

October Webinar Transcript

Operator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in our listen-only mode. During the question-and-answer session please press star-one on your touchtone phone if you'd like to ask a question. Today's conference is being recorded, if you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I'd like to turn it over to Ms. Tara Nokelby. Ma'am, you may begin.

Tara Nokelby: Thank you! Good afternoon and thank you for joining us today. My name's Tara and I will be facilitating your webinar. Today's webinar will be on tribal and state elder justice collaborations that work. Your presenters will be Cynthia LaCounte, Jacque Gray, Marcia Hall, and Helen Gray. There will be a question-and-answer at the end of the presentation. To open up your line for questions please press star-one. You may also use the chat box on WebX and I can read them aloud. This presentation will be recorded and posted on Older Indians at a later date. At this time I will switch it over—or pass it over to Cynthia.

Cynthia LaCounte: Thank you! Can everyone hear me, Tara?

Tara Nokelby: Yes, they can.

Cynthia LaCounte: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for calling in. I'm going to close my eyes and imagine that I have 270 grantees on the phone. So don't disappoint me if there's less. Today is one of—and I don't know how to say—it's one of my favorite topics. But as far as our programming, it's one of my favorite topics because we've really had some exciting programs come forth from the tribes, and ideas on elder abuse and neglect. I realize that all of you on the call may not have elder abuse programs because we don't fund them directly out of Title VI, but if you do, I hope we have time at the end for a brief discussion or you can send information forward to me. In my first slide here on the overview, it's just a little bit of information to remind us all that we got our first grants in 1985 to start working and talking about elder abuse and neglect in Indian Country. 1985 was a really long time ago, you know? We've gotten—we've taken some steps, we've taken some giant steps, and at the same time, we haven't really gotten very far. In those first three grants that the Administration on Aging funded in 1985, it was Yakama Nation, Navajo, and Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council in Wisconsin. We were all public awareness and education programs, and just kinda planting the seed that elder abuse and neglect was coming to the forefront. We were starting to acknowledge that it was occurring, but I think as far as tribes, we were still in a whole lot of denial because none of us were raised to abuse our elders. In the next slide, the introduction, I mentioned in my first words who funds tribal elder abuse from AOA. Not really a whole lot of us. We have elder abuse—and this is in the introduction, the next slide, Tara. There are state funds—er, excuse me, there are federal funds that flow through Administration for Community Living, where we work, where I work, but those funds are through Title VII of the Older Americans Act, and the eligibility are only states and not tribes. So the assumption is that the states and tribes will coordinate on elder abuse issues to provide services and prevention for our tribal elders. In a few states, that has worked well. In many states, that has not worked at all. Often it has not

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worked because we don't report crime to states, we're sovereign governments and handle our own affairs.

So that's always an issue that we have to take into consideration in trying to develop programs with states, or to coordinate with states. Then I said—by the end of this hour, I want those of you on the line to holler out and tell me if you have programs or how you're programming, or you can include that in your comments in the—on the PowerPoint, or on the webinar. What are the cold, hard facts? And by the cold, hard facts, I meant who—and this is the next slide—who funds elder abuse and prevention, elder abuse and neglect, elder justice issues within the United States? Well, we know that the Department of Justice does. We know some of their funds run through the Office of Victims of Crime. We know some of their funds run through the Violence Against Women Act. And we have learned that there are a few tribes that have applied for elder abuse specific dollars through DOJ, but there are also some tribes who have incorporated elder abuse into domestic abuse programs with DOJ funding. So that's another category that I'm trying to learn more about. I know the Administration for Native Americans—which is part of the Administration for Children and Family, right upstairs in my building here—has funded some pilot projects. They don't do ongoing, but they have funded some pilot projects to help tribes establish the service. I was told at one of my meetings that CDC has some money into tribal elder abuse. I promise to learn more about that and let you know. We know the Bureau of Indian Affairs actually does work in elder abuse because many of our social services programs are funded by BIA funding. We also know of a wonderful program in Anadarko, Oklahoma where the BIA-licensed tribal cops do some work in elder justice, and spend time learning about the seniors to report and look for potential abuse. My assistant secretary, Lance Robertson, and I will be visiting the BIA director next week, so we hope to take steps forward on that.

