



## Task Force on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence

In 2009, the U. S. Department of Justice released a study with alarming statistics about the safety and well-being of our nation's children. It concluded that "60 percent of children are exposed to some form of violence, crime, or abuse, ranging from brief encounters as witnesses to serious violent episodes." We learned that almost 40% were direct victims of two or more violent acts, and one in ten were victims of violence 5 or more times. While this study was not focused on tribal communities and had a relatively small sampling of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) respondents, anecdotal evidence suggests that on some reservations the percentage of children exposed to violence may be even higher. The consequences of this problem are significant and widespread. Children's exposure to violence, whether as victims or witnesses, is often associated with long-term physical, psychological, and emotional harm. They are also at a higher risk of being victimized again and becoming involved in the juvenile and criminal justice system

In 2012, the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence found that AI/AN children have exceptional unmet needs for services and support to prevent and respond to the violence they experience. The Task Force called for the Attorney General to "Appoint a federal task force or commission to examine the needs of American Indian/Alaska Native children exposed to violence."

([www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf).) Based on that recommendation, the Attorney General has established a Task Force on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence. This new Task Force is anchored by an Advisory Committee consisting of non-federal experts in the area of AI/AN children exposed to violence and a Federal Working Group consisting of federal experts working in areas related to AI/AN children exposed to violence ([www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood](http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood)).

The Advisory Committee will examine the scope and impact of violence facing AI/AN children and make policy recommendations to Attorney General Holder on ways to address it. The Task Force, through the Advisory Committee, will convene four public hearings and several listening sessions to examine the pervasive problems associated with AI/AN children exposed to violence in their homes, schools and communities. The information gleaned from these hearings and listening sessions will assist the Task Force, through the Advisory Committee, in developing policy recommendations to Attorney General Holder.

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute [www.tlpi.org](http://www.tlpi.org) is providing technical assistance support for the Attorney General's Task Force on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence including: (1) assisting the Task Force to conduct public hearings and listening sessions, (2) providing primary technical writing services for the final report, and (3) providing all necessary support for the Task Force and the public hearings.

The Advisory Committee is in the process of identifying witnesses. If you are interested in providing information or recommendations through testimony (oral or written) to the Advisory Committee, please see the reverse side of this flyer. For questions or additional information contact Kelly Stoner at 323.650.5467 or [kelly@tlpi.org](mailto:kelly@tlpi.org).

**Hearing #4 – Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Wednesday, June 11, 2014 from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm and**  
**Thursday, June 12, 2014 from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm**  
**Theme: Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence**

**Location:** Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Howard Rock Ballroom, 401 E 6th Ave, Anchorage, Alaska

This meeting is open to the public. There will be an opportunity for scheduled oral public testimony as well as an open microphone session just prior to the conclusion of the hearing on each day.

- While on-site registration will also be provided, those wishing to provide oral public testimony are encouraged to register at: [www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood](http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood) in advance of the meeting.
- Those wishing to provide written testimony – please send written testimony to [testimony@tlpi.org](mailto:testimony@tlpi.org).
- While not required, those wishing to attend the hearing are also encouraged to register through the registration link at: [www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood](http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood) in advance of the hearing.

**Members of the Advisory Committee on  
American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence**

<b>Dolores Subia Bigfoot</b> <i>Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Director, Indian Child Trauma Center, University of Oklahoma</i>	<b>Rear Admiral Eric Broderick</b> Former Deputy Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
<b>Eddie Brown</b> <i>Pasqua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O’odham Nation, Executive Director of the American Indian Policy Institute and Professor of American Indian Studies, Arizona State University</i>	<b>Valerie Davidson</b> <i>(Yup’ik), Senior Director, Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</i>
<b>The Hon. Byron Dorgan (Committee Co-Chair)</b> Chairman, Board of Advisors, Center for Native American Youth; former U.S. Senator and chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs	<b>Anita Fineday</b> <i>White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Director, Indian Child Welfare, Casey Family Programs</i>
<b>Matthew Fletcher</b> <i>Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Director, Indigenous Law and Policy Center, Michigan State University</i>	<b>Alicia Lieberman</b> Director, Child Trauma Research Program, University of California at San Francisco
<b>Joanne Shenandoah (Committee Co-Chair)</b> <i>Iroquois, composer and musical artist</i>	<b>Chaske Spencer</b> <i>Lakota, actor</i>
<b>Ron Whitener</b> <i>Squaxin Island Tribe, Executive Director, Native American Law Center, University of Washington School of Law</i>	<b>Marilyn J. Bruguier Zimmerman</b> <i>Assiniboine-Sioux/Fort Peck Reservation, Director, National Native Children’s Trauma Center, University of Montana</i>
<b>Jefferson Keel</b> <i>Chickasaw Nation, Lieutenant Governor of the Chickasaw Nation</i>	