the victims, themselves, may have to go and
12 organize in order to get that change done.

13 A lot of it is, there are a lot of barriers
14 out there for the police officers sometimes. Sometimes
15 it's the "old boy" attitude. This doesn't exist just
16 in redneck country. It also exists in Indian Country.
17 And there is a lot of barriers that the advocates have
18 to go through in order to be able to do their jobs
19 sometimes.

20 So I think we need to work on some of those
21 barriers when we do the training, and you do that not
22 by bringing them to Albuquerque, but you go to their
23 sites and you talk to their people and find out what
24 the environment is, what the culture does.

25 And we haven't talked a lot about tradition,

1 and I think that needs to be talked about before we
2 leave here. Thank you.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: And Rose Mary, I think --
4 well, I'm going to pass the mike along, but I want you
5 to really be sure to come back to that, because that's
6 a critical point. Thank you. Ardith, I see you. I
7 was going to go -- all right. I see hands. Well,
8 Barbara, will you defer?

9 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: I defer.

10 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Thank you. Okay.
11 We'll go to Ardith. We'll go there, and then we'll
12 come back to you.

13 MS. ARDITH HILL: I would like to bring up a
14 point, whereas also on the law enforcement --

15 MS. INEZ ODOM: May I ask, could you hold
16 your mike like this? I need everyone to kind of --
17 there you go.

18 MS. ARDITH HILL: My name is Ardith Hill, and
19 I want to address on the law enforcement, whereas
20 sometimes the law enforcement are also batterers, and
21 sometimes they may not respond or whatever. I just had
22 a recent occurrence on our reservation, whereas one of
23 the officers had more or less held his wife as a
24 hostage with the handcuffs that the police had given to
25 him to do his services on the reservation.

1 But as I look at it and in listening to the
2 victims' statements, it's more like when he was on
3 training stay at the academy here and went back, well,
4 he had access to know where she was, who was at her
5 home, by contacting his co-employees.

6 So when he came back, he says, "Well, what
7 was so-and-so doing here?" And it was basically his
8 co- -- fellow officers that had let him know who was
9 there and all that.

10 But in total essence, the officers don't
11 realize that they are putting their -- I guess in this
12 situation, whereas the woman, she was verbally,
13 emotionally abused, "You did this, you did that," just
14 constantly. And she just got to the point where she
15 said, "I've had enough."

16 But I think this needs to maybe be put
17 towards law enforcement, that they need to be educated
18 on their battery situation, that it kind of takes an
19 outlet for victims. We just kind of like bypass that
20 and put it under the rug and say it isn't happening.

21 That's my comment on it.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Ardith.

23 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: My name is Elaine Romero,
24 and I'm from Taos Pueblo, and we got our domestic
25 violence program in 1999. But what I wanted to talk

1 about today was what happened with my niece in 1998.

2 She was in foster care with my sister, and
3 she had been a child victim of sexual abuse, and so she
4 was with us for two years. And during the summer of
5 1998, my daughter and three of her friends and my niece
6 were at our powwow, which is one of the biggest events
7 in our community for the summertime.

8 And while they were near the end of the
9 powwow on a Saturday night, they were all together, and
10 they were sitting in a field. And a person came up to
11 them, an adult male who had escaped from a minimum
12 security prison in Los Lunas, outside of Albuquerque,
13 and the community was never notified. But everybody
14 knew that he was loose.

15 And this is a very violent person, and he is
16 considered a habitual criminal. And there were no
17 attempts by the state to find this person. He had
18 moved himself and camped himself up in the mountain
19 areas.

20 I had been on the CPT team that year, and
21 some of our local community were concerned about his
22 presence in the community; but yet, the state took no
23 action to find him. And he had escaped in February of
24 that same year.

25 So in July, he was suspected of robbing a

1 bank in the town of Taos. And then he made his way
2 back to the reservation. And that evening, while my
3 niece and daughter and her friends were at the powwow,
4 he came to them while they were sitting in the grass,
5 and he had a gun pointed at them.

6 And because he didn't know who my niece was,
7 he took her by gun point. And she was 13 years old.
8 And he took her across a fence into a buffalo pasture
9 and he raped her. And when my daughter and her friends
10 came to our camp, they said, "He took her. He took
11 her." And they were hysterical.

12 And we went, and my son was with me, and our
13 family went out in search, to search for her. And I'll
14 never forget hearing her screaming. We were calling
15 her and calling her. And she was really hysterical.
16 And we finally found -- my son ran up ahead of us, and
17 he went across two pastures, and he found her in the
18 sagebrush, and he carried her back because she couldn't
19 walk.

20 And by then, the tribal police had come. And
21 what one of the officers wanted to do was to take her
22 back to our camp. And I said, "I don't think you can
23 do that. I think you need to take her; you need to go
24 with us to the hospital, and we need to have a rape kit
25 done."

1 And I asked my niece -- you know, I took her
2 aside while my son was still holding her, and I asked
3 her if anything else had happened to her. And she told
4 me then that she had been raped. But they still wanted
5 to take her back to our camp and let us handle it.

6 And the way we knew that it was this person
7 that had escaped from the state prison was that one of
8 the kids that was with them that evening recognized his
9 voice, because he was a neighbor. She was a neighbor
10 of this person, and she remembered him because he had
11 killed all of their animals. And so she let us know
12 that this was the same person.

13 And so we made them take us to the hospital.
14 We had them escort us to the hospital. And then we
15 were there through the whole -- my niece wouldn't allow
16 them, the doctor, who was a male, to do the rape kit.
17 We had to have a nurse come in. My sister and I --
18 excuse me.

19 MS. INEZ ODOM: Take your time.

20 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: We had to hold my niece.
21 And he had hit her in the back of the head with the
22 barrel of the gun, and so she couldn't lay down on the
23 pillows. And by then, I guess the police had called
24 the criminal investigator from the BIA office, and so
25 he came up, and they were really good.

1 They had been working with this particular
2 family for a number of years. The two older brothers,
3 or the one older brother had shot a police officer
4 previously, and he was in prison, in federal prison,
5 for the rest of his life. And they had been watching
6 this person for a number of years.

7 And we kept asking them why the state hadn't
8 taken any action to find this person. And they
9 couldn't give us any response. Because we really
10 believed that if this person had been apprehended when
11 people started seeing him on the reservation, that this
12 would have never happened to our niece.

13 And subsequently what happened to her was
14 that we lost custody of her. She was returned back to
15 her abusive family, and there's no way that we can help
16 her anymore. And right now she's 17, and she's finally
17 -- she's left home, and she has decided to come back to
18 our family.

19 But it was like she was revictimized all over
20 again by the very system that was supposed to help her.
21 When she was -- she was at home until the social
22 services in Oklahoma removed her from our custody. She
23 was having nightmares every night. She was afraid of
24 the dark. No therapists from IHS. No mental health
25 person came.

1 We had no idea about what victim services
2 were. You know, for the most part in our community, if
3 you were a victim, you stayed quiet. You never told
4 anybody what happened to you.

5 And right now, you know, there really isn't a
6 -- like for the most part, the majority of victims can
7 be women, but there are some victims that are men. And
8 when you talk about sexual abuse, sexual assault,
9 domestic abuse, for the most part, you know, they think
10 that that's an acceptable kind of behavior.

11 But I know that in our community, being with
12 my grandparents, that that is not traditional kinds of
13 behavior. It is not condoned. It's something that we
14 have accepted over the last 50, 60 years, just like
15 alcoholism, that we accept that. We accept it of our
16 family that, you know, they're going to get over it.

17 It's a sickness that they come back with.
18 It's something that they've learned from far away, and
19 they bring it home. You know, I myself am not one to
20 tolerate that kind of stuff anymore.

21 So like when this person was taken through
22 the federal court system, he was convicted of child
23 abuse, the worst kind of child abuse, I guess, and the
24 bank robbery. And now he's in Florence, Colorado,
25 spending the rest of his life there.

1 But the thing is that, you know, I think the
2 state pays little attention when it comes to crimes
3 that are -- whether they be Indian perpetrators or
4 victims -- to the people, whether it happens on the
5 tribal lands or off the land, you know, in the state
6 land. Even with child abuse.

7 We had a case where there were nonIndian
8 children that were being abused by their nonIndian
9 father on tribal land. We can legally detain that
10 person for maybe a few hours until the state police
11 gets there.

12 But it's up to the Child Protection Services
13 for the state to enforce their laws upon this person.
14 No -- not that we know of, no crime was ever or no
15 charges were ever brought against this person.

16 MS. INEZ ODOM: Do you have a question?

17 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Yes. Where are you from?

18 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: I'm from Taos.

19 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Pardon?

20 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: I'm from Taos.

21 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay. Were you finished?

22 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: Yes.

23 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Because I was just going to
24 say that -- you mentioned that we have to do something,
25 and you were talking about young people and speaking

1 out. And it brings to mind the young lady sitting
2 behind me here, Gladys.

3 She's one who has -- well, she was a teenager
4 when things happened to her, and she's now going out
5 and talking to people about it and making people aware
6 of the kinds of abuses that are going on. So maybe we
7 could go to her.

8 MS. INEZ ODOM: Pass her the mike.

9 MS. MARIE CALICA: First of all, I'm here as
10 her grandmother/mother, and so I'm putting that title
11 on right now, not my management program. I was out on
12 business one weekend, and I want to say something.
13 It's a slow process, a very slow process.

14 The alleged offenders still are free. Slow
15 legal action has taken place. No charges yet. Victims
16 are in very deep pain. Very deep. So are the alleged
17 families. You get to the point sometimes where you
18 don't have any faith or trust in our legal system,
19 especially tribal. And I'll take a risk here, because
20 we all know what happens.

21 A lot of times, it's due to tribal politics.
22 A lot of tribal politics. You have your "old boys"
23 club. It still is the tribal politics.
24 Interrelationships. And if you pull too much weight in
25 the community and you speak out, you can be what they

1 refer to in our community as blackballed.

2 I met with Senator Enway (?) in 1989. We had
3 a child sexual abuse case. When I met with him, he
4 said, "You know, this is a strong case. Yes, something
5 can be done about it, but I want you to think about
6 this for two weeks. You open this case up, what is
7 this going to do to sovereignty in Indian nation?"

8 I had to go home for two weeks and think
9 about that, think about the poor child that was
10 sexually assaulted by one of our chiefs, and either go
11 with that or jeopardize our sovereignty. I couldn't go
12 with it. I put this in the Creator's hands. And I
13 feel sorry for so many people after that.

14 I was an educator. That's when I went into
15 the Victims of Crime program. When I started, we had
16 one and a half employees. It's growing, and I know
17 Mr. Gillis knows that. I just recently applied for the
18 law enforcement in rural counties, because of the
19 economics that lack.

20 We only have two officers, and the turnover
21 is great, like you say. When your economics are low,
22 you cannot keep trained officers because they can't
23 live on \$20,000 a year and be the front people.
24 Also, I complained a lot about the investigation, so
25 what they did -- and this is the police. They sent me

1 to FBI training, so I did see what they have to go
2 through on cases.

3 But with this, I can see that an attitude
4 change does need to happen not only in Indian Country,
5 but in the U.S. Attorney's Offices. Because I sat on
6 the board for the state. I remember saying two weeks
7 ago, it's a slow process in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

8 Because usually they don't want to take cases
9 unless they know they're going to win. Two attorneys
10 sat at that table, shaking their head with me, but
11 wouldn't say anything because we were being recorded.

12 But we don't even know about the witness
13 program for Indian Country in the state of Oregon. And
14 I would like to know more about that.

15 With that, Gladys has grown stronger. I
16 always say, you know, God gives us another door to
17 open. He gives us more strength. And I would like her
18 to speak on that, because I'm very proud of her
19 strength.

20 MS. GLADYS GRABEL: My name is Gladys Grabel,
21 and I was gang-raped last year by two of my best guy
22 friends that I grew up with. They lived in my house
23 and everything. And it was hard, because they walked
24 around and everything like nothing happened and
25 everything. And I know they've done it before.

1 And I didn't want anybody to know that I was
2 gang-raped because I was ashamed and everything. I
3 didn't want nobody to know. I didn't call the police
4 or anybody, but I told my mom what happened.

5 At that time, she was an advocate for the
6 Victims of Crime Services, and she told my dad what
7 happened, and my dad is the one that called the police.
8 And the police showed up, and they took my clothes and
9 they took my bedding.

10 And it happened in my own house, and I have
11 to live in that house. I went about two months without
12 talking. I didn't go nowhere by myself. I couldn't be
13 alone. Advocates came to talk to me, but I wouldn't
14 talk to them. I didn't want any help. I just wanted
15 it to go under the carpet so nobody would know and
16 everything.

17 And my advocate wanted me to get a
18 restraining order, so I signed a restraining order. My
19 restraining order wasn't approved because I didn't live
20 with him for a year, so I couldn't get a restraining
21 order. And I was walking around and going places and
22 stuff.

23 And I went to federal court and everything,
24 and they were only going to do it. They didn't have
25 enough evidence, so my case was thrown out and

1 everything.

2 I had FBI interview me at investigations,
3 interview me. I had my attorney interview me. I
4 didn't talk that much because I didn't want to talk
5 about it. I wanted it to just be left alone and
6 everything.

7 And it's hard and everything. And I know
8 what people go through and how they just don't want to
9 express what they want to say, because it is hard and
10 everything.

11 And now that my case went from federal court
12 down to tribal court, tribal court doesn't want to take
13 it. They don't want to investigate it anymore. And
14 now the perpetrators are suing me, and everything, for
15 damages that I have done to them. And it's hard and
16 everything.

17 And I don't want to wish bad on anybody, but
18 it's hard and everything. You walk around. It's such
19 a small community, and everybody looks at you as: She
20 wasn't raped; she's a slut, she's a whore and
21 everything. And you get name calls, and you get
22 threatening calls and everything, saying, "We're going
23 to kill you since you told on us," and everything. And
24 it's really hard.

25 Our tribal police, they won't do nothing.

1 You can tell them something, and then they just kind of
2 put it on the back burner like: Oh, well, she's
3 getting harassed and everything. And it seems like
4 when they finally do something and everything, it's too
5 late and everything.

6 And it's kind of hard, and you walk around in
7 the community and you work, where you work, or who your
8 family is and everything, and stuff that you have to
9 live every single day, knowing what this person did to
10 you.

11 And nothing is happening to them. They get
12 to work and they get to sue me, and it's really hard
13 because -- and it's hard for my dad, to see my dad,
14 what he has to go through and everything because he has
15 seen his little girl and everything, what he did to me
16 and everything.

17 And on that point, I was invited and I said,
18 "After this, since nothing happened to them, I'm going
19 to go out and I'm going to reach young people and
20 everything and tell them, hey, this is not right and
21 you don't deserve this."

22 And I was brought to Miami to do a quick
23 presentation, and Mr. John Gillis asked me to write a
24 proposal to get a grant so I can help youth in Indian
25 Country that are being raped, being abused, being

1 molested in any type of way, to let them know that it's
2 not right.

3 Because nobody deserves to be beaten. Nobody
4 deserves to be raped. Nobody deserves anything.

5 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Gladys.

6 MS. MARIE CALICA: And with that, I do want
7 to mention, she has reached out to the community
8 already and has high school volunteers working with
9 her. She's a chaperone for the Unity Conference in
10 Palm Springs and just flew from there for today.

11 And also, to let you know, when I brought up
12 tribal politics, it's because one of the perpetrator's
13 aunts is the chief judge for our tribe; another one of
14 them's uncle is the attorney. Needless to say more.

15 I know my granddaughter, and she was a virgin
16 when this happened, and what this has done to her
17 household.

18 And we ask for your prayers and support.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Gladys. Thank you
21 for sharing with us. Barbara?

22 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: My name is Barb
23 Scott, and I'm a Southern Ute tribal member. I was
24 looking at this little orange piece of paper that they
25 have us fill out, and they say "Are You," and it lists

1 these things. I have a check on all of them, because I
2 am all of them. And the stories I have to tell today,
3 there is a collective of stories, if you don't mind.

4 The first is of my uncle in Dixon. He was
5 murdered in Aztec, New Mexico, and I have to say the
6 City of Aztec, the police department was very, very
7 helpful to my family. They gave us police reports.
8 They helped us more than the victim service person did
9 for that county, which was San Juan County here in New
10 Mexico. The victim service person for San Juan County
11 knew absolutely nothing.

12 When I talk about being part of service
13 providers under this little orange sheet, I was a
14 victim service provider for Southern Ute. We
15 established the program with a grant that Judge Newton
16 (?) had written, I believe back in 1996, I think is
17 what it was. So I'm real familiar with the laws.

18 So I was very glad that the police department
19 for Dixon was able to give us the information that they
20 did, but I was very disappointed on a county level that
21 the victim service person for San Juan County didn't
22 know much of the information that they should have
23 known.

24 Just recently, I had a friend who was on the
25 Southern Ute reservation, who was married to a man for

1 13 years; was beaten by the man in the morning; called
2 the police, the Southern Ute police. They came to her
3 house. She showed them the bruises.

4 They came to the house with the perpetrator
5 so the perpetrator could remove stuff from the house.
6 And she showed them the bruises while the perpetrator
7 was there, and they escorted the perpetrator off the
8 residence. And she had the bruises. She had a clear
9 case of domestic violence. And I kept telling her,
10 "Call victim services for Southern Ute." She called
11 victim services.

12 And I am really shocked that my victim
13 services for Southern Ute isn't here, either. I don't
14 know if they were invited or not, but this is our area
15 and they should be here. It's very important for our
16 service providers in the area that you are going to,
17 because you made a list of a variety of areas, and it
18 should be mandatory for anybody who receives monies
19 from this department.

20 But the victim service person came. The
21 director, who is a bachelor-degreed person, came and
22 made breakfast for the victim, cleaned her house, and
23 washed her dishes, rather than providing her services
24 as a victim service provider.

25 She also explained to this woman that

1 immediately he will be arrested; immediately there will
2 be a restraining order; immediately she will be
3 compensated. Which we all know does not happen. It is
4 a timely process. So that's on a tribal level.

