



VOICES, LANGUAGES AND TEACHINGS

Increasing Safety For Alaska Native Women and Villages



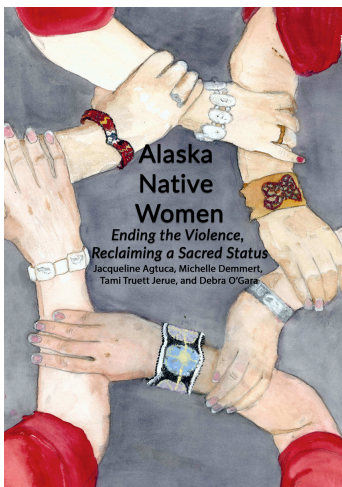
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Tami Truett Jerue

Hello! There are many exciting things happening right now and I wanted to take this opportunity to share with all of you. The Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC) has been very busy and we apologize for the length of time since our last newsletter. We have grown quite exponentially! Since January 2022 we have hired 11 new staff to assist you and our Tribal communities to address Domestic, Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence in our communities. We have on-boarded (3) full-time

Law and Policy positions, a Communications & IT position, (2) Finance positions, an Executive Coordinator, a Travel Coordinator and (3) Program Specialists to our AKNWRC family.

Some big news for 2023 was the launch of our much-anticipated book! In June, 2023 we released our resource book, “Alaska Native Women: Ending the Violence, Reclaiming a Sacred Status” co-authored by Jacqueline Agtuca, Michelle Demmert, Tami Truett Jerue and Debra O’Gara. We hosted a book release at the NIWRC-Women Are Sacred Conference in Albuquerque, NM with a great turnout!



**Alaska Native
Women
Ending the
Violence,
Reclaiming a
Sacred Status**

Book Available Here



or amazon.com

Our Training and Technical Assistance Program team has had a very eventful year. In February, 2023 we piloted our Advocacy Curriculum “Increasing Safety and Healing for Alaska Native Women: Introduction to Understanding Violence Against Native Women to Advocate With and For Women” specifically for Alaska Native communities to strengthen advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In August and November, we held two more successful trainings in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

We have hosted (2) on-site Training and Technical Assistance Engagements with the following communities: Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) in Bethel and with the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) in Ketchikan. We would like to thank both communities for being great hosts and for engaging in the important discussions!

We also had the wonderful privilege to travel to (4) rural communities to provide on-site Training and Technical Assistance to tribal advocates and staff. It is truly a privilege and honor to be able to assist our



New Staff Spotlights

See page 10.

Tribes in helping to build their Victim Services and Tribal Court's up.

Our new Law and Policy Team hit the ground running and has been hard at work helping our communities develop tribal codes, policies, and providing testimony for state and federal legislative policy.

In October, 2023, AKNWRC hosted a very informative Unity Meeting in Anchorage. AKNWRC's Law and Policy team and our partners did a great job giving updates on Federal, State and International Policy work.

This February our talented Law and Policy Team set up a Legislative Fly-In in Juneau. AKNWRC presented to the House Tribal Affairs Committee on both Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) & Tribal Justice, hosted a lunch and learn with the MMIW2GS working group, and provided testimony for the SB 151 bill.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our bi-annual Wellness, Healing & Hope Summit and our annual Unity Meeting. You can find more information on these events on our website.

Go to <https://www.aknwrc.org/news/events/>



Wellness, Healing & Hope Summit: Culture as Our Protective Factor

When: August 19th-21st, 2024 8am-5pm

Where: Anchorage, AK (in-person only)

Who: Village Advocates, Wellness, and Program Staff

What: Training on domestic violence and building our community safety nets around wellness, healing & hope. Enhancing our community safety through prevention and education while weaving culture in as a healing factor.



2024 WE CHANGED THE DATE

This year's Annual Unity Meeting will be hosted in early December in Anchorage, AK, coinciding with the BIA Providers Conference instead of AFN. More details on dates, venue, and registration coming soon.

ALASKA STATE POLICY WATCH

Kendra Kloster

Alaska Passes the First MMIP Bill

A milestone victory for our organizations, communities and families across Alaska with the passage of the first bill in the state legislature addressing important steps in the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people.



For numerous years, AKNWRC with our partners in the MMIWG2S Alaska Working Group, have been educating our policy makers across the state on the high rates of violence and MMIP in our communities with the emphasis on actions that must be taken to protect our people. It is with profound gratitude and excitement as Senate Bill 151 (SB151): Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples; Report receives resounding approval from the Alaska Legislature, marking a significant stride towards justice, recognition, and protection for Indigenous families, communities, and future generations across Alaska.

