**New Mexico Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force**

**Data Gathering Plan**

**Last Updated 3/19/2020**

**Overview**

This document serves to outline the data gathering plan to meet the research goals and objectives for the final report.

Information gathered by the New Mexico Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force (Task Force) will be reflected in the final report and kept internally for three years with New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (Department).

The task force will employ the use of IPRA/FOIA requests, surveys, community hearings and task force meetings to meet the research goals and objectives for the final report.

**Data Collectors**

The Native American Budget and Policy Institute (NABPI) will assist with developing the methodology, designing data collection instruments and activities, as well as performing the data analysis.

Each subcommittee will oversee the community hearings and task force meetings, as well as disseminate surveys, and submit IPRA/FOIA requests. All data will be collected and tracked by the subcommittees and NABPI.

Consulting stakeholders will assist with these data gathering efforts through their participation on a subcommittee.

**Stakeholders/Audience**

The Task Force aims to engage with tribal communities, survivors, impacted family members, victim service providers, organizations (including advocates and grassroots efforts), law enforcement agencies and justice systems (including crime databases) to determine the scope of the problem, identify barriers and create partnerships to address the problem.

**Goals and Objectives**

The goals of the Task Force are to: 1. understand the scope of the MMIW crisis in our state, and; 2. create the foundations and partnerships to further address the issue. Our objectives are to:

1. Develop a shared vision and vocabulary for describing and addressing MMIW.
2. Identify how justice systems are coordinating investigations, prosecutions, and reporting of MMIW cases.
3. Identify the number of open, closed, pending MMIW cases across law enforcement agencies, news and media outlets, community and family member accounts.
4. Identifying where MMIW cases are occurring through mapping software.
5. Identifying barriers through testimony of survivors, family members, and professionals (justice & healing).
6. Identify the existing support services and resources for families impacted by MMIW (justice & healing)
7. Identify, and build trust with key stakeholders to ensure inclusive and comprehensive input is being collected.
8. Convene and gather input from stakeholders through community hearings and surveys.
9. Outline recommendations from all stakeholders (LEAs, Families, Communities, Service Providers, and Experts).

**Data Collection Methods**

1. **Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA)/Freedom of Information Act Requests**

To identify the number of open, closed, and pending MMIW cases across law enforcement agencies and crime databases, as well as how justice systems are coordinating investigations, prosecutions, and reporting of MMIW cases, the task force will submit IPRA/FOIA requests to the following:

1. Law Enforcement Records Bureau,
2. Bureau of Indian Affairs,
3. Tribal law enforcement agencies,
4. All other law enforcement agencies with a significant population of AIAN (based on census data) or recommended in preliminary consultation with stakeholders,
5. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and
6. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
7. Office of the Medical Investigator

The requests will happen in two phases. The first phase will focus on collecting aggregate data from 2014-2019, policies and guidelines, and reporting forms.

1. **First Request: Aggregate data, Protocols, and Forms**

The request will include MMIW case data, protocols and guidelines for reporting and investigating missing persons and murder cases, protocols for sharing case information across crime databases, copies of reporting tools (such as incident forms), and policies related to training officers.

Aggregate data for the past five years (2014-2019) and for the following types of cases will be evaluated: missing persons (solved and unsolved), homicides (solved and unsolved), and suspicious deaths, for all racial/ethnic groups and gender.

1. **Second Request: Case files for Indigenous women and girls**

The second phase will focus on collecting specific case files from 2014-2019, involving Indigenous women and girls. The cases requested for each year will include: 1 homicide solved case, 1 homicide unsolved case, 1 missing person case solved (non SAR), and 1 missing person case unsolved. A total of 20 cases will be requested to do a case study analysis. The cases will come from federal, state, and tribal law enforcement in order to compare tactics and strategies by those agencies. To get to this point the taskforce, in consultation with stakeholders, has to decide collectively or via public input on what specific cases to request for the case studies.

Case recommendations from the task force includes:

1. The ABQ PD westside homicide unsolved cases,
2. The Gallup PD homicide case "Dione's case," and;
3. The Denise Parker missing persons case which NMSP/BIA and Acoma PD worked together on in 2018

**B. Office of the Medical Investigator Reports**

The task force will evaluate OMI reports for the past five years (2014-2019) to determine the number of murder cases involving Indigenous women and girls.

**C. Surveys**

The task force will utilize surveys to:

1. Identify the number of open, closed, pending MMIW cases across community and family member accounts,
2. Identify barriers through testimony of survivors, family members, and professionals (justice & healing), and;
3. Identify the existing support services and resources for families impacted by MMIW (justice & healing).

Surveys will be distributed to survivors and impacted family members, as well as service providers and law enforcement. They will be distributed through web-based outreach (email blasts and IAD website). Also, they will be available in hard copy and electronic format. Lastly, surveys will launch early April.

