

# NIWRC Advocacy Curriculum: Violence Against Native Women: Advocacy -Skills, Shelter, Systems and Community

## SESSION 7 Working Outside Shelter Doors

*Slides have been edited for virtual presentation by the  
Tribal Law and Policy Institute*

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# Working Outside Shelter Doors

1. **Ally-Building, Systems Advocacy & Creating Coordinated Community Responses**
2. **Public Education & Community Involvement**



# 1. Ally-Building, Systems Advocacy & Creating Coordinated Community Responses

## Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe preparation steps for systems advocacy and coordinated community response
- Describe relationship with and role of allies
- List essential elements of CCR, partners, purpose and goals
- Describe relationship building with CCR partners and role of advocates within a CCR

# Outside Shelter Doors



- **Make relationships with people and programs in the community – create involvement & ownership!**
- **Work with local, state & tribal leadership**
- **Center women's stories and leadership to make systems change**
- **Check policies for safety and accountability**
- **Change and/or make laws**
- **Education, education, education**

# Who is an Ally?



*An ally is a person or group that join or unite to give and get support for mutual benefit.*

*It's about making relationships where both parties can benefit.*

- Be clear about what you are asking for.
- Communicate how that will help the other person or group as well.
- Identify ways you can provide support to the ally.



- *Cross-training* – Can inform each side about how each does his/her job and dispel any misjudgments or misconceptions either side has. Connect through shared values, goals, barriers and concerns.
- *In-services* – Familiarize people with who you are and what you do. Discuss issues that they might not want to acknowledge or feel threatened by because they have not been informed. People feel threatened by changes when they don't know why the change is needed. Create common ground.



- *Identify allies* who can further educational campaigns and the work in other arenas. Identify others to look to for advice, or are on a board or committee, who comment publicly about issues, a “public” person who is a relative of someone who has been battered or raped. Inform and enlist their help to get issues addressed in forums where you might not be able to be heard.
- *Communicate in their language* – Certain professions have their own terminology or terms. Using those terms in your conversations with those groups makes you less of an outsider and less threatening.

# Community Families And Groups



- All tribal communities have formal and informal groups and organizations. Make connections and relationships with them, and share our struggles, goals and work with them. Begin by supporting their work, then engage them in yours.
- Spiritual advisors and leaders have potential for leadership focusing on respect and status of women. Often there is a disconnect between the treatment of women and spiritual practices. It is a little talked about fact resulting from colonization. Use visits with the leaders in those groups to discuss this reality.

*These are teachable moments aimed at taking a stand on accountability as relatives and leaders.*



**Grandmothers are powerful people within indigenous communities. When they speak, people listen.**

**Elders and other societies in our communities have an awesome potential for recreating/revitalizing their roles as central to the honoring and protection of women and accountability of offenders.**

# Coordinated Community Response (CCR)



The goal of the CCR is safety of women and offender accountability.

- This is accomplished by education, dialogue and creation of memoranda of understanding or agreement, policy, procedure and protocol, and law and other legislation.
- This initiative is strengthened by ongoing cross-training that emphasizes interaction and includes the operation and history of each agency.

# Leadership



Advocates, unlike other professions, provide biased support of women and other survivors who are battered/raped. Advocates prioritize focus on domestic violence/ violence against women.

It is the job of advocates to keep the focus on the safety and sovereignty of women, and offender and systems' accountability.

# COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN





CCR may involve other programs such as child protection, social services or housing agencies.

However, battering/ intimate partner violence must be clearly acknowledged as a violent crime, and the coordinated community response as a criminal justice initiative.

*CCR is not a mental health or social services task force.*



CPS, social services, housing and human service agencies may or may not be used by women who are battered.

Systems advocacy includes educating mental health and social service agencies about the dynamics of battering so they can provide respectful, appropriate services to women who are battered and their children and prevent collusion with batterers.

*It is most appropriate for mental health or social service agencies to act as supportive allies of the coordinated community response.*

# CCR



- An inter-agency effort which prioritizes the safety and integrity of women/ survivors, and their children, and batterer accountability.
- An effort promoting the spiritual and cultural traditions of the sacredness of women and children.
- The establishment of policies, procedures and protocols which consistently promotes the safety of women/ survivors, and accountability of men who batter and the systems involved in this response.
- An initiative which promotes and honors the leadership and expertise of women who have been battered.

# Coordinating Agency Essential Elements



1. Provide leadership in the development of a common framework to guide the coordinated community response: ensure women's safety is a priority and promotes the spiritual and cultural traditions of the sacredness of women and children.
2. Create consistent, standardized policies, procedures & protocols focused on the operational meaning of safety & integrity of women, with confidentiality as an integral component.
3. Monitor/track batterers' cases from initial contact through case disposition and probation to ensure practitioner/ systems and batterer accountability.



## Coordinating Agency Essential Elements continued

4. Coordinate the exchange of information, interagency communication and program decisions on individual/offender cases, ensuring accountability to the woman/victim who has been battered, and the entire tribal community.
5. Ensure that all women/survivors who have been battered/sexually assaulted and at-risk family members, have 24-hour access to resources, support, accurate information and advocacy services.