The passage of SB151 creates the following actions and requirements:

- Require mandatory cultural training for law enforcement supervised by an Indigenous organization;
- Mandates the Department of Public Safety to report missing persons to the National and Unidentified Missing Persons System within 60 days;
- Codifies at least two MMIP Investigator positions within the Department of Public Safety;
- Creates an MMIP Review Commission to review unsolved MMIP cases, examine the trends and patterns, and make policy, practice, and service recommendations to DPS to encourage collaboration and reduce cases involving Indigenous persons, and create a report of recommendations and findings;
- Report on investigative resources: DPS will do a needs assessment to determine how to increase protective and investigative resources for identifying and reporting cases of MMIP. The department must work with tribal and local law enforcement, Tribes, and Alaska Native Organizations to determine the scope of the issues, identify barriers, and determine methods for creating partnerships to increase reporting and investigation of MMIP cases.

SB151's passage heralds a new era of advocacy and empowerment for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Womxn, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S) community in Alaska. The bill's provisions, crafted through extensive collaboration and dialogue with impacted families, advocates, and tribal leaders, underscore a commitment to addressing the systemic issues fueling the crisis of MMIP/MMIWG2S.

"We are grateful to the bill sponsors - Senator Olson and Rep. McCormick for their dedication to seeing this through, and to other policy makers, community allies, and advocates whose unwavering dedication has ensured that SB151 is a success and passed into law," Kendra Kloster, Co-Director of Law & Policy at the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, remarked. "While we celebrate this moment of success, we also understand more work must be done. SB151 is just a piece of what needs to be done to address the MMIP crisis in Alaska, and we will continue to educate and advocate for our communities and families."

"It is a long time coming for all police officers to be educated about our indigenous people. Also, establishing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review Commission. The Department of Public Safety has the authority and responsibility to ensure these goals are met. Our Indigenous communities have been long overlooked for too long, and it's time to be treated equally," Joel Jackson, President of the Organized Village of Kake, replied, hearing the bill has passed.

SB151 represents a multifaceted approach to addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous womxn, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals. Through enhanced data collection, improved coordination between law enforcement agencies and tribal communities, and increased resources for victim support services, the bill lays a foundation for meaningful change and accountability through enforced cultural training and equal rights to community safety.

"This is an important step for our families who have shared their stories, experienced violence, and all of us seeking justice for our loved ones. Every person, no matter where they live, deserve to live free from violence. It is the responsibility of our state to ensure they are part of the solution to end the MMIP crisis," added Tami Truett Jerue, Executive Director, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.

As Alaska takes this pivotal step forward, AKNWRC reaffirms our commitment to continued advocacy, collaboration, uplifting, and acknowledging all other grassroots work being done across the state. Together, we honor the memory of those lost, uplift the voices of survivors, and chart a path toward a more equitable and inclusive future for all.

"It is a long time coming for all police officers to be educated about our indigenous people."

Joel Jackson

FEDERAL POLICY WATCH

Rick A. Haskins-Garcia

Alaska's Inter-Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Working Group Inaugural Meeting



The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2022 (VAWA) included a historic subsection dedicated solely to addressing public safety challenges in Alaska, named the Alaska Public Safety Empowerment Act. Included in this Subsection was a Pilot Program for Alaska Tribes to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-native offenders who commit certain domestic violence and related crimes in Alaska Native Villages; termed Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction under VAWA 2022.

On May 9th and 10th, the Alaska Inter-Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Working Group (the Alaska ITWG) hosted its inaugural meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, attended by over 90 Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Federal partners. The Alaska ITWG, funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, is comprised of 5 project partners in Alaska, whose primary purpose is to bring together Alaska Tribes to collectively work toward enhancing safety and justice in Tribal communities with a particular emphasis on considering and preparing for the exercise of Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction under VAWA 2022. Alaska ITWG project partners include the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, Alaska Native Justice Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Association of Village Council Presidents, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

For more information about the Alaska ITWG, please contact tribaljustice@aknwrc.org.



The Alaska ITWG inaugural meeting on May 9-10, 2024.

H.R. 8061 – The Crime Victim’s Fund Stabilization Act

The Crime Victims Fund (CVF), created by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), financially supports victim assistance and compensation programs across the U.S. It is funded primarily through fines, penalties, and forfeitures from federal offenders, ensuring essential services like counseling, emergency shelter, and medical expenses for crime victims.

Since 2020, the CVF has provided more than \$117 million to over 200 Alaska Native Tribes through the Department of Justice’s Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) program.

In 2024, the CVF faces a critical shortfall, particularly impacting tribal communities and their ability to provide essential support to victims of crime. According to the Office for Victims of Crime, the CVF’s end-of-year balance for FY2024 was \$1.2 billion—a 90% decrease since FY2017.

This shortfall undermines the already limited resources available to tribal nations, leaving them struggling to meet the increasing demand for victim assistance services. Without adequate funding, tribes are unable to provide crucial support such as counseling, medical care, and financial aid to their members who have been impacted by crime.