We know that Indian Health Service does some work in elder abuse, certainly through CHR programs, through their clinics, and probably through some public health nursing. But we don't have an agreement in place to track any data from Indian Health Service, so that's another meeting I'm hoping to take Assistant Secretary Robertson to so that we can put an MOU in place with IHS. I do know that Indian Health Service, our very own Indian Health Service, is just now developing a policy to put in place within Indian Health around elder abuse, detection, reporting, treatment, prevention. They're just now putting that in place and it's how many years after 1985? As I said earlier, we know some states fund—well, we know almost all states, I believe, fund elder abuse programs. We have a few tribes who are area agencies on aging, such as the tribe of Mohawk, one of our speakers today. So she can tell you more how they work with the state. We know some non-profits fund elder abuse, and we know some tribes fund elder abuse. The question marks at the end of this slide are just me wondering who else does. I hope to hear that from you folks participating. Because, as the next slide says, there's no room for secrets in Indian Country. If any of us are doing any work in any way around any of our needs and issues in Indian Country, we usually share. That's just our way, traditional way, and we give that information away so that we can all benefit from an idea. So, please, if you have elder abuse or neglect programs going on, tell us about them. In the next slide—and this is kinda the end of mine because I want the people in

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the field to really talk and you don't have to listen to me—but, as I said, I'm wondering who coordinates with your state. Does your tribe receive funds from the state directly for elder abuse? Or does your tribe receive services through the state, or the Triple A, or county for elder abuse? Does your tribe report elder abuse to the state, or the Triple A, or the county for them to follow through on their own? Do you collaborate with your state so that would you report to your state and then have one of your staff go along with the state, or the county, or the Triple A person to look at that complaint? And if you do work with your state, who provides the follow-up once a report is made? One of the concerns that I've heard is that once we report an elder abuse case to the state, or the Triple A, or the county, we lose it. Because of confidentiality, we're not able to be a part or to know what really happened. And then I—something I didn't put up on a slide—or how many of your tribes just work with elder abuse, you know what elders are at risk, and you watch them? But we don't report it yet as abuse because you're not doing that yet. You're just providing the services through your regular Title VI program or your Title III program, but you don't call it abuse, you don't report it as abuse, but you know deep down in your little heart it is. And then my final slide that I keep begging for, in order for me here in Washington D.C. to be able to take your information forward about elder abuse, in order for me to advocate here within ACL or within the federal government, I need data, I need numbers, I need to know that we do have elder abuse, I need to know what some of the cases are, how you've handled those cases, and all that information I keep asking you about your Title VI programs. It's kind of a vicious circle within the federal government, and I think you know that. In order for us to give money away, we need to know that there is a need. When we find the need, we quickly need money. And it just goes around and around. I can't get money without showing the need, and we can't show the need without our money. So, please keep that in mind, and thank you. My final slide is my contact information. If you have any information, if you wanna share anything about your program and you're too shy to talk, send me an email. Thank you! I would now like to introduce Jacque Gray. Dr. Jacque Gray, who hails from somewhere in Oklahoma, and has administered our National Elder Abuse Resource Center for a really long time, I don't know how long that is, but I know it's a really long time because she's much older than me. Alright, Jacque, go ahead! I'm off the hook.

Jacque Gray: Oh, sure you are!

Cynthia LaCounte: [chuckles]

Jacque Gray: Thanks, Cynthia. Yes, we—the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative, or NIEJI, has been funded since 2011. We've been working to develop and provide materials. I'll give you just a quick overview of some of the things that we do, and then I'll pass it on off to Marcia and Helen, so they can really talk about some of things that are actually happening in communities. On the NIEJI website, which is nieji.org, we have a lot of resources. On the home page, there's a tab that says "resources" and under it, there's information about types of elder abuse, our elder protection team tool kit, news and events, publications, presentations, products, and other websites and tools that you might make use of. We also have a state and tribal hotline map that you just click on your state and it will drop down a list of all the

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important hotlines in your state. It's listed by tribe and by county, or parish, or whatever the region is in your state. We also have some training modules that are available online. We have two brand-new ones that have just been launched in the last month. One is for healthcare providers and the other one is for people in the legal system, whether it's the police, prosecutors, tribal judges, or any of those addressing some of the legal issues of our elders. Then we have some other funding that we receive from ACL for the NIEJI Innovation Grant, and with that we were able to do some awards to 16 tribes for—to help them move some things along on elder abuse in their communities. We have a survey, which is what Cynthia was talking about as far as data, that we just need for you to get a resolution from your research review board, or council, or whoever monitors research in your community and contact us. We'll send you the surveys, you collect the data, and then we can analyze it and get it back to you. [referring to screen] This is our home page. As you can see, up at the top, there are tabs for resources, elder abuse codes if you're trying to develop a code or modify your code, we have a list of links to other codes in other states with tribes, and also some model codes that are available. There's the link for the state and tribal hotlines, the training tab that has all of our training modules, and the innovation tab that talks about our innovation program. The publications is under resources, and on that you can see anything that we've published as far as materials, or articles, or anything like that.

Our most recent one is on protecting the sacred tree—is about defining spiritual abuse with the Native American elders. And so, those things are all there and provided for your use. As far as presentations, we've done a number of presentations over the years, and we make those available to you as well. That if you wanna take our PowerPoints and make a presentation in your community or something, we have all those resources available. Things on what is elder abuse or elder abuse 101, financial exploitation, fraud, and identity theft. Things about our NIEJI resources, our elder protection team tool kit, how do you develop an elder protection code, information about elder abuse and grandparent abuse, and research on elder abuse in Indian Country. There are others up there, but if there's something up there and you wanna use it, you need the actual PowerPoint, just contact us and we'd be happy to get that out to you to use. We also have some sample materials up there. Our "Ways to Love our Elders" is our poster that is very popular, and there's also some place mats, and we're wanting to put together some more sample materials that you could just download, print off, and make use of. Again, our training modules, we have topics including legal, policy, financial exploitation, healthcare, social services, and for caregivers. Our Innovation Grant, as I said, addresses both getting some funds out to tribes and collecting some data. I have a little more information, the NIEJI Innovation Grants that we were able to provide were grants of 20,000 dollars to tribes in cycle one. That included the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana, the Eastern Band Cherokee in North Carolina, Maniilaq Association in Alaska, Muckleshoot in Washington, Ponca in Nebraska, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in New York, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe in Idaho, the Spirit Lake Tribe in North Dakota. On the second cycle, we were able to make awards to the Knik Tribe in Alaska, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa in Michigan, Oneida Nation in Wisconsin, Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Arizona, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North and South Dakota, White Earth Band of Chippewa in Minnesota, Wichita [and] Affiliated

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Tribes in Oklahoma, and the Winnebago Tribe in Nebraska. [referring to the slide] This is a map showing the distribution of those grants. So, we were really able to get funding to all sections of the country as far as getting it out to tribes. [referring to slide] This is a sample copy of our Elder Maltreatment Survey that we would send out if you wanted to collect data on your tribe on what's happening as far as elder abuse with your elders. There is my contact information. Feel free to get in touch with us if you have questions and we'll do our best to give answers or try to find out who to get you in touch with for those answers. So, thank you very much and I wanna pass the time on over to Marcia. And let me find her—she is—and there it goes, Marcia.