5 As myself as a victim, or actually I was
6 considered a perpetrator because it was during a
7 domestic violence incident with my last husband -- but
8 we won't talk about my husbands, right, Ada?

9 But anyway, I shot at him. I didn't shoot
10 him. I shot at him. When law enforcement -- and that
11 was tribal law enforcement. He was a nontribal member.
12 When law enforcement came, tribal level, they didn't
13 know what papers to fill out.

14 Because I had worked with victim services, I
15 knew what papers. So I am the perpetrator, helping law
16 enforcement fill out the forms to prosecute me. They
17 wanted to prosecute me with attempted murder on a
18 federal level, but they didn't know how to do that
19 either.

20 And because he was a nontribal member, county
21 became involved, law enforcement, county, and Southern
22 Ute Wildlife Department were there, answered the phone
23 when he was calling me a bitch, telling me he was going
24 to kill me.

25 And they did absolutely nothing to him. He

1 was never prosecuted.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: I was going to ask you, why
3 did you shoot at him?

4 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: Oh, domestic
5 violence. He was coming at me.

6 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay.

7 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: So I believe in
8 the right to bear arms.

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: I'm with you.

10 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: Anyway, and I
11 didn't shoot him. I didn't shoot him. Okay? I shot
12 at him, to keep him away from me, which I told the
13 police where the gun was. I'm the one who called the
14 police, told them I shot at him. I'm the one that
15 helped them out with the information to get all this
16 stuff together.

17 So on that instance, it was county and tribal
18 who were not very knowledgeable on filling out forms on
19 a domestic violence case.

20 On a federal -- or actually, on your level,
21 I had worked, as I said, with victim services for
22 Southern Ute for two years, and the woman who took over
23 victim services was not very helpful to victims.

24 So victims would call me, and they still call
25 me. That's how I know about my friend, that's how I

1 know about a lot of cases that happen on the Southern
2 Ute reservation, is that people still call me in the
3 middle of the night, during the day. They pretty much
4 call me all the time.

5 Anyway, this incident had happened, and I had
6 referred the assistant to the victim service program
7 back to the Victims of Indian -- Victims Assistance in
8 Indian Crime person, the person who had control of the
9 grant money.

10 And I told her, "If something is not
11 happening within your program, you need to let them
12 know. You need to make them aware of what is
13 happening."

14 Well, it went to the director of that
15 program, and nothing happened. They came down and
16 talked with the woman. But when I had -- I was hired
17 back by the tribe to write the victim's assistance
18 grant because the director was not capable of writing
19 it.

20 When I went through the statistics, I had to
21 resign, because the statistics weren't in order. There
22 wasn't -- the information was not there to hold the
23 foundation of the grant. So on that level, there was
24 inconsistency.

25 And then the last thing I have to say is,

1 there was a case that happened on Southern Ute, which
2 it was a nontribal member with a tribal member, and
3 the man beat the woman severely, beat her severely.
4 She was a beautiful woman, but she was unrecognizable
5 after he had beat her. And the Feds wouldn't take the
6 case.

7 So, you know, all of these things that we're
8 hearing, they are real similar, you know, things that
9 aren't happening on county, tribal, federal, city.
10 They're not happening.

11 But you guys are the controllers of the
12 money, and I'm going to keep saying that you people are
13 the people who make the guidelines of where the grants
14 go, who gets the grants.

15 And I truly strongly believe that if you put
16 in those grants -- I know that it happened with VOWA
17 because it was mandatory. It was law enforcement,
18 victim services, prosecution, tribal judges had to
19 attend specific training.

20 So it's not like we're not getting the
21 training. We're not getting the consistency with it.
22 And that's on all levels, you know, not just tribal,
23 but all levels.

24 So if your department -- I would pray that
25 you would put into those grant guidelines that it's

1 mandatory that you work with one another, or else you
2 don't get that money or something happens to you, you
3 have to return the money or something.

4 Because, you know, we're not just talking
5 about consequences for offenders. We're talking about
6 consequences for departments who don't fulfill their
7 obligations to victims.

8 And with that, I moved up so I could talk,
9 because I like to talk. But anyway, that's why I'm
10 sitting here now.

11 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Barbara. Thank
12 you. And you have a lot of pressure on you because,
13 Elton, it's lunchtime. But I'm going to have Ena check
14 outside and see the status of that. And I don't want
15 to be discourteous and not give you your time. So
16 she's peeking, she's peeking. It's there.

17 MR. ELTON NASWOOD: I saw pie out there, so I
18 think we're ready.

19 MS. INEZ ODOM: Pie! Step aside, people. So
20 here's the way we're going to do the lunch, folks.
21 Okay? We're going to get up; we're going to get our
22 lunch; we're going to bring it in; sit down; have about
23 15, 20 minutes of chitchat, and eat. And then we are
24 going to get back to it.

25 I mean, we're really not going to go trip the

1 light. Fantastic. So we're going to resume this
2 process at 12:30.

3 And we have a couple of housekeeping things.
4 We want to pick these sheets up, so if you would leave
5 them out on the table, and then I'm going to
6 cross-reference them with our documents, and then you
7 have to be back in your seat.

8 Gladys?

9 MS. GLADYS GRABEL: I do have something to
10 say.

11 MS. INEZ ODOM: Gladys has something to say.

12 MS. GLADYS GRABEL: If it wasn't for John
13 Gillis, I wouldn't be here, so I would like to say
14 thank you before I leave. I have to get on another
15 airplane and go back to Palm Springs to be with the
16 girls that I'm chaperoning.

17 So if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here.
18 So thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: And Gladys, I don't like to
21 single people out, but I really have to say I'm very
22 moved and I'm really proud of you, just as one human
23 being to another. Amen, brother.

24 (Recess was held from 12:01 p.m. until 12:45 p.m.
25 whereupon the Proceedings resumed as follows:)

1 MS. INEZ ODOM: Elton has been gracious
2 enough -- Ada has to leave, so Ada is going to go
3 first, and then Elton will have his turn. We do have
4 some new guests, but I'll let you introduce yourselves
5 when Ada has completed. Thanks.

6 MS. ADA PECOS MELTON: Actually, the guests
7 that we have are people who I work with, and Norbert
8 Hill, who is our executive director for the American
9 Indian Graduate Center is here, and one of the reasons
10 why he is here -- and I'll address it right away -- is
11 that we wanted to make the Office for Victims of Crime
12 aware about our effort with the American Indian
13 Graduate Center, which I sit on as the vice-president
14 of the board.

15 Our effort and our goal is to try to get
16 Indian professionals into the field of victim services,
17 and we would like for the Office for Victims of Crime
18 to look at our Indian graduate students as possible
19 interns, fellows, whatever it is that we can do.

20 And that's the primary reason why Norbert is
21 here, and he's being escorted today by his lovely wife,
22 Mary Hill, who in her past has been in probation,
23 worked in the field of probation, so she has some
24 really good perspectives that she can share about
25 sensitizing probation officers and being good victim

1 service supporters.

2 So having said that, I'm very happy that all
3 of you came. I had the pleasure of going to the
4 roundtable that the office had in Phoenix last month, I
5 believe.

6 MS. INEZ ODOM: Put the mike up.

7 MS. ADA PECOS MELTON: And I remember all of
8 her instructions, so I should know this better. And it
9 was really an enlightening kind of experience for me,
10 because I heard from nonIndian victims. I heard what
11 they -- the similar things that you've shared today and
12 will share the rest of this afternoon.

13 I had not ever openly or publicly talked
14 about the victimization that my own family has gone
15 through. We lost our brother, my youngest brother, in
16 a DUI crash about 20 years ago, I guess it's been, in
17 1980. He was 20 years old.

18 He was the only non-drinking person, and he
19 was on his way home. It was New Year's Eve. And some
20 friends of his picked him up and didn't drop him off at
21 the house.

22 They went on, and about three miles away from
23 the Pueblo of Jemez, the driver drove off, right about
24 a bridge. It was like a turnoff, like one of these
25 deadmen's curve kind of places. And my brother fell

1 out of the car and was killed. The car landed on top
2 of him.

3 Of course, you know, some of the trauma that
4 you all have talked about, we were all traumatized.
5 And in our trauma, when we are victims, we really don't
6 know what to ask for. And so I know that as victims,
7 we need to be aware, knowledgeable, skilled, and all of
8 those kinds of things, but when you are in trauma, you
9 just are not thinking of those things.

10 And I really appreciate your comments about:
11 You don't plan to be a victim, so you really can't
12 study about it beforehand.

13 In twenty years, since 1980, we have never
14 known whether or not the person who killed my brother
15 was ever prosecuted, because on the night that my
16 brother died, they were trying to figure out who had
17 jurisdiction. They wanted to know which officers
18 should respond. They were arguing about who should
19 respond, who shouldn't respond, what ambulance should
20 come, all those kinds of things.

21 They were arguing about those kinds of
22 things, and not getting the help that my -- I don't
23 know if my brother was killed instantly or not, but
24 they wasted a lot of precious time to get my brother to
25 the hospital.

1 We never were informed about any of the
2 things. And back then, if I had known what I know now,
3 back then, we could have done something.

4 Recently, my mother turned 80 years old, and
5 she's asked me and she's kind of challenged me to find
6 out: What happened that night? How come none of these
7 things ever happened?

8 There was no equity in terms of the things
9 that my family could have received in terms of help.
10 Knowing the legal systems that were involved, clearly
11 the jurisdictional nightmare that you've been hearing
12 about, we went through. And she has asked me to really
13 look into: What happened to our brother that night?
14 And why did no one do anything?

15 And we didn't really understand what to do.
16 And so for my mother, she's urging me because, you
17 know, she's an elder and sometimes the elders, they
18 start telling you about -- they start talking like,
19 "I'm not going to be here much longer, and I need this
20 for my peace of mind and my heart before I go off and
21 back with your brother."

22 So I have this time clock that's pushing me.
23 And the thing that was really good about going to
24 Phoenix or -- was it Phoenix? Yeah, Phoenix, that we
25 did this. I met people there from New Mexico who are

1 helping me find that case. She's actually doing a
2 search, a woman that I met. She was sitting right next
3 to me. I said, "God, there is a God, and She is really
4 nice."

5 But it was really important that -- I think
6 one of the things that I'm getting out of this is that
7 it's really good for victims to be brought together to
8 talk about what their experience was. Because it
9 really supports victims, learning from each others'
10 experience.

11 And I know that by telling what happened to
12 you, it helps the people who are documenting to pick
13 out all of the things that we can put together in a
14 document: lack of information, lack of sensitivity of
15 the officers, lack of knowledge.

16 We can figure out jurisdictional maze. You
17 know, we can do that. The lack of collaboration. The
18 lack of coordination. The lack of family support. How
19 to help the family be supported.

20 All of these things are coming out by you
21 sharing your experience, so I really encourage all of
22 you, and any of you -- you know, Elaine talked about
23 her niece being victimized.

24 Every bit of information that you're telling
25 in your experience, relating your experience, is going

1 to help the office really be able to put together a
2 document.

3 Some of it is going to be, you know,
4 retelling the stories and the experiences that you
5 have, but out of there we're going to be able to
6 synthesize all of the issues that you went through and
7 all of the solutions that you're recommending.

8 And I think that that's really going to be
9 important, and it's also going to provide us with new
10 areas. One of the linkages I'm thinking is, research
11 is one. Internships, where we focus, as I said, our
12 fellows in a particular area that we can have them
13 research information, write monographs, all those kinds
14 of things.

15 We have talked a lot this morning on tribal
16 leadership, and I meant to tell you this before, but we
17 have a project that's not finished with the Office for
18 Victims of Crime, that Kathy Sanders (?) had asked me
19 to work on. No one wanted to take on this project, so
20 when she called me, she was pretty in need of somebody
21 who would be willing. And I call the project In Search
22 of Tribal Leadership.

23 And it's for all these reasons that we heard
24 this morning about our tribal leaders not taking
25 seriously -- or part of it is not taking seriously the

1 issues that victims have. But more importantly, I
2 think, is that they just don't know what to do.

3 A lot of our leaders in Indian Country are
4 not lawyers, are not law trained, are not academically
5 -- they don't have their credentials from universities
6 or things like that. But they have a lot of their
7 Ph.D. knowledge in tribal knowledge. They understand
8 their communities and all that.

9 And so a lot of our elected and appointed
10 leaders are dealing with all kinds of issues, from
11 waste management, to roads, to health care, to child
12 care, all day long. And so their attention is very
13 short in terms of these kinds of issues, so it looks
14 like they get minimized.

15 But a lot -- and this project that we're
16 doing or that we need to pick up and finish, I had
17 talked to and did something of what you're doing here
18 with tribal leaders. And I wanted to write a document,
19 written by tribal leaders, for tribal leaders.

20 And a lot of the things that you have talked
21 about are really based on a couple of things. One is
22 that they don't know.

23 Two, they are afraid to let you know they
24 don't know, because they're supposed to be your leader,
25 right? And our expectation is that they ought to know.

1 And they don't know.

2 Third is that many of them are, you know,
3 harboring a lot of dysfunctional issues of their own;
4 maybe not personally, but in their own families. So
5 they also feel fear of letting everybody know that "I
6 have these issues, myself." And so we can put our
7 finger on what is it that prohibits tribal leaders from
8 being more supportive to victims, and hopefully with
9 this document, we need to bring it back alive and
10 finish it.

11 We already have the outline, and these are
12 tribal leaders, governors, tribal council, judges who
13 gave us information about what prohibits you from being
14 a better victim advocate in your community.

15 So I think that one of the things that they
16 recommended strongly was this training. However, they
17 also said that, "You are going to have to create a
18 marketing scheme and trick them into it, too, because
19 none of them are just going to, you know, sign up for
20 your training." So along with the gaming issue or
21 something, we ought to slip that in, right in the
22 middle of it, in some sublime way.

23 But anyway, those, I think, are the most
24 important things that I wanted to share with you, is
25 that although we're bringing up a lot of issues in

1 terms of jurisdiction, I think we can figure them out.

2 It takes a little bit of thinking through.

3 It's going to be harder to create collaboration and
4 coordinated systems between these different people that
5 run systems at the tribal, state, and federal level.

6 But I think that the courage that I'm hearing
7 and seeing from all of the people that have talked
8 already about the experience they had I think is really
9 important.

10 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. ADA PECOS MELTON: And I'll see -- many
12 of you I know, so I will see you next time. Okay?

13 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Ada. Thank you
14 very much. Beautiful. And I don't know where Peter
15 went. We were thinking of having folks take their name
16 tags off, only because they're just not as
17 aesthetically pleasing as we would like; not that
18 they're not wonderful but -- you know.

19 AUDIENCE: Draw on them.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Right.

21 AUDIENCE: Put a picture.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Right. Exactly. Put a
23 little face on them or something. So we'll take the
24 name tags off, and people can look at the table things.
25 Perfect. Okay. Oh, you're a good man. Thank you,

1 Elton.

2 MR. ELTON NASWOOD: (Speaking in Indian
3 language.) Hello. My name is Elton Naswood. I am of
4 the Near to the Water People Clan. I am born for the
5 Edge of the Water People Clan. My maternal
6 grandfather's clans are the Mexican clan. My paternal
7 grandfather's clans are the Tango (?) clan, and this is
8 how I am Navajo.

9 I am currently the program manager with a
10 nonprofit organization named the Tribal Law and Policy
11 Institute. Our main office is in Los Angeles, and we
12 have a sub office in Anchorage, Alaska.

13 In our office in Anchorage, Alaska, we work
14 with Dianne Payne (?) who is the children's justice
15 specialist, and she works with a number of people here
16 who have CJA grants. She provides the technical
17 assistance for them and does victim services, as well,
18 for them.

19 She was unfortunately not able to be here,
20 but will hopefully be at the next roundtable
21 discussion, but had asked me to come to talk about my
22 situation as a victim -- as a victim-survivor. I like
23 that better, because it makes it more positive.

24 I had shared this story with Dianne once
25 before, and we had shared stories together and had

1 grown confident in each other, in what she does and
2 what I do. I work out of the office in Los Angeles
3 with the executive director, Jerry Gardener, (?) which
4 some of you may know, as well.

5 My primary responsibilities with the
6 institute have to do with technical assistance with
7 drug court programs. So a lot of these issues we're
8 talking about with different agencies I see, as well,
9 in the drug court movement for tribal communities.

10 However, I will discuss more so my situation
11 as being a victim-survivor. I see on this panel here
12 that I'm, besides the person on my right, one of only
13 two males on this panel, which is going to be a little
14 different, in the sense that my story will be different
15 than other people who have shared this morning.

16 My situation did not happen on the
17 reservation. It happened off the reservation, and I
18 think the issues there are similarly the same in terms
19 of the reporting and the response that I got.

20 I was a victim of a hate crime, a hate crime
21 which has just become defined within our legal systems
22 within the last five years. And I'm not actually
23 necessarily sure if it was a hate crime because I was a
24 Native American or because of my sexual orientation.
25 And that's a question that has been pondered in my mind

1 for many years.

2 I was in my second year of undergraduate
3 college in Phoenix, and I had gone downtown to pick up
4 some friends. Downtown is not a good place to be,
5 which I should have knew that I shouldn't have been
6 there. But I had gone there to pick them up, had heard
7 from some people there was a pack of Mexican people
8 riding around, you know, looking for trouble.

9 Not knowing that I was waiting for them at my
10 car -- or at my friend's car because I didn't have a
11 car at the time -- and they had driven by, you know,
12 saying different slurs and shouted out different
13 things. And when I had seen that, I tried to get into
14 the car, and I was unable to.

15 They had jumped out of the back of the truck
16 they were in; had attacked me; hit me; eventually got
17 me to the ground and had kicked me. And there were
18 five people. I remember five individuals.

19 And for some reason -- I don't know if it's
20 just a natural response with an individual, but you
21 kind of curl up, and you put your hands over your head.
22 And I did that. And luckily, I did that, because I
23 think that saved my life.

24 I have scars to this day on the back of my
25 head which are very deep, four of them. They had hit

1 me, bluntly hit me in the back of my head with rocks
2 from a construction area nearby; continued kicking me.

3 And people -- my friends had actually come
4 out of where they were, and everyone dispersed, and I
5 was out there bleeding. I didn't know at the time, but
6 I kind of blacked out and lost memory and ended up
7 being taken to the local IHS hospital.

