

# Community Volunteer Advisory Board meeting (2023-06-23)

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## SPEAKERS

Chris Mimmack, Paula Vargas, Rowena Reed, Joe Thome, Kirby Lewis, Debra Jones, LaRenda Morgan, Phillip Gover, Brett Williams, Jenifer Lewis, Jared Torsney, Meskee Yatsayte, Lydia Lerma, Nancy Rae Medina Kochis, Rosie Small, Natalie Bullion, Christinia Eala, Arron Julian, Jana Locke, Carla Respects Nothing, Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky, Debbie Oldenettel, Chris Schaefer, Korlene Tapoof, Adrienne Perkins, Melissa McGaw

### J Jana Locke 00:00

I'm Jana Locke, Deputy Director of Public Safety here on behalf of Director Hilkey just wanted to really welcome you and say thank you for the work that this group is going to do. It's important work it involves multiple parts of our department, including Arron's shop, we have folks from CBI and CSP on. This work will eventually involve our Division of Homeland Security with the alerts that are going to be with a hotline that was passed in the recent legislation. So really the past two years of legislation have involves multiple parts of the Department of Public Safety. For those of you who might not be familiar with the whole department, we are a statewide, all manner of public safety agency. We include the Division of Criminal Justice, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Division of Fire Prevention and Control, the Division of Criminal Justice [repeated], CBI and the Colorado State Patrol and the Executive Director's Office. So we have we have six divisions in the Department of Public Safety. Like I said, multiple parts of our department have a piece and the important work of OMMIR and we've been working closely with legislators and many partners of the last couple of years on legislation. And then working on implementing those bills in our department, working closely collaboratively internally, to meet the spirit of that legislation. This group is going to be an important part of that work going forward as an advisory group to the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. And we look forward to the work and the input that you're going to have. So welcome. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your work. We're honored to be working with you. And we look forward to having your advisory capacity as this work goes forward. So with that, Director Julian, I'll turn it back over to you unless there's anything else you want me to cover.

### A Arron Julian 01:44

No, I appreciate it, Director. Thank you very much. Moving forward.

A

Arron Julian 01:46

Welcome everyone. My name is Director Julian. I'm the Director for the Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives for the state of Colorado.

A

Arron Julian 02:02

I want to welcome everyone. I appreciate everybody's time. And I'm proud to fill this role as the Director for the Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, and contribute to Colorado's practice steps to combat this crisis. I'm equally excited to have all of you join the advisory board. As a member of the Jicarilla Apache Nation with native ties to Colorado. I've dedicated my career and life to families and loved ones who have been victims of crime. My passion is always to help our Native American communities in Colorado and our neighboring states. Together, we can continue to build on the relationships and community agencies and organizations to raise awareness and have successful outcomes.

A

Arron Julian 02:49

Today, our goal is to introduce you to your fellow board members, the history of this office, partner in law enforcement agencies that include the Colorado Bureau of Investigations, and Peace Officer Standards and Training Division. You will also learn roles and responsibilities as a board member. At the end of this meeting, we've dedicated time to introduce yourself and to answer your questions. Now, I'd like to take the time to introduce you to Joe Thome. Joe is the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice. Director Thome will cover the history of the office and the task brought forward through Senate Bill 22-150. And Senate Bill 23-054. Director Thome.

J

Joe Thome 03:34

Thank you. Good morning, everybody. And I appreciate the invitation but mostly appreciate the energy and the interest for everybody that's on this call to join this advisory committee. And spend just a few minutes here kind of giving you a little bit of background to help shape some thoughts hopefully, for how you might be thinking about your role with this board. The state relies very assertively aggressively on advisory committees to ensure that stakeholders voices are heard and whatever it is that we try to facilitate on behalf of those stakeholders. So we think of this as a partnership, the advisory committee that you all are representatives of today, and as Director Julian said, We'll do some introductions before we before we wrap today. And but it's pretty lofty, in terms of what it is and vitally important in terms of what it is that we're trying to all get done as a team. Here with the Bureau of Investigations, the department, our division Director Julian's office, POST Academy, individuals like you as well as other community based indigenous stakeholders and other advocates for fairness and justice.

J

Joe Thome 05:04

**J** Joe Inome 05:04

So why are we here today? I think by now most of you are fairly familiar with the energy that's underway here. But let me remind us of why we're gathered. If you don't mind, why this is so important kind of what drives this vision for us. The legislative declaration for Senate Bill 22-150, which kicked us off last year, one of the first pieces of legislation in the country to put an office together like this reminds us that tragically 61% of American Indian/Alaskan Native women had been assaulted in their lifetimes. Just an incredibly awful statistic. Compared to other races, American Indians and Alaskan Natives are two and a half times more likely to experience violent crimes, and at least two times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes. The numbers are tragic, but they inspire what it is that we're trying to accomplish here. Jurisdictional issues and data sharing barriers between agencies and tribal governments have resulted in confusion and reporting, who's responsible for what frustrated families more than frustrated emotionally harmed families because of the inability to help bring closure or successful conclusion to a missing person case, that sort of thing.

**J** Joe Thome 06:34

The time was overdue to put together an office like this and create a partnership. So that's why we're here today is to rely, to start the work of relying on you all to be our advisory group, in terms of how we do our work. So I'm going to take a minute now, and talk about all the important obligations we have as an office. And a little bit tongue in cheek here, when I say Director Julian is probably going to have apoplexy when he's reminded of how much this two person office has to accomplish right now. But nevertheless, it's everything on this to do list is very important. He's gonna tell you a little bit about where we are, when we get there. But for now, we have a number of obligations that have been assigned to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations and the Division of Criminal Justice where OMMIR sits. And we are going to have we will be sending, keeping you in the loop with the documents that we produce for these meetings. We'll have them on our OMMIR website. And hopefully, there'll be the sorts of things that you can scan to, again, say, How can I be helping with this important effort.

**J** Joe Thome 07:59

So we have some very high level obligations such as facilitating technical assistance, identifying best practices, developing and enhancing partnerships across stakeholders, we have the obligation to coordinate with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. CBI has been a very important partner with that already coordinate with other state and local offices. The POST Academy has already begun, sorry, which you'll hear more about in a couple of minutes Law Enforcement Training Academy under the Department of Law, working with those being certified to be police officers creating a directed culturally appropriate training for those. This is the first time ever, in our state, at this level, developing best practices for data accuracy, you can hear a lot of things in here that are fundamentally important that you think should be a part of our state, indigenous population relationship already, but unfortunately, has not been.

**J** Joe Thome 09:09

In terms of deliverables. And I'm not going to go through everything. Because we'll be here all day. We have to publish a website with a dashboard that displays information regarding missing or murdered indigenous persons. CBI is a significant lead on that you'll learn more

about that. And then we also have to prepare a report to the General Assembly. Our Office of the Liaison for MMIR does December of every year with information regarding missing and murdered indigenous persons and CBI will help with that and we'd be turning to you all for any thoughts you might have on what might be important for a report like that. That's an example of how we might be using you in an advisory capacity, I'm going to let when it gets to a Director Schaefer from CBI talk a little bit more in depth about what it is that they're doing from their responsibilities. But that also includes facilitating the MIPAs and working and training local law enforcement, and basically finding a way to alert the community as to what's going on, around missing cases. That was all through...

**J** Joe Thome 10:01

Oh and I should point out, one of the most fundamental issues was probably most important is act as you know, when I say technical assistance, act like a resource to families, and friends of those who have gone missing, or believed to have been murdered. The complications of moving to government entities, and trying to maneuver the processes to get assistance, especially when the government entities don't necessarily know what their obligations are, is really complicated. And so that's one of the things that the OMMIR can do, is provide directed information and point families and friends in crisis, to the processes that can help them get an investigation underway, and get law enforcement engaged, that sort of thing. It's a system navigation obligation that's never really existed before. There's been no single point of contact. And with over 200 law enforcement agencies in the state, which all have an obligation to assist with this, when they get a contact. They evaluate the scenario determine whether a missing person alert should go out. They remain very unfamiliar with what their obligations are as well. So this system navigator responsibility that Director Julian is already underway with working with CBI and others that you'll meet here in just a minute, is fundamentally a centerpiece of this.

**J** Joe Thome 12:09

Now, we barely got our feet underneath us. Arron joined us in late November, early December. It took a while to get a hiring and then start to get moving. Well, our friends that helped inspired this legislation and sponsor said, You know what, we worked a little fast on putting this Senate Bill 150 together last year, let's take another look and see what else we might be able to do to expand the ability of this Office to help. So what happened was, they provided us through Senate Bill 23-054. And Adrienne, in Arron's office, I think has already provided you with links to those bills, but we'll make sure that that continue to forward them to you.

**J** Joe Thome 13:06

In Senate Bill-054, expanded a little bit in terms of what might have been missing. One of the obligations that rests outside of the OMMIR, but is fundamentally important is that the Colorado District Attorney's Council will be working to provide training to victim advocates that assist those when there's a missing or murdered indigenous relative. Right now those victim advocates aren't that well versed in, in this situation in in the individual cases and how to assist. They do their best based on typical county procedures, that sort of thing. But there's also culturally specific aspects that are important. So there'll be work CDAC was the nickname

is here, the acronym will be working with OMMIR and indigenous led organizations and potentially folks on this call to help advise and inform what that training should look like. We'll be working with the director or his team from the district attorney's council here. Within the next few weeks to get that started. We have to designate an employee to be a liaison with the victim services coordinator, from our staff, and we're expanding our staff to include a social worker and a researcher. Towards those, we may be, I think, just a day or two away from publishing the announcement for at least one of those positions. But that's an individual who can also provide technical assistance to the victim services coordinators in the DA's office so they are not left out there alone and there's another advocate for Victim Services in the OMMIR.

**J** Joe Thome 14:57

We have to conduct, interestingly and importantly, reviews of case investigations. There's, you know, with years of missing cases, that stand out there, there's a natural question of what has quote "the system" done to try and resolve these scenarios? Have they put their best work forward? Well, no one really knows. So we're going to be obligated to do case reviews, and then do summaries of how those cases were resolved, haven't been resolved that sort of thing. And we'll be working again with CDAC. Around how to how to make that happen.

**J** Joe Thome 15:36

And then finally, just as there is and that finally, but finally, for now, just as there's a report for the Office to put out every year, there's always going to be a report for this advisory board to submit to the General Assembly on December by December 31 annually, that summarizes the advisory boards work during the prior year, any recommendations that you might have related to the Office, especially about how to improve any aspect of the offices work, any procedures that might be better implemented, that sort of thing. So again, this is an example of how we are a really a team, we don't see the advisory board or the advisory committee as anything, like a separate entity. But essentially, there's going to be work between these meetings, we're going to be meeting at least quarterly schedule. If it hasn't been published, we'll be coming to you so that you'll see way ahead of time. Oh, thank you.

**J** Joe Thome 16:47

And we see this as an around the clock, I don't mean in a literal sense from a case. But you know, around the year across the year, partnership, and we're we're going to be leaning heavily on this advisory committee. So I just summarized for you in about 10 minutes, what we've been able to figure out in the first year. And with a pretty robust agenda here. I don't see any questions yet in in the chat for us yet. I'm gonna get out of the way. And I am going to turn this back to somebody, but I lost my notes. So oh, Arron, can you go ahead and give us an update on the accomplishments so far? As you all see, we're really kind of running through where we are. And then we want to create a dialogue at the end of this because it's a virtual meeting, we thought it would be a little bit easier to do it that way. So that's why we have the format that we do. Thanks Arron.

**A** Arron Julian 17:49

Thank you, Director Thome. Appreciate all your words. And looking at some of our accomplishments. Our efforts have paid off this year, we've successfully met with Southern Ute, Ute Mountain and fostered a working relationship. Together, we're working together to improve how our Office gets involved sooner when a Native American goes missing on Tribal lands. We've also made contact with Native American grassroots organizations throughout the state of Colorado sharing information and collaborating in an effort to increase awareness. We've also secured relationships with our neighboring states, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Minnesota, Washington, Wyoming and South Dakota. As we continue moving forward, we'll continue working with the state, the Tribes, the city, the county and federal law enforcement agencies to provide up-to-date information about training opportunities, and the latest legislation as referred as it relates to Senate Bill 22- 150.

A

Arron Julian 18:44

Colorado Bureau of Investigations, CBI is one of our many partners law enforcement agencies. They've been working diligently throughout Colorado providing training to tribal and federal partners about this new missing indigenous persons alert, otherwise known as MIPA. On that note, I'd like to introduce you to Chris Schaefer, the newest Director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Chris.

C

Chris Schaefer 19:09

Thanks, Arron. Good morning, everyone. My name is Chris Schaefer. And like Arron said, I'm the Director of CBI. So I'd like to go over with you a little bit about what our job is, our role is in this space. As Arron had just said, we are responsible for the MIPA alerts. And what that entails for us is we are we're actually the only entity who's able, who's allowed to send out what are Amber Alerts right now. And it's the same with the MIPA alerts. The state does that and we are the entity within the state that does release those alerts.

C

Chris Schaefer 19:46

So to date, we have released 19 of them and that is since December 30. What these entail is the local agency that takes the missing persons report has to contact us. They have to put that individual into CCIC, which is the computer basically in Colorado Crime Information, that that puts that in that central repository that shows that this person is missing. So what the local agency does is they have to enter that into CCIC. And then they call us give us the specifics. And we send out that that MIPA alert. Again, there have been 19 to date, all but one of those, or excuse me, two of those have had have had a positive ending and a positive outcome. So we think they're doing some good right now. And we're very much happy to do it. Now as part of that, what we're doing is we're out with a different speaking to the different jurisdictions to make sure they do a couple things. Number one, they have to make sure that they're entering the indigenous people correctly into the system and marking them as indigenous. So we're, we're training them on that teaching them and making sure we're following up on that. In addition, we're letting them know what the the new laws are, because they're new laws, about the time restraints, and of being able to take a missing persons report, and about the

importance of once they get that they have to call us as soon as possible. So we can get that alert out as quickly as possible. Because this, as in any other alert, that we send out time is always of the essence. And so we want to get those alerts out as soon as possible.

**C** Chris Schaefer 21:36

Now, there may be some questions out there about when you know there are times that we will not send out an alert. And an instance of that is someone's been missing for several years. That alert is not necessary. It's not going to do any good. Now, if there is new information about that person who's been missing, we absolutely will issue an alert. And I think there's only been one or two instances in which the timeframe for issuing that alert is just it's too far. Where we kind of, we have to find that balance between you know, the the car alarm theory, right where you hear the car alarms going off all the time, and it does no good. We want to keep these alerts good and valid. So when people see them, they pay attention to him. And we think we've done an excellent job with that so far. And the community has done an excellent job with that so far, but there's more work to be done. And we can do better. We're still trying to work out some of the kinks. We're still meeting with those agencies, again, making sure that they enter people correctly. And then that they call us immediately once they get that person entered so we can get that information out.

**C** Chris Schaefer 22:43

Now we also do have an analyst that is assigned to do MMIR issues there. They are working with Arron and Joe's office, to make sure that they're collaborating when it comes to things such as the dashboard, keeping the statistics, all of those sorts of things. So we have an analyst who does that.

**C** Chris Schaefer 23:08

And then the bill actually wants us to have one agent that specializes in MMIR issues. So we've gone I think many steps past that. And we have numerous agents throughout the state, that are actually trained in MMIR issues, specifically, they've gone to classes in other states. All of our agents get the in-service training that the rest of peace officers are getting in Colorado. And so we don't want to have just that one agent in one particular geographic location. So we're training all of our agents and many of those have been trained already in it. So we are throwing everything we can at this because it is an extremely important issue. And we want to be as good to the community as possible. So we think that's the way to do it is just throw a bunch of agents to these things.

**C** Chris Schaefer 23:57

Like I said, that's kind of our the the main roles that we have right now. But one of the biggest things is the collaboration with Director Thome and Director Julian with their Office. And we do speak pretty much on almost a daily basis. And I think it's working out so far. But again, we have we have strides to make and we know that and we're going to continue to iron out those kinks and make it better. So with that, I'll turn it back to you, Arron. Thank you.

A

Arron Julian 24:22

Thank you, Director. That was awesome. I appreciate working with you and your amazing team. Next I'd like to introduce Jared. He's from the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Division, otherwise known as Colorado POST. Jared, are you on?

J

Jared Torsney 24:38

Yes, thank you, Director Julian. Thank you everyone. If you don't mind, I'm going to share my screen right now. I have a very short presentation just to give you and everyone else a brief overview of POST and what POST has been doing since we began this journey to create curriculum for Academy and in service training. So I appreciate everyone's time. And I thank you for helping out. Wherever you have, especially Director Julian have given me great insight. We had limited time to create the academy curriculum before the post board could vote and approve it. And it is ever changing as Director Schaefer says we're always looking for improvements and additions to the training.

J

Jared Torsney 25:23

As a brief overview, the POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) is within the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Within the Colorado Attorney General's Office, we are under the Criminal Justice section, and POST comprises of about 14 staff members. I've been a training coordinator am one of three training coordinators along with Training Management, which we coordinate all the mandated trainings, ensure compliance of those trainings for in service officers. And I also in charge of marijuana training at the Academy level, we have also grants and compliance. Compliance is in charge of the curriculum...I'm sorry, the lesson plans and POST board SMEs. So we have a POST board who actually approves curriculum and training at the Academy level. And then we have in-service training that the POST staff also creates.

J

Jared Torsney 25:24

So when I was brought to this objective in late September, or early September, sorry, we had a few months to collaborate, coordinate training, and development for the academies by January 1 of this year. We were successful in that in completing a pilot course at the Pueblo Community College.

J

Jared Torsney 26:39

Colorado has one of the most law enforcement academies, that is 33 law enforcement academies. And we'll have a couple more online this year, which is a mix of agency Community College and reserve academies. At the Academy. Through my training and development of the course, I asked the POST board for two hours of training that would be required at all academies in Colorado, which then was approved and has those two hours now embedded in all required trainings. The course delivery system currently is lecture based with student and



instructor guides to assist the instructors. And I continually help the instructors with guidance and improvements that need to be done along with the PowerPoint system. We also asked in the delivery of trying to find the best suitable instructors for this. And that's really what our intention is to find experts, experienced personnel and members of the community that can help instruct this. One of the things we major that we put a point on is that the students will gain a foundation of criminal law and communications. So we want this to be toward the end of the course, because this builds on what they should have learned at the Academy and continues to move forward.

**J** Jared Torsney 28:02

The second part of our training that we created is the in-service training. So we have the academy training, which is a two-hour lecture based with Student Instructor Guide. And then we have a one hour in-service training for all certified peace officers in Colorado. We have over 14,000 certified peace officers that are now mandated to conduct one hour MMIR training. This is a eLearning online course. And it is also available in Student Guide. I had that temporarily made because the online course did take quite some time to develop. So before January 1, I created a student guide with a lecture. However, the eLearning online course now supersedes that, then I can we will share this with at the end. And I'll do my best to find the best way to share the online course it's going to be probably a PDF, so we'll miss some of the features, but it will get the substance.

**J** Jared Torsney 28:55

And of course is designed for best practices critical missing persons requirements and resources really to tag on what Director Schaefer said, we're trying to get officers to understand what needs to be done, how it needs to be done, and how quickly it needs to be done along with the new missing persons rules and timeline. So I have to say, beginning this training, I was completely somewhat lost of what I needed to do and the best information I need to get there. I know what law enforcement officers need to know. But I need to know more of what is actually happening. I reached out to many subject matter experts, many of you in the community, I believe one or two of you are on call now. And I was able to create a baseline of what we want officers either Academy level or in service officers to understand today and what challenges they should recognize. I personally was amazed and starstruck of how little I know about any of this or what I was taught in school. And it's really kind of disheartening once I learned a lot more of what the situation entails and what is going on.

**J** Jared Torsney 30:02

So, working with partners, we created an outline of introduction, giving officers a basic outline of what is happening within the community, the statistics how startling they are and what has been going on. And now it's just receiving some media attention and, and how we can move forward of ongoing challenges and what officers can see. With cultural base awareness. A lot of it goes in depth about history. And I tried to make it as important to communities that have been in this area for 1000s of years to discuss trauma and events that could have historical trauma and just and possible distress, urban rural indigenous populations. I really wanted to tie

in officers from metropolitan area to the northwest Colorado, how impactful and how important is to understand and they might not realize how many how much of a population they have indigenous community.

**J** Jared Torsney 31:03

Within jurisdictional complexities, I worked closely with a lot of the federal state tribal agencies within the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. And then worked with the sheriff's offices down in southwestern Colorado, along with some local agencies here in Denver to help guide me on some of the roles and responsibilities and challenges they face. I put together some guiding principles really using resources already developed through unsolved crimes, or COPS, as they called within the Department of Justice, and trying to re engage with this communication and get everyone on board agency wise. As we move to the investigative process, at the Academy level, we'd like to talk about what roles responsibilities, someone who is a new officer would see what they need to do quickly, and what other agency support they may have. And if you are an in service officer, we wanted to compound that with additional guiding principles and what should be looked out for and what they should be doing. Discuss factors that may not be apparent to an officer of missing and identification, I really wanted to focus on the misidentification process and what to look out for.

**J** Jared Torsney 32:23

You know, in my personal life, my mother was part of the Indian Child Welfare Act. And you know, a lot of times they misidentified her on paperwork, because of her given name now.

**J** Jared Torsney 32:38

Missing persons section. Time is of the essence, as Director Schaefer mentioned, we talked about MIPA, and utilizing other alert programs and database entries such as NamUs, and other really, really good upcoming databases that they should utilize. And then discuss the procedures of who should be doing what and utilizing the supportive community and agency support. You know, if I go on to the MMIR Taskforce Facebook page. I look at it I see the bulletins that they have, and then somewhat, you know, share that with agencies. A lot of the training, which you will see I tried to incorporate Colorado-based issues and missing persons currently, that could also help engage a conversation. And then discuss best practices, I consulted cold case databases that CBI has in crime scene resources, forensic files, which is forensic science, DNA and database entry, and CODIS, which is within the DNA system. So I really wanted to show resources for agencies to us, and that they're not alone, many of these agencies in these communities, one to five officers, or deputies, but they have a sheriff's office, they have CBI, they have grant money that is possible to help them out. And then building relationships with community members and support at the end with providing resources. Again, this is ever building. The more I learned, the more I see the website myself, it is a very good website I've seen and adding those resources that OMMIR has, and then putting that on our website, as well, so that we can kind of overlap and make sure that agencies have everything they need.



**J** Jared Torsney 34:17

But Colorado POST is certainly engaged to help out wherever they can and to develop the training. Thank you.

**A** Arron Julian 34:30

Thank you, Jared. That was amazing. I enjoyed working with you and your group was very insightful, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so. And we'll move forward and we'll give it back to the Director Thome who will provide more information on the duties of the Advisory Board committee.

**J** Joe Thome 34:48

Thanks again. And first of all, Jared, you were I just need to share for the whole group here is he has been a little humble in terms of the energy that he and the shop began to get this put together in a timely way. There was a legislative deadline, and it had to, couldn't produce this document, or the training curriculum until such time as the position was filled over here, and then had to get it to the POST, the POST board for approval to follow their processes. And I think that meant that you spent a few evenings and weekends, getting things done. So your enthusiasm for this is really appreciated, we haven't, we tried to express that to your leadership, I finally get to say it to you directly. So thank you very much.

**J** Jared Torsney 35:44

I appreciate it. Thank you. Well worth it.

**J** Joe Thome 35:46

Yeah, this is important.

**J** Joe Thome 35:48

So folks, this is where we're going to start, we got our business stuff sort of out of the way. If I kind of marching through our marching orders, we want to start to do a little bit of relationship building, here, the role of the board, getting you to share a little bit about your stories and your interests and what it is that you want to accomplish. And we put this at the end, to make sure that we end with that conversation is what we walk away with developing a team here. Rather than, you know, the more perfunctory, let's introduce ourselves, and then just move on to the work of the business, we wanted to tell you where we are, and then use the last part of this meeting to to make this just start building our network here. So in just a minute, I'll kind of go across my screen if that's okay? Arron, or you can whoever we want to do this and ask people to, to share a little bit of a little script for you all. But before that, it's like why am I here? What is this advisory board? This Volunteer Advisory Committee? What's in it for me? Meeting you all? In? First of all, the thanks again, Jared. First of all, hopefully, the what's in it, for me, is

demonstrated through action. And that you are inspiring action, to solve cases and to reduce the number of crimes and missing scenarios that we find in our state and neighboring states. We know that this is a jurisdictional issue that doesn't stop at any about any borders, which is one of the reasons that Arron is working in partnership across many states. So hopefully, you'll be able to see as, as these meetings move on, as our products start to get created, that you are contributing to something profound, you'll be able to, you know, even if we find only one case, which isn't. I don't mean to under underperform in any way. But every single life that is improved because of this, you'll be able to see a little bit of your handiwork in this as we move forward. So that's a little bit of the of why we're saying thank you so fundamentally, profoundly for you joining me today. Secondly, what was really fascinating to me, as this board was designed in legislation, as the as the diversity of it, and the ownership from the native and indigenous stakeholders, the in that way the legislature and and you all that participated in helping create that legislation. Those of you that did those that supported it, definitely got it right. This is not going to be an overly prescribed law enforcement sort of a board but instead is going to be an entity that, again, is informed by those that have lived these tragedies, these complications. And we'll be following that path. So there's a big Advisory Committee. And as I mentioned at the beginning, it's not a there's different sorts of boards and advisory committees and in state and county governments. In fact, our division has as many of them as we run different sorts of grant programs here and have different regulatory obligations. This one we're is a is less I want to say bureaucratic, and more to help us understand the direction we need to be going. You'll be informing our policies of practices in the context of weather We are developing strategies that we might want to take another look at in terms of how we do it, giving us feedback as we put our reports together, that sort of thing. To be clear, the office is responsible for these deliverables. So that's where the, you know, the buck stops with, with the OMMIR, with the state agencies with the CBI in terms of accountability. But you all will be, again, helping us with feedback on what those deliverables those products, those processes look like. As we start to get, as we start moving, I can see an example might be that we have to do these case reviews, I mentioned them briefly at the beginning. And we'll be hiring more staff thanks to the General Assembly to get those done. We might not necessarily be able to fully understand some of the findings from those, we would like to be able to take those to this group and say, help us interpret what we've learned here to ensure that the next group, the public, the legislature, the governor's office, kind of Governor's office, all those all those partners are getting the full picture. So that's you know, that's an example. And you'll see examples for you where you want to raise your hands and step in and help us with these sorts of things as well. So as you take a look at the statute, again, if you can't sleep some night, pull it out and read it. And might might rest your mind a little bit you'll fall asleep, because statutes always boring. But nevertheless, take a look at it. And when we convene again, in a you know, in August is when our next meeting is going to be you'll probably have and will have a better vision in terms of how we want to work, work together. So that's, that's what we see the role of the advisory board will evolve over time. We will also be, like I said, using you to in between those meetings, if you have some advice for us to give Arron a call or or the CBI, excuse me, my office in the division, do some outreach to say, well, here's what we're seeing some gaps, you become sort of the liaison between this issue and the state government in a way that we're really going to have to rely on you. So I am, we're giving you permission to be as thoughtfully reaching out as you as you ever need to. And we're going to be doing, we'll even be using some of you to advise what these meetings look like. As we prepare them what the agenda items are going to be, we'll have sort of a a under no a lead for for you all that sort of represents these discussions, maybe a couple of executive members, something like that. We haven't created any of our regulatory or bureaucratic sort of structure yet, we wanted to wait until we ensured that we had the committee fully, fully seated before we did that, so that everybody has an opportunity to join. And we we have quite a few that weren't able to make it today. So because

this is sort of an orientation, really didn't want to be in the business of making too many decisions or structure strategy, structured ideas until so we have a fuller house. So that being said, let's get a little more informal, if you don't mind. And, Arron, I don't know if you want to go around the screen and invite people to give their names, their affiliations, who they're with, and then most importantly, what they what they want to accomplish or what questions they might have for us. That way we can we can spend the next, you know, as much time as it takes. So our German time comes at about noon, being more conversational. Do you want to go ahead and leave that for us?

A

Arron Julian 44:15

Sure. That'd be great. If everybody gives an opportunity to give their introduction and who you represent, and we look forward to hearing how we're going to be working together as an advisory group. On my screen I chose we'll start with Debbie Oldenettel.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 44:39

Thanks, Arron. So good morning everyone. My name is Debbie Oldenettel and I am the Deputy Director within the Division of Criminal Justice. So I am honored and excited to be part of this work. And working with Director Julian and CBI over the last few months and getting the office setup has been cool. It experience and I look forward to continuing to work. On a personal note, I just have to share that in the beginning of my career, when I worked. In another capacity, I had the opportunity to work with Fort Belknap Indian community in Montana. And it was such an eye opening experience for me, Jared, your comments about how much you're learning through this process, I echo that sentiment, and was lucky to have that opportunity to learn a great deal about different Native American communities and cultural aspects of it. So while that was long ago, and I know I learned about this much relative to everything there is I look forward to learning even more through this process, and having all of you help educate us as we work through this. So thank you for the opportunity. I look forward to hopefully meeting you all in person and our ongoing work together.

A

Arron Julian 46:07

Thank you, Debbie. Next on my screen, I have Jared, I know we hear from you. But do you want to do a brief introduction?

J

Jared Torsney 46:15

Yeah, Jared Torsney, Peace Officer Standards and Training. As mentioned, I've been with POST for about five over five years from Colorado, originally spent years in law enforcement federally, and in the military. And I look forward to working collaborating and learning a lot of this information, I had a few discussions with a few support members. And it truly is something that needs a lot more education around the state. So thank you.

A

Arron Julian 46:49

Arron Julian 46:10

Thank you, sir. And next on my screen would be Director Schaefer.

C

Chris Schaefer 46:56

I again, Chris Schaefer, I'm Director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, I've been with Colorado Department of Public Safety for my entire career, which is coming up on 29 years. And I'm going to echo what Debbie said that, you know, I know about this much. And I'm learning more and more every day and being a police officer for that long. I'm going to tell you, every other police officer knows about this much. So I think this is just a such an eye opening experience for the entire law enforcement community. And I really think some excellent and very, very positive things are going to come out of this. So I'm honored to meet you all. Thank you.

A

Arron Julian 47:33

And next on my screen, I have Director Thome one more time if you want to informally introduce yourself.

J

Joe Thome 47:43

sure everybody's getting sick of listening to me. But nevertheless, I'm Joe Thome, the Director over here at the Division of Criminal Justice, and you're gonna hear the same from I think anybody, everybody on the state side of things, this is both an honor and somewhat intimidating. The obligation is, this is so high and profound. We don't want to let anybody down. And that's why we're so honored to be that entity that is was was chosen to work with the community to make this happen. So I also very much in the learning stage, and always will be. So thank you for your patience with me, and for us. And looking forward to knowing that we have somehow supported the interests of the folks that you all represent. So thanks, Arron. Thank you everybody.

A

Arron Julian 48:46

And actually see is Christinia. Christinia, how are you?

C

Christinia Eala 48:55

Thank you Fort Collins. Yeah, it's Christinia. My name is Christinia Eala. I'm Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud Reservation St. Francis community. I've been in Colorado now for about 50 years. And I have a huge interest as a Native American woman in issues that you're all talking about. And I have felt the frustration of the indigenous people. And you know, and I've been following it for so many years. And it seems like it's so good to hear you all because it's like we spent so many years waiting for, for agencies like the conglomerate that you're putting together Arron, to help us you know, and to show the concern that you all are showing. So I'm really proud and happy to be sitting on the advisory committee and I'll be keeping an eye on you guys.

**A** Arron Julian 49:50  
Thank you. I appreciate I love coming up to Fort Collins and the hospitality you guys provide. I appreciate it.

**C** Christinia Eala 49:57  
We love having you here on To relate to.

**A** Arron Julian 50:02  
Next I have on my screen is our new public information officer Paula.

**P** Paula Vargas 50:10  
Hi, my name is Paula Vargas, I just joined DCJ. And I'm looking forward to working with everyone and being able to put your narrative out there, and the importance of this work that all of you are doing.

**A** Arron Julian 50:22  
Thank you. Thank you very much. On my list. I have someone on the call from area code 405.

**A** Arron Julian 50:41  
Okay, we'll move right along. Next on my list is Brett Williams.

**B** Brett Williams 50:49  
Yeah, afternoon, everybody. Brett Williams, I'm a major with the Colorado State Patrol. And in the southwest region for the state of Colorado. I'm actually privileged to have two of the Native American tribes here within my district, the Ute Mountain Ute and the Southern Ute tribe. But we also serve a large population of a Navajo Nation, right below us in New Mexico that comes up here and we interact with them quite regularly. I'm also honored to be working currently with BIA with the Ute Mountain Ute in a partnership agreement for law enforcement services on how we can benefit them. We're working through that with the federal folks and all the legal matters that go with that. That is a substantial step. So when I was approached, to be considered for part of this advisory board, it was a significant honor to be reached out to be a part of this, and work literally face to face and a hand in hand with the folks that we're working with now, and having a direct positive interaction with these native communities.



A

Arron Julian 51:49

Thank you, Brett. We're anxious and excited to have you on board.

A

Arron Julian 51:54

Carla.

K

Koralene Tapoof 52:05

Koralene

A

Arron Julian 52:06

oh, yeah, Koralene we can do you. Okay.

K

Koralene Tapoof 52:10

All right. It just says you on there. So I didn't know if you were talking with me specifically. Okay, my name is Koralene Tapoof. I am from the Uintah and Ouray Indian Agency. I currently work at the Ute tribes, ambulance services. Our tribal membership is like roughly 3,000. Just recently, my ex husband went missing. And we buried him in March. He went missing in January, his body was in the LA morgue. So I kind of, you know, I kind of have a history of what people are going through. And so it's it's kind of like you want to help out, because I didn't realize and didn't think that something like this would ever happen in my family. And so I feel that it would i It's an honor to be on a board like this, to try to help out other Indian tribes, at least to share, you know, with what they've gone through that and so but I also have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. I also did research for fracking, with my professor from Logan with the State University. And so it's kind of like, I kind of am fitting in now with what my background is and what I went to college for. So I'm I'm looking forward. I'm not really too sure if the other women or ladies that were also appointed from our agency are going to be able to participate today. I tried to reach out to some of them but I wasn't really too sure who exactly I would be getting in contact with and so I think with the other women and I feel I feel that each one of them will have a story and a connection to try to help out. You know, the the Indian people on different reservations. So, but thank you.

A

Arron Julian 54:20

No, thank you and sorry for your loss. Okay, we look forward to hearing more from you. Thank you. Carla Respects Nothing. Are you?

C

Carla Respects Nothing 54:38

Thank you for allowing me to be here in your space. Good to see you again. I'm honored to be a part of this circle. I'm Oqlala Lakota Sioux from Pine Ridge Reservation. I've lived in the Metro



Denver area for about 35 years and I am coming I'm part of the Native American Housing circle and the Front Range in Denver Metro area, as a consultant and co founder. Also previous, my previous work had been outreach case coordinator for the City and County of Denver. And just the Native American organizations in general, here in the metro area. I also have extensive training in outreach collaborated with the Denver Police Department as being on the on the ground grassroots outreach, looking for people, helping people. I'm also a certified recovery coach counselor. So yeah, just wanted to share that piece. And that's where our goal is to right now is to help in addictions as well. Thank you.

A

Arron Julian 55:57

Thank you, Carla. It's always a pleasure working with you. Appreciate it. Um, next for introduction would be Chris, from my, from our office, Chris.

C

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky 56:12

Thank you, Director Julian, I appreciate you allowing me to introduce myself. My name is Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky. And Director Julian, I noticed you didn't try to pronounce the last name. It is of course, the common spelling of Lobanov-Rostovsky. So I'm not sure why you hesitated there. But in all seriousness, it is a pleasure to be here. I am the manager of the Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management. And so we oversee the state level programming to deal with those who commit sexual offenses as well as those who commit domestic violence offenses as well. I am an employee of the Division of Criminal Justice and work with a number of the state employees that you've heard here today. I am not an advisory board member, but I am here because of my interest and my passion in this issue. My background is that I'm a licensed clinical social worker, and I provided direct service care for many, many years to those who had experienced trauma as well as those who have perpetrated trauma. I in my state work, I have also had the opportunity to work with the Ute Mountain Ute tribe and the Southern Ute tribe on the implementation of the Adam Walsh Act, sexual offender registration and notification act SORNA. And so I've had some experience in working in our tribal communities here in this state and collaborating with them. And finally, about myself, for the last 13 years. I also do private consulting work, working in tribal communities. So I have traveled and been to dozens of tribal communities around the country, having the opportunity to go in and learn about those communities, and to offer any support and assistance I can related to dealing with issues of prevention and intervention related to interpersonal violence. And I will try to attend these meetings as much as I can, and be a resource to anybody that I can, please feel free to reach out to me if it if I can ever assist anyone in any way. And it's a privilege to be here. And I'm very excited about the work of this committee. Thank you so much. Back to you, Director, Julian.

A

Arron Julian 58:19

Thank you, Chris. I appreciate all your insight, and I look forward to getting more information from you. I appreciate it. Next, I have Chris Mimmack.

C

Chris Mimmack 58:28

Chris Mimmack 59:20

Yes, good morning. Chris Mimmack, I am the Director of the Department of Justice and Regulatory for the Southern Ute tribe. I've got law enforcement 31 years of background, all here in La Plata county where the Southern Ute reservation primarily resides. I oversee the Southern Ute Police Department, the other law enforcement agencies for the tribe as well. And so it's a it's a pleasure to be invited to be a part of this advisory group. And I look forward to working with you all. Thank you.

A

Arron Julian 59:08

Thank you, Chris. We will also look forward to it. Nancy from Herbal Gardens.

N

Nancy Rae Medina Kochis 59:14

[Indigenous language] Good to see you cousin Arron. Also very good to see the rest of the others who are here on the call with us from all over the state. My name is Nancy Rae Medina Kochis. I am of Aboriginal ancestry of the Apache people meaning that my bloodlines go back to the white shell people of Mount Blanca and the Apishapa river people. My mitochondria has never been separated from my homeland. And I'm very humbled to be here and a state to state relationship within this advisory committee and within this meeting. My background is the medical clinician and as a nurse, I primarily work with Native organizations and our tribally enrolled citizens across the state of Colorado and throughout our traditional Athabaskan territory, informally, I have participated in several different relocations of missing and murdered indigenous relatives, within private tribal community members and having those conversations with them. So I do look forward very much to having their voices heard. As our elders spoke earlier, from Fort Collins, I also very much respect that all of us here have had at least one family member or been impacted by a community member that has gone missing. That has impacted us both as a community and spiritually in what we know and understand historically, has occurred here in the last 142 years of the American occupancy. I primarily work in pediatrics and elder health. We link tribal communities, to rural communities and rural communities, to the urban communities, whether it's in health care or finding resources that they need to be heard. I am a also a founding board member with Carla Respects Nothing of the Native American Housing circle, and have worked in homelessness directly with Carla as well as other emergency situations that we hear about in community. Very happy also to see Lydia Lerma. Joining us, we also work have worked really well together throughout the state. Again, informally during this process. I'm also happy to see DIHFS and Phil Gover joining us. These are all very knowledgeable, good community members. And you'll notice that I'm not looking directly into the camera or at you. This is out of respect of my culture. But I do want to say as we get to know each other, and as we get to understand the seriousness of what's being undertaken, that I am very much willing to serve as an advisor to you individually, within your roles. I also wanted to thank Director Thome, for his sincerity, it is not an easy position to be in, when you learn about these things. I also want to acknowledge the CBI and Director Schaefer. And thank you both. I know that there have been some hiccups in the beginning of this process, there will always be things that we all have to learn together. And it is very much in our interest to bring our people home, whether that means acknowledging the burial trees of our ancestors that are here throughout the state, or bringing somebody home that that just needs to be sheltered, loved, whether they breathe or not. We want to we want our people home. So I again, thank you very much humbly for listening to me. And as always Director Julian an honor

to be of service and it's good to ride together again as our mitochondria has never left and our grandfathers over to Washington and everywhere together. So humbled to be of service to you directly, sir.

A Arron Julian 1:03:15

[Indigenous language] Nancy, really appreciate it. Thank you very much. Moving on is Jason Jones.

A Arron Julian 1:03:29

Jason Jones.

D Debra Jones 1:03:36

Hi, this is Debra Jones, honor to serve on this board. I think it's a long time coming. I am from the Northern Ute Reservation. The Uintah and Ouray reservation. I am currently the housing program director. And I feel that it's an honor and excuse me, the advisory committee it's it's an honor to serve because this kind of hits close to home also. And I just want to bring awareness to my tribe. I'm sorry, kind of emotional right now. Just thinking about all the missing and murdered people out there. Not just on my reservation, but everywhere and I hope we can make a difference. [long pause]

C Carla Respects Nothing 1:04:35

Sorry.

A Arron Julian 1:04:37

No, no, go ahead [long pause].

D Debra Jones 1:04:55

Yeah, I think it's going to be an honor to serve here. Like I said, there's a lot of missing and murdered people everywhere. And I just hope we can make a difference and bring our family members home.

A Arron Julian 1:05:13

Yes, I'm sorry. I couldn't agree more. I was very emotional and I feel the same way and we're doing everything we can to make a difference. And I appreciate and I look forward to serving with you on this advisory board.

D

Debra Jones 1:05:28

Thank you.

A

Arron Julian 1:05:29

Thank you. Next I have Jenifer Lewis.

J

Jenifer Lewis 1:05:37

Thank you, good morning and [Indigenous language]. I am grateful that you all are well [Indigenous language]. My name is Jenifer Lewis. I'm a Seneca and Mohawk member of the Six Nations Haudenosaunee. From Western New York, I grew up on a Cattaraugus Indian Reservation. And I've been in Colorado for about Gosh, 20 years now. I am the interagency tribal liaison for the Colorado commission of Indian Affairs. For those of you who aren't aware, the CCIA serves as the official liaison between the state of Colorado and the two federally recognized tribes in Colorado, the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute. As well as supporting our American Indian Alaskan Native communities throughout the state. Denver being an Indian relocation city has a huge, diverse, vast American Indian and Alaska Native community. And that expands throughout the entire state. So I am so excited to see this group come together this advisory board come together, I know that it has been a long time in the making. And like Director Thome was saying, it's just very important to get the input from this group to to hear the voices of the communities and the tribes that are all impacted. I think that in state bureaucracy, there can often be this tendency to want to come in and swoop in on that white horse and say I know exactly what you need and how to fix it. And I don't think that that is possible without the input of of everybody on this call. And you know, many of those that couldn't join us today. So I'm really thankful to see this come together. As the interagency tribal liaison, it's my responsibility to see how the various state agencies are coming together to support the various needs of the tribes and AIA and communities. So I'm looking forward to hearing a lot about what those needs are to see how I can support that and how I can support this group. So I'm very much looking forward to these conversations and, and just seeing this come together. So and I want to, I want to thank to Director Julian for for putting this together. And I know that you've been doing a lot of the outreach to the communities to the, to the state agencies and doing those tours. So I really appreciate that. So thank you.

A

Arron Julian 1:08:05

Thank you, Jenifer, thank you for those kind words. And also I enjoy working with you and your office and look forward to next week's meeting. Thank you. Kirby Lewis, next on my list.

K

Kirby Lewis 1:08:20

Good morning, all, my name is Kirby Lewis. I'm an Assistant Director with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, stationed here in Denver. But kind of my tie. My interest in this advisory board is my time working in Durango. I've worked a number of homicides involving indigenous folks

and seeing the impact that it has on the community as well as the individuals. And I've also worked for a number of years in our missing persons in our Alert program, and again, recognize the impact that has on people seeking answers. And so I hope to be a part of finding those answers and being a resource to community members that are struggling with that. On a personal note. My son was shot in Tulsa, Oklahoma, his freshman year of college, and that case is never resolved. So I have a personal personal feelings towards working with families and those that have suffered loss or suffered trauma and getting answers from a law enforcement perspective and resolving those cases. So I'm honored to be here and thank you so much for the time.

A Arron Julian 1:09:45

Kirby, it's also a pleasure working with you and sorry for your loss and we recognize that and we appreciate all everything you've been doing to help my office and our collaboration together is just been great.

K Kirby Lewis 1:09:58

Thanks sir.

A Arron Julian 1:09:59

Thank you

A Arron Julian 1:10:02

LaRenda Morgan

L LaRenda Morgan 1:10:07

Okay. Hi, my name is LaRenda Morgan and I am the Governmental Affairs Officer for the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes. And this is Raven Morgan and she is an education counselor here for the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes. We also serve in dual roles as we are both officers for the Cheyenne Arapaho missing and murdered indigenous peoples chapter. Um, a little background on we are from Oklahoma, although Colorado is our ancestral lands for our tribe. So we have a lot of tribal members that are in Colorado and we we, you know, have a presence there within the state. A little background on what we have done for missing and murdered indigenous peoples epidemic here in Oklahoma. One of our tribal members had gone missing in 2015. Her name was Ida Beard. She's my first cousin and Raven's auntie, we like most cases, the law enforcement didn't really act in a timely manner. And they, you know, the case just dragged along. So I had reached out to our state representative. And we actually ended up doing some legislation here in Oklahoma, similar to the bill that you have, have just passed. Ours was called Ida's Law. We passed that in 2021. It took us a few years, we had a lot of difficulty. Back in 2019, just getting the Oklahoma legislature to understand what this crisis was. So we had we had a tough time getting it, but it finally got passed. We have Missing and Murdered Liaison

Office within the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. And that person, the agent OSBI agents currently working to do some of the similar things that that your state is also working towards. So we have a passion also for helping, you know, in this area, because, you know, not only for our tribal members interest, but for native people in Indian Country. Across the board. We know, you know, as we've heard from one of the other ladies, Miss Jones, you know, the heartache, we know that very well. We know the grief and the sorrow that comes along with, you know, being a family member and being a fellow tribal citizen. And so we felt that it was a good opportunity for us here at the Cheyenne Arapaho tribes to participate along with your advisory council. And we're just so honored that we're able to be here with you. I know we have some other tribal members as well as our governor who has a great interest. He's been a great advocate. And, you know, we just want to help provide the support that you all need and in anything that we can do to contribute. We're here for you. So thank you.

A

Arron Julian 1:13:38

Thank you very much. Appreciate it. We look forward to working with you as well. And actually, I have Lydia Lerma.

L

Lydia Lerma 1:13:52

Hello, thank you. I apologize. I've had some network issues, and I got kicked off and jump back on but my background so I operate a small nonprofit organization that advocates for survivors of sexual abuse and their families. And through that work, I've been pulled into the missing and murdered indigenous relatives cases, specifically out of Montana and Washington State and a few other states. And through that work, I actually attended a training through the public agency Training Council, which actually serves law enforcement mostly but they made an exception and allowed me to attend their death and homicide training or death and homicide investigations training. So with that, I often tell people that I see myself as a liaison between the families and law enforcement because I know what questions to ask. I know how law enforcement works in a way that I've been impacted with my own family. I do have a distant relative who was found murdered in 1981. And her case has been unsolved all of these years later. So I'm very honored to be on this advisory committee. I think we're going to do some great work. And I'm glad that awareness is being raised not only in the state of Colorado, but throughout the nation. We have Operation Lady Justice now. We have some very high level law enforcement involvement. And that is a step in the right direction. So thank you for inviting me to join the committee and I look forward to the work that we we have to do.

A

Arron Julian 1:15:46

Lydia I thank you very much. Oh, it's always a pleasure. And I'm excited. I'm I enjoy going to Fort Collins because your hospitality is just amazing. Thank you.

L

Lydia Lerma 1:15:55

Thank you.

A Arron Julian 1:15:57  
And next on my list, I have Melissa.

M Melissa McGaw 1:16:03  
Hello

M Melissa McGaw 1:16:04  
My name is Melissa McGaw. I'm the missing and murdered indigenous relatives and missing person analyst here at CBI. I'm also on our alert team that issues the MIPA alerts. I've been learning a lot through this process through this new position as well through the new legislation. Um, a little bit of my background, I'm originally from New Mexico. My mom is from Nambe. And she grew up alongside the Nambe Pueblo. So I kind of I hold MMIR movement close to my heart. And yeah, I have my family has an extended history with Navajo Nation and everything in New Mexico. So this is something that I'm very much looking forward to being a part of. Thank you.

A Arron Julian 1:16:53  
Thank you, Melissa. It's always a pleasure working with you and go New Mexico.

M Melissa McGaw 1:16:56  
Yeah.

A Arron Julian 1:16:58  
Next on our list is Meskee. Meskee.

M Meskee Yatsayte 1:17:10  
Hello,

A Arron Julian 1:17:11  
Hello.

M Meskee Yatsayte 1:17:12  
...

Hi, everyone. [Indigenous language] Meskee Tsoataddle-Yatsayte. [Indigenous language]. Hello, everyone. My name is Meskee Tsoataddle-Yatsayte. I'm originally from Oklahoma to live here in New Mexico. I'm the founder of Navajo Nation Missing Persons Update, also a co founder of missing and murdered and have relatives, member of the New Mexico MMIRW Task Force, also a board member on MMIW USA. And I'm a victim witness advocate here for a couple of years. So I do wear a lot of hats. And it's nice to be here. I do have a lot of questions. And I know I don't want to take up everybody's time. But here's one thing I really wanted to ask because I really haven't seen it. It's on this advisory board. Do we have anybody to represent our in our LGBTQ Two Spirit relatives? If not, we're going to need one because that will become an issue. And we do need a representative for relatives out there. And And the other question, I'm sorry, I'm also a mom and I do have several missing and murdered relatives. Just recently, two months ago, I lost my nephew to one of those fraudulent treatment centers that is happening out in Arizona. So I hope that's another thing that we're gonna be focusing on. And the other question I had was, do you guys let the families know about the purging of our missing persons in the system? Yeah, that's something that we really need to jump on and explain that to our relatives out there. The families need to know about the purging in the system. And that was that information was given to me by FBI. So that was one thing I actually wanted to touch base on. But other than that, I have more questions. We'll all put it in the chat. Thank you for having me on this advisory board, and I look forward to making a difference with all of you.

A

Arron Julian 1:19:26

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to working with you as well. Appreciate it.  
Natalie,

J

Joe Thome 1:19:34

Arron, do you mind if I clarify I'm sorry. Sorry to jump in front of folks. Meskee makes really important points. Thank you for bringing those up right at the beginning. The Advisory Committee is established by statute, but you're making a really important point about the specific advocacy around the LGBTQ situation. So I think we're gonna put our noggins together and put some energy around that. And maybe there's nothing worse than somebody making a recommendation and then being turned to to solve the issue. But we might learn lean back to you, if you have some thoughts about are other members of the advisory committee. So we've taken the statute is written a little clumsily in terms of what the advisory committee looks like. So I think that we have some ability to, to make sure that we're accommodating that scenario. And don't want to leave the question on purging on quite unanswered and then we we spoke a little bit of timeline. I don't know whether that would be. I don't want to put anybody else on the spot. But I'm not the SME on that one. So somebody that could respond to Meskee's. Question on that. Will that take a little more follow up? Major Williams. Hi.

B

Brett Williams 1:21:11

Hey, just an input on that question. So I represented the LGBT, Two Spirit community with the CDPS EDI Council as a founding member. So if I can assist in any way and have input as part of this group, I will be more than happy to provide that.



**J** Joe Thome 1:21:29

That's wonderful. Thank you know, the burden shouldn't lay on one person either, right? It should be an obligation of all of us. So we will put our nuggets together with you as a resource as well. Thank you. And and on the purchasing question. Not seeing anybody that can quite lean in on that yet, but now that it's in front of us, we dispense with energy. And both learn more and, and be responsive to what it is that you're the underlying premises that you're presenting. Meskee So I'm sorry, we're short on an answer on that, but we will do our work to give you a response.

**M** Meskee Yatsayte 1:22:13

Okay, thank you, I appreciate that. Because that will become another issue to a lot of folks who are not aware about the purging and the LE that's the one that's making the report doesn't keep an update on these, they eventually get purged out of the system.

**J** Joe Thome 1:22:29

Essentially, I know that we have been, as we're creating our dashboards, we're looking for ways to ensure that there is a archive because that parts things further, but you're kind of balancing the process to keep these concerns alive for any individual, we need to figure out how to make that happen. So thank you for bringing that forward too.

**A** Arron Julian 1:22:56

Sorry, sorry. To answer your question. But yes, thank you, we do work with a lot of pride organizations here in the Denver area, they reach out to our office, when we have missing people go go missing, and they're a great resource. And as Director Thome said, by legislation were, were prescribed what these positions will be, but it's something different, we need to also look into as well. But I said it's an issue that that we're aware of, but I said I we do have a lot of support within the Denver community area. And they do reach out to our office on a routine basis. And we do you have direct communications. Thank you. Next on my list is Natalie.

**N** Natalie Bullion 1:23:46

Hi [Indigenous language] Hi, my name is Natalie, I'm Chickasaw descendant I live on my ancestral homeland. And I'm here representing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA as our executive director. I just want to say thank you so much to everyone who's here putting in the hard work. I see some faces that I'm familiar with, of course, Meskee, who serves on our board of directors as well, and several others. And I just want to let you all know, I appreciate the work you're all doing. I've been doing advocacy work, so to speak with MMIW USA since 2017. So it has been a long time. And over the years I've seen the impact and also personally experienced it because of losses in my own family and friends, people that I was very close to including Two Spirit relatives who've been affected by this issue. And so I also know the sorrow and suffering and emotion that comes with doing this work, the weights that you carry after so long, remembering so many cases, and you know, wondering what could've been out, as far as

you know, outcomes for cases go, working with these families outcomes for families, and you know how they're impacted by this issue. So, to have this board set up to have this committee setup, I definitely see so much opportunity to serve in so many ways. And I'm honored and deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve here. And I am so inspired as well, because I do do this work every day. And I have had the pleasure of working with the MMIR Task Force, you know, through the CBI here in Colorado, and then, you know, other local organizations on the ground as well. And I see you all doing our work and making a difference. And I just want to deeply express that appreciation. As far as my background, I became Executive Director last year in October with the loss of our founder, Deborah Maytubee Denton. And before that, I was pretty much in charge of our data project, as well as doing hands on advocacy. So a lot of my background is in working with data, utilizing data as a tool to see how we can better improve our services as an organization. And that's something that I would love to help bring to the table, as far as, you know, using the data that comes from, you know, our research and time with this committee, to figure out what we can do to continually improve what we're doing. So thank you very much for this opportunity to serve again. And I want to say thank you to our elder who prayed at the beginning of this, although I know she's no longer here in this group. And just everyone who has shared their personal stories and had the strength to do that. I know that it's not easy, especially in a group full of strangers in a virtual space to be vulnerable in that way. But this is an issue where being vulnerable and being honest about what people are going through and listening with a whole open heart is going to be part of what makes a difference. Thank you very much [Indigenous language].

A

Arron Julian 1:27:53

Thank you Natalie. I thank you for all your kind words. And we recognize that this is a virtual space. At some point, I would like to have more in person meetings. And we'll be looking to that in the future. But I appreciate Natalie it's always a pleasure working with you as well. Next is Phillip Gover

P

Phillip Gover 1:28:23

Good afternoon or morning, everyone. I'm Phillip Gover. I'm Pawnee and Choctaw. I'm originally from Oklahoma. And I also have lost relatives to domestic violence. Much when I was a little bit when I was younger. But but that doesn't mean if you don't come from any community, you're touched by these issues. There isn't anyone I think from a native community who hasn't had at least a loss and know and then notice within the community that loss even if you've been away and come back home. And so this is very important. I currently work for the Colorado Department of Human Services. And just want to notice there's a number of people I have met and know and a number I haven't met them and I'm grateful to be a part of this and honored. And one little bit more of my background is I did work as a defense advocate for the Salt River Indian Community. So I do have a background in in the law and in the criminal justice system as they applied state law within their their tribe. Just want to say thank you again for being allowed to be a part of this and it'd be good to get to work with everyone.

A

Arron Julian 1:29:40

Thank you Phillip. It will be a pleasure working with you as well. That's pretty awesome. Next I have is Rosie Small

A Arron Julian 1:30:01  
Rosie

A Arron Julian 1:30:15  
I'm sorry, Rosie, I can't We can't hear you

R Rosie Small 1:30:28  
Here okay. Can you hear me now? Yes. All right. Cool. Thank you. Hello my name is Rosie. I'm from Denver Indian Health and Family Services. We are kind of the only clinic here for indigenous populations native populations here in Denver. I am a behavioural health therapist here. My background kind of just goes along with how I wanted to get into this field was addressing forms of abuse and trauma work. And so, that was kind of the foundation and now it's really growing. Just providing space and confidentiality and also just the space over in general of hearing people losing family, relatives with murdered even and all that. Its really needed for that. It's been happening for a long time and so it's just a work in progress for sure. We are just touching the tip of the iceberg I feel like right now. There services here with my line of work is just trauma based and stuff. So how others have said we try to provide alot of resources for indigenous populations. So if you do need any help or support we're always welcome. I can provide information late on and thngs like that. I'm really appreciative here and really glad to be on board here. One of the things too is the victim advocacy has been my side, my side gig sort of thing. So, that one I feel like that would be a nice thing to hear and collaborate with other Victim Advocates. At the present time for those who are experiencing missing and murdered and things like that. Definitely have that help or that person to be by them sort of thing. I feel like that's needed. Long time ago some people have gone through court cases alone or all that stuff. So that would be really nice to designate some people or know where those resource are to send them. Cause counselor you got limitations, you can't go to their house or go to hospital with them. I like the victim advocacy and mayb there can be a role for that going forward.

A Arron Julian 1:30:28  
There we go.

A Arron Julian 1:33:28  
That's correct. Rosie, appreciate that. I know. In our second legislation, there is a position for advocacy work, and we're looking at working on the job description for that. Thank you. Next on my list is Rowena Reed.

R Rosie Small 1:33:40

**R** Rowena Keed 1:33:46

Hello, I'm Rowena Reed I'm from Ute Indian Tribe here in Utah. And I'm just honored to be on this advisory council advisory board to kind of advocate for my niece and other family that have been murdered or missing. Yeah, I just came as a community member, but I'm serving as Ute language assistant. And I'm also a Ute language teacher. Thank you.

**A** Arron Julian 1:34:28

Thank you. We appreciate your, your help and anything you can do to help us that'll be great.

**A** Arron Julian 1:34:38

Anybody else that I missed? I'd also like to introduce Adrienne Perkins. She's the newest member of the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. She's our new admin assistant, who will be helping me as as I will no longer be a one man department. I have two people. Adrienne

**A** Adrienne Perkins 1:34:59

Hi, I'm Adrienne Perkins. I'm the new administrative assistant to Director Julian, I started on June 5, so you've probably been getting a lot of emails and things from me. And I promise to be open to communication and available at any time, if you need to reach out to me, I'm happy to send you the meeting materials, or any information that I'm able to provide to you. Please feel free to reach out.

**A** Arron Julian 1:35:37

Thank you, everyone. I think we've think I made it through all the list, I don't know. If there's anybody else that hasn't introduced themselves. We are online, please do so.

**A** Arron Julian 1:35:54

I think I got everybody. So moving forward, we're gonna have our next our next meeting in August, I will be in touch with everybody. And we'll discuss more issues for the next agenda. And I look forward to your your insight. And anybody have any questions?

**J** Joe Thome 1:36:13

Don't forget to keep your extra questions rolling. I know you didn't want to hog our agenda, but appreciate what everybody's bringing forward. And stepping in front. Again, I apologize. I just, I know we're getting ready to wrap up. This is been so inspiring the, the thoughtfulness of the vulnerability as it was described the openness. Hope I'm not being naive or Pollyanna, but this is very hopeful. You all are with your your energy are incredibly inspiring. So feeling a little bit better today. Appreciate you all.

A Arron Julian 1:37:03  
Thank you.

A Arron Julian 1:37:04  
Natalie.

N Natalie Bullion 1:37:06  
Hi. So I'm definitely I'm super interested in contributing MMIW USA's resources for the reports, case reviews and everything. And I guess my very open ended what my question is like, is there a plan for how the committee plans to go about organizing those reports yet? Or is it up in the air?

J Joe Thome 1:37:41  
Well, the way it normally would work is that in our other committees is that the staff working with representatives of the committee, we would do the kind of the assembling of the report. And there's really two of them, one, one comes from OMMIR. And one comes from the committee. So in August, we're going to make a proposal in terms of what those logistics look like learn who wants to be engaged in those sorts of reports, looking at the information, that sort of thing. So you're right, it's it's still open, but we're going to use that general model that we've typically, we typically relied on and excuse me to your, kind of underlying point, Natalie is that we can't do these without engaging with you all. So when we have someone with energy, like you, maybe we'll be giving you a call. So

N Natalie Bullion 1:38:36  
Right, well, I just, you know, whatever we can contribute, I'm eager to because I know that data is such an untapped resource. And historically, indigenous communities have either been harmed by data or ignored in data. So utilizing data, to show positives and to come up with positive outcomes. Positive planning, things that can help are you know, it's something I'm very passionate about. And it's going to be very useful for this committee.

J Joe Thome 1:39:09  
And Meskee also makes a point about subcommittee work. And I had referenced earlier about, you know, we don't want this to be a let's meet quarterly shake hands and walk away, we see this as a living sort of arrangement. So, you know, by August, we'll be thinking about these sorts of, you know, where do we need to work with you, from the subcommittee perspective,

that it can get a little complicated in terms of how we staff these sorts of things, but with with a kind of a generous allowance that we work together and the ability to which you all can help with, you know, the production of stuff that would be that would be wonderful. So thank you.

**M** Meskee Yatsayte 1:39:25  
Thank you so much.

**J** Joe Thome 1:39:50  
And Philip makes a good point about information ahead of time. Yes, we, we we agree we also we actually have some expectations around, we handle that from the department level, and a, and a state level. So getting agendas out ahead of time talking about what our goals are for each meeting will give you all the opportunity to muse on that stuff, and be even more prepared. So thank you, Philip.

**J** Joe Thome 1:40:28  
Sorry Arron, go ahead.

**A** Arron Julian 1:40:30  
Um, anybody else have any more insight or questions?

**A** Arron Julian 1:40:41  
And I know we appreciate everybody's time the advisory board is amongst you guys. We're here to help facilitate that. And we want to work together and make this a better program for not only being a, for the state of Colorado, Colorado, but other states as well. We want to collaborate with everybody and gather information, information sharing across the board, something we look forward to and getting that help from everybody. Because I know I've been here by myself as a one man, one man show I can't do it by myself. So everybody's helped is greatly appreciated.

**A** Arron Julian 1:41:25  
Lydia, your question is, will the information be shared? Yes, we will share it.

**A** Arron Julian 1:41:37  
Anybody else? Cause I know we scheduled for two hours and we try to keep it on, you know, respect that everybody's time. And I appreciate everything that everybody does. And if there's I'm still waiting for any questions, or, but I definitely I will be in touch with everybody. And we'll

start working on the next agenda, meeting, meeting notes, what we want to cover and other sub sub group or committee. So we want to put together, everybody's help is going to be amazing. And I can see already that this is going to be a great opportunity for all of us.

**J** Joe Thome 1:42:20

But also look for a summary of next steps to come into your inbox, where we're headed from here. We don't want to leave it too vague for you so so thank you, everybody.

**A** Arron Julian 1:42:30

If nobody has anything else. I appreciate everybody's time and I'm really looking forward to working with everybody. And I'm honored to be part of part of this program and to be able to help everybody and help our native community. And we look forward to seeing everybody in the next meeting, and I appreciate it. Everybody have a great day.

**C** Carla Respects Nothing 1:42:58

Thank you.

**A** Arron Julian 1:43:00

Thank You