

Tribal Justice & Safety

December 5 – 6, 2006
Palm Springs, California
Executive Summary

Tribal Training and Technical Assistance - One OJP

The Office of the Assistant Attorney General (OAAG), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, held the first of four scheduled tribal training and technical assistance sessions on December 5 – 6, 2006 in Palm Springs, California. The session took place in conjunction with the 10th National Indian Nations Conference, an event provided through the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice provided support and assistance with coordination for the event's planning, agenda development, and onsite logistics.



Purpose

The purpose for the session was to focus on tribal priorities related to public safety for families and communities; addressing topics related to substance abuse, law enforcement, tribal justice and health. Tribal leaders and key policy decision-makers, tribal administrators, executive directors, finance and grant administration officers, tribal planners, grant writers, justice and law enforcement personnel were invited to participate in the session.

The following agencies and organizations contributed to the event by providing presentations and participating in workshop discussions with the attendees:

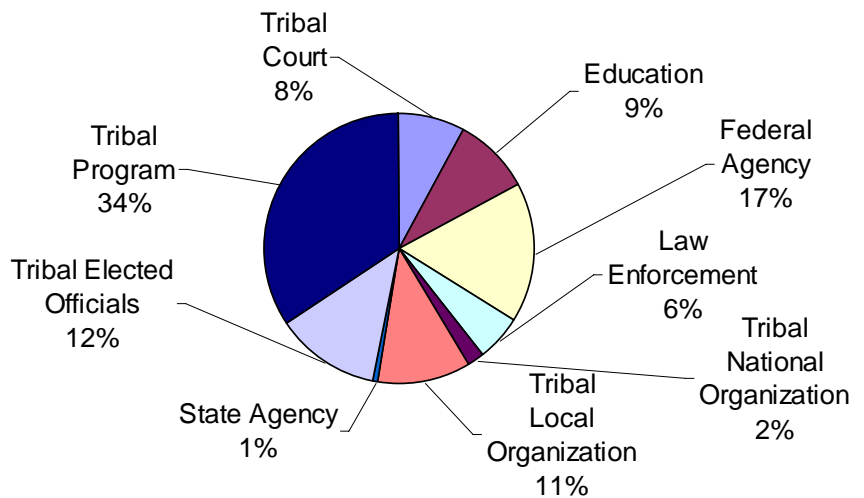
- U.S. Department of Justice
 - Office of Justice Programs
 - Bureau of Justice Assistance
 - Bureau of Justice Statistics
 - Community Capacity Development Office
 - National Institute of Justice, Office of Research and Evaluation
 - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 - Office for Victims of Crime
 - Office of the Comptroller
 - Office on Violence Against Women
 - Executive Office for United States Attorneys
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Intradepartmental Council on Native American Affairs
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 - Center for Mental Health Services
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
 - Office of the Administrator
 - Office of Policy, Planning and Budget
 - Office of Program Services
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- National Congress of American Indians
 - Task Force on Violence Against Native Women



- National Indian Health Board
- Native American Rights Fund
- Tribal Self Governance Consortium
- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- American Indian Development Association
- Winnebago Tribe/Omaha Nation/Thurston Co. Weed & Seed Project

Participants Overview

Attending the event were nearly 200 participants and presenters from 21 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to those who registered for the event, many participants from the 10th Indian Nations Conference were able to participate in the general assembly and workshop sessions, but did not register for this event. The two events complimented each other, with nearly 20% of the attendees from the Tribal Justice and Safety session also participating in the Indian Nations Conference. Over 80% of the attendees were tribal members and/or represented tribal agencies, with 52% representing tribal elected officials, tribal law enforcement and tribal program managers/coordinators. This reflects individuals registered for the session, but does not include attendees for the National Indian Nations Conference who participated but did not register. The following chart represents attendees by profession:



