

UTFAV Updates

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Tribal Governments Summit: Responding to DV Umatilla's Approach

UNITING THREE FIRES
AGAINST VIOLENCE

EDUCATING
ADVOCATING
RESEARCHING



UTFAV Interim Executive Director had the opportunity to attend the second annual Tribal Governments Program Summit in St. Paul, Minnesota on August 29th-31st.

One session in particular featured M. Brent Leonhard, Tribal Attorney for the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. He discussed best practices that the Umatilla Tribe is using in response to domestic violence.

A practice that is used by Umatilla, which is included in their criminal code is the

inclusion of a domestic abuse advocate in determining whether they decide to prosecute. Tribal Code states: "The prosecutor shall not decline to file or dismiss a DV case without first consulting and reviewing with the arresting officers and a domestic abuse advocate".

In regards to domestic abuse felonies, Leonhard described how Umatilla's criminal code includes the following crimes as felonies: homicide, 19 assault situations (prior DV assault conviction, presence of children,

pregnant, deadly weapon, children, serious injury, strangulation), kidnapping, custodial interference, stalking, and certain violations of a protection order.

Finally, Leonhard also included information about the Umatilla Batterer Intervention Program. The program is based on the Duluth Model and is 52 weeks long, which is about double the length of most batterer intervention programs.

Overall, Umatilla's approach to responding to domestic violence is

one to be considered for best practices when implementing criminal code. They were one of the first Tribes to implement the Tribal Law and Order Act in March of 2011 and Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction in February of 2014.

If you would like more information about Umatilla's approach to DV, please email rcarr@utfav.org.

OVW Tribal Consultation October 3-4, 2017

The 12th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation is scheduled for October 3-4 at the We-Ko-Pa Resort and Conference Center on the reservation of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in

Fountain Hills, Arizona. Both the Department of

Health and Human Services (DHS) and the

Department of Interior (DOI) will be in attendance with OVW. If you are aware of a Tribal Leader that is interested in attending and needs travel assistance, please contact UTFAV staff at 906-253-9775.

OVW is soliciting recommendations from Tribal Leaders on the following topics:

- Enhancing the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking.
- Strengthening the federal response to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking; and
- Administering funds and programs for tribal governments established by the original Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation.