Team Members

- Heather Lawrence
  - Senior Services Director

- RaNell Cavanaugh
  - Senior Services Outreach Worker

- Chris Burd
  - Wowicala Community Health Training & Consulting

- Loretta Heuer
  - Professor/Evaluator
Background

- Tribal Council requested the Elder Services Director to search for funding to assist with elder abuse in the community.
  - To develop services to prevent and assist elders who have been abused.
- Native Elder Abuse Innovation Grant (NIEJI) was received in 2017.
  - The purpose of the **Dakota Elders Preserving Traditions Project Grant was** to gather the wisdom and concerns of Spirit Lake elders to prevent elder abuse and to develop an action plan.
Native Elder Abuse Innovation Grant (NIEJI)

**Long-Term Goal:**
- To empower Spirit Lake (SL) elders, family members, and stakeholders to effectively prevent elder abuse in ways that are agreed upon for implementation within SL communities.

**Short-Term Goals:**
- To create an SL Elder Abuse Prevention Plan (EAPP) (based on directives gathered from elders and SLN community stakeholders), on how best to interpret & implement the SLN Elder Abuse Tribal Code;
- To have the resulting EAPP reviewed, approved and adopted by Tribal Leadership;
- To disseminate the EAPP in the 4 SLN District communities for review;
- To promote engagement in continuing the Preserving Traditions Project (PTP) & EAPP at Spirit Lake.
Grant Outcomes

– Nominal Groups
  – Participants
    – Total of 19 from the four districts.
  – Question – Asked of each of the four groups
    – “What can American Indian communities do to prevent elder abuse?”
  – Number of statements from the elder groups
    – 98 statements – each statement is written as the elder stated in the group meetings
  – Themes
    – The statements were themed, meaning those that were similar in content. Themes included:
      – 1) Elder Abuse and Prevention, 2) Elders Need to Feel Safe and Secure, 3) Elders Need to Trust
      4) Elders Reporting Abuse, 5) Offender Penalties, 6) Law Enforcement Response, 7) Substance Use,
      8) Family Responsibilities, 9) Parenting Issues, 10) Grandparents Parenting, 11) Financial Exploitation,
      12) Tribal Council, and 13) Elder Advocacy or Victims Protection Program
Grant Outcomes

– Elder Abuse and Neglect Cases
  – Senior Services staff provides services and resources for cases consisting of neglect, self-neglect, financial, family abandonment, and physical abuse (September 2018 to current).*
    – 15 cases
      – 3 cases went to court and closed
      – 3 separate cases closed because of death
  – Senior Services Outreach staff became aware of additional 5 cases, but the clients refused services.

*Means Senior Services is addressing elders' statements made in the group meetings
Grant Outcomes

– Spirit Lake Tribal Court*
– Senior Service Staff is collaborating with Chief Judge, prosecutor and two members of the Law & Code Committee to:
  – Revise the 83-7-159 Elderly Abuse Codes*
  – Develop guardianship and Power of Attorney codes
  – Develop an Elder Protection Handbook
Grant Outcomes

- Dakota Elders Preserving Tradition Presentations*
  - BIA Police
    - Discussed elders reporting abuse
    - Revision of the tribal codes
    - Processing offenders
  - Elders Team
    - Discussed the next steps in this project
    - Elders asked, “Is someone going to help us?"
  - Elder’s Day Out
    - 45 elders attended
Grant Outcomes

- **Elder Protection Team (EPT) (Professional SL Agencies)**
  - Goal: Development of a case management system.
  - Current Membership
    - Senior Services, Police Dept, Courthouse (Judge, prosecutor), Law and Order, Public Health, CHR, Victims Assistance, Health Board, Ambulance, Tribal Social Services, and Housing.

- **Elder Protection Committee**
  - Goal: Opportunity for elders to provide input and guidance on the Elder Protection Program
  - Current Membership
    - Elders from the four districts

- **On Call for Elder Abuse**
  - Heather Lawrence and Ranell Cavanaugh are contacted when elder abuse is identified. They work with the elder to meet his/her needs and secure his/her safety.
Grant Outcomes

- Elder Abuse Intake Form
  - developed an intake form to be used at the initial interview with the elder victim.
  - Components include information victim,
  - suspected abuser,
  - reported types of abuse,
  - abuse resulted in,
  - description of the abuse incidents and/or conditions,
  - pictures of the body (front/back) to document the injury,
  - family members responsible for victim’s care,
  - agencies contacted
  - signature of intake person.
Grant Outcomes

– Community Education
  – Prevention of Elder Abuse Education and Marketing*
  – Developed the following marketing materials
    – Three table top presentations (All types of abuse, Physical Abuse, Financial Exploration)
    – Brochures
    – Fliers
Grant Outcomes

- **Bush Prize For Community Innovation Proposal**
  - The purpose is to develop an Elder Traditional Court and an educational curriculum for female offenders and one for male offenders.
  - Submitted April 11, 2019
  - Selection of Finalists – Late June 2019
  - Sites visits of Finalists in July or August 2019 (Did not receive)
  - Did not receive the grant but plan to reapply
Grant Outcomes

– Grant Submissions
  – Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program*
    – U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women
    – The purpose of this grant is to provide training programs to assist law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges, government agencies, victim advocates, and court systems in recognizing and addressing instances of elder abuse while providing services for victims.
    – Submitted January 8, 2019
    – Start date October 1, 2019
Grant Outcomes

- Statistics
  - Database
    - Track the number of cases along with the types of abuse
    - Track polyvictimization
- Research
  - Maltreatment of Elders Survey
    - Dr. Jackie Grey, UND Department of Population Health and Rural Health for Indigenous Programs
Senior Services Elder Protection Program

- **Continue to:**
  - educate elders, family members and the community on the signs of elder abuse and neglect.
  - develop safe environments for elders in their home and community
  - develop the elder abuse database
  - provide services for abused elders
  - develop components of the Elder Protection Program
  - submit grants to support various components of the program
  - research the issue of abuse and neglect
Challenges

- Lack of statistics tracking the number of elder abuse cases.
- Lack of sharing of elder abuse statistics
  - Unable to obtain Elder Abuse Statistics from the BIA
- Misclassification of elder abuse cases
Questions

Contact Information

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