8 I was there, was treated, and apparently I
9 had a concussion, which I didn't know I had. I was
10 asked if I should report it or not, and decided the
11 following day that I should because it was something
12 that had happened to me. So I did, with Maricopa
13 County police, because it did happen in metro Phoenix.

14 I had done that. I had been asked to seek
15 counseling with IHS but didn't feel comfortable talking
16 to a nonIndian person in counseling. You know, they
17 didn't understand who I was. They didn't understand my
18 issues. So I discontinued going to counseling there.

19 I tried to follow up with the reporting.
20 Nothing could really be done because I didn't get a
21 really clear identification of these individuals, but I
22 knew there were five Mexican guys. So basically, my
23 case was dropped.

24 I had gone back to the reservation to try to
25 seek some type of counseling in a way, because at that

1 point I felt like -- it was my second year in college.
2 I felt like I didn't want to be in the city anymore. I
3 didn't want to go to school.

4 So I went back home. I went to IHS again.
5 And people there weren't really helpful. They said,
6 "It happened down there. Those issues don't happen
7 here on the reservation. You know, those type of
8 things don't happen to us here."

9 Which in fact they do, you know, whether it's
10 a male, whether it's a female, you know, whether it's
11 with a homosexual or a heterosexual or whether it's a
12 couple, that type of thing. And they told me that, and
13 I felt disenchanted with the service, with the advice I
14 was given back home. So I said, "Fine."

15 Like many of you, I have a good network of
16 family. I was raised in the traditional way with my
17 family. In Navajo, we practice our traditional culture
18 as well as the peyote religion.

19 So with that in mind, my family took me to
20 have ceremony, what-have-you. And that helped me to a
21 certain extent to overcome this issue and allowed me to
22 return and go back to school.

23 But my thing is that the jurisdictional issue
24 again comes up here, you know. The people I went to
25 down in Phoenix didn't know who I was, didn't know what

1 culturally was acceptable or not acceptable. And then
2 I tried to go back home and tried to get services
3 there, and them telling me that, "Oh, it happened down
4 there. It doesn't happen here."

5 So there is kind of a dichotomy there in
6 which, as a victim, I felt I had no place to turn, and
7 which I finally turned to my family.

8 This is like Ada. I'm in the same situation
9 as Ada. This is the first time I'm publicly speaking
10 out about this. I spoke with Dianne and with only
11 several people about this.

12 But in terms of understanding the services
13 available, I think that people at a state level should
14 be able to understand what Indian people go through,
15 whether it's something very general, in terms of
16 culturally specific issues, or something very basic.

17 There are only a limited number of specially
18 trained people who are Indian out there, and with that,
19 there's a high number of turnover. Caseloads begin to
20 be very high for people. I mean, a number of the
21 providers here, I'm sure, feel overwhelmed. We need to
22 be able to train more of those type of people in the
23 urban areas, as well as in the reservation areas, to be
24 able to handle cases such as the ones we've discussed
25 here.

1 Funding needs to still be allowable to
2 continue these program development, such program
3 developments as CJA, victim advocates, VOCA, those type
4 of things, in order for us to be able to find these
5 services and be able to be offered these services.

6 Another thing, I mentioned me using my
7 traditional ways, my traditional ceremonies. That also
8 needs to be taken into consideration with grant
9 fundings in a way to have victims be able to use that
10 as a way of healing, as a therapeutic method. Because
11 a lot of times, counseling doesn't help with victims.

12 Most of us come from very strong-based
13 cultures that still practice these ceremonies, and I
14 think those will help in healing and understanding what
15 had happened to an individual. And that's another
16 issue, and I know we'll probably be able to talk more
17 about tradition and culture, hopefully this afternoon,
18 but we can get into detail about that.

19 Other than that, I would like to thank you
20 for your time and allowing me to speak. And for me,
21 this is kind of healing, as well. This happened almost
22 six or seven years ago, and I was just thinking about
23 it, coming this morning, that by being able to speak
24 about it, I'm healing myself. And it feels positive
25 for me.

1 And that's not my phone, so I'll let somebody
2 answer that. Other than that, thank you very much.
3 (Speaking in Indian language.)

4 MS. INEZ ODOM: Is it the Judge's phone? I
5 apologize for the evil telephone. Is it the Judge's
6 phone? Whose phone is it? Spankings for the phone
7 person. Yeah. Well, the Judge's phone went off
8 before, so he may be the culprit. Okay. All right.

9 CAMERAMAN: Can you give me a second here?

10 MS. INEZ ODOM: Absolutely. We are doing
11 some repositioning. I'm actually going to go to Daniel
12 and Katherine Albert, though, because they have been
13 waiting really patiently, this couple up here. Yeah.
14 And then I'm going to come to you if that's all right.
15 Thank you. Mr. Gillis has something to say.

16 MR. JOHN GILLIS: But I'll wait.

17 MS. INEZ ODOM: This camera has film.

18 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Oh, okay. I just wanted to
19 respond to something that Elton said. He mentioned
20 this is the first time that he's talked publicly about
21 it. And one of the things that occurs when we have
22 these roundtables is that we find that there are people
23 who for the first time feel like talking because they
24 are among people who understand what they've gone
25 through.

1 So this is not unusual. So don't feel badly
2 about it. But it does happen quite frequently, and
3 it's really a blessing.

4 I was just wondering whether or not most of
5 you have attended any support groups. Have you done
6 that in the past?

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: By show of hands, how many
8 have? Okay. How many have not?

9 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay.

10 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: I think we're forgetting
11 the traditional ways. We don't look at support
12 meetings. We look at traditional ways to do this,
13 instead of support groups.

14 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay.

15 MS. INEZ ODOM: Rose Mary, that's a really
16 important point, so much so, I would like you to
17 revisit that with the microphone. Otherwise, it's not
18 on the record.

19 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: Okay. I think a lot of
20 the times, administration, bureaucracies, see things in
21 a pan-Indian type of environment. Our traditions are
22 so different, and we have 500 tribes, and all these
23 tribes are diversely cultural.

24 We have five civilized tribes in Oklahoma
25 that have entirely different ways than, say, the Plains

1 Indians or the Acomas or the Navajo or those type of
2 people. And our people -- and this is my belief -- my
3 people taught us how to take care of ourselves, how to
4 take care of each other. And we have to use those
5 ways. But we have to ask for it.

6 And our families know those ways. You know,
7 it's that oral thing that comes down. And I think that
8 that oral piece that comes down, our families know how
9 to do that. They know how to pray for us in those ways
10 that they were taught. They know how to pray to the
11 Creator to come down and take care of this person.

12 And it's not something that you can take a
13 conference and say, "Okay, this is how do you it."
14 Because like in Washington, their ways are different
15 than others. I mean, it's just so diverse. There is
16 just no piece that you can go and teach that.

17 It has to be done on-site and as close to
18 on-site as can be done, in my opinion.

19 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you.

20 MR. JOHN GILLIS: I hear what you're saying,
21 but I'm also hearing people say that, "We're in pain,
22 and I've had this pain for a long time." And if
23 getting together with somebody else and talking about
24 it helps you relieve that pain, then I think it's
25 something you ought to do. It's not somebody from D.C.

1 telling you to do it or saying, "This is the best for
2 you."

3 Because in many instances, there are several
4 things that will help you. But if this is one that
5 helps you, then get together with other victims and
6 talk about how you can prevent someone else from
7 becoming a victim. And in addition to that, you are
8 healing yourself. But it's nothing against the
9 cultures and mores of Indian Country.

10 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay, this lady.

11 MS. MARIE CALICA: And I agree with that,
12 Mr. Gillis, but also with what Rose is saying, that
13 each one differs. And what we've done in our program
14 now, after several years and researching it and taking
15 stats and talking and interviewing people, we are now
16 offering what type of services do they want in their
17 healing process?

18 And like Gladys mentioned earlier, the mishap
19 of what happened to her, happened in her home. So we
20 had a traditional cleansing of the home and continue to
21 do things traditionally to help her and the family.

22 So there are different ways we're offering
23 now, you know, because we also have inter-tribal
24 marriages, different tribes marrying into our tribe.
25 And so we ask for those: How can we help?

1 But the support groups is a choice. It's
2 almost like the old story of the quilt-making. They
3 don't just sit and talk. They make things, do things,
4 and they're talking about everything else while they're
5 doing something. Thank you.

6 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. There were hands
7 over here?

8 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: I just wanted to make a
9 comment about what was said about the culture. What we
10 find in our community is that a lot of times we have to
11 make other kinds of resources available besides
12 cultural.

13 Because in some of the families that we do
14 work with, by inter-generational substance abuse and
15 other social problems within the family, the shame
16 that's associated with domestic violence or sexual
17 abuse, and some of the issues around gender kind of --
18 sometimes they isolate the family or the victim from
19 getting those necessary support systems to come into
20 play for you when you need them, especially, you know,
21 when it has been like it's the grand -- maybe the
22 mother and the daughter.

23 You know, there's two generations there. And
24 then, you know, trying to get them back into the
25 cultural setting again to reacquaint them with what our

1 cultural beliefs are, and support systems. I think we
2 have to use any service that is available. Whatever
3 works.

4 Because a lot of times people don't really
5 know. They've been so disassociated from those ways of
6 life that we're really lucky to even know those kinds
7 of things, you know, in some of the work that we're
8 doing now.

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you so much. The lady
10 in purple? I'm sorry. It's Natalia.

11 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: In our area, we have
12 specific people that practice traditional healing. And
13 in our crime victims program I've written into a couple
14 of grants for stipends for traditional healers. And of
15 course our state doesn't have criteria, you know, in
16 their -- I think they're kind of looking for ways to
17 maybe be able to allow some of the grant funds to go
18 toward traditional healing.

19 Both times I've written it in there, and of
20 course it's gotten turned down. And the one just this
21 last time, they asked me, "Well, you'll need to have
22 the traditional healer write up a resume. You'll need
23 to include their certifications and where they were
24 taught," and all this kind of stuff. And I said,
25 "Well, it doesn't happen like that," you know.

1 But I'm sure that other tribes have asked for
2 money in their grants, you know, to be able to provide
3 something to the traditional healers. Because we pay
4 therapists, and we pay them dearly, you know, for
5 working with our clients. But you can't get any of
6 them to come out there on a volunteer basis and donate
7 their gas money and donate their time, you know, for
8 working with our clients.

9 And we shouldn't expect our traditional
10 Indian healers to pay money for gas out of their own
11 pocket and to travel many miles, you know, to perform
12 this for our clients.

13 And so I keep trying to put it in grants and
14 draw it to the attention that many of our Indian
15 clients are asking for that, and we can't continue to
16 ask our Indian traditional healers to provide a service
17 for free.

18 And it's not that they're asking for any
19 money, because real traditional healers don't ask. But
20 we can't keep asking them to spend their own money to
21 do it. And so I think this is a real important issue
22 to talk about.

23 And the other thing, I just have to brag a
24 little bit. We had written into one of our grants that
25 we would make a video using some of our survivors.

1 And we just finished filming it, and it's just
2 unbelievable, the people that volunteered to do it, a
3 domestic violence victim who was nearly killed, and
4 around her story.

5 And another of a young couple, a domestic
6 violence situation. He spent three years in prison and
7 went through treatment. She went through therapy.
8 They're still going through therapy, family therapy and
9 individual therapy. They're back together again.
10 Things are working out pretty good. And a rape victim
11 and an incest.

12 But they are all really strong survivors.
13 Their stories are just very powerful. And we are going
14 to use this for awareness and prevention education.
15 And the first one we're presenting it to is to our
16 tribal council. So it's turned out really well.

17 And that's all I have to say. I just wanted
18 to say that it took a while, you know, to get people to
19 step forward and say that they would do this, be a part
20 of this video. But the ones that did step forward,
21 their stories are very powerful.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you so much.

23 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: Thank you. I want to
24 thank all of the people who are here, too, who have
25 told their stories today. You know, I have a lot of

1 respect and admiration for you doing this.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you so much.

3 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: Thank you.

4 MR. JOHN GILLIS: I didn't quite understand
5 what you were saying about what the states are saying
6 to you about traditional healers.

7 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: Yeah. They are denying
8 our request for putting the traditional healers into
9 our grants. And at first they were just saying,
10 "Well, you have to get resumes, you have to get
11 certifications, you have to tell us where they were
12 taught, and how many years," and all this kind of
13 stuff.

14 And I said, "Well, that's not the way
15 traditional healing works," you know. And I could go
16 to -- you know, the ones you select to work with your
17 clients are the ones that are well known, well
18 respected, and you know that they are able to help
19 their clients.

20 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay. If you can think of
21 it, could you just give me an example of the kind of
22 grant that you were asking for, where they turned it
23 down? I mean, if you can think of it. If not, I'll
24 ask you later.

25 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: Okay.

1 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: I see some more hands.

3 Sheila, did you want to make a point? And then I see
4 Ardith wants to make a point.

5 But the Alberts have had the patience of Job
6 here in terms of waiting for their turn, so I'm just
7 feeling like I would like to let them be able to tell
8 their story. I'd like the Hills to be able to
9 introduce themselves.

10 And then can we follow up on these points, if
11 you'll just jot down some notes? "Yes, Inez, we can do
12 that." All right. Okay. Who would like the mike?
13 Okay.

14 MR. DANIEL ALBERT: My name is Daniel Albert.
15 I'm here with my wife, Katherine. We're victims --
16 survivors, as mentioned before. Our daughter was
17 killed just this past January here in the city of
18 Albuquerque.

19 And we have just gone to trial -- I mean not
20 trial, but a plea bargain agreement with the juvenile
21 division on one of the perpetrators, and he's now being
22 sent to the juvenile detention center to serve his
23 sentence, a maximum of seven years, and hopefully he
24 won't get out until he's 21.

25 I think I would like to kind of put praise on

1 the City of Albuquerque and the homicide division for
2 the quick work that they did in catching the
3 perpetrators and bringing them to justice, and also to
4 our attorneys that are now prosecuting these juveniles.
5 The advocates with them are keeping in contact with us
6 and keeping us informed of what's going on with the
7 proceedings.

8 And I would like to put great praise on Fran
9 Flores for being there for us when we needed her, and
10 keeping in touch with us.

11 I know that as mentioned before, that victims
12 have a very blank mind when something like this
13 happens. I know we all have loss of relatives, and
14 that comes into play when it comes to making
15 arrangements for your loved ones and taking care of
16 them as far as burial goes.

17 Maybe being that we lost relatives, quite a
18 few relatives in between, that we were able to
19 comprehend that part and do our job in preparing our
20 journey for our daughter.

21 You know, there are a lot of questions that
22 people ask when something like this happens, and Fran
23 was there for us when we had questions to ask. If she
24 didn't know the answer, she would make the effort to go
25 and find the answer for us.

1 So I think it's very -- I know that -- well,
2 I would say that we were planning a trip to Arizona
3 this weekend, but we made an effort to be here for the
4 Laguna Pueblo program and make sure that we support
5 that program, because it has been very helpful to us.

6 And I want to just say thank you, Fran, for
7 being there with us.

8 And I'll pass the mike on to Kathy for her
9 comment.

10 MS. KATHERINE ALBERT: My name is Katherine
11 Albert. I don't know if I can speak about my daughter.
12 It's been very hard on us, but we've had a lot of
13 support. And I also would like to thank our chief of
14 police, Michelle Cochran. She went out of her way to
15 help us.

16 We had a lot of family support, relatives, a
17 lot of her friends, people we didn't even know were her
18 friends. And of course the police department here in
19 Albuquerque.

20 She was very brutally murdered. She was
21 raped. All by a 13-year-old, and his accomplice is 15.
22 His trial hasn't started yet, but they haven't notified
23 us as to when it's going to be held.

24 And all the 13-year-old got was seven years.
25 They dropped 19 charges that were against him besides

1 the murder and the residential burglary. This was all
2 planned, and it is scary to know a 13-year-old could
3 plan all this and then carry it out.

4 She was in the process of moving home with us
5 because of the burglary that happened the week before,
6 and she trusted these people. And she asked his
7 parents to watch her place while she was gone. That's
8 why the boy knew that she was gone.

9 And he very comfortably stayed in her
10 apartment. They ate everything that they could there,
11 all her fast-food stuff. And what they didn't eat,
12 they took with them. They stole a lot of her jewelry
13 and her key, extra key to her vehicle.

14 So we wanted her to move home until she could
15 find a better place. And we were there, waiting for
16 the landlord to come. The police wanted them to see
17 what kind of condition they left the house in. We
18 waited until 11:30, and they never showed up.

19 And now they're asking us to pay for the
20 cleaning charge of the apartment after my daughter was
21 murdered in it. I don't think that's fair, for them to
22 be asking us that. They should ask his parents for the
23 cleaning.

24 Besides, he's just going to be out in a few
25 years, and probably he's going to be doing the same

1 thing to somebody else, but the juvenile system says
2 they can't do anything else to him, that that's the
3 law.

4 And he would have been 14. He was 14 in May,
5 but he committed this crime when he was 13. That's why
6 he's getting away with everything.

7 I would just like to thank everybody here for
8 their support, especially Fran. She did everything for
9 us. She kept the media away from us, even during the
10 trial -- I mean the funeral.

11 My daughter was sent off with all the
12 traditional doings. That was the way she wanted it.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. DANIEL ALBERT: I would just like to make
15 an additional comment, that I kind of jotted down some
16 things here, listening to the victims here. I think
17 what we need to do is form a group of victims on the
18 reservations and have a meeting with our tribal members
19 and our governors and see if we can make some changes
20 in the laws and statutes of the reservation. I think
21 they would listen to us if we do that.

22 Also, I know that the City of Albuquerque has
23 divisions for their domestic abuse and your child abuse
24 and all your other violent crime divisions. I think we
25 could train a few of the officers in such divisions,

1 that they could be more helpful when something like
2 this happens.

3 I think that's all I want to say now. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. INEZ ODOM: John, do you want to respond?

6 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: I wanted to mention,
7 one of the boxes of resources that didn't make it here,
8 it has our discretionary program plan in it. And in
9 that, Mr. Gillis has created a brand-new solicitation.
10 It's called Project Hope. That would give money for
11 newly formed nonprofits or grass roots organizations to
12 do new things that haven't been done before.

13 And so I want to get this information to you,
14 because it goes throughout the year, to put in for
15 money for that. And actually, Mr. Gillis made it so
16 you do not have to have your nonprofit status to apply
17 for the money. Did everybody hear that?

18 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Okay. One other thing you
19 mentioned, cleaning the apartment, and I don't know if
20 that -- did it happen on the reservation or Indian --

21 MR. DANIEL ALBERT: No, in the city of
22 Albuquerque.

23 MR. JOHN GILLIS: In the city?

24 MR. DANIEL ALBERT: Yes.

25 MR. JOHN GILLIS: The state VOCA people, or

1 the victim compensation, should have told you about
2 funds that you can get for clean-up of the premises.
3 So you might want to talk to your state VOCA people or
4 your victim witness person.

5 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, John. Frances, do
6 you want to respond?

7 MS. FRANCES FLORES: Yes. And that's exactly
8 what we did with the crime victims compensation claim.
9 We asked for that. We just didn't receive it until
10 recently. And I think, even though I'm not a renter --
11 I'm sure the renter, or the people that were leasing
12 the apartment to Melissa, thought it was reasonable.

13 But I think the Alberts and myself and the
14 detectives on the case were really offended that they
15 did that, even though they probably had to. We were
16 surprised, because we felt it was unnecessary. But
17 that's what happened.

18 I wanted to just real quickly, if I could,
19 address, go kind of back. I had hoped to have more
20 victims here today, and I'm so grateful that the ones
21 from the Pueblo of Laguna are here. But I wanted to
22 talk about Sheila and Natasha real quick.

23 One of the things that I thought was
24 important, that Sheila forgot to mention -- and I know
25 she's under a lot of medication with her chemo and

1 stuff, so her memory is a little disjointed, and we had
2 talked about that on the way down here.

3 But one of the things, when Brian Smith was
4 first taken into federal court, we all got notice to
5 appear in federal court, and we appeared in federal
6 court. And we didn't really know -- we didn't even
7 know it was a sentencing hearing.

8 And what had happened was, the U.S.
9 Attorney's Office had entered into a plea agreement
10 where he would be sentenced to five years. Natasha and
11 Sheila were not notified. I wasn't notified. Nobody
12 knew about it.

13 So we got to court that day, and the judge is
14 doing the elocution and everything that he has to do.
15 And he asked, "And you went over this with the victim's
16 family?" And there was really no response from the
17 federal -- from AUSAs, the Assistant United States
18 Attorneys.

19 And Sheila and I were nodding our heads "No"
20 because they had not heard that this was happening. So
21 what happened as a result of that was there was some
22 discussion that went on, and the judge actually
23 withdrew his plea.

24 And so then we went probably another few
25 months, and in those few months, things were done

1 properly. The victim advocates from the U.S.
2 Attorney's Office were out in Laguna. The attorneys
3 were out in Laguna several times.

4 And once it was clear that Mr. Smith was
5 willing to plead to ten years, then we went forward and
6 we did victim impact statements and everything like
7 that.

8 So I think that was the big event that gained
9 the Pueblo of Laguna crime victim assistance program
10 the respect it deserved with the Feds. It was an
11 uncomfortable moment for them, but I think it has
12 worked well since then.

13 You know, unfortunately, I think as victim
14 advocates, we have to -- we are the voice for the
15 victims, if we elect to work in these jobs, when they
16 can't do things and they can't say things.

17 One of the other things we've had to deal
18 with in Laguna -- and I don't know if it affects other
19 people, but we've had a rash of cases where people,
20 tribal members, were returned to the reservation for
21 burial without all of their organs. And so these
22 things have surfaced.

23 And so I had to work with Betty on bringing
24 her -- her son's brain, unfortunately, was not
25 returned. She was never told. We had to work on that,

1 which resurfaced a lot of pain for her, as we can
2 imagine, and betrayal, feelings of betrayal.

3 Betty's daughter and grandson -- they lost
4 their grandson, and he was returned for burial without
5 his heart and his brain. We were able to get those
6 back from OMI and had to have a subsequent burial.

7 So when we have homicides on the reservation,
8 that's a whole other issue we are having to conquer
9 now. And we're working with OMI, but it's a slow
10 process, and I think ultimately we are going to need to
11 change the New Mexico state law, because the law
12 provides for them to do what they need to do in some of
13 these cases, without permission.

14 And with Kathy and Dan, you know, I've
15 learned so much from their case because Chief Cochran
16 and I were in my office the morning that we learned
17 that it was Kathy's daughter, Melissa, that they had
18 found dead in Albuquerque; that Dan had actually found
19 dead in Albuquerque.

20 And she said, "Do you think we should go
21 down?" And I said, "No. I'm sure the crime victim
22 advocates are out there." Because I used to be a
23 victim advocate for the DA's Office in Albuquerque, so
24 I was certain they were there, because I used to do
25 that. And then we found out later, nobody had been

1 there for the family.

2 And so as victim advocates, I think when you
3 hear of something and your first hunch is to go help,
4 we need to start listening to that and not worry about
5 the jurisdictional issues or things like that.

6 I am really proud that you're all here today.
7 It makes me very proud to do the work, and I appreciate
8 it a lot. And I hope, Mr. Gillis, that you really take
9 back a lot of the stuff to D.C. and implement grants
10 and other resources for us to continue providing this
11 work in Indian Country.

12 Because even though I know the FBI is funded,
13 U.S. Attorneys Offices are funded, I think you can hear
14 that that doesn't always trickle down, and what we need
15 are people in Indian Country that understand the
16 community they are working in, to provide an immediate
17 response.

18 And I think that's it. Thank you.

19 MS. INEZ ODOM: Frances, thank you. Would
20 you pass your microphone to Betty, right next to you?
21 Betty and the Hills are going to have a chance to
22 speak. Betty, you didn't get a chance to speak because
23 you came in late.

24 MS. BETTY NEZ: Okay.

25 MS. INEZ ODOM: So please.

1 MS. BETTY NEZ: My name is Betty Nez, and I'm
2 from Ramah Navajo area, director of social services
3 program from out there. And in addition to what Fran
4 is saying, you know, there are families out there that
5 support each other, but we also have a tiny population
6 of children that we have, that are either in TPR
7 proceedings or that are under neglect and abuse by
8 their own parents. They also become victims, too.

9 And I don't know if Office for Victims of
10 Crimes can be able to supplement the foster care
11 payment costs. And that's something that I was looking
12 into at one time, because we're fortunate for families
13 to have family members that they can turn to for
14 support, spiritual care, emotional care, and all the
15 TLC that they can get from their family members.

16 But like I said, there are a small amount of
17 children that do not have parents that they can turn
18 to, relatives that they can turn to. And I feel for
19 them, because I'm working on a case such as one, and
20 it's a long-term process, and it seems like we don't
21 know what resources to turn to when our foster children
22 do not have any money that they can turn to, especially
23 when the states say, "You only have 18 months, and if
24 you don't come up with the TPR by then," and then what
25 money do you turn to then? And yet, they're still in

1 the social services system.

2 So I just wanted to bring that to Mr. Gillis'
3 attention, too. And thank you.

4 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Betty. Thank you
5 very much. And thank you to the Alberts for coming.
6 That was really gracious of you to take time. We
7 appreciate it. Thank you. Okay.

8 MR. NORBERT HILL: My name is Norbert Hill.
9 I'm Oneida from Wisconsin. And some of the stories,
10 sometimes it's hard to follow these stories because
11 they are so painful, but over the years I've heard the
12 same theme to different people.

13 And recently I heard a story where the church
14 of Tesuque burned down, and the church is 300 years
15 old. And the man who was telling the story is from
16 Tesuque. And he had one hour of sleep, and he started
17 to cry because over 15 generations of people were
18 baptized and buried and married and received Holy
19 Communion in that church.

20 It was burned down, and what was most painful
21 to them, it was some of the young people from their own
22 pueblo that set arson to the church, you know. So it's
23 not only individual pain, it's also a collective pain.

24 And I think justice for Indian people across
25 the country is part of the unfinished business. And

1 how to put the voices and the hearts together of what
2 are the healing opportunities for us to heal in our own
3 way, and I think that's what is the beauty of this
4 conversation that you have.

5 And I think it's time for Indian people to
6 turn to each other, not on each other. It's not people
7 who are for the most part nonIndians perpetrating
8 crimes on us. Sometimes it's our own people on our own
9 people.

10 And I think we have really got to be honest
11 about that, because it's part of the, I think,
12 generalized impression that we deal with from day to
13 day.

14 I've been in education for 30 years, and many
15 times I find kids who are victims of their own
16 schooling. And what I'm finding, funding over 400
17 graduate students, is that good kids are getting
18 better, and poor kids are getting worse, and the gap is
19 widening. And that's the really painful part to see,
20 because you've got smart kids who are doing nothing.

21 And so I think in Indian Country we need to
22 raise the bar of expectation and connect the dots
23 between education and going back home or revitalizing
24 or rebuilding community.

25 I remember Elton as one of the students with

1 the American Indian Sciences Engineering Society, and
2 that bright light is still on, even though something
3 has happened to him. He has figured a way to heal in a
4 way that he can continue to do good for others.

5 So we're trying to figure out how to rebuild,
6 revitalize communities, put meaning back into the
7 degrees that people receive, so they just don't leave
8 our communities with the weakest link, and to build
9 bridges backwards so we can provide internships or
10 experiences to do the work that you do.

11 Because in Indian Country, nobody is going to
12 save us but us. And I think we have to come to that
13 realization and that we need allies in Washington and
14 other places that are going to help us do that. But we
15 need to find our own solutions in our own ways.

16 So I wish you the very best in the good work
17 that you do, and we hope we can level the playing field
18 by getting more and more kids who have some training
19 and skills to come back and do that work.

20 I'm going to pass the microphone to my wife,
21 who had been a juvenile probation officer for over 20
22 years in Colorado, and maybe she has some perspectives
23 to share on this issue.

24 MS. MARY HILL: My name is Mary Hill, and as
25 Norbert said, I was a probation officer in Colorado for

1 21 years. I mostly worked with juveniles, but I also
2 worked with adults.

3 And I was trying to think -- Ada asked me to
4 give some words about my experience. And what my
5 experience was, coming in as a probation officer, was
6 that I was given a lot of training about how to watch
7 these people, how to make them accountable, how to do
8 all of that.

9 I was never given one minute of training or
10 knowledge about victims. The whole area was like not
11 there. I mean, it seems amazing today. But it wasn't.
12 And that was 23 years ago, I guess.

13 And so what I did was, I got like 150 people
14 on my caseload, and I watched them. I made sure I knew
15 where they were, when they were in, and when they were
16 out, and all of these things.

17 And my experience with victims was that
18 occasionally somebody would call and say, "Am I going
19 to get my money?" And I would think, "Oh, God, here I
20 have this poor excuse for a human being on probation,
21 who can't work, who can't do anything, and I'm supposed
22 to" -- or it was a 12-year-old kid who could hardly go
23 to school, and I was supposed to somehow squeeze \$2,000
24 out of them and pay this. And so that was like a hard
25 thing for me.

1 And so that was my sort of experience with
2 victims until my job changed and I wrote presentence
3 reports for the court. And in doing that, I
4 interviewed people who had committed a crime, and gave
5 the court background on this person and investigated
6 that. But I also had to contact the victim. Because
7 in Colorado they had -- at that time you had to include
8 in the presentence report a victim impact statement.

9 So I called victims and in some cases went to
10 meet the victims. And it was at that point that I got
11 that it wasn't just sort of a cold, detached kind of
12 thing. It was: This person did a real crime; it hurt
13 a real person; there was an impact.

14 And at that point, I got it. And I was a
15 person in the system. And I think that other people in
16 the system -- if victims perceive the system as
17 impersonal, as uncaring, as removed, it's because that
18 was real.

19 And as a person in the system, I was that
20 way. It was removed. It was cold. By the time I got
21 the case, it was kind of a cold, detached thing. But I
22 then saw that it was real; that it was painful; that it
23 was emotional; that it was a lot of things.

24 And at that point I -- and I think also the
25 system turned around and victims had a voice and became

1 a group, and they joined together and they developed a
2 voice, and it was heard.

3 And I think at this point, my last years as a
4 probation officer there was a strong push for
5 restorative justice, was the buzz word, and I'm sure
6 that that's carried on. And that was incredible.

7 At that time I was working with juveniles,
8 and it took juveniles who had committed property
9 crimes. And if they were willing, if the victim was
10 willing, they met. The victim was asked, "What would
11 it take to make this right?"

12 And if they wanted to and the kid could do
13 it, the kid would make it right, would in some way make
14 a property crime right, would work on rebuild the fence
15 or rebuild the door or would do whatever it took to do
16 that.

17 And in that process, a lot of things were
18 made right. It doesn't necessarily work in crimes of
19 passion or other crimes, as I'm sure you know. So
20 that's been my experience.

21 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Mary. Thank you
22 very much. I know that Margaret, I see you, but I know
23 Ardith was waiting patiently for her turn; then Rose
24 Mary, who snuck away to the bathroom or something; then
25 it's all about you.

1 So I think we should take a five-minute
2 break, true five minutes, come back, and then really
3 just haul our biscuits until 4:30, right? Because 4:30
4 is when we break? 4:00 or 4:30? 4:00? 4:00. So then
5 we've got miles to go, so five minutes, people. A true
6 five minutes, then Ardith has the floor when we come
7 back.

8 (Recess from 1:48 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: A little more housekeeping.
10 How many folks here -- sorry. I wanted to have a
11 chance to do one-on-one interviews, and some folks I've
12 had a chance to talk with on the phone. Some folks I
13 had the chance to talk with on the phone about doing
14 that, and some I didn't.

15 So tomorrow we have the opportunity to be
16 interviewed one-on-one for some of the projects that
17 we're doing, and so I want to make that available to
18 folks. Who is still going to be here tomorrow? Can I
19 see a show of hands, who will still be here tomorrow?
20 Okay. Good. All right.

21 So if I can perhaps grab the five of you, and
22 we'll work out when I could do an interview with you,
23 because we're prepared to start early if we can end a
24 little early, too. So we'll work all of that out.

25 And the other thing we might do with the

1 balance of some of today's time is use it so you all
2 can talk to Mr. Gillis, if you want to speak with him
3 privately, what-have-you. We want to make sure we are
4 using our time really efficiently.

5 It's all about you, Elton. Make your
6 announcement.

7 MR. ELTON NASWOOD: Okay. It's all about me
8 this afternoon, huh? She let me eat my pie, and now
9 she's letting me talk. I'm going to pass around a
10 postcard, if everyone would like to take one if you
11 haven't already received it.

12 But the Trebalon (?) Policy Institute is
13 sponsoring the Eighth Annual National Strengthening
14 Indian Nations Conference which happens every other
15 year. So the last one happened in Oklahoma, if people
16 are familiar with that.

17 But this year, we're going to be hosting it
18 in Palm Springs, California, in December. So don't
19 worry; it's not going to be crazy hot like it is now.
20 We were just there last week, but it was crazy hot.

21 But it will be happening December 5th through
22 the 7th. We are going to start it on Wednesday with
23 pre-conference workshops and continue Thursday, Friday,
24 and end on Saturday. We will be giving out information
25 or registration packets in August. If you would like

1 to write down your name and address so I could send you
2 one, that would be great. Scholarships will be
3 available for individuals who aren't able to pay for
4 costs such as travel, hotel arrangements.

5 We've also extended the deadline for
6 proposals, so if any of you practitioners in the outer
7 circle would like to present at the conference, please
8 let me know.

9 I'm going to send around my little notebook,
10 so if you want to present, present. And then you can
11 contact me or we can talk more after we're done here.
12 So we are opening it up for presenters.

13 We did have a deadline, but that kind of
14 passed, Indian time. And, you know, we are more than
15 willing to have you come and present if you are
16 interested.

17 And we would also like the victims to come,
18 as well, and be a part of this program, which I think
19 will be very nice. And we have an exciting agenda
20 planned for the week. So I invite you all personally
21 to come, and you can contact me to get information on
22 the card there, as well. Thank you.

23 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you so much.
24 Beautifully done.

25 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Jeannie had a comment.

1 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: This conference is
2 funded by the Office for Victims of Crime. It's the
3 eighth annual, so it's usually very well attended.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. ELTON NASWOOD: I forgot to mention that,
6 and I had them both up here, too. Oops.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Let's see. The folks that
8 were going to -- who said they might still be able to
9 be here tomorrow -- Frances, are you able to be here
10 tomorrow to be interviewed?

11 MS. FRANCES FLORES: Yes, I can. And Betty,
12 if you would like to participate, if you want to
13 participate, you know, you can --

14 MS. INEZ ODOM: What I'm going to do is have
15 Ena kind of mincing around with this, and you can sign
16 up. I've got two folks already scheduled. Sharon
17 Clairmont is scheduled for noon, and then I've got
18 Patricia McGeshick, who is not here today, but she is
19 going to be here tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. per
20 previous arrangements.

21 So just to give you some background, the
22 point and the purpose of the one-on-one interviews, I
23 had mentioned that we are doing some other media
24 products and we're doing -- I mentioned the show we're
25 doing called "How Can I Help?" which is for clergy,

1 etc., and it's for clergy, advocates, family, friends,
2 anyone who is in a position to assist victims. So
3 that's one product.

4 There is another product we're doing called
5 "Victims of Violence Guide To Justice," literally
6 designed to take people through, when a crime happens,
7 what's going to happen. What's the language? What's
8 the terminology? What is an arraignment? What are any
9 of these things. And it just breaks it all down for
10 people so that they know clearly all the steps
11 involved.

12 And woven into that will be the voices and
13 the interviews of folks like yourself who have gone
14 through this system. No one ever wanted to, but that
15 found themselves in this position, and they're
16 reflecting on, "Well, you know, I found it was really
17 helpful for me to keep a little notebook," or "I found
18 that it was really invaluable for me to never go to
19 court by myself. I always made sure I took my neighbor
20 or friend or someone."

21 It's all these helpful things that you
22 wouldn't know unless somebody told you, you know, that
23 this is something that you should consider.

24 And then lastly, we're doing a show called
25 "Victim Contact Skills," which is for law enforcement,

1 specifically, so that we can really -- I mean, you
2 know, if my hair could get any curlier from -- you
3 know, it's like you hear these stories and you think:
4 What is up with this?

5 And someone said in another roundtable -- a
6 woman said, "When did we decide that being professional
7 meant not caring? I mean, I would like to know who
8 made that decision."

9 And so really, it's with an effort to
10 reinfuse into law enforcement a sense of recognizing
11 that part of their professionalism is to be
12 compassionate and decent and to provide you with
13 services, you know, just get you hooked. There are
14 plenty of people who are ready to step in. So that's
15 the third media product.

16 So that's what we'll be doing tomorrow, where
17 we sit in a one-on-one setting. And actually Peter,
18 handsome Pete -- there he is. We're upstairs or
19 something.

20 PETER: Yes, upstairs.

21 MS. INEZ ODOM: Do you know the name of the
22 room?

23 PETER: No.

24 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. We'll get that for
25 you, but it will a one-on-one interview.

1 PETER: Second floor.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: Second floor. And we just
3 sit, and we have a black backdrop, and I just sit, and
4 it's like we're in conversation with one another, and
5 it takes about half an hour. So that's it. That's the
6 story or morning glory.

7 Okay. I will be quiet. It's Ardith, then
8 we're going to Margaret. Although, Sheila, did you
9 have a point you wanted to make? You had your hand up.

10 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: Yes.

11 MS. INEZ ODOM: So you know what, I'm going
12 to go Ardith, Sheila, and then Margaret, and then
13 Gladys. Oh, quick like a bunny. Use the mike.

14 MS. GLADYS GRABEL: I have a quick
15 announcement to make before I go to the airport. I
16 wrote a grant to our tribe and everything, our tribal
17 council and everything, and it got approved for a youth
18 summit. It's going to be our first youth, and it has
19 been approved. It's going to be August 21st and 22nd,
20 prior to school.

21 One of our key presenters is Howard Rayner.
22 We're going to be talking about sovereignty and just a
23 lot of different type of stuff and everything. So if
24 you're interested in it, you can give Marie your
25 address and everything, and I can get you a -- I think

1 there are extra brochures here and everything.

2 So thank you.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Gladys.

4 MR. ELTON NASWOOD: Gladys, e-mail me the
5 information. I can put it on my list.

6 MS. GLADYS GRABEL: Okay.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Beautiful. And then just a
8 final loving reminder. I need to get the release
9 forms. I know you're like: How many pieces of paper
10 do we have to fill out for these people? Well, many,
11 many.

12 So this white sheet that says "Appearance
13 Release Form," if you've done it, bless your heart, and
14 just hold it up and Ena will trot around and grab them
15 from you. But we really have to have this, as well, so
16 I thank you.

17 And it's all about Ardith. Go, Ardith. You
18 take it away. And Ardith, you remember how to hold it
19 right about here? No, a little higher up. A little
20 higher. There you go.

21 MS. ARDITH HILL: My name is Ardith Hill, and
22 I'm a survivor of a homicide. My sister was murdered,
23 and this happened in the state of Colorado. At the
24 time, she had a year-old son.

25 And I had received a phone call, telling me

1 that my sister was in an accident. I thought it was a
2 car accident. And the person on the other line, she
3 says, "No, it's much worse than that." And I said -- I
4 thought maybe she was hurt, but she said, "No, she was
5 killed." I said, "Okay." I said, "Give me your number
6 and let me call you back."

7 Because I had to take time to get ahold of
8 myself before I went ballistic on her. But anyway, I
9 called her back, and come to find out that her husband
10 had shot her, and she was killed instantly.

11 Well, we made arrangements to come down to
12 Colorado to get her, to take her back home. And when
13 we got into Colorado, I found out that I had to get
14 permission from my former brother-in-law in order to
15 take care of the arrangements. So I had to go to the
16 county jail and get the permission from him to go ahead
17 and do what I had to before I could take her back to
18 Idaho.

19 And at that time we did not have a victim
20 services of any kind. But as time went on -- well, my
21 understanding is that all he received was three months
22 in jail. And so as I thought about it and a lot of
23 things, I thought to myself: Well, if I ever get into
24 a position where I could help people, I will prevent --
25 anything in my power to prevent another person having

1 walking through what I had to walk through.

2 And as time passed, there was a grant that
3 had come out, and it was a victims of crime, and it was
4 with the state. And that was in 1990. In 1990 I
5 became the director of that program, and in 1991 we put
6 up a battered women's shelter on the reservation, and
7 this was to help the Indian women that are involved in
8 any type of domestics.

9 And a lot of it was addressing also our
10 cultural issues. And the federal law usually, on
11 crimes that happen on the reservation, they're slow.
12 It is very slow. But that's the way that federal
13 works, and I know on all reservations it's probably the
14 same. And like someone mentioned, whereas loose lips
15 really hurts the case, and that's true, because
16 everybody wants to know what's going on.

17 Recently, we just had three homicides that
18 happened on the reservation, in January. A Hispanic
19 came in and killed three people in a home: a baby, the
20 mother, and the grandmother, shooting them and doing
21 away with them.

22 Well, the person that did the crime was
23 charged with firing -- carrying a firearm. There was
24 no murder charges. I filed victims compensation for
25 the family with the state of Idaho. They couldn't do

1 anything because there was no murder charge, so that
2 was kind of like just held there.

3 Well, before I came up here on June 27, I did
4 receive a letter, and so did the family, that they were
5 awarded the services that they are entitled to. And
6 what that was, they helped them with the funeral
7 expenses, and the ones that did apply are eligible for
8 counseling.

9 But on the same note, with Indian Health
10 Services and victims compensation, victims compensation
11 says that they're last payee, versus Indian Health
12 Services.

13 Now, I had brought this to the attention when
14 I was in Washington, D.C., about all that, and I was
15 told that that was the statute. And the reason that
16 that came up was because of adolescents that were
17 sexually assaulted, that wanted to go to counseling but
18 did not want to go to the counseling services on the
19 reservation; they wanted to go outside.

20 They were told that if they went to the
21 outside, that they would have to pay for the services
22 themselves, because victims compensation was last payee
23 versus Indian Health Services. And Indian Health
24 Services are saying, "We have the services here; you
25 need to go here."

1 They didn't want to go there, so how did they
2 try to remedy it? They attempted suicide. And that
3 was kind of like my concerns as to how come I brought
4 it up in Washington, D.C.

5 On the same homicide that had happened in
6 January, at the crime scene, it was in the family's
7 home that had been killed. The crime scene has been
8 blocked off. Nobody can access that place.

9 At that time, they turned the heat down in
10 the home, and the pipes froze. The house flooded. And
11 there was an electric bill. And the person that signed
12 for the responsibility for the funeral expenses, I
13 guess they're the ones that are responsible for that.
14 And to date, we still can't access that.

15 But I have talked to the family and told
16 them, "Well, you know, you can probably put in for
17 restitution, but it's not something that is going to
18 happen right away."

19 But that's kind of like where we're at on
20 that one. And they have extended that date to
21 September, which we'll probably get another extension
22 before that is even heard. But the family is kind of
23 like, you know, "Well, when are they going to do
24 something?" Because there have been no charges, murder
25 charges, even though three people are gone.

1 There was also another case whereas the state
2 denied the funds because the individual contributed to
3 his own death. But the family did go after restitution
4 when the sentencing came down.

5 And in talking about Indian Health Services,
6 within our tribe Indian Health Services will only take
7 care of services that involve such as life and death.
8 So counseling doesn't fit into that. So counseling
9 that's off of the -- the individual either goes to that
10 services or they try to take care of it on their own.

11 My advocates and myself, we go on sexual
12 assault cases. We provide rape kits for the victims
13 and explain the procedures that the victims have to go
14 through, and how come the medical providers, you know,
15 have to do what they have to. We also provide a kit
16 whereas they are not subjected, but they are rape
17 victims when they leave the hospital.

18 One question I have is: How many in this
19 room have applied for state funding with the Victims of
20 Crime Services? Were you all successful in getting
21 funds?

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Was there anyone who was
23 unsuccessful? Raise your hand if you were
24 unsuccessful. Okay. And you asked that question,
25 Ardith, to --

1 MS. ARDITH HILL: The reason I asked that is
2 with the State of Idaho, there is another tribe that
3 have applied but because they didn't know how to do the
4 budget, their line item was kind of like extended, and
5 that was in the amount of \$5,000.

6 My program kind of spiraled downhill, whereas
7 all the other services within the State of Idaho that
8 had applied spiraled upwards. And they awarded me
9 \$3,000 this year, and they want us to do so many things
10 that there's no way \$3,000 can take care of that. And
11 what I had recommended to the board was to go ahead and
12 send the money back, because there is no way that I
13 could do what they want me to do.

14 But that's just one of the issues, and if
15 this kind of problem is going on, Mr. Gillis and
16 Jeannie probably need to let them know as to what has
17 happened.

18 MS. INEZ ODOM: Would you like to respond to
19 that?

20 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: Yes, I would just like to
21 make a comment on that.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Hold on. And then
23 Ardith, with lots of love in my heart, I see you have
24 many notes, but I've still got a few folks who want to
25 speak, so bless your heart.

1 MS. ELAINE ROMERO: I'll be quick. I had
2 been to the federal crimes symposium in Washington
3 probably like two years ago, and this issue came up.
4 And one of the things they do in New Mexico is, they
5 have a system in place for these monies that you were
6 discussing this morning. And the way they do it is,
7 they go based on population.

8 And so what I found out when I was attending
9 the meetings for the New Mexico Coalition Against
10 Domestic Abuse or Violence is that a lot of rural areas
11 and tribal communities are excluded because they don't
12 maintain a population base.

13 And so a lot of the other kinds of grants
14 that you were discussing, the federal monies that do go
15 to the state, tribes are eliminated, especially smaller
16 tribes that don't have a big population base, as well
17 as rural communities.

18 And I met a person that -- the state person
19 from Arizona. And their system works much, much
20 better. They base their criteria on the amount of
21 services or resources available to a community. So
22 basically, large metropolitan areas receive less of the
23 funds, and more rural and tribal communities get a
24 larger portion of the funding. And it's not that much.

25 You know, in New Mexico, historically from

1 the different workings that I've had with them, from
2 tourism to now domestic violence, the state has always
3 been really rigid as far as compliance, the criteria,
4 and the maintenance of the grants.

5 Like for Taos Pueblo and myself, there is
6 just one person. That's me. So I handle all of the
7 administrative and case management and all that kind of
8 stuff.

9 And to apply for a state grant, where they
10 ask you to do so many things, it's just not conceivable
11 to take on a task like that. I mean, even the federal
12 grants don't even ask you to do as much as the state
13 does, and they give you very little in return.

14 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Ardith, maybe two
15 more points?

16 MS. ARDITH HILL: Anyway, that's kind of like
17 where I'm at with the state. But I was going to give
18 Jeannie a copy as to what I had done on that so they
19 can maybe look at that.

20 Also, with victims compensation, whereas
21 maybe some of my people or other Indian tribes that
22 have come onto the reservation, that had a crime that
23 was committed in another state, I have filed victims
24 compensation for them in that state and they have been
25 pretty good about it.

1 I don't know whether if you file, if the
2 Indian people are filing for victims compensation. I
3 know within the state of Idaho, that the state of Idaho
4 does not recognize Indian ceremonial healings. Okay.

5 This is something that us Indian people, we
6 take and we just do, to help the other person. We're
7 not allowed to put it down and explain what we're doing
8 and how come we're doing it. This is just within the
9 grass roots.

10 What we need is an Indian victims
11 compensation board, or somebody that can identify with
12 the Indian ways as to the victimization and how this
13 impacts us Indian people.

14 Also, when I apply for the burial grants for
15 the Indian people, I have to go through and explain
16 like a little bit of how come people are doing what
17 they're doing, like the give-aways, the feasts and all
18 that. This is on that -- they per se don't identify
19 with, so it's like if they don't identify with it, they
20 throw it out.

21 But you're explaining in your true essence,
22 because when a person loses a person, they just go
23 through the motions. Okay? They're just doing what
24 they're supposed to be doing. They're not connecting
25 with their feelings.

1 So when I know that there's a homicide going
2 on, what I do is contact the family members and tell
3 the people, you know, "You need to hold on to the
4 receipts." The person may not comprehend, but that
5 person with them will know what they're supposed to
6 hold on to.

7 And they also need to give support to the
8 battered women's shelters that are located on the
9 reservations, to help Indian victims, per se, across
10 Indian Country. And this is one of the reasons how I
11 kind of like provided one, because of what had happened
12 to my sister. Maybe if she had somewhere like this to
13 go to, this wouldn't have happened to her.

14 And also, within our state, the way that they
15 claim their minority is through the Hispanic. They
16 don't claim, really, Native Americans. They count our
17 numbers, but it's really not fair. It's just like we
18 had a state conference. They had a Hispanic person
19 that was giving the cultural sensitivity.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Ardith, thank you. Thank you
21 very much. I appreciate it. Okay. Sheila, I know you
22 had a quick point you wanted to make? Okay.

23 MS. SHEILA ABEITA: Mine was just how we
24 talked about the counseling and whatnot, you know.
25 Maybe we could put that up on top with some of the big

1 priorities, along with our advocates, you know, because
2 like they say, there is not enough. Counseling goes to
3 a certain point on the reservation, off the
4 reservation.

5 The choice isn't really the victim's choice.
6 It is up to -- they have to settle for where they have
7 to go. I can understand why the majority do want to go
8 off the reservation, for the reason that they don't
9 want it to be known. My daughter had the same thing.
10 She didn't want it to be known, what had happened to
11 her. You know, we did good by keeping this hush-hush
12 all these years, for her sake. For the safety and the
13 sake of the victims, you know.

14 But you know, we do need a lot of help,
15 that's the reason why I'm here, hoping that you will
16 help us to help ourselves. We're not asking you to do
17 it all for us, but we are asking in order for us to
18 help ourselves, we need your help, too. We're all
19 regular people, you know, and we do look up to you,
20 and we do support you in whatever way we can.
21 Otherwise, I wouldn't be here.

22 And I do believe in you and I trust in you
23 that you'll take all our comments, all our prayers, all
24 our wishes and take them to heart and not push them in
25 back of the table and add them to the pile, but open

1 them up and look at them.

2 Because behind these names are faces and
3 families and people that have and -- and I know people
4 that have gone through what we have all gone through.
5 But like I said, for those of us that were somewhat
6 victims and are survivors, that's where our common
7 sense comes in. If you feel that there is something
8 not right, please stand up for yourselves and your
9 loved ones and say, "Hey, what's going on? What can we
10 do to make it better?"

11 Because if we don't do that, nobody else
12 will, you know. That is why I stand close to my
13 daughter. I have four boys under her. And with my
14 counselor, I'm hanging in there like everybody else,
15 but I do not want to be a victim, either, and I choose
16 not to be. That's why I choose to stand up. Thank
17 you.

18 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Sheila. Margaret,
19 did you want to speak? Now you're shaking your head
20 "No." Okay. Rose Mary, I know you wanted a turn; and
21 then I've got Betty wants a turn; and then Ruth. So
22 let's take Sheila's microphone and pass it over here.
23 I'm going to give this to you, Rose Mary, and then
24 Ruth. Take it away.

25 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: I just wanted to share

1 an experience that we had on our reservation, and we
2 weren't really prepared for this. We have three
3 small -- four small communities, and they are real
4 close-knitted, and they are based on clans, so you can
5 imagine that everybody knows everybody else and that
6 they are real close.

7 One day we were getting ready to close the
8 office, and the advocate had left early and she had the
9 crisis line, so she came into my office, running in
10 there, and she had shorts on. She said, "Rose Mary,
11 we've got a call, and I don't know what to do about
12 it." And I said, "What is it?" She said, "Well, I got
13 a call from the sheriff's office. They said there was
14 a shooting, but it's on the reservation." So I said,
15 "Okay, I'll go with you."

16 So I got in the car. We went out in my car,
17 went out there. And what had happened was, the chief
18 of police had been forced to kill another tribal
19 member, with a big audience. It happened outside the
20 bingo hall.

21 And so I got in my car, and I went up there.
22 They had already taken the person who was shot to the
23 hospital, and they were trying to get his wife, who
24 happened to observe the shooting, into the ambulance to
25 take care of her. And she was in shock, and they

1 couldn't get her to move.

2 So I went in there, prayed a lot, and talked
3 to her, got her attention, got her in my car, and we
4 proceeded to assist her. We took her to the hospital.
5 They had flighted him to Tulsa. I put her in my car.
6 I took her to Tulsa. I sat with her until 4:00 in the
7 morning. Some of my staff came with me because the
8 family also were clients of my agency.

9 And so we went through all this trauma with
10 the family. Okay? Even though he was shot by the
11 police, he was still a victim in a way. Okay. And
12 there was a lot of emotions that were going on with
13 this family, because they had been associated with our
14 agency for quite a while. We knew the children. We
15 knew the grandparents. We knew all of that.

16 So after that, we were driving home, and we
17 started talking about it and talking about our feelings
18 and going on about it and what I call debriefing the
19 trauma that we, ourselves, had felt. So time went on.
20 We helped them go through the funeral. We helped them
21 do everything that we could do.

22 And then about two days later I got a call
23 from my principal chief who said, "Rose Mary, I need
24 your help." And I said, "Well, what's that, Chief?"
25 And he said, "Our chief of the police has never killed

1 anybody before, and he's going through a really hard
2 time. Can you help him?"

3 So I did. I went and found some resources
4 that I had, called some law enforcement people that I
5 knew. They came, and they had outsiders come in and
6 take care of him and kind of heal him, in a way. But
7 he needed to be done in a private way.

8 So the point I'm making is that we were
9 advocating for both sides, in a way. And that's very
10 emotionally charged because you're torn apart. And
11 there was no help, and so all you had to do was just do
12 the job. That's where you -- they say you're a
13 professional.