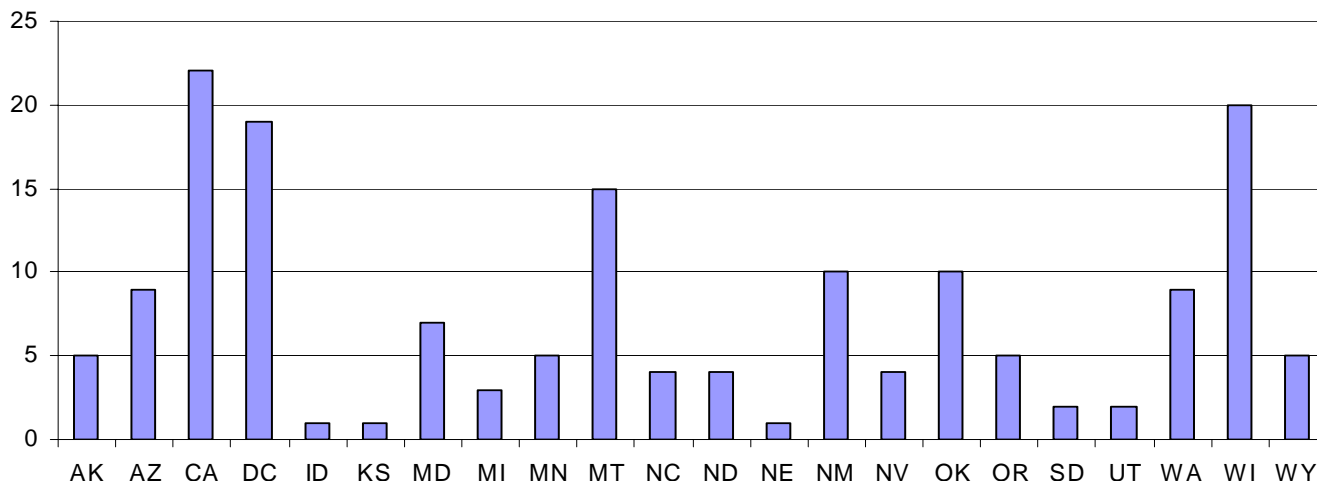
Participating Tribes

- Agua Caliente Tribe of California
- Apsaalooke Nation
- Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- California Rural Indian Health Board
- Chickasaw Nation
- Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Comanche Nation
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Confederated Yakama Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation
- Crow Nation
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos
- Fort Peck Tribes/Tribal Health
- Fort Belknap Gros Ventre Assiniboine
- Gila River Indian Community
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

- Hoopla Valley Tribe
- Indian Health Board of Billings
- Kaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe
- Klamath F/G/C
- Lac Courte Oreilles
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Little Shell Chippewa Tribe
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa
- Lummi Nation
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Navajo Nation
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Okmulgee County/Creek Nation
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Pit River Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Pueblo de San Ildefonso
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Salt River Pima Maricopa Indians
- Seldovia Village Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
- Smith River Rancheria
- Suquamish Indian Tribe
- Wind River Tribe
- Winnebago Tribe

Representation by state, including the District of Columbia, is summarized in the following chart:



Event Overview

The event began on December 5, with the Riverside County Sheriffs Department Color Guard and a traditional opening provided by John Gonzales, Executive Director of Eight Northern Pueblos, Inc. Olin Jones, Director of the Office on Native American Affairs, California Attorney General’s Office, Juana Majel Dixon, Secretary for the National Congress of American Indians, Dr. Eric Broderick, Acting Deputy Administrator, Assistant Surgeon General, SAMHSA, and Eugenia Tyner-Dawson, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General for Tribal Affairs, OAG provided welcoming and opening remarks. The attendees met in general assembly sessions throughout the first day. The day’s agenda included 9 presentations by 24 federal and tribal presenters. The topics included:

- Tribal Priorities and Access to Resources
- Suicide Prevention – Overview and Promising Strategy
- Tribal Community Challenges
- Federal Agencies Public Safety / Health Overview
- Methamphetamine Overview and Promising Strategy
- Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization: Overview and New Requirements
- Indian Country Justice Statistics Program
- National Sex Offender Registry and AMBER Alert – Strategies for Indian Country
- An Overview of NIJ’s American Indian and Alaska Native Crime and Justice Portfolio

