

OMMIR Advisory Board Discussion (2023-10-11 10_01 GMT-6)

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SPEAKERS

Koralene Tapoof, Matt Lunn, Monycka Snowbird, Nancy Rae Kochis, Lydia Lerma, Raven Payment, Carla Respects Nothing, Phillip Gover, Debbie Oldenettel, LaRenda Morgan, Adrienne Perkins - CDPS, Daniel Steuer, Meskee Tsoataddle-Yatsayte, Joel Malecka, Rick Waters, Susan Medina, Jenifer Lewis, Paula Vargas, Kirby Lewis, Christinia Eala



Matt Lunn 00:00

Really enjoyed getting to meet many of you and talk with you. And I know those that I haven't met with yet, I hope to real soon. And so my hope is I know, pretty much everybody on this call knows each other. But it would be really helpful for me, if we could just do a quick round of introductions. Tell me a little bit about yourself, and what brings you to this work. And I'll actually turn it over to Adrienne to introduce herself and help me navigate working around the room.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 00:35

Hi, everyone, Adrienne Perkins, administrative assistant to OMMIR. It's really great to see everyone today. So I'll go ahead. I'm just gonna go off with my screen. And Joel, if you'd like to introduce yourself.



Joel Malecka 00:52

Sure, thank you very much. I think I've had a chance to meet most of you. My name is Joel Malecka, I'm the legislative liaison for the Department of Public Safety. Just been engaged in a number of conversations around how we've been able to create the office and then the legislation that's really guiding the work that we're doing and, and just glad to be part of the conversation. So I'll turn it over to the next person.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 01:19

I think Paula, you're next on my screen.



Paula Vargas 01:24

Hello, everyone. I'm Paula. I'm OMIM OMMIRS'. PIO mostly media information will Matt for me. Thank you for having me here and looking forward to hearing everyone's thoughts and opinions.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 01:36

Good Morning Raven again.



Raven Payment 01:42

Thanks, Adrienne. [Indigenous Language] Hello of my relatives. I am Raven Payment. I am the co chair of the Denver American Indian commission and I am also a member of the MMIR Task Force of Colorado. I helped work on some of the initial legislation that established the Office of MMIR so I'm familiar with a lot of faces, and it's good to see everyone so I'm done. Thanks.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 02:07

Hi, Kirby.



Kirby Lewis 02:13

Good morning. My name is Kirby Lewis. I'm an Assistant Director with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation overseeing the Denver office. I was stationed in Durango for a number of years 13 years and worked through a number of crimes impacting Indigenous individuals and communities. And it's just such an important work. And I'm glad to be here to be a part of this.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 02:37

Morning again, Debbie.



Debbie Oldenettel 02:40

Morning, everyone, it's good to see everyone again, I'm Debbie Oldenettel. I'm the Deputy Director for DCJ. And I appreciate everyone joining this call that was unscheduled prior to our next call in November. And look forward to hearing from all of you. So thanks for being here.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 02:59

Hi, Susan.



Susan Medina 03:02

Hi, everybody. I'm Susan Medina. I'm Chief of Staff for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. I work with Kirby and just echoing the statements of everybody on the call today that very honored to be here and just ready and willing to help in any way possible.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 03:20

Hi, Philip.



Phillip Gover 03:27

Sorry about that I'm currently driving, so I'm just going to keep it to the microphone. My name is Phil Grover. I'm Pawnee and Choctaw. I'm currently work for Colorado Department Human Services, Tribal Affairs Specialist. And I know a number of people on here. But I appreciate y'all setting this meeting after what we need to talk about. Thank you.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 03:49

Good morning Rick.



Rick Waters 03:54

Good morning, Rick Waters. And I'm Kiowa Cherokee, Director of the Denver Indian Center and always say that we often represent the crossroads of Indian country, not only here in Colorado, but in Denver specifically, but happy to be a part of this. And when I say comprehensively, you know if there's an issue question coming from the Native community, the general public or whatever, and they Google it, generally the Denver Indian Center is where they call so we tend to be the go to place for or at least, in many cases to start for inquiries about Native activities and issues.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 04:43


Thank you. Daniel. Welcome. Good morning Jenifer.