The surveys will be designed by NABPI in consultation with task force members and stakeholders.

1. **Law Enforcement**: The scope of information to be gathered by surveying law enforcement includes:
   1. Policies and guidelines for responding to missing persons and murder/homicide cases. Whether or not there are systems/protocols to track MMIW cases.
   2. How MMIW cases are being documented and shared across crime databases.
   3. Types of training relevant to addressing violence and crime in Indian country and/or Missing and Murdered cases.
   4. Challenges to identifying, reporting and investigating MMIW cases.
   5. Barriers related to jurisdiction.
   6. Partnerships and resources needed to improve the reporting and investigating of MMIW cases.
   7. How to improve collaboration and information sharing with DOJ.

Sample survey questions include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Does your agency adhere to the policies and procedures, established by the Department of Public Safety, regarding “MISSING AND ENDANGERED PERSONS INVESTIGATIONS ALERTS AND ADVISORIES?”
2. What are the barriers your agency is experiencing in regard to reporting and investigating missing and murdered cases involving indigenous women and girls?
3. Does your agency gather information that would indicate if the missing person is an American Indian or Alaska Native or affiliated with any tribe.
4. What kinds of training does your officers receive that is relevant to addressing violence and crime in Indian country and/or Missing and Murdered cases?
5. What types of partnerships/collaboration (cross-jurisdiction, community, etc.) takes place when investigating, prosecuting, and reporting “missing persons” and “murder” cases?
6. How is your agency currently addressing missing and murdered indigenous women and girls? Reference any protocols, training, or partnerships coordinated by your agency.
7. What are some recommendations to improve reporting and identifying missing and murdered cases involving indigenous women and girls?
8. How can collaboration and information sharing with DOJ be improved in regard to reporting and investigating cases of missing and murdered indigenous women in the state?
9. **Survivors and family members:** The scope ofinformation to be gathered from surveying survivors and family members includes:
   1. Personal experiences of how they have been impacted by MMIW.
   2. If they reported the incident to law enforcement. Why or why not.
   3. Challenges to working with justice systems and seeking support services.
   4. Barriers related to poverty, jurisdiction, oppression and colonization.
   5. Recommendations to include in the final report.

Sample survey questions include, but is not limited to, the following:

* 1. Please share details about your experience(s) related to the crisis of missing and/or murdered Indigenous women and girls.
  2. Did you report this incident to law enforcement?
  3. If so, which agency?
  4. How would you describe the response of law enforcement to your case? Provide details or specific examples.
  5. If not, why did you choose not to report to law enforcement?
  6. Did you report the incident to any other agency or individual (such as direct service provider, health professional, or local organization)?
  7. How would you describe your experience when seeking support from crime victim services?

1. **Service Providers:** The scope of information to be gathered from surveying service providers includes:
   1. Funding sources.
   2. Types of services provided and/or accessed by those impacted by MMIW.
   3. How many MMIW victims/survivors are being served.
   4. Cost/fee structure.
   5. Challenges to providing services.
   6. Barriers related to poverty, jurisdiction, oppression and colonization.
   7. Best practices and prevention methods.
   8. Recommendations to include in the final report.

Sample survey questions include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. What services are being provided to or accessed by survivors and families?
2. Does your organization serve survivors and family members of those impacted by MMIW?
3. Does your organization provide referrals? If so, list the referral services below
4. What does your costs/fee structures?
5. What are the barriers to providing support services to survivors and families?
6. What are the gaps in services?
7. How does racism and colonization impact this issue?
8. What types of efforts exist to understand and address the MMIW crisis within the state?
9. What are some best practices and prevention measures to address the MMIW crisis?

**D. Community Hearings**

The task force will host community hearings to gather testimony from survivors, family members of victims/survivors, as well as service organizations, advocates and experts. The expected outcomes include: 1. Identify MMIW cases based on survivor and family member accounts, 2. Identify barriers to seeking justice and healing, and; 3. Develop recommendations based on community input.

The hearings were originally planned to be held in-person in the following locations: Espanola, Santa Clara, Albuquerque, Shiprock/Farmington, and Dulce. Task force members will collaborate with local tribal organizations to plan and host hearings. Hearings were going to be held between April and May 2020.

The community hearings are being redesigned due to the current health crisis.

**E. Task Force Meetings**

Future task force meetings will help to convene and gather input from stakeholders regarding research goals and objectives, and identify relevant information to be reflected in the final report.

Due to the current health crisis, future task force meetings will be held online. The webinars will last 2-hours and consist of presentations and panel discussions. Public comment will be gathered through email and/or a voice messaging system.

Webinar schedule:

* Friday, March 27th at 12pm
* Wednesday, April 8th at 12pm
* Friday, April 17th at 11am
* Friday, April 24th at 12pm