# The Coordinating Agency Essential Elements continued



6. Utilize a combination of sanctions, restrictions and rehabilitation/ re-education services to hold the batterer accountable to the woman who was battered and the goals of the community intervention initiative.
7. Evaluate the coordinated community response from the standpoint of women's safety and personal sovereignty, and the goals of the intervening agencies.
8. Ensure the initiative utilizes traditional life ways as guiding principles, including work to undo harm to women, children and other relatives.

*Adapted from Duluth Abuse intervention Project*

# Role of Men's Re-Ed Programs In Brief



- Respect the leadership of advocates and expertise of women and other survivors who are battered
- Prioritize women's/ survivors' safety, promoting the sacredness of women and children
- Maintain focus on issues of violence, abuse, control and change
- Provide accurate information; teach respectful relationship skills
- Act as a relative and role-model
- Remain accountable to women who have been battered and other survivors

# Role of the Criminal Justice System In Brief



- Respect the leadership of advocates and expertise of women who are battered
- Prioritize women's/ survivors' safety and offender accountable
- Understand dynamics of battering and avoid any form of collusion
- Seek convictions; avoid plea agreements
- Proceed without victim testimony
- Act on all violations immediately
- Role model respectful behavior toward women and children

# Role of Law Enforcement In Brief



- Prioritizes women's safety and offender accountability
- Know dynamics of battering and avoid collusion
- Rapid, consistent response
- Follow law on mandatory arrest consistently
- Document arrests, non-arrests, past offenses etc.
- Police reports available to coordinating agency
- Coordinate with advocates
- Role model respectful behavior towards women



Coordinated responses and task forces about violence against women focuses on policy, procedure and protocol that prioritizes:

- *effective, consistent, respectful provision of safety and offender accountability*
- *program/agency accountability to survivors*

It does not include staffing, analyzing or case management of women or other survivors who have been battered or raped.

## 2. Public Education & Community Involvement



### Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe steps to prepare for public education and community involvement initiatives
- List different groups and need for their involvement
- List goals of education campaigns
- List ways to promote community involvement
- List ways to include/ coordinate with community and cultural events
- Identify ways to utilize social media and existing resources

# First Steps



Similar to preparation for ally-building and CCR:

- Be clear about your goals, and that they are consistent with program mission & priorities.
- Create a vision for what you to accomplish. When unsure, think about whether or not the project or next step moves to toward that vision.
- Assess existing resources and needs. Look for mutual support and possible exchange of expertise, resources tec.
- Know your audience.
- Be hopeful!



*Reclaiming the sacredness and safety of women necessitates promoting the leadership, expertise and voices of Native women survivors.*

*Whether through quotes, poetry, stories, speak-outs or other forums, women and other survivors deserve and need to be heard.*

*Inclusion of LGBTQ2S and members of other disenfranchised groups is important to this work as well.*



**Be mindful of those who are young, differently-abled, have a different sexual/gender orientation or identity or are different from mainstream society in any way and are typically ignored or discounted.**

**If not already on staff, Board or membership, provide a seat at the table and ensure their voices are heard!**

# Educational Campaigns



The goals of an educational campaign are to:

- 1) help women who are battered/ raped/ other survivors find you and get to know you and your program
- 2) create a credible, consistent presence as advocates and social change agents
- 3) lay the foundation for social change by providing culturally based, accurate information
- 4) inspire critical thinking

# The goals of an educational campaign continued



- 5) make respectful relationships
- 6) create strategies and forums aimed at mobilizing communities
- 7) promote effective, respectful response to victims/  
survivors, and offenders', relatives' and  
community's accountability(aka *how to be power  
Relatives*)
- 8) means to evaluate effectiveness

**Consider the existing groups in your community already addressing aspects of the work.**



**Existing or potential allies like Law Enforcement may be doing anti-meth projects, Indian Health Services may have wellness events, Child Protective Services - parenting groups, etc. All of these are related to domestic violence. Can you join their initiatives? Provide activities or educational materials?**

**Election campaign time? Who can make non-violence and respect for women and children a platform issue? Speak? (check or provide them the message!)**

**These efforts overlap with ally-building.**

**Approach as the beginning of long-term initiative rather than a one-shot event.**

# Promoting Community Involvement



Look for common goals in other's work related to what you are trying to accomplish.

Adapt themes used by other's efforts, like "domestic violence is a crime," "domestic violence is a women's health issue," and "mother abuse is child abuse."  
Collaborate! Share resources! Co-sponsor events!

Build bridges: Tribal leaders and community members understand sovereignty is about the status and rights of tribal nations.

Build a bridge from tribal sovereignty to women's sovereignty. This promotes an understanding of how ending violence against Native women is connected to tribal sovereignty.



**Not everyone wants to answer crisis lines or be out front.**

**People may want to help but don't think they have anything to offer. Maybe they'll provide fry bread for a lunch sale, organize donations or get their organization to make blankets.**

**These are opportunities to get support, build a network and education.**

**Think outside the box!**



Every conversation and contact with individual community members is a powerful opportunity.

Lunch sales, auctions and other fund-raisers or events can *create relationships, involve others* and hold *conversations* within the communities that educate participants.

These are also opportunities to find out what's working or not!



# The most effective educational approaches:

1. Focus on specific age groups and/or distinct identities
2. Take into consideration literacy and education levels
3. Capitalize on other skills and abilities beyond formal education
4. Establish a connection between ending domestic and sexual violence and community members' lives

# Effective Educational Approach



**Tribal oral tradition, values, ceremonies and life ways can be the foundation for creating messages, planning campaigns and events, and having informal conversations that are consistent and powerful.**



## Use existing community and cultural events and activities as educational forums

*Traditional arts* – Sponsor or co-sponsor traditional women's arts exhibits including an anti-violence against women theme. Provide materials for displays created by youth and other groups.

*Fish camps* – Have a man who is an ally and role model give a short talk and use the camp as an opportunity for “teachable moments.”

*Powwows/wacipi* – Sponsor women's dance categories; bring the Silent Witnesses to grand entries; get M.C. time and educate or ask the M.C. to speak to respect for women.

*Sponsor a young women's sports team* – Provide workshops for a team, promote them as speakers and role models, provide t-shirts, etc., with program logo and messages.

# “Indigenize” existing domestic violence awareness events



*Silent Witness exhibits* – Silent Witnesses are silhouettes of people murdered by a batterer. They remind us of the lethality of battering, put a face on the crime, and are a remembrance and celebration of loved ones' lives. Often, pictures of the person (*with the families' permission*) are placed on their silhouettes and are wrapped in shawls.

Recognizing these memorials call on the spirits of women, they are labeled “Silent Witnesses – Quiet Guides.” Special care is taken of the silhouettes, praying with them, smudging them, etc.

# National Annual Campaigns



- October: *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*
- January: *Trafficking and Stalking Awareness Month*
- April: *Sexual Assault Awareness Month*
- May 5<sup>th</sup>: *National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & Two-Spirit Spirit*

National organizations, like the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Futures Without Violence, and tribal and state coalitions provide materials, campaign themes and ideas for events.

Join these efforts and/or tailor them for your community.



*You don't have to re-invent the wheel.*

*Customizing existing events and activities with the help of various groups in your tribal community make them more powerful.*

# Educational Materials



Posters, bumper stickers, brochures and promotional items are standard materials for public education.

- Check coalitions, national organizations for materials they offer for ideas, purchase and/or adaptation for your community.
  - See the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center at [www.niwrc.org](http://www.niwrc.org) for links to National and Special Issue Resource Centers for materials & events that focus on specific areas like health settings & professionals, legal professionals, school personnel etc.)
- Run contests with different groups, especially LGBTQ2S communities, youth and young adults to develop logos, text, artwork and/or to choose the medium/method to get the word out. They are the experts on what works in their group.

# Standard Media



Identify how different groups in your community get their information. Who works in those areas? They are potential allies that will promote your message.

- Provide tribal or area newspapers and radios information: public service announcements, editorials, speakers, articles. Again, you're busy – don't re-invent the wheel! Examples:
  - NIWRC, Native Women's Society of the Great Plains and other tribal coalitions, and members of the National Domestic Violence Resource Centers, I.H.S. have downloadable fact sheets and articles.
  - NIWRC has a quarterly *Restoration* magazine specifically for tribal leaders on national legal issues about violence against native women, and native nations in general.
  - Make sure you provide attributes/credits to your sources!

# Social Media



Consider creating a Facebook page, website, blog, using Twitter or other platform. These can be awesome resources for and by youth and young adults!

*Be strategic! Be clear about goals and message. Be ready for responses both positive and negative!*

These can be labor intensive and require expertise in messaging, confidentiality and policy & procedure about posting and running the site.

# Utilize Existing Expertise!



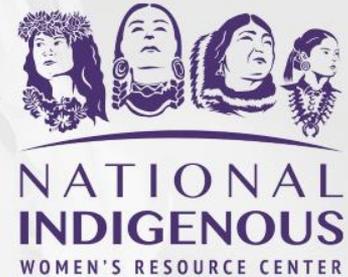
## Just a few resources:

- National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
- Futures Without Violence has [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) (and info specific to medical field)
- Indian Health Services has the Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative
- A search of topics can bring up a dizzying range of resources! Make sure the source is credible ( tribal or state coalition, member of the Domestic Violence Response Network (DVRN) or well known by these organizations).
  - Domestic Violence Response Network (DVRN) is part of FVPSA <http://www.learnaboutfvpsa.com/dvrn>

# Brainstorm!!



- What's your message?
- Your audience?
- When?
- How?
- What do you have and what do you need?
- Available resources? Potential resources?
- Allies?
- How will you know if it's working and effective?



# Thank you!

For more information go to [www.niwrc.org](http://www.niwrc.org)

For more resources on topics covered in this presentation,  
visit [www.TribalResponse.org](http://www.TribalResponse.org)

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**Please remember to fill out the session evaluation.**

## **Session Information**

**Session 7: Working Outside Shelter Doors**

**Thursday, June 23, 2022**

**10:00am PT | 11:00am MT | 12:00pm CT |  
1:00pm ET**



Q & A