

MMIW Community Impact Subcommittee

Initial Priorities

Workgroup 1: Community Resources

Build upon community resources to address historical trauma and recognize the resiliency and assets which have allowed tribal communities to persevere; build on strengths, therapeutic practice, and healing.

- Lack of **funding to support existing community resources and expand for populations** with unmet needs (i.e. rural communities, Two-Spirit communities, elders, youth and young adults); Need for shelters and advocacy services on the reservation (U.S. Department of Justice, 2019; Pierce, 2009; Mending the Sacred Hoop, 2009); Need to increase victim access to sexual assault forensic exams (U.S. Department of Justice, 2019)
- Lack of community resources that are **family-focused and trauma-informed or incorporate tribal healing processes** (i.e. talking circles, naming ceremonies, sweat lodge ceremonies and other holistic programming (Bachman et al., 2008; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019; Farley et al., 2011)
- Community resources are not well connected with systems like law enforcement, courts, etc.
- Support for family units that are separated when children are placed out-of-home or when parents are incarcerated
- Lack of prevention efforts in community; lack of programs for offenders (Bachman et al., 2008; National Congress of American Indians, 2018)

Workgroup 2: Education and Public Awareness

Strengthen impact by bringing along our peers and ensure everyone understands the severity of the issue.

Public campaigning and awareness will create greater empathy from those who have the most power/resources to contribute to community-led solutions, both existing and new.

- Public at large has a lack of awareness about MMIW, ICWA, Native history in Minnesota, etc. (Echo-Hawk et al., 2019); greater public awareness in areas such as health care, mental/chemical health treatment, homeless shelters, etc. (Farley et al., 2011)
- K-12 schools lack comprehensive curriculum on Native history and MMIW
- Voices in the community (i.e. youth, elders, Two-Spirit, etc.) are silenced or misunderstood
- Lack of outreach to tribes to involve them in public awareness campaigns (Echo-Haw et al., 2019)

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Workgroup 3: Legislation and Policy Changes

The individuals that have decision-making power for the entire state and all Natives within are predominately non-Native. Certain laws and policies have historically kept Native women and children disenfranchised and at risk for violence.

- Lack of awareness and proper training of judges, lawyers, juvenile courts, probation officers, school counselors, DOC, prison facilities, Sheriff's association, and others in contact with at-risk Native populations; Need for training on tribal courts' authority to issue civil protection orders and state and local responsibilities for enforcing them (U.S. Department of Justice, 2019; Pierce, 2009)
- Lack of protective or preventative legislation (i.e. equip schools with resources to prevent sex-trafficking, plan in place if legislation such as VAWA was overturned)
- Policies or laws that actually perpetuate violence
- Accountability of human rights violations through human rights tools such as the PPCG, ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, UNCRC, UNDRIP (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019)
- Jurisdictional polices that don't allow Native women justice: 88% of violent crimes against Native women are perpetrated by non-Natives, yet these can't be prosecuted. Attorneys don't prosecute 52% of violent criminal cases in Indian county (67% of sexual abuse cases and 46% of assault cases) (National Congress of American Indians, 2018).

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