Marcia Hall: Alright. Thanks, Jacque! Okay. Let's see, how do I get it to my presentation? Oh, there it is! Alright. I just wanna say good afternoon to everybody. So, again, my name is Marcia Hall. I'm a member of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes here in Fort Hall, Idaho. I'm here to talk about the opportunity of being a recipient of the NIEJI Innovation Grant that I received in September 2017. One of the reasons why I applied for this grant was basically to focus on two areas that would ensure elder abuse prevention, preventive efforts to the elders, vulnerable adults, and community members of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes. One area was the Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Task Force and the other area was the Community Board of Guardians. With this grant I was actually able to fund an assistant that worked part-time, my project coordinator, she worked 10 hours a week, and that was from November 2017 and it ended 2018 in September. Together we were able to actually organize our bylaws and procedures for both, not only the Board of Guardians but also the Multi Task Force. And so, on July 31st, 2018, our Fort Hall Business Council approved and assured my program that the Task Force and the Community Board of Guardians would have their full support and continued efforts. The Multi Task Force basically is a committee that is put together in a coordinated effort to promote physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellness. One of the main reasons for the approach was based on several fact—several benefits. One was, as a team, we would be able to review the processes by identifying service gaps and breakdowns in coordination or communication. The other thing, too, was that it was a way for us to enhance not only our professional skills and knowledge but providing a forum of learning more about the strategies, resources, and approaches to address some of these issues.

A lot of times when I receive referrals, most of the time I'll reach out to a lot of the programs on the reservation and many times in the past we would duplicate services. That was one of the reasons why it was pertinent to start the Task Force. So, I've actually been doing this program for the past three years, but it was kind of initiating all these other participants to come to the board—er, come to the table and it's actually been—it's been providing a lot of great service. We've actually been able to make sure that some of those service gaps are addressed and we've actually been able to address more areas, not only with the hospital but also with the assisted living facilities as well as healthcare like for people who are shut-ins in their homes. So, part of my Task Force, some of the participants currently is I have a representative from the 477 Consumer Services Program, they provide the low-income heating and cooling assistance, and also the emergency funds as well as rental assistance. I have a

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representative from the Diabetes Program. That individual actually will allow us to take the information, do periodical sugar checks, foot checks, and basically they bring that information to the table. Community health nursing, we have the RN that services the reservation, and she gives us updates on where people are at, if they're—most of the time, all these individuals, they will have a concern or maybe there's maybe a power of attorney or a guardianship that needs to be instilled, or maybe an individual needs housing, or maybe assistance with their power. So, the next one is our Counseling and Family Services, which addresses our mental health. Fort Hall Housing Authority, they address the opportunities for maybe elder housing as well as maybe modifications for handicap accessibility. We also have the Area on Aging, which is the Southeast Idaho Council of Government. We have not only the Adult Protection Services Program that services most of southeastern Idaho but also they service the other areas. They attend most of the major meetings that addresses the state, which Cynthia had discussed earlier, on some of these services on the reporting. Our Elderly Nutrition, they actually come to the table and kinda give us an overview of maybe individuals that might need welfare checks or—but they offer a nutritional home-delivered meal, and so, that's Monday through Friday. Our Patient Navigator, who addresses issues that are our terminal ill patients—so, if we need to maybe start an emergency guardianship or maybe we need to get them into a facility, that person brings that information.

The other thing that's really unique about this is we also have an EMS, we have the director for the EMS. He is phenomenal because we actually get to see firsthand who we need to be focusing on in what areas. On the reservation we have five districts, so it's a vast amount of coverage and we're—I'm the only individual in this program, that was one of the reasons for starting this because it gave me more of an opportunity to have everybody else, not only just one set of eyes on a situation but two sets of eyes, and in some cases, maybe four. The other thing, too, on the Multidisciplinary Task Force we also have a representative from our Business Council, which is really unique because this individual gets the opportunity when somebody goes in front of the council and says, "I'm not getting services," we have a checks and balances with this individual having firsthand knowledge that, "No, this person is getting services." So, we meet once a month, the last Tuesday of the month, and basically we meet for an hour—depending on our caseloads, either an hour, an hour-and-a-half. I personally do the minutes every month. We distribute those to all the members that come to the table. It's kind of a nice guide to reflect on if we need to have continued services for maybe some of the individuals that's been on our radar. The other thing, too, is it's nice to have an update on patients that maybe we had thought they were in a facility, but they may have been returned home. That was one of things that I, you know, I was really excited about that we got to actually have the chance to focus on that and make more of a, I would say, a recognized effort. Like I said, it's been a great team, and like I said, I learn more about all these other programs and what they offer and vice versa. The next one that we actually—that myself and my assistant, we proposed the Community Board of Guardians, and that also was recognized and approved by the council on our—July 31st. The Board of Guardians is actually a group of volunteer court-appointed guardian conservators for a person that is in need of critical—that is in need of critical decisions regarding their health, finances, and wellbeing. The individual would be deemed