14 That's when that professionalism kicks in,
15 because you do the job and you process it later. And
16 even though it's still emotional for me, at the time I
17 did the job and I did it in a way that it got done.

18 But the point I'm trying to make is, there's
19 no training for that out here. People aren't getting
20 trained for that. They're not getting trained to help.
21 What do you do when the victim is your relative? Who
22 do you go to if you are the victim advocate? Who do I
23 call? Who takes care of that because I can't? My
24 emotions are involved.

25 And that's the kind of training that I'm

1 hoping that maybe we can get in the future, because I
2 see a lot of holes in the training that the advocates
3 are getting and it's not being completed, you know.

4 And I'm sorry. I don't mean to be emotional,
5 but it's something that still comes back and hits you.
6 Even though you've talked about it before, it's
7 something that just takes time to process.

8 And grief. I don't know what the advocates
9 are taught in grief and how to heal grief and the
10 stages of grief that people have to go through, and
11 help them go through those stages.

12 We haven't talked about the 280 space and the
13 jurisdictional problems that result as a fact of the
14 280 space, and the jurisdiction problems. And how do
15 you work with law enforcement that sometimes have
16 adverse feelings towards tribal police?

17 There are lots of things going on out there
18 that we haven't talked about. And I am just hoping
19 that someday we can get some of those things addressed.

20 And I think that's all I have to say. But
21 Margaret has got something to say.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: I'm going to let Ruth go, and
23 then Betty, and then it's all about you. Because you
24 advocated the throne. Okay. Please, Ruth.

25 MS. RUTH GARRETT: I was just going to

1 mention that same thing. In our community, there is a
2 lot of racism, in that the tribal police aren't always
3 respected and considered equal with the county police
4 or the city police. And that's a problem.

5 Another problem that we haven't talked about
6 a lot here, that has been alluded to, that we run into
7 all the time, is the economic victimization following
8 crimes, where people get in situations where they can't
9 -- because this crime has happened, whether it's
10 domestic violence or a homicide of a loved one --
11 where they can't work, or there's electricity bills,
12 mortgages, food, clothing, shelter. And we are very
13 rural, and so shelter becomes an issue.

14 And I know in some states, the state won't
15 allow foster care payments to be made to relatives, so
16 then in a way the relatives become a victim, too,
17 because then their whole economic structure of their
18 families are compromised.

19 And the whole issue of economic oppression,
20 when a woman, particularly -- usually, I should say --
21 leaves the home and the perpetrator was the main wage
22 earner. And what happens to her? And how is she going
23 to survive?

24 So all of those things play out every single
25 day in the lives of the people, and it's hard. And so

1 I mention rural nature, racism, economic oppression.
2 And I just wanted to make sure we have those on our
3 list, because I've been keeping a list as we went
4 through here.

5 And sometimes that very basic food, clothing,
6 shelter, transitional house -- and we can talk about
7 helping emotionally and we can really be there
8 emotionally, but sometimes we have to be there with the
9 actual thing. They've got to have a place to live.
10 They've got to have clothes. The kids have to have new
11 shoes to go to school.

12 And as advocates, we're faced with trying to
13 bring the emotional things to bear, that when you're
14 out in rural communities particularly, it's hard to get
15 all of the basic needs met, too.

16 That's what I wanted to say.

17 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Betty is going to
18 take it away. She has a mike. Ena, take the mike over
19 to Margaret, please.

20 MS. BETTY CARRILLO: I just wanted to say
21 that when my son was murdered, Fran Flores was not
22 working as a victims advocate at that time, so I really
23 didn't have anyone that I could turn to. And you don't
24 know what you're going to do or how you're going to do
25 it.

1 I mean, we brought my son home, and we had a
2 traditional burial for him. And I did not know at that
3 time, but my daughter's son died last September, and
4 they had to have an autopsy, so they took him to
5 Albuquerque, and the OMI did the autopsy.

6 And then on her birthday in February -- her
7 son died in September -- she was notified that her
8 son's brain and heart had been kept, so they were going
9 to return it, and then we would have to have a second
10 burial. Okay. All right.

11 Then I asked Fran, I said, "Well, my son had
12 an autopsy. Would you find out?" And at first I said,
13 "No, I don't want to know." And then I said, "Yeah, I
14 want to know." So she got in touch with them.

15 And then I get a letter that yes, they had
16 kept his brain, but they had cremated it. But nobody
17 told me. I mean -- and I guess there's a law that says
18 they can do this. But I thought: If they're going to
19 do this, why not ask the family if it's okay?

20 I had no choice. Why didn't they say, "We're
21 going to keep his brain?" for whatever reason? I might
22 have said, "No, you're not going to." But I mean, they
23 didn't give me that choice. And I wish now that
24 someone had been there. Okay.

25 And then when we went to court, I didn't know

1 what to expect when I went to court, but I did have all
2 my family and friends to go with me, so I had a lot of
3 family support.

4 But I just wish that if OMI, if they're going
5 to do things like that, they should at least let you
6 know.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Betty. I need to
8 ask a question. This is like the State of Maine, when
9 we heard about in Maine they can -- if I'm the
10 perpetrator and I've murdered your child, I have the
11 right to ask you questions on the witness stand.

12 I mean, what is this, taking brains and body
13 parts? What is this? I mean, what is this? Do we
14 have an answer? I feel like I'm in the twilight zone.
15 I mean, this is crazy. They're just taking them? Why?
16 Is there a why? Okay, I'll be quiet. Just do your
17 job, Inez.

18 MS. IRENE ELDRIDGE: I recently had a nephew
19 that was killed in an automobile accident, and I
20 requested -- I was trying to help my sister with her
21 deceased son, and I asked them, OMI, not to do an
22 autopsy.

23 But since he had been in an automobile
24 accident with law enforcement being there, they said
25 that that was not an option. Or it was an option. I

1 don't quite remember what. But it happened in the late
2 hours, and he was already transported. And by the time
3 my sister had gotten to OMI in Albuquerque, they had
4 already done the autopsy.

5 And I think it sounds like the State of New
6 Mexico permits that type of activity, and they're not
7 really honoring the families' -- especially Indian
8 families' -- requests, and they're doing that outright,
9 not getting permission from the families.

10 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Margaret, you've got
11 the floor; then you've got the floor. I still don't
12 understand why they're doing it.

13 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: Inez, could I just put a
14 point in here about --

15 MS. INEZ ODOM: Margaret gave you the mike,
16 so it's not a problem.

17 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: Okay. I just want to
18 make a point about in my teachings, I was taught that
19 you don't bury your people without all of you being
20 there, and that's a very traditional point. And that's
21 one reason why in my particular tribe it's a very
22 important issue.

23 MS. INEZ ODOM: In Judaism, that's the case.
24 If you are a traditional Jew, you do not have an
25 autopsy. Please, Margaret, take it away.

1 MS. MARGARET HENRY HAYES: I just wanted to
2 share, and then I kind of backed out of it, and then I
3 decided I was going to share anyway. About six years
4 ago, five and a half years ago, we had a doctor at our
5 clinic who was perpetrating on the young women in the
6 clinic by doing excessive pelvic exams and
7 inappropriate questions.

8 And my daughter at the time was the
9 administrator of contract health services, and when
10 they called in all of the people that he had possibly
11 perpetrated on, they had been giving the manager --
12 people were telling her these things.

13 But everybody liked this doctor, and they
14 hadn't done a background check on him to see what kind
15 of -- he was a doctor, but they hadn't done any
16 background checks on him. And there were over 30-some
17 young girls and women that were involved in this.

18 And when they asked him to resign, they
19 actually came and took him off the reservation by --
20 tribal police led him off the reservation. They closed
21 down the clinic because they were afraid of what he may
22 do.

23 And at that time, out of the 30 women, they
24 felt like my daughter had the best case, and so they
25 had to try just one case, one person. They couldn't

1 bring in the other people. So she was the only victim
2 that Snohomish County took.

3 And at that time, when she ended up going to
4 court, because of tribal politics, personality
5 conflicts, the clinic testified against her, which
6 really put her into a lot of -- you know, she was
7 really -- the whole family was upset. And he got off.

8 And then right after that, about a year after
9 that, there was a tribal day care down there, and the
10 children had been molested at pre-school by one of the
11 people that were down there. They closed down the day
12 care. And two of my grandchildren were in that day
13 care at the time. And nothing was done because the
14 children were nonverbal.

15 And I mean, I knew that there were things
16 going on, something was happening, because Hannah was
17 down there for about three or four years, and she
18 didn't want her diapers changed. And there were other
19 women that I know now, who worked in the day care, who
20 said if they had known some of the signs, they would
21 have known about the lady who had perpetrated on these.

22 And what had happened, because they hadn't
23 been able to prove anything, they dropped all the cases
24 and they closed down the day care, but the lady was
25 placed elsewhere in the tribe to work.

1 And right after that, probably about six
2 months after that, my son-in-law committed suicide in
3 his back yard. And they lived on the reservation. And
4 during this time when my daughter went back to work,
5 also because of tribal politics and people who were in
6 charge or not in charge, families, she actually was let
7 go of her job, working for the tribe. They had taken
8 her and moved her from contract health services because
9 of the politics and because of what the clinic had
10 done, and actually found a way to let her go entirely.

11 And so now -- and she was also -- when she
12 was with her husband, she was in a domestic violence
13 situation.

14 So now I'm coordinator of our Stop Violence
15 Program, and I'm also coordinator of our child advocacy
16 center which deals with sexually abused children. And
17 I am now the expert.

18 So I think that we need more training. We
19 need more training. And it's good to go to trainings,
20 but sometimes I think we need -- or I need -- I need
21 steps. I need papers or something saying, "This is the
22 type of response that you have when this type of
23 situation comes on, 1, 2, 3. This is how you set your
24 programs into motion. This is how" -- it's like now,
25 since I'm the coordinator of the Stop Violence Program,

1 I realize that I know more information than some of the
2 people do.

3 But now the police department are wanting us
4 to come down and train them. And even though I do
5 know, understand the ramification of domestic violence,
6 I don't have all the answers. And sometimes it's just
7 having -- getting to know some of the answers. And
8 even by doing the child advocacy center and even doing
9 the Stop Violence Program, it was: Who else is going
10 to do it?

11 You know, it's not a job that anybody in the
12 tribe really wants because there is so much denial in
13 the tribe that these things are happening. Even when
14 they wanted to have a march for domestic violence out
15 on our reservation, some of them said, "No, you can't
16 do that" simply because it isn't open enough yet. What
17 it would cause, it would cause more women to be abused.

18 And it's like I keep telling people. I've
19 told people I don't -- even with the child advocacy
20 center, with dealing with families that are sexually
21 abused, and women, you know, I don't have all the
22 answers.

23 But it's like when I was asked, you know, if
24 I would do this, I said, "Yeah, I'll do it." So it's
25 like saying, okay, you're opening up to new programs

1 that you have a frontier in. And even though -- even
2 like with the child advocacy center of having
3 directions, we're getting our directions from
4 mainstream. And those type of things don't work in
5 Indian Country.

6 And we don't have enough -- we don't have
7 enough papers out there. We don't have enough
8 technical help to come onto our reservations, to be
9 able to do that. And the truth of it is, we need our
10 own people training our own people. I mean, we have
11 been trying to fit square pegs into round holes long
12 enough. It's not working for them. Why would they
13 think it's going to work for us?

14 You know, I may not have all the degrees
15 behind me, but some people with degrees don't have the
16 common sense. At least we have the heart. And these
17 are my family. These are my grandkids. This is my
18 daughter.

19 These are going to be the next leaders of our
20 tribe, and if we don't do something today -- I see
21 every generation, it's deteriorating more and more and
22 more. And if we don't do something now -- you know, I
23 may not make a big difference in our tribe, but at
24 least I'm going to make a dent, you know. And if
25 people keep pounding on it long enough and keep denting

1 it, we're going to make a hole.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Margaret. Thank
3 you very much.

4 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Has everyone had an
5 opportunity to speak?

6 MS. INEZ ODOM: I was going to let Christine
7 have the floor. Raise your hand if you've not spoken
8 today. I know like Brooke hasn't said anything. There
9 are some people that have not -- some folks have not
10 had a chance to say anything.

11 Actually, my little coughing friend down here
12 I don't think has even had a chance. So will you --
13 and you had your hand up to speak. Quick, like a
14 bunny, Christine, and then I'm going to go around, and
15 we're just going to go in order of anyone who has not
16 spoken.

17 MS. CHRISTINE BUTLER: What I was going to
18 say was, since I have come on board as an advocate, I
19 have worked with Arizona compensation form, or with the
20 board from Coconino County, which is in Arizona, and
21 they do pay out for tribal ceremonies.

22 But the thing is that they want to know --
23 same thing -- if our medicine men are certified. How
24 do they come up with the prices? How come we have so
25 many ceremonies as Native Americans -- well, with

1 Navajo tribe?

2 Because one person can be victimized with
3 sexual assault, but they will have three or four
4 ceremonies because they have to go through what is
5 called a blackening, which gets rid of the evil
6 spirits. Then they go through another one which
7 purifies their body. Then they go through a beauty
8 way, which is to make their life go on in a straight
9 path.

10 And that's the three ceremonies most of them
11 go through. But they have more ceremonies that they go
12 through, and the expenses are different with each
13 ceremony, and they have to buy different things within
14 the ceremonies. They don't just go there and do their
15 prayers. They have to buy materials, a wedding basket,
16 deer skin. Then they pay the medicine man.

17 But the thing is, like I heard before with --
18 I know personally for me and my family, we go to
19 medicine men that say, "You just pay me whatever you
20 can afford." And that's what a traditional medicine
21 man is supposed to do. But there are other medicine
22 men that have their prices already set.

23 And I've already talked with Donna Markum (?)
24 down in Arizona, and I told her I'd get some people
25 from Navajo to come down and talk to her about the

1 ceremonial expenses. Because that's one of the
2 problems I have right now, where I have three cases
3 sitting there, and the people are waiting for that.

4 And it's not all so traditional. We do
5 Native American church, which is the peyote church, and
6 it's a whole different other ceremony that they go
7 through.

8 So the cost is a lot for a victim when they
9 go and do their ceremonies, and we need to let the
10 people know to be sensitive to these people because
11 they do go through a lot of different ceremonies. And
12 that's just to help them feel better, help them know
13 that they can go on with their life again.

14 And another thing is, homicide survivors. I
15 mean, where I'm from, in Tuba City, I have called
16 around, and they've said -- I asked IHS, I asked my
17 service providers that I work with, "Do you guys help
18 our homicide survivors? Do you have counseling? Do
19 you have any place where they could just vent and
20 talk?"

21 And there's nothing, no services for homicide
22 survivors at all. And I looked into that, and so I was
23 talking -- well, Brooke was with me, and I told her, I
24 said, "I feel like I should start the group up. I
25 should start getting people going, to come in and talk

1 with them."

2 So that's one of my projects I want to do,
3 and I saw hope, you know, that maybe I can get that
4 going. Because it's really needed on our reservation
5 because our people don't have nobody to talk to, and
6 all I sometimes can say is, you know, "Come and talk
7 with me. I'll let you talk."

8 And then for other people, we'll say, "Call
9 the 1-800 number down to Arizona," or "Call the 1-800
10 number here to New Mexico." But people don't want to
11 talk on the phone. They want to see somebody that
12 they're talking to.

13 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay.

14 MS. CHRISTINE BUTLER: Wait. Last one.

15 MS. INEZ ODOM: Last one. Okay.

16 MS. CHRISTINE BUTLER: With the Navajo
17 reservation, we have a wide -- a big, big reservation,
18 and as of now we only have three advocates, victim
19 advocates that work. And I have a big range.
20 Sometimes I have to come from Tuba City down to a place
21 called Dilkon, which is a whole hour and a half away
22 from my area, to help victims in that area. And I have
23 co-workers that go two, three hours away from home to
24 help victims.

25 You know, right in that crisis situation,

1 that's really bad for our people, because they don't
2 have anybody to talk to because the police officer is
3 off to another call. The victim is the last person
4 that's on their mind. The next call is what's on their
5 mind. And I had some more, but that's the main ones.

6 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Christine. Nicely
7 done. Okay. So here's the thing. I'm going to go to
8 the folks that have not had a chance to speak, but what
9 I really want you to be thinking about now, as we come
10 to a conclusion, is: What is the take-home message?
11 What is the deliverable -- what do you want to see
12 done, that we've not discussed, that we've not heard?
13 What needs to be communicated? So this is sort of a
14 last hurrah. Mary Jane?

15 MS. MARY JANE SOUTHER: All right. I guess
16 being a provider, I would like to advocate. There is
17 always lack of money. And for the last three years,
18 again getting into tribal politics, and they didn't
19 like the people that was working for me.

20 And so I stood alone, and I still stand
21 alone. I have a four-county coverage. I have gone to
22 all the conventions and the city councils and all the
23 law enforcements, and I'm dispatched out of one of
24 those counties.

25 Well, one of the biggest things that we have

1 had, I have had, in really advocating, is that full
2 faith and credit. And so I know that we all need
3 training in that. We all need to -- I don't know why
4 the law enforcement disrespects that.

5 Whenever I have a nonIndian perpetrator and a
6 native victim, and I want him removed, I have a heck of
7 a time. He says I have to call the prosecutor. So
8 they call their prosecutor, and then the prosecutor
9 calls the judge. And they say, "Well, you have no --
10 you know, here we have a protection order."

11 And so I think that, as a provider, that is
12 one of the things that we really need within our Indian
13 programs, is the training.

14 Also, I would like to ask maybe Mr. Gillis:
15 What does our consultant do that was hired by the VIAC,
16 University of Oklahoma? What do they do? And what can
17 they provide us?

18 I know we got a lot of assistance from Joe
19 Meyers (?) from the NIJC. We got a lot of assistance
20 from them, but we have not even heard -- I mean, I
21 haven't heard. I don't know if anybody, any of the
22 other service providers have heard anything from Dick
23 Bigfoot (?).

24 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Let me tell you, I'm not
25 going to discuss any specific programs here, as far as

1 universities and some of the service providers. I do
2 understand that the service providers are saying that
3 you need money. I know that's one of the issues.

4 Number two is, I think we've heard it around
5 the table. We need training. So those things I am
6 aware of. But for specific programs, I'll let you
7 contact staff on those, and I won't take up everybody
8 else's time on that.

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, John. Okay?
10 Brooke?

11 MS. BROOKE CANYON: Hi. I am fairly new at
12 this. I'm doing an internship with Christine. And one
13 of the, I guess, biggest concerns that I have is
14 probably, like Christine said, we need to educate the
15 officers and the judges and just let them know, you
16 know, that we're there and what our services are.

17 Because like she said, they do get calls, and
18 a lot of times we don't know about it until after the
19 crime has happened, two weeks, sometimes longer.

20 And so that's probably one of my biggest
21 concerns. That's it.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Okay. Thank you, Brooke.

23 MS. BEVERLY WILKINS: I'm Beverly. I would
24 like to just reiterate a little bit. I feel compelled
25 to not introduce new information, but to kind of

1 summarize. What I've been hearing and certainly as
2 Mr. Gillis mentioned, one of the first things that I
3 think is needed is money to sustain the programs that
4 are being developed, that are already developed, that
5 are struggling to survive.

6 But another thing that I've been hearing --
7 and this is not the first forum in which I've heard
8 these issues, as an over 20-year advocate, women's
9 advocate, around issues of domestic violence, and now
10 around related issues of child abuse. I certainly have
11 heard this over and over in many forums.

12 And the other issue, of course, is the
13 training, but not just superficial training and not
14 just one-time training. Training has to be ongoing,
15 and that is in every single entity that has anything to
16 do with any of the crimes committed in our communities.
17 That's law enforcement, the judiciary, prosecution,
18 victim advocates, everyone, including the federal
19 level.

20 And that, as has been mentioned, has gotten
21 probably the least attention over the years, in terms
22 of how they interact within Indian Country and how they
23 interact on all of these levels. Because that has
24 certainly been an issue of contention in many
25 communities.

1 Looking at how some of the cases have been
2 dropped because they are not win-able -- and I use that
3 term loosely -- where it might be a so-called or
4 perceived as a weak case. But the things like that
5 certainly need to be addressed.

6 The other is, and the final one that I would
7 like to see, because I kind of lump these into three
8 categories, the money, the training, and the other is
9 looking at the respectful inclusion of traditional and
10 cultural aspects.

11 There are nearly 500 tribes in this country.
12 We're all different. Their languages are different.
13 Not all of them are the same. And I think that
14 respectfully including issues of tradition and culture
15 particular to healing, and respecting that process, and
16 where is the Religious Freedom Act in some of these
17 issues we've been hearing about today.

18 But all of these issues really need to be
19 looked at, and more than just superficially, to be
20 truly included into a process that allows us to do what
21 we need to do in our communities. Thank you.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Beverly. Nicely
23 done. Nothing but love for you, Ruth. You've gotten a
24 chance. Elaine, you've spoken. Okay. Sharon, you
25 really haven't spoken a lot. Did you want to have a

1 little something, or are you feeling --

2 MS. SHARON CLAIRMONT: No, I'm okay.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: All right. Okay. Francis?

4 MS. FRANCIS ONSTAD: I guess the day is
5 almost gone here. I'm pleased to be here. My name is
6 Francis. I'm a Blackfeet member, and I live on the
7 Blackfeet reservation. I was a recipient from the
8 scholarship fund that the gentleman was here, and I
9 have big hopes of going home after my education to help
10 our tribe.

11 And just to make a long story, the crime is
12 so high there. There are so very little services.
13 It's really been a struggle for me, as a woman and as
14 an educated woman.

15 One of the things, we just had a big disaster
16 with floods and snow, and all I heard on the radio with
17 our reservation, with our council member, was how they
18 were going to get to the cows and feed the cows.

19 I never heard once how they were going to
20 help the families and get to the families. Some of
21 them went at least two weeks without electricity and
22 heat. And I've always said this: The cows get treated
23 better than the people and better than our victims.

24 And a lot of us being victimized is from our
25 own people and our own council. And one of the areas I

1 was asked to bring up from one of our co-workers is,
2 him being a former investigator: What does the FBI do?
3 They're a head of major crime.

4 We had a young gal that was raped here not
5 very long ago. When we contacted the FBI, they were at
6 the Olympics. When we contacted them again, they were
7 up at the border. When we contacted them again, they
8 were detailed to another reservation.

9 And it was just recently the decision came
10 down that they're not going to proceed on this case.
11 And why not? I don't think they were there to even
12 investigate. I know they weren't. And who has to go
13 tell the family members? We do.

14 And it goes on and on and on. How many cases
15 do they even solve? I don't think they solve any. And
16 it gets so frustrating, as a victim advocate and a
17 person trying to make changes, to go up against our own
18 council, which is our people we elect; to go up against
19 the FBI, who don't want to be on reservations. And I
20 honestly think: Who puts them there? And why are they
21 there?

22 And I can't say for all of them, but I know
23 it is for ours. And our state being probably the most
24 prejudiced in the whole U.S., you know, we don't give
25 crime victims money. We don't get services for our

1 victims.

2 But yet, we do -- I see the crime rate going
3 further and further. We just recently finished a study
4 on dropouts. We have only 30 percent that finish high
5 school, and it's the saddest thing I have seen.

6 And sitting here and listening and having so
7 much respect for the victims here -- we probably have
8 two or three an hour of ours being abused, coming in
9 our office almost every day. And I have always said:
10 Why do we have to depend on the cops? Put victim
11 services in with the cops. Why don't you put some
12 professional cops in with us, and we'll make sure those
13 domestic abuse cases will go. We'll make sure those
14 other abuse cases go.

15 We just recently received a small grant from
16 the victim services, and we did. We took an
17 investigative position for elder crimes.

18 We just got a crime in, where an elderly lady
19 was sexually molested by her son that was taking care
20 of her. I sat there, myself, and almost cried over it
21 thinking that this is going on even with our elders.
22 And where are our cops? "Well, it's an elder crime.
23 We don't know what to do." You know, that's their
24 response. And that's how it is in Indian Country.

25 I think not only FBI should be accountable;

1 the BIA that put police on our police force, that
2 aren't doing their jobs, should be accountable.

3 I think these programs need to be evaluated,
4 and not only is our higher supervisor supposed to be
5 trained, I think it's a great idea on doing the tribal
6 training with our leaders.

7 I know for sure our -- we just had new
8 elections last week. We have four new ones. We don't
9 have one person on our nine council members that are
10 educated. And it's pretty damned scary to live there
11 and to think they're our leaders.

12 And I don't know the answers. I know this is
13 a start and it helps a lot, but it's getting scary.
14 You know, it's almost like you have to move off so you
15 don't have -- but, you know, I'm still hanging in
16 there, and still a lot of you are, and I hear a lot of
17 your stories.

18 And I don't know. I really don't know what
19 the answer is. Thank you.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Francis, thank you so much.
21 We really haven't heard from you too much. Did you
22 want to speak? Okay. It's optional, too, you know.

23 MS. INGRID MITCHELL: My name is Ingrid
24 Mitchell. I'm with the Pueblo of Acoma. I work in the
25 police department. My office is stationed with the

1 police department.

2 I have a little bit of advantage there, to
3 where I can work with my officers. Our tribal court is
4 just within the same building, as well. There is still
5 a lot of problems that need to be worked out within our
6 community, and a lot of it does come from our tribal
7 administrative people, our governor, our elected
8 officials.

9 And what is frustrating is that every year we
10 get new leaders, so not much can be done in each year.
11 By the time we get something going, we get new
12 officials, and those new officials don't feel that it's
13 as important and sometimes will shut us down.

14 We don't have a domestic violence code in our
15 pueblo. When we do have domestic violence, sometimes
16 they're charged with disorderly conduct or assault or
17 battery, which isn't much, and it's frustrating.

18 We are not allowed to put our perpetrators in
19 jail. It costs us \$50 a day to have them in jail, and
20 it comes out of our money, so our council feels: Don't
21 put them in jail.

22 We don't have the funding to punish them,
23 which is frustrating, and it's frustrating for our
24 victims. They feel they are not getting any kind of
25 justice done. Therefore, a lot of my victims are

1 turning away. A lot of them are coming back into the
2 office and telling me, "I don't want to press charges.
3 I want to dismiss it. The process is too long. Nobody
4 is here to help. And even if we do go to court, they
5 don't go to jail anyway."

6 So those are what I'm having to face on our
7 tribe. And a lot of it, too, is our officers. We've
8 got several officers that have been law enforcement for
9 20 years, and they're used to the old ways. They're
10 not sensitive.

11 And we try to send them to change. They
12 don't want to go. It's hard. They need to learn how
13 to speak to our victims, learn how to calm them down,
14 learn how to talk to them right, show them that
15 respect, and let them feel that they are, you know, a
16 human being. But a lot of times they don't. They
17 degrade them. So we're having that problem with our
18 officers, as well.

19 Another thing is that with our tribal laws,
20 it's mandatory that we get our tribal sheriff out there
21 first, before we do our law enforcement officers. And
22 when that happens in a domestic violence case, when the
23 tribal sheriff goes home, the victim winds up being
24 beaten again for having them come out to the home.

25 So it's just a big circle we're having to

1 deal with, and right now I'm trying to set up a lot of
2 community awareness, trying to get everybody involved,
3 making presentations to the Head Starts, to schools, to
4 elderly centers, just to let them know that there's
5 something out there and that they have someone they can
6 turn to.

7 But it's frustrating, and it's hard. Right
8 now, I'm the only person that's working it. I do
9 everything, from restraining orders, to court hearings,
10 to transports, to shelters. I'm the only one out there
11 in the tribe. So those are the problems I'm facing.

12 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Thank you so
13 much. Shirl?

14 MS. SHIRL PINTO ROBINSON: My name is Shirl
15 Pinto Robinson. I work on the Northern Cheyenne
16 reservation in Lame Deer, Montana, southeastern
17 Montana. I've worked with victim services for the last
18 nine years.

19 And I guess one of our biggest problems is,
20 we need a shelter on the reservation. We send our
21 women to the nearest shelter, which is 100 miles north,
22 south, east, or west. Any direction, it's 100 miles.

23 We have some native shelters, but they are
24 like three and four hours away from Lame Deer, even
25 into South Dakota sometimes. And women say that they

1 feel a lot more comfortable being in a native shelter.

2 Sometimes they talk about being revictimized
3 in non-native shelters. There is no ceremonials that
4 they can perform. They can't burn cedar. They can't
5 go to sweats. These are a lot of the problems that our
6 women are facing.

7 And if we had a shelter on the reservation,
8 this is where they would feel comfortable continuing
9 their ceremonies, participating in the reservation
10 ceremonies. Some of them feel comfortable going off
11 the reservation, which is fine, you know, and they can
12 always utilize those shelters.

13 Another thing that I really have a problem
14 with is: How can we, as native tribes, keep going, you
15 know, be self-sustaining with our monies on our
16 reservation? Well, we can't always depend on grants,
17 and one of these days grants are going to run out. So
18 how do we self-sustain?

19 These are things that I would like to know,
20 because our reservation is really small. There's about
21 I think 8,000 registered Northern Cheyenne people. My
22 two children and my husband are registered in the tribe
23 there.

24 But we have a really high unemployment rate,
25 a 50 percent dropout rate, and it's just really -- we

1 live in a really rural area, poor. It's just like jobs
2 are really hard to find, and it's like for people to
3 have a job, you have to have a degree, almost, or you
4 have to have, you know, a lot of -- a background in
5 what you're doing.

6 We need to become dependent upon ourselves,
7 you know. Because like I said, one of these days these
8 monies are going to run out, and then what are we going
9 to do? We need to develop volunteerism on the
10 reservation, and that's really hard because a lot of
11 times there's -- confidentiality is zero on the
12 reservation. Everybody knows what's going on.

13 It's really hard to get volunteers on the
14 reservation that can help out, you know. Because right
15 now I am the victim's advocate for the tribe. There is
16 another gal that works with the Stop grant. But it's
17 between us two -- or actually, there's one advocate --
18 two advocates on the other program.

19 Between us three, we service five districts
20 on the reservation. And with each district, there's
21 like 15 and 20 miles spread apart with each district,
22 so the police officers, you know, responding to a call
23 in Ashton have to travel like 20 miles. But it takes
24 anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes to respond to these
25 calls.

1 What I am saying is that our reservation
2 needs more advocates. We need victim compensation that
3 can come directly, you know, and quickly to these
4 people because they have to wait, and some of them are
5 waiting for like two and three years just to be
6 compensated for, you know, like the crimes that were
7 committed against them.

8 One more thing that I really have a problem
9 with on our reservation is how BIA is always moving
10 officers from reservation to reservation, and we have
11 officers that prey on women that are victims of
12 domestic violence. When they go to assist these women,
13 they find out that, you know, the victim has split up
14 with the spouse, and then the next thing you know, the
15 officer is dating this gal, and they just go from
16 reservation to reservation. I have a big problem with
17 that, and I think that these men need training.

18 I don't know if you guys go through the same
19 thing, but these are the biggest problems that I feel
20 need to be addressed. Thank you.

21 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you, Shirl. Okay. We
22 need just a second. Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. RENONNEN SCOTT: My name is Renonnen
24 Dawes Scott, and I'm from Montana. I'm a member of the
25 Crow tribe. We have approximately -- close to 12,000

1 tribal members, and we are too facing a lot of
2 frustration and barriers with our program. There is
3 myself and one other women's advocate.

4 We are close to the Northern Cheyenne
5 reservation, so we're a little bit closer to the
6 nearest women's shelter, which is probably about 62
7 miles one way. And I do a lot of transporting, a lot
8 of advocating, restraining orders.

9 And I'm having to face a lot of difficulties
10 within the tribe with politics. There's a lot of
11 jealousy involved there within our own programs and
12 whatnot, and having to deal with racism, as well.

13 And I have been involved with domestic
14 violence for the last, I would say, about ten years.
15 And I in fact moved off the reservation and am living
16 in Hardin, where there is a lot of racism there. But
17 yet, with the county police department there, there's a
18 little bit more safety as far as having our restraining
19 orders granted and whatnot. So a lot of the native --
20 a lot of the Crow women move to Hardin, but yet they
21 have to deal with racism there, as well.

22 When I first started working with the victims
23 assistance program, which was a year ago, the woman
24 that was there previously had I guess -- I think she
25 was burnt out. I don't know the issues there, but the

1 program was really hurt. There was a lot of funding
2 that was cut. She had lost some of the other funding
3 sources that would stop violence against Indian women,
4 family violence prevention.

5 So the only thing that tribe had was just the
6 general funding under Social Services, and that's what
7 I had been continuing on working, as far as advocating
8 and being the project coordinator.

9 And there are a lot of issues. You know, I
10 can sit here and go on and on, but my main concern at
11 this point is trying to get more funding for the
12 program. We see about 18 to 25 women a month for
13 domestic violence and sexual assault cases. There is a
14 lot of elder abuse out there, a lot of incest, a lot of
15 assault on young girls.

16 And so I'm just very limited. Sometimes I
17 feel like I'm overwhelmed and I need more help. I need
18 to hire more people from the program to provide
19 services. And then also our law enforcement. Both BIA
20 and tribal are, you know, perpetrators, themselves, and
21 so it's hard to go out there and to help a woman when
22 their husband is a police officer and the paperwork
23 goes before them. There is also issues with the
24 prosecutor. The prosecutor's nephew -- you know,
25 they're all related.

1 writing a few grants, and we found out, too, that we
2 needed a shelter. We got a shelter for two families
3 and seven children that we could keep in there. But as
4 time goes by, one of the things we are also dealing
5 with when we talk about prejudice, and we do have this
6 on the reservation, too, with blood quantum.

7 We have some that misinterprets culture to
8 prove their male superiority towards females, and we
9 find now that we are having a lot of domestic violence
10 due to: Well, I'm the Indian; you're not enrolled
11 here, or you don't have enough Indian to be enrolled.

12 And so we're now going on that, and that is
13 another problem of manipulation. So that's why we
14 wrote a grant to the HUD, to have transitional housing.
15 And if you don't mind, I'd like to read you one quick
16 story here, that will take about a minute, of what we
17 included in this grant. This is a case scenario.

18 "3:00 in the morning. Everyone is in the
19 house sleeping. A young woman awakens to a knock at
20 the door. She is not a tribal member. In an effort to
21 avoid waking others in the house, she gets the door,
22 only to find her boyfriend standing there. Only hours
23 earlier, she managed to escape his control and sought
24 refuge with a friend. She hoped that he would not find
25 her. Before she had time to react, he grabbed her by

1 her hair and drug her out, screaming, to go the
2 sidewalk. He punched her in the head. She hoped
3 someone would wake up, but no one came. He dragged her
4 to his car parked nearby and shoved her into the seat.
5 Inside were two other people sitting there, his mother
6 and stepfather. The car took off, heading in the
7 direction of a house. As they traveled, her boyfriend
8 was sitting on top of her, leaned down and bit a chunk
9 out of her nose. She screamed and begged for help.
10 The mother and stepfather would not help. They
11 ignored. He held her hair, punched her face several
12 times and attempted to strangle her. Once they arrived
13 at his house, his mother and stepfather went inside,
14 leaving him in the car. He continued beating her,
15 saying he was going to kill her. She blacked out, and
16 when she came to, he was still beating her. She
17 managed to get the car open and attempted to escape,
18 but the boyfriend grabbed her by the hair, pulled so
19 hard and forced her. She could feel the hair tearing
20 from her head. When they did get out of the car, he
21 stood behind her and bit a chunk out of her ear. After
22 the beating, for whatever reason, he began to cry.
23 They both proceeded into the house. The boyfriend ran
24 into the room and passed out. His mother and
25 stepfather did not think she needed medical help or

1 attention. The front door still open, the boyfriend
2 asleep, she fled. The boyfriend later went to jail.
3 There were no charges, though. The boyfriend's family
4 and friends blamed the woman for the trouble she caused
5 him. Protective shelter was available, but she would
6 have to be away from the community. And to support the
7 (inaudible) she chose not to be in protective. The
8 young woman went to stay with her mother, who had
9 little means of helping or protecting her. When the
10 boyfriend got out of the jail, he went to the woman's
11 house, begged for her forgiveness. She believed him,
12 eventually married him. Her story is one of many that
13 represents the difficulty that many Native Americans
14 face as victims of domestic violence."