H.R. 8061, the Crime Victim’s Fund Stabilization Act, was introduced by Representative Ann Wagner (R-MO) on April 18, 2024, and has received broad bipartisan support and bipartisan co-sponsorship. H.R.8061 addresses the CVF windfall by redirecting funds collected through the False Claims Act into the CVF through FY2029. Over the past two fiscal years, settlements and judgments under the False Claims Act have totaled nearly \$5 billion. By stabilizing and strengthening the CVF, H.R. 8061 will enable vital support services such as counseling, medical care, and financial assistance to be readily available to victims when they need it most.

More information about H.R. 8061 is available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/8061/all-actions>.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & TRAINING

The Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center (AKNWRC) provides culturally specific, trauma informed, and victim centered technical assistance, training, and resources to support Tribes, Tribal organizations, and others serving Alaska Native/American Indian victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and persons (MMIP). AKNWRC services are grounded in the voices, languages, and teachings of Alaska Native Tribes, survivors, and advocates to promote decolonization, restore and assert sovereignty over our bodies, Tribes, and lands, and end violence against Alaska Native women, children, and families.

Menu of Technical Assistance

What is Technical Assistance?

Technical assistance (TA), also known as consulting, is targeted guidance, support, advice, assessment, and/or customized training designed to help Tribes/Tribal organizations answer questions, address challenges, build capacity, and foster sustainability

How is Technical Assistance Delivered?

AKNWRC customizes TA delivery to meet the specific needs of each Tribe/Tribal organization. The following are examples of TA delivery methods.

- Printed materials
- In-person training
- Social media posts
- On-site consultation
- Direct email response
- Webinars and videos
- E-newsletters or bulletins
- Conference calls (phone or video)
- Group program site visits to peer programs
- Peer-to-peer mentoring or communities of practice

**TTA IS
FREE**

How Can I Request Technical Assistance?

Contact us!

Email: ttarequests@aknwrc.org

Phone: 907.328.3990

Web: www.aknwrc.org



Technical Assistance Topics

The following are examples of training and technical assistance topics available through AKNWRC. If you do not see a topic you need below, please reach out to us and we will work with you to address your needs.

Survivor Advocacy Services

- Foundations of violence against AI/AN women (domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking, and MMIW/MMIP)
- Supporting AI/AN survivors
- Advocacy and crisis intervention skills
- Core skills of AI/AN survivor advocacy
- Strengths-based approaches to advocacy
- Enhanced safety planning
- Supporting AI/AN survivors with substance use/mental health challenges
- Supporting AI/AN survivors with disabilities
- Supporting AI/AN LGBTQ survivors
- Enhancing Tribal response to violence against AI/AN women
- Engaging men to end violence against AI/AN women
- Supporting male and male-identified survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault
- Working with survivor families and significant others

Advocacy and Systems Change

- Understanding Tribal, state, and federal codes and laws
- Creating systems change to improve access to safety and well-being (justice, law enforcement, medical, educational, social services, and other systems in which survivors may need services)
- Policy advocacy to enhance access to safety for AI/AN survivors
- Improving access to safety through the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and other federal and state legislation

Documentation and Information Management

- Selecting and implementing data collection tools
- Data collection policies and procedures
- Developing an evaluation plan
- Outcome measurements
- Grant reporting
- JustGrants and Performance Measurement Tool

Tribal Justice System Development

- VAWA 2022 and Alaska Special Criminal Jurisdiction
- Developing Tribal courts
- Strategic planning for Tribal justice systems
- Developing Tribal codes

Outreach and Awareness

- Developing outreach and awareness plans
- Community engagement strategies development
- Materials development
- Public awareness campaigns
- Supporting survivors in sharing their stories to increase community awareness

Culturally Specific Services

- Culture as protective factor
- Oppression and the intersection with violence against AI/AN women
- Developing culturally specific victim service programs
- Service needs of AI/AN survivors

Program and Organization Capacity Building

- Program and community needs and readiness assessments
- Developing partnerships and collaborations
- Strategic planning
- Sustainability planning
- Grant and financial administration
- Policy and procedure development
- Human resources management

Trauma-Informed Practices

- Historical and intergenerational trauma
- Impact of childhood trauma and resilience
- Trauma-informed services
- Trauma-informed multi-disciplinary teams
- Addressing vicarious trauma
- Trauma-informed organizations
- Self-care and well-being

NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Rick



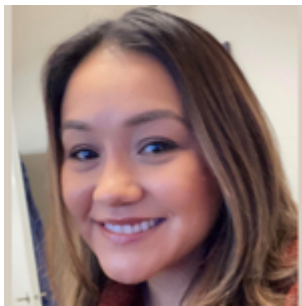
Michala



Kendra



Ginger



Martha



Kristie



Andrea



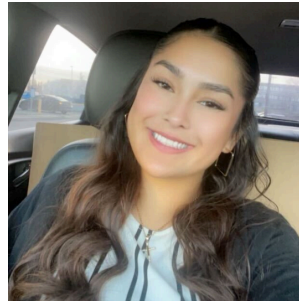
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