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incompetent or they would actually be considered a vulnerable adult. And that itself, I know there's a lot of, I guess, definitions, everybody interprets it a different way, but you would need a psych evaluation or some kind of documentation that says that that person is in need. Some of the members duties would include—they would need to—like I said, they would all be volunteers, everybody would be under the understanding.

Currently, I'm in the process of advertising for guardians through the tribe, which they would have to go through the hiring processes for the tribe, and that would be a background check as well as, you know, their referrals and whatnot. So, we would ensure that every person is actually recognized under the policies and procedures of the hiring practices. The other thing, too, that a person that I'm looking for would need to have the understanding that they're looking out for the best interests of this person, making sure that they are gonna be the voice for that person to solicit and locate and obtain, you know, services that would enhance the, I guess, the living for that person more adaptable so that their needs and concerns are taken care of. The other thing, too, is I know some courts they actually designate between a guardian and the conservator. On our reservation, we actually combine both of them together, but in that process they also have a yearly review, which they would have to do a full accounting of property, bank accounts, and as well as assets so that we ensure that these individuals are taken care of.

One of the things that usually we recommend is for the individuals to have a conservator—their conservator be controlled by a pay e-service. A lot of times we have individuals that—I mean, it's such a small community, sometimes you have individuals that accuse other family members of using their money. This part, there's 100 percent accountability by a licensed, bondable pay e-service. So, some of the members requirements is the Board, I felt like it should be consisted of five members. Again, the members would be all volunteers that have an interest in assisting people in the community. The board members will apply through our Personnel Department. The other thing, too, is they would also undergo HIPAA training with the Tribal Health and Human Services each year so that we all have the understanding that we have to abide by our privacy act. Again, they would also—all files would be stored in the Adult Protection Services office in a locked cabinet. The other thing, too, just like some of our leaders, it would be very important to have the terms of the office all staggered so that we always have an equal amount of voting on individuals. In establishing this—just real quick—I'm really fortunate to have the opportunity to have the assistance of our surrounding communities off the reservation. They were very pertinent in obtaining the policies and procedures, kind of giving me an overview of what to expect when getting this Board of Guardians established. Like right now, I actually, as just a guest, I do participate in our two community guardianship boards off the reservation just in case that there is a tribal member or federally recognized tribal member that is a ward of their board. And so, it's been quite the learning experience. I've been in this position for the past 10 years, kinda thrown in here and it was sink or swim, and I guess you just—for me, it was kind of I learned as I went. So, but as far as what one of the procedures in obtaining the wards would be a referral process, and so, one of the things that both Board of Guardians do is they have a referral application, three-step referral application.

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You got your documentation on assets as well as medication, what kind of health deficiencies they may have, or what is the long-term goal for that individual, and why a family member was never appointed as a guardian.

The next thing, our Board of Guardians pamphlet, and I do have these available, so if anybody's interested, I'm more than welcome to email you or even personally mail you a variety of different pamphlets that I have available in my office. The next thing is—that I'd like to share is part of some of the things that I've taken personally and spearheaded some of these events. For the past seven year—past eight years next year, I've actually started our Taking a Stand Against Elder Abuse. We have that every year. Usually it's the third week of May. I've also had evening seminars, inviting our BIA Office of Trust fiduciary officers to come in, do a presentation on what to expect when an individual is maybe starting to get their affairs in order, you know, for the probate process. I've tried to initiate, you know, more of an informative method for our members on the reservation. Grief Counseling, the other thing, too, a Certified Family Home. Sometimes, you know, it's really difficult to have the opportunity for a family member that might not have enough rooms in the home or maybe they're struggling themselves with maybe addiction. So, as working with the state, we've been actually very successful in placing individuals that have thrived being in these Certified Family Homes. Also, a resource guide, when I attend some of these sessions on and off the reservation, I usually gather all that information and I compiled it into a resource guide for our members, and then usually have those available here at the—here at my office or at the Elderly Nutrition, or sometimes at the—oh, what am I trying to say [soft chuckle]—at our clinic. Again, like I mentioned, our 8th Annual Taking a Stand Against Elder Abuse, we usually host it at the Shoshone Bannock Tribes Hotel and Event Center. Next year it'll be May 16th to 17th, 2019. So, I welcome you all to take advantage of maybe attending the session. Last year was incredible. We had a lot of different tribes attend. Usually, in the beginning, it was maybe—I would say maybe two tribes that attended. Last year alone we had 11. So, taking initiative in different areas, and my information's on the screen, so anybody that needs information or would like my assistance in any way possible, I'm available through fax, cell, email, and my work phone. So, thank you for listening to me and I guess I will pass it on to Helen Gray.

Cynthia LaCounte: Wow, Marcia! This is Cynthia. I'm glad it's not hot summer because my mouth would be full of flies.

Jacque Gray: [laughs]

Marcia Hall: Thank you!

Cynthia LaCounte: Go ahead, Helen!

Helen Gray: [speaks in native language]

Tara Nokelby: I need Cynthia. Okay, hold on.

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Helen Gray: Okay. [speaks in native language] Hello, everyone. My name is Helen Gray. I am the Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging. Okay, so, first off, this is my first webinar that I've been—I've presented on, so—

Cynthia LaCounte: [cheers] Yay!

Helen Gray: [laughs] Alright. So, we got our grant from NIEJI in September of 2017. When we started out, I was given this by my director, we needed baseline information that we could start for our elderly. So, what we—our prevention team, what we did was we did a Native Elder Maltreatment Survey and we only got 40 participants from our reserve because it's such a hush thing, you know? Nobody wants to talk about it, nobody wants to talk about that, "My nephew's taking money out of my purse," you know, things like that. Let me see, I'm just looking through my paperwork here. So, when we started out, we did the survey, we got the survey information back, and this is like a brand-new—it's new for us and everything. So, I went through and I selected people that I thought would bring really good synergy to the MDT group. So, because of where we are located, it's kind of like a unique setup over here because we have two countries, two provinces, one state, two counties, and three districts that are all cutting through our territory of Akwesasne, and we also—on top of that—we have multiple definitions of elder abuse, the ages that qualify for certain programs varied, so we didn't really know how to define elder abuse in Akwesasne. So, that was one of the objectives of our Elder Abuse Case Review Team. What we had set as our objectives was to create our Elder Abuse Case Review Team, develop a standardized definition of elder abuse for the territory of Akwesasne, we wanted to bring education and awareness, we wanted to remove barriers to reporting elder abuse, develop a centralized reporting and referral system, and develop a tribal elder protection code. So, when we got the grant in September, it kind of—nothing was really done with it until about October, and then that's when I started going out and doing the surveys and everything like that. I set up at various places to get the elders to do it. It was really hard because they're like—I'm, "Oh, you wanna do a survey?" and then they're like, "Yeah, alright, what's it on?" and then I'm like, "It's on elder maltreatment," and then they're like, "Oh, uh, well, no, not right now." And then they would walk away not as happy as they were when they first talked to me and I don't like giving that—like having people walking away not with good—feeling good, you know? So, let me see here. [reviews notes] So, ours is according to the tool kit that we got from the NIEJI Innovation Grant. We did the victim-focused approach because we have so many districts and states, counties, and everything like that that we're trying to—trying to get it all to focus on the elders so that they're not slipping through the cracks if they gotta go from being at home to—into a full-time facility in Canada. Because we have one in Quebec, we have one in Ontario on our reserve, and a lot of times their services get fragmented. They're like, "Oh, we can't help you," and then they don't send anybody anywhere else, and then that's where it stops, and it gives them a lot of frustration. So, our Elder Abuse Committee is comprised of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Adult Protective Service. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Outreach, they're the—they do the healthcare, in-home healthcare for the elders. We have the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, which is on the American side of the

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reserve. And we also have the Office for the Aging that's involved. And we have the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Unit, and we have a firefighter. He is actually combined, he is the ambulance slash firefighter guy. And we also have the—from Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, which is on the Canadian portion of our reservation, we have April White, and she is the Program Manager for homecare health—home support. And we also have Norman King, and he is the Akwesasne Mohawk Police. So, he's from the Canadian side, the Quebec portion of the reservation. So, it's all like a big confusing thing. So, we all get together, and it was really hard to get these people to buy into it because they didn't really know—like, "This is new, we don't really know what we're doing here." So, I did an overview of what their roles would be, and it would be like to—the representatives from the agencies participate in regular meetings or will arrange for an alternate when unavailable, provide information about our committee to their agencies so that there's awareness that we actually have this committee going on, and to make sure that they provide expert input and review of the cases, and provide appropriate follow-up for the client, and to provide support and validation, and assistance to the other members as well.

So, as of February when we started meeting, we decided as a group instead of meeting every three months, we decided to meet every month. So, we've been meeting every month ever since, and we have knocked off quite a few of these things. We only have two left of our objectives, which is the "to develop the centralized reporting system," and "to develop the tribal elder protection code." I wanna talk about the objectives that we did complete. Creating our Elder Abuse Case Review Team, once we got all the kinda like—like once we all got norming, I suppose, we all knew each other and then we started talking about, "Okay, well, what can you do? What can I do?" Now we all understand where we have the cracks in our system and where we have the overlapping and duplicated services. We developed a standardized definition of elder abuse, and we've made it for the reservation, it's defined as, "An elder is defined as an individual 55 years and older in the territory of Akwesasne." And elder abuse is, "The infliction of physical, financial, emotional, sexual, psychological, neglect, and/or spiritual harm on an older, possibly vulnerable, adult at the hands of a family member, a non-family member, in a trusting relationship, or a caregiver in an institution. This also includes self-neglect." A couple of the things that we did do besides this is we wanted to create education and awareness about what's going on here because when we got our maltreatment survey back, it showed that we had 95.2 percent of the people that were surveyed, 95.2 percent admitted to verbal mistreatment. And then the second most common form was self-neglect at 61.5 percent, and then financial exploitation at 47.5 percent. So, showing this to our community that it is actually happening here because everybody's like, "Oh, no. That's not what happens. We love our [says elders/grandparents in native language]," you know, and stuff like that, and it is happening. So, what we started doing was the—let me see here. I lost my paper. [reviewing notes] On June 15th, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, we got together and we actually—we had World Elder Abuse Awareness Day at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. We got about 50 people to come to it. We had financial institutions there, we had home care, we had home support, we had a lot of different people there giving out information and everything to teach the elders that it's okay to ask for help,

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and if they do need help, these are people that they can get ahold of. So, that went over really well. And then, before we did that, I asked Dr. Jacque Gray if we could use her poster, "Ways to Love Our Elders," and turn it into a billboard. So, what we did was, with her permission, we turned it into a billboard and we put it right in between the bar and the casino. So, people were seeing it as they were pulling in at the bar or when they were going to the casino, they were always seeing that billboard that says, "Ways to Love Our Elders," with the holding hands—the folding hands, and that, we had that up for quite a few months. People have made comments about it like, "Oh, I've seen that!" And it was—it felt good to know that people were noticing it and they were becoming aware of it. We also, we did—over here at the Office for the Aging where I am based, we did a t-shirt give away on Senior Picnic Day. And on the t-shirt it said, "This person has zero tolerance for elder abuse." And I made 250 shirts, I gave them out to all of the seniors, and if anybody else wanted any, I would give it to them. And I was handing them out, the tribal police took some, the Akwesasne Mohawk police took some, you know, and it was getting out there and they really enjoyed getting that because when I went to give it—to hand them out, they were like, "Oh, how much is it?" and I'm like, "It's free," then they're like, "Oh, okay!" And I also had bumper stickers designed, too, that had—it was black, and it says, "Zero Tolerance for Elder Abuse" with a big circle and a line through it, "See Something, Say something." That was a really big hit. The tribal police and the Akwesasne Mohawk police put those on all of their vehicles. We did a big photo op out here, and the elders put the stickers on the vehicles for the police officers and everything. It was really nice. As for training, I know that because everybody in our multidisciplinary team has different amounts of training, we don't know who has what, we decided to start doing trainings for each—for our meetings.

So, this past meeting we had on October 3rd, we had a lady come in from Elder Abuse Ontario and she talked about—she did Elder Abuse 101 and she also spoke about reporting because we don't know what each other have as—like to the levels. I know APF has a lot of training in elder abuse, but then people like myself don't. So, what we did was we started out at the base level and then we're working our way up so that we all have that same education for it. We also have one of the police officers, Norman from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police is going around and he's doing presentations at the schools about elder abuse. So, it's really good that it's getting out there and people are starting to notice that this is what I do, so they're kinda coming in and visiting me and then they're like, "Oh, well, I have a question," you know, and stuff like that. So, then that's where it starts getting good because I have that rapport with the elders here that they're comfortable to talk to me about any issue that they're having, and to know that they're gonna be safe, and it's gonna be confidential, and everything like that. Let me see here, I was just—I was speaking with one of the other speakers earlier about this training I had just gone to, it's called Adult Abuse Training Institute, AATI, they have it in Albany every year. This year they had it on the 25th, 26th, 27th at the Marriott. It was—because I'm new, this is my first time doing this at all—this is my first time doing elder abuse prevention and everything like that, so when I went there, I met a lot of—there was a lot of APFs, there was a lot of district attorneys, there was a lot of lawyers, and it was really interesting because there was a lot of EMDT coordinators there, too. Because what we're—what we wanna do is continue this on and be able to turn it into

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an EMDT, so speaking with those EMDTs who already have it going on for them, I was able to network and get more information about how to add certain people into it so that we can move it up to the next level. And I believe—let me see here—I think that's all I have right now. But our grant ended on September 30th, and we're just wrapping up the rest of our grant information, and we'll be sending it off soon. Thank you.

[Tara and Cynthia start talking at the same time]

Tara Nokelby: Thank you—

Cynthia LaCounte: Nope! Nope! This is Cynthia [soft chuckle] quickly. I just have to say I am so impressed with both of your programs, and you are what I've been waiting for since 1985. I am absolutely thrilled, and please plan on a whole lot more presentations and a whole lot of us working with you to get the word out to others. And these are the kind of projects that you can take to the big guys at DOJ or some of those places for big guy funding. So, I'm gonna be talking with you some more, and thank you.

Helen Gray: Alright, thank you.

Cynthia LaCounte: Go ahead, Tara!

Tara Nokelby: Perfect! Thank you so much. And, unfortunately, we don't have time for Q-and-A, but if you do have any questions or if you'd like the PowerPoint presentation sent to you, feel free to email me. I'm the one that sends out the blast, so you can just reply to that email, and I can get that information to you, or I can connect you with one of the speakers. Again, I wanna say thank you to all of the participants and thank you so much to all of the speakers as well.

[people start talking at once, saying thank you]

Operator: Thank you for your participation. You may disconnect at this time.