15 And I guess that's why I bring up the blood
16 quantum thing, because on our reservation, it's really
17 hard for those that are nontribal members to get
18 services, and we continue to need the support in order
19 to deliver services to all victims of crime on our
20 reservation, including those that are nonIndian, that
21 are into relationships on our reservation.

22 And I guess that's why I come up with: How
23 are we going to do the delivery of services and
24 coordinate them and review and see how they're working?
25 And with that, the cooperative agreement training needs

1 to come from everybody in the system.

2 It was really cute. I want to share what my
3 chief of police -- we went down to San Diego three
4 weeks ago. And he said the first time he went to a
5 Stop conference, everybody was asking, "Where are you
6 going?" And he said, "Blah, blah, blah." And they
7 said, "What?" He said, well, he wouldn't want them to
8 know that it was sacred women.

9 And so he said this year his staff asked him.
10 He's the chief of police. He said, "I'm going to Women
11 Are Sacred conference because they are, and it's about
12 time we started focusing on that." I thought, you
13 know, five years later we're getting that support, and
14 it's growing.

15 And the transitional housing that will be
16 built from the \$350,000 that we got from HUD, this is
17 the first time our tribe is giving us something so we
18 can build a \$500,000 transitional house of seven, which
19 we are calling the Circle of Life, which they will come
20 up with a plan where they can be there from three
21 months to 18 months.

22 However, for us to get that, we also have a
23 building that will be for the same-sex relationships,
24 because we are also -- and it was hard for our tribe to
25 accept this for a while, lesbians and homosexuals. But

1 they are human beings, and we are delivering services
2 to them, and we will have a unit for their sheltering,
3 also.

4 Medical cosmetic needs. I talked about the
5 bite on the ear. It took a lady, that finally went to
6 federal court, three beatings and the loss of her nose,
7 and another the loss of her eye, before it got to the
8 U.S. Attorneys in the federal courtroom.

9 And so with that, we need to have -- and then
10 when they say, "There is no health problems there,
11 you're breathing okay, and you're fine," no. Try to
12 focus yourself there without having the tip of your
13 nose.

14 We had to lobby and lobby so that finally
15 they are going to give her a tip. We had to really
16 work hard to get an eye for the lady whose eye was
17 kicked out, and it has taken over a year.

18 We need medical services through IHS, and I
19 did bring that up before, and it looks like they're
20 starting to focus on that.

21 Notification of sentencing and also release
22 of offenders. That needs to happen. Not just somebody
23 showing up at their door some night or some morning,
24 because we get calls like that: Why didn't you tell
25 us?

1 Notification when a hearing is going to be
2 postponed or rescheduled from the U.S. Attorney's
3 Office. We all got ready, we finally got word, but
4 nobody told us to tell the victims that they're not
5 supposed to go. So notification.

6 Jurisdiction of boarding schools. We have
7 had several beatings and sexual assaults at boarding
8 schools in the United States. We asked for two of our
9 cases, and it said, "Well, it goes back to your
10 reservation because they're from there."

11 No. This happened in a federally funded
12 school. Where is jurisdiction? That's another issue
13 I'd like to be considered, when our children are hurt
14 in those schools.

15 Let's see. I could go on with many other
16 things, but I think the main thing is working together,
17 good collaboration, with communication and respect, so
18 we can build a trust for each other in our communities.

19 And with that, thank you.

20 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Well, what I
21 would like to do, those of you who will still be around
22 tomorrow, I need to get you signed up so that we can
23 set up our one-on-one interviews. Let's everybody do a
24 -- stay seated. Go like this. Okay. Stretch.
25 Beautiful. Beautiful. Oh, Michelle?

1 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: May I?

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: Absolutely.

3 MS. MICHELLE COCHRAN: I'll make this real
4 quick. I know I've heard today a lot of the concerns
5 regarding law enforcement, and I've written them down
6 so I can take them back to my department. But one
7 concern that I have from the law enforcement
8 perspective is regarding the jurisdiction.

9 We are fortunate with our department, where
10 over half of them are state certified. So we do arrest
11 nonIndians, and I have arrested them before on domestic
12 violence calls. And I've arrested them, transported
13 them off the reservation to a county facility, and they
14 are charged through the magistrate court.

15 Unfortunately, what we are dealing with now
16 is the state entities, the judges. They are not --
17 they're elected positions. And now what we're facing
18 is just having them educated on jurisdiction on the
19 reservation. We've run into state agencies, county.
20 It's not so much with state police; in some cases it
21 is. But county sheriffs departments and then the state
22 police who will not come on the reservation and arrest
23 a nonIndian, simply because it's a reservation.

24 They're not aware of -- you know, it's a
25 nonIndian. Even if it's on the reservation, they have

1 jurisdiction. So that's what we're running into.

2 We recently had a training. The Indian
3 police academy in Artesia had a training in
4 Albuquerque, and it was criminal jurisdiction in Indian
5 Country. My main concern for that training was to get
6 those state entities there, and I went door to door.

7 We had two district attorneys from the District
8 Attorney's Office, and we had one magistrate judge
9 there. We had several from state police that attended.

10 And they were able to ask questions regarding
11 jurisdiction in Indian Country. And that was a big
12 gray area for everybody, and I was real happy to see
13 them there, and I would like to see -- and that was one
14 of the comments on my little critique at the end, was
15 mandatory training for state agencies, on to the
16 jurisdiction, you know, that they do have the
17 jurisdiction to come on the reservation and arrest
18 nonIndians.

19 You know, they won't do it. There was
20 nothing we could do. And in some cases, we remove
21 them, and I know the victims and the public thinks that
22 we're not doing anything. We can arrest them, but
23 where do we put them? If they're not -- if the DA's
24 Office isn't going to prosecute, we have no place to
25 put them. We can remove them.

1 But like I said, the public sees that. They
2 think that nothing is done, and then our hands are tied
3 because we -- county won't come out. You know, if it's
4 not a state certified officer, they can't arrest them.
5 We can remove them, but there is nothing we can do.
6 Our hands are tied. We can make an arrest, and in some
7 cases we can make an arrest and at least just get them
8 off the reservation, you know.

9 But if there is some way to do mandatory
10 training for state agencies who deal with Indian
11 Country, who border Indian Country, that is something
12 that we need, the law enforcement officers need.

13 MS. INEZ ODOM: Particularly Public Law 280
14 states -- I mean, that should just be de rigueur that
15 they are learning this. Quick like a bunny, would you
16 pass that to her?

17 MS. MARIE CALICA: When we had the meeting in
18 -- gee, I forget. It was in Reno? I just want to
19 thank the group there, because at that time we had
20 brought up where the State of Oregon did not apply for
21 state funds because we had to sign a waiver on our
22 sovereignty.

23 And come to find out, it was found out that
24 we were one of the states, of only two, and now that is
25 lifted, so we will be focusing some on that now. So I

1 just want to thank you for doing that. Okay.

2 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you.

3 MS. MARIE CALICA: And Gladys had mentioned
4 earlier about the RO. We got that changed, so the RO
5 -- you don't have to be living with somebody. An RO --
6 no contact, full faith and credit is initiated now.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Thank you. Thank you very
8 much. Ena will take that. John, did you want to say
9 something? No. Okay. Here is what I want to ask. I
10 just sort of want to take the pulse of the room and
11 make sure. Is there anyone who feels like they weren't
12 heard, that they have something really pressing on
13 their mind or their heart that they didn't get a chance
14 to communicate? Because the worst thing in the world
15 is to walk away feeling like: Well, you know, if only
16 they had let me say X.

17 Is everyone feeling like they had their
18 chance? All right. I see a soul back here. And I'm
19 just, in the spirit of love, quick like a bunny.

20 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: I know I had a chance
21 to say a few things before, but a couple of things I
22 was thinking about was, in our program, I know that
23 our advocates spend a lot of time with our victims.
24 And part of that, part of the services, the number of
25 service contacts that we have, you know, are very high.

1 And part of the reason for that is because of
2 the fact that it takes so long. If we do get a chance
3 to get our cases forwarded to federal court, it takes a
4 long time to get it there. So it's not unusual for us
5 to have a case for two years, you know, before it would
6 reach federal court. In the state system, it doesn't
7 take that long. Nobody waits for two years.

8 But in Indian Country, that's probably
9 common. And so that was one thing that I -- one
10 comment that I wanted to bring up. And the other one
11 is, I think it was briefly mentioned by someone, is a
12 need to have a support system for advocates. You know,
13 I'm not sure what that would look like, but I know our
14 advocates get pretty stressed out, and we tell them to
15 take care of themselves and do this and do that.

16 But, you know, in our program we don't have
17 money to pay overtime, either, and a lot of them work
18 many, many more hours than they get paid for. And
19 because of the workload, you know, they can't always
20 take that time off, either. And so we try to work
21 around it the best we can.

22 You know, in our program, I'm always passing
23 out candles and whatever, you know, for them to have,
24 and as a way of stress relief and whatever, you know.
25 That comes out of my own pocket, because our program

1 doesn't pay for it.

2 And so I think advocacy support is a way for
3 them to de-stress, to heal. You know, it's something
4 that needs to be addressed in these programs.

5 And there was mention on DV shelters, and I
6 have been searching for money for a DV shelter. We had
7 identified that as a need in our community quite some
8 time ago, and our tribal council did, through our
9 housing program, they purchased a home that was a tax
10 sale on the reservation and donated it to our program
11 to use as a DV shelter.

12 And so everybody got their hopes up that we
13 were going to have this DV shelter, but there was no
14 money. You know, there's no money for operational
15 costs and whatever. But this year I kind of take it
16 upon myself to say, "Well, we're going to make this
17 happen somehow. We're going to make this happen."

18 So we have come up with, through our housing
19 program, a little bit of money to do some renovations;
20 not nearly enough to do it all. But no operating costs
21 in sight. So I would like to see or hear if there is
22 any funding out there to support a DV shelter.

23 Right now, we're going on a wing and a prayer
24 and just praying that somehow we are going to make this
25 happen. And I have been approaching many businesses,

1 trying to get donations and whatever, and that's very
2 hard. I'm probably getting turned down more than not.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: I may have a response for
4 you. He's got the mike. He might have a response.

5 MR. JOHN GILLIS: No. I felt there was one
6 more individual who wanted to speak.

7 MS. INEZ ODOM: Right. Barbara.

8 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Yeah.

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: Did you have anything,
10 another final point?

11 MS. NATALIA CALHOUN: Well, I just wanted to
12 reiterate, too, that I know you brought up that you
13 were working with the state and federals on
14 notification. And we just recently had a couple of
15 people that were released from prison, and there was no
16 notification. And one of them was a state case. So
17 anyway, I'm hoping that will change.

18 MS. INEZ ODOM: Barbara?

19 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: I just wanted to
20 kind of say again that this discretionary money, it's
21 really important to use it for program development, and
22 that's directed at you guys.

23 And for the victim service providers, look
24 beside you, look in front of you, look behind you.
25 These are the greatest resources that you have. Bev

1 was talking about being in the program for 20 years.
2 You know, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault,
3 whatever crimes that there are, we're not like we were
4 20 years ago. We have changed.

5 As I was sitting here, counting, it was like:
6 Wow, I've been in this field for 14 years? So you may
7 feel overwhelmed and everything, but talk to the people
8 beside you. Get some names from other people who work
9 in victim services. They can probably give you answers
10 or help you find solutions to what your problems are,
11 working within Indian Country.

12 Oh, and then the last thing I have to say:
13 Are we going to hear from John?

14 MS. INEZ ODOM: Who knows?

15 MS. BARBARA SCOTT-RARICK: Are you going to
16 tell us what is coming from this, what you got out of
17 this, what you're going to focus on?

18 MR. JOHN GILLIS: Well, first of all, let me
19 thank all of you for coming today. It's quite an honor
20 for us for you to come out and spend your Saturday, a
21 day that you could have been doing many other things,
22 and we appreciate your being here.

23 When I decided to hold these, one of the
24 things we talked about was what day should we have it
25 and when would victims be able to attend. We know that

1 most victims have jobs and they can't come out during
2 the week. So we didn't want a lot of government
3 people, because they would have been here during the
4 week, and they get paid. So we thought we'd do it on
5 Saturday. And so we do appreciate your coming.

6 This has been very productive for me. There
7 were a lot of things said that we will take back and
8 look at and evaluate and come up with some changes that
9 we hope will be beneficial to all. I still intend to
10 keep in touch with you. This is certainly not the end
11 of it. This is just the beginning.

12 And the fact that you are here and willing to
13 talk to us is amazing. And I thank you for that.

14 So if you would all give yourselves a big
15 hand, and Inez.

16 MS. INEZ ODOM: I will say, too, you should
17 realize -- I mean, you are all totally aware of this,
18 but not only are you being videotaped, but we have had
19 a marvelous stenographer over there. She has captured
20 every single word. And we also have Jennifer Ford, who
21 has been doing some scribing here, because these notes
22 will then -- we will be working with all of it so we
23 really have a complete record. So we'll have not only
24 a video record of everything that was said, but then it
25 will be edited together into a form that can be shown,

1 much like the Boston roundtable, so someone could sit
2 and see the distillation of this discussion.

3 How many of you know that game
4 duck-duck-goose you played when you were a child? You
5 know, that duck-duck-duck-goose, and if you got goosed,
6 you jump up and you run around. We're just going to
7 play the duck part of it, okay, where I'm going to
8 point at you, and if I've pointed at you, you need to
9 see Ena after we conclude. Ena, wave your hand. Okay.

10 And Jeannie has something to say, too. I'm
11 going to do my duck thing first. Duck. Okay, so you
12 need to see Ena. Duck. Duck. Okay. Look at the
13 little faces. Duck. Duck. Duck. Duck. Duck.
14 Because you two can stay tomorrow. Are you all able to
15 stay tomorrow, or no?

16 MS. FRANCES FLORES: It's up to you guys.
17 I'll make sure.

18 MS. INEZ ODOM: Then there's a duck. Let's
19 have a duck conversation. Duck. Elaine, you're able
20 to stay tomorrow, you said?

21 MS. ELAINE: Maybe.

22 MS. INEZ ODOM: Maybe. Duck. Okay. Ruth,
23 were you staying tomorrow? No. Okay. Fine. Who are
24 my people over here? Ardith, you were staying
25 tomorrow? Duck. And no. Okay. All right. And then

1 cute as a button, Renonnen?

2 MS. RENONNEN SCOTT: Renonnen.

3 MS. INEZ ODOM: Renonnen. And you, I know,
4 are flying out at 10:20 in the morning, correct? So
5 you get to be like my 7:00 a.m. interview if you so
6 choose. So you're duck. I've ducked you, as well.
7 Now, ladies, Rose Mary and Marie, are you both --

8 MS. ROSE MARY SHAW: I leave at 10:00.

9 MS. INEZ ODOM: You're all leaving tomorrow?
10 10:00, 10:00, 10:00. 6:00 in the afternoon. Irene,
11 you're leaving? Are you leaving? You're leaving.
12 Okay. All right. Very good. All right. Jeannie,
13 take it away.

14 MS. JEANNIE GREGORI: I just wanted to let
15 everybody know we will be sending notes out to
16 everybody, so make sure that you filled out the orange
17 form. On the back table, if you haven't picked up a
18 letter that was read from Senator Ben Nighthorse
19 Campbell, those are back there, but we will send out a
20 hard copy when we send out the copies, along with the
21 travel form.

22 And I just wanted to thank everybody for
23 coming, and I see a lot of familiar faces. For those
24 who remembered me, I used to do the training under CJA
25 and VIAC, so I feel like I had a lot of mentors, and I

1 specifically wanted to say thank you to Francis,
2 because her and Shanee (?) really took me in when we
3 used to do the training. So thank you.

4 MS. INEZ ODOM: How we've been ending all of
5 the roundtables is that I would like everyone to come,
6 and we're going to form a circle and hold hands. So
7 let's get you to all stand up. My inner circle sort of
8 gets to stay where they are. And my outer circle, come
9 on in and join us, quick like a bunny.

10 Is everybody holding hands in the circle?
11 Okay. Everybody holding hands? I see all the faces.

12 Listen, I just wanted to say thank you so
13 much, personally, for being part of this. You know,
14 it's very difficult and courageous to come and
15 participate in something like this, and it has really
16 been -- as we go around the country meeting people and
17 hearing your stories, it's very moving.

18 But I think the more important thing, you
19 should all really walk away knowing I have nothing but
20 the utmost respect for John Gillis and Jeannie Gregori.
21 And these are truly the people making it happen, and
22 they didn't have to leave D.C. and come and make
23 themselves available.

24 And I think the fact that they are doing that
25 is really a testimony to the human spirit and

1 recognition of our shared humanity.

2 So I really want to thank all of you for your
3 graciousness and thanks for being here. God bless.

4 And I would love -- and I was going to sing "Amen."

5 You know "Amen"; it's so Seventies.

6 But let's do it, because it's the first song
7 I ever learned. I said to my aunt, "I don't know a
8 song." "Amen" means "so be it."

9 So Christianity, but we'll also have a Native
10 prayer, too.

11 (Singing and Prayer.)

12 (The Proceedings were concluded at 4:00 p.m.)

13

14

* * * * *

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
2 DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO)

3

4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

5 I, JULIE GOEHL, RDR, RMR, CRR, CCR, Official
6 Court Reporter for the State of New Mexico, DO HEREBY
7 CERTIFY that I did report in stenographic shorthand the
8 proceedings set forth herein, and that the foregoing
9 constitutes a true and correct transcription of the
10 proceedings.

11 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed
12 by nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in
13 this case, and that I have no interest whatsoever in
14 the final disposition of this case in any court.

15 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my
16 hand on this 1st day of July, 2002.

17

18

19

20 JULIE GOEHL, RDR, RMR, CRR
21 Certified Court Reporter #95
22 License Expires: 12/31/02

21

22

23

24

25 JOB NUMBER 5788-15 (JUL)
Date taken: Saturday, June 29, 2002