Emerging Sex Offender Re-entry Issues in Indian Country`

Overview of the NASOM and COSA Projects
Greetings and Introductions

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Sex Offender Re-entry Initiatives

• Native American Sex Offender Management (NASOM) Project

• Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA)
Purpose of the Native American Sex Offender Management (NASOM) Program

• The NASOM Program was created to identify and develop evidence-based and best practice resources for the treatment, management, and re-entry of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) adults and juveniles who have committed sexual offenses and are returning to tribal lands

• The Program seeks to identify and develop existing resources and provides expertise and training rather than funding
NASOM Objectives

• Identify treatment and management services

• Identify existing programs and providers

• Identify existing tools currently being used with AI/AN adults and juveniles who commit sexual offenses
NASOM Objectives (cont’d)

• Identify specific tribal sites to serve as case studies for implementation of sex offender treatment, management, and re-entry models

• Develop written materials for the on-going development of the NASOM Project
Existing Treatment, Management and Re-entry

- Treatment for AI/AN sex offenders was typically provided by federal, state, or (limited) local resources
- Adjunct treatment services may be provided by AI/AN communities (substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence)
- Supervision (federal, state, local, or tribal)
- Traditional practices
- Sexual violence prevention programs
Existing Treatment, Management and Re-entry

• Conclusions
  – Few existing programs for AI/AN sex offenders (or for sexual violence prevention generally)
  – Available programs are federal, state, or local jurisdiction-based (some w/cultural component)
  – Geographically scattered with lack of re-entry services
  – Lack of AI/AN community resources
  – Existing programs have little data on AI/AN offenders or outcomes
What Would Treatment Look Like?

• View sex offenders from a cultural perspective
• Understand the role of trauma for AI/AN sexual offending
• Use relevant assessment measures for treatment planning
• Deliver sex offender specific treatment
• Help offenders connect to their culture
• Need for community/familial support
NASOM Recommendations

• Collaborate on resource development with AI/AN communities

• Identify federal, state, & local resources
  – Need for culturally relevant services
  – Information sharing/collaboration

• Strategic planning/needs assessment on sexual violence prevention and intervention
NASOM Recommendations (cont’d)

• AI/AN community multi-disciplinary training on what we know about sexual violence, offenders, and intervention

• Case Study/Pilot Study, treatment, re-entry and management programs in AI/AN communities

• Collect data and do research

• Continually adjust programming based on research
NASOM Case Study Tribes

- Menominee Nation – Wisconsin
- Oglala Sioux Tribe – South Dakota
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes – Oklahoma
- Pueblo of Isleta – New Mexico
MENOMINEE NATION NASOM Implementation Process

- Kick-off Meeting – November, 2015
  - Law Enforcement leadership
  - Strong tribal agency representation including behavioral health (psychologist with SO experience and interest)
  - Federal and State partners

Strategic planning and goal setting
- What are the tribe’s needs?
- Avoid duplication of federal and state resources
- Broaden scope to include tribal code needs
MENOMINEE NATION
Considerations

• Large, active group made decision-making and action planning a challenge
• Created a smaller working group to streamline implementation
• Narrowed focus to maximize success
• Identified training needs
  – Offender treatment and monitoring personnel
  – Other agency representatives
OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE NASOM Implementation Process

- Identify needed tribal agency representation
- Gain stakeholder buy-in
- Local treatment provider used by federal and state probation
OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE NASOM
Strategic Planning and Goal Setting

• Community meeting
• Seek needed SORNA resources
  – Code development
  – Compliance checks
  – Information sharing
  – NCIC access
• Tribal specific concerns
  - Juveniles
OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE NASOM Considerations

- Maintaining momentum
- Lack of resources
- Other tribal concerns take precedence
- Need to narrow focus
- Tap into federal and state resources including local treatment provider(s)
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
NASOM Implementation Process

• Kick-off Meeting – September, 2015
  – Tribal Probation Office leadership
  – Diverse tribal agency representation
  – Local and private agency representation

• Planning Session – December 2015
  – Identified specific goals, tasks, strengths and weakness
  – Identified NASOM Team
  – Identified future training needs
  – Need to broaden scope to include tribal code needs
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
NASOM Implementation Process, cont.

• Training for Treatment Providers—June, 2016
  – By Dr. Kirk Johnson
  – How to work with sex offenders
  – How to assess offender risk
  – Develop risk reduction plan for sex offenders
PUEBLO OF ISLETA NASOM
Implementation Process

- Kick-off Meeting – October 2015
  - Tribal Police leadership
  - Strong representation from tribal police

- Strategic Planning
  - Need to engage other tribal agencies for NASOM Program
  - Broaden scope to include tribal code needs
PUEBLO OF ISLETA NASOM
Implementation Process

• Training Session provided by Dr. Kirk Johnson on Sex Offender Risk Assessment – February 2016
• NASOM Training session provided in June, 2016 to members of the tribal police department and victim services
• Emphasis on treatment providers to Assess Offender Risk and to develop a Risk Reduction Plan for Sex Offenders
• Need to engage other tribal agencies to participate in the Pueblo’s NASOM Program
Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA)

- Based on the theory of *wrap around care*
- Developed in late 1960’s in Canada
- Alaska Department of Corrections has implemented COSA as a sex offender re-entry program.
  - Program involves collaboration with Native Villages to assist sex offenders in returning to their native lands during and following treatment in a regional half-way house.
COSA Terminology

- **Inner Circle**: A collection of one Core Member and 4-6 volunteers
- **Core Member**: Person who has sexually offended
- **Volunteers**: Members of the community
- **Outer Circle**: Professionals volunteering to support COSA project
COSA Core Principles

- No one is disposable
- No one does this alone
- No more victims
- Community has a responsibility to victims and to those who offended against them
Kewa of Santo Domingo Pueblo COSA

Program is currently in the planning stage

- COSA Training Staff: Andrew McWhinnie, Dr. Robin Wilson – Canada; Steve Dempsey – Alaska, Greg Brown - Colorado

- Initial Training to Tribal Leadership, Tribal Service Providers, and the Community on July 11-12, 2016

- Training of COSA Volunteers to take place in September or October, 2016
Traditional Practices in a Traditional Tribe

• Kewa – small, traditional community

• Close knit family and community structure

• Currently has a small number of offenders relative to its size and population

• Already living in the community, needed to develop ways to involve the community and offender supports in primary prevention
Future Directions for Kewa COSA

• Start small with offenders on supervision

• As the benefits of the COSA support system become known to the community, involve more of the offender population

• Incorporate re-entry planning into community service provision for all returning offenders
  – Possibly expand COSA services to other tribal members returning from incarceration
Questions & Discussion?
Thank You

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