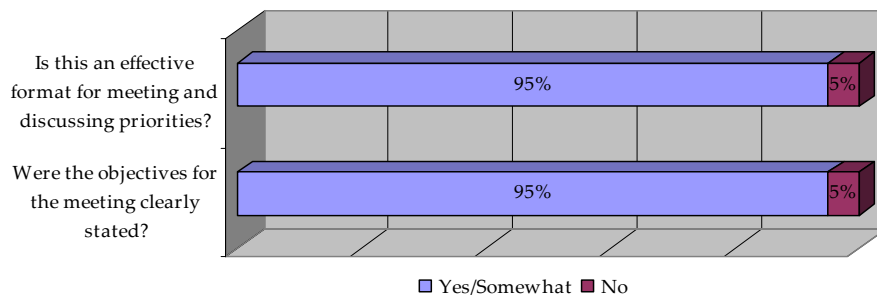
Day two began with general assembly sessions on Fiscal Year 2007 grant solicitations, followed by an overview of how to navigate Grants.gov and understanding grant management/financial requirements. For the remainder of the morning and the first half of the afternoon, participants were able to attend two of the following workshop sessions:

- SAMHSA Methamphetamine Prevention Grant
- AI/AN/NA Barriers to Assessing Federal Resources
- SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework Grants
- Sustainability of Federal Programs
- Navigating Grants.gov
- BJA – Improving Tribal Justice Systems
- Suicide Prevention Strategies
- Office on Violence Against Women
- Access to SAMHSA Mental Health Grants
- Weed & Seed Overview, Indian Country Experience
- Tribal Criminal History Record Improvement Program
- The Changing World of Financial Management
- Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Programs

The event closed with a general assembly session to review highlights of the workshops and discuss plans for upcoming sessions. Additional sessions are currently scheduled to be held in March, June, and July/August in Florida, Minnesota, and Arizona.

Event Evaluations

Initial evaluation comments reflect 95% of the attendees felt the meeting objectives were clearly stated. Evaluation comments below represent the overall observations from the onsite evaluations. A post-event online assessment sent to participants will provide additional feedback on the event. This will provide the tribes with an opportunity to make recommendations that will help frame the agenda for upcoming sessions. Respondents were asked to answer with a response of Yes, Somewhat or No to the following questions:



Key Overall Evaluation Comments:

- It was nice to see all these federal agencies working together and it was encouraging to hear that they want our input and welcome our questions.
- The role of the U.S. Department of Justice is in the area of federal trust and responsibility regarding criminal prosecution – we can devise effective public safety programs for youth and others, however federal responsibility to prosecute is critical to success.
- It was good to see the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) represented.
- It was important that this event gathered a varied group of tribal leaders and support organizations.
- Everyone knew their topics. The networking was invaluable!

Some positive opportunities for improvement to consider when planning future events include:

- The first day could have included workshop sessions with the general sessions. It would be good to hold the meetings over one more day, with additional opportunities to attend more workshop sessions.
- In the future try to invite other departments, including the Department of Natural Resources, Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Education, the Administration for Children and Families, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and the Administration on Native Americans.
- Include tribal examples presented by tribal programs whenever possible.
- Teen panels would be great, especially if you can provide funding to bring them to the event. They are our future!
- There could be more time on each topic and panel, with more time for interaction, especially for questions and answers as well as problem-solving discussions.
- Focus more on challenges are being addressed, and less on the challenges tribal communities face.
- Provide more information on collaborative opportunities between tribes and federal agencies. Right now we are very grant and funding driven, but there are other worthwhile endeavors.
- Include more information on developing relationships and memorandums. Strive to include more tribal law enforcement representatives.

Post-event evaluations and in-depth evaluations, including comments on each session and presenter, as well as evaluator's comments on the sessions are being compiled for review and comment.

Next Steps

Plans are underway for the next sessions, with the expectation of additional federal partners as well as participation by many more tribes. Future sessions will continue to work on solving the many issues of joint concern, especially methamphetamine use and suicide prevention. Tribal participants will have opportunities to share recommendations that will directly impact future funding solicitations and access to federal resources. For additional information on the first session as well as other upcoming events, visit the website at <http://www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov>.