Daniel Steuer 04:45

Good morning, Daniel Steuer, Senior Assistant Attorney General. I'm also the tribal liaison for the Department of Law and the Attorney General's appointee to the board I was selected by the

Attorney General quite some time ago but somehow I fell through the cracks so this is my first time attending any board meeting. Thank you

 J Jenifer Lewis 05:22

I'm Seneca and Mohawk and


 M Matt Lunn 05:24

I don't know this me but Jenifer we can't hear you



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 05:46

I think she's gonna put some stuff in chat as her introduction? Sorry Jenifer. Meskee

 M Meskee Tsotaddle-Yatsayte 05:57

Good morning everyone. [Indigenous Language] My name is Meskee Tsotaddle-Yatsayte. I am Kiowa Potawatomi Guachichil Mexican and DinĀ© . I run Navajo Nation missing persons updates grassroots organization also. I'm a founding member of Missing and Murdered DinĀ© relatives that Council Delegate Amber Crotty created and founded back in 2019. And among other things, I'm a mom of three and a life. So thank you for having me.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 06:35

Nancy


 N Nancy Rae Kochis 06:36

[Indigenous Language] I'm Nancy Rae Apache Apache Apache Apache so I'm southeastern Athabaskan more modernly known as the Jicarilla Apache Nation. I am the founding co founder of Herbal Gardens Wellness and also a medical clinician specializing in pediatrics. Thank you.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 07:08

Thank you, Korale. I think your muted. Oh good.

 K Korale Tapoof 07:25

Okay. Good morning. I guess we're doing like reintroductions again. Because



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 07:34

first time Matt's joined us.



Koralene Tapoof 07:37

Okay. All right. So my name is Koralene Tapoof. And I am from the Uintah and Ouray Indian reservation here in Utah. I am just a community, community member on a reservation. And so I'm just happy to be a part of the board. I also had to submit an application. And they asked for, like, if you were from the state of Colorado, my father, his band, the White Rivers originally came from Colorado. And so I just felt that it would just be an honor to at least do something for my my father's band, to be a part of this organization to try to help Native American people. We've had one lady Debra Jones, that is also a part of this board. And she expressed some stuff that she had gone through and you know, was really traumatic with what she had to share. And you know, so I feel that you know, even though we may go through stuff, there's always that pain that's always there lingering. And so you gotta have to you kind of have to find a way to help people to mend a meant mentally, emotionally and spiritually. So thank you for allowing me to be a part of this organization.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 09:05

Thank you for being here.



Koralene Tapoof 09:07

Okay.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 09:08

Good morning Monycka.



Monycka Snowbird 09:11

[Indigenous Language] My name is Monycka Snowbird. I am the Program Director for the Haseya Advocate Program in Colorado Springs. And I am also one of the founding members of the MMIR Taskforce of Colorado that introduced helped her introduce this legislation that brought us all here today. Including Raven, she she downplays how awesome she is sometimes but so we work together alot and just thankful to be here.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 09:36

We're glad to have you as well. Um, good morning LeRenda. Is Raven with you as well?

 LaRenda Morgan 09:45

Good morning. No, Raven is actually on she's on maternity leave. She just had an had a new little girl so otherwise, she would be on here. My name is LaRenda Morgan. I am with the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes. I am Cheyenne Arapaho and Otoe Missouri. I work as the Governmental Affairs Officer for the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes. I'm also founder of the Cheyenne Arapaho MMIP chapter and we've done a lot of things here in Oklahoma with MMIP, MMIR. Raven Morgan, who's not on today, she is also works for the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribe. She's my daughter, she's enrolled with the Pawnee Nation. And she's also very active in the MMIP community and she works as a education counselor for the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes. So we're both very involved in MMIP. And, and we're just so honored to be on this board, especially with the Cheyenne Arapaho tribes. Were kind of our ancestral lands were there in Colorado, the tribe worked very hard to do the renaming for the Mount Evans to Mount Blue Kky. So our tribe was very involved in the state of Colorado. So I just wanted to say thank you, and welcome to Matt. And yeah, I'm honored to be on this board. Thank you.

 Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 11:18

Well, pass on our congratulations to Raven.

 LaRenda Morgan 11:22

Well, thank you so much.

 Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 11:24

Carla. I thought I just saw her, but we can come back Carla. Christinia. There you are, Carla.

 Carla Respects Nothing 11:45

Oh, sorry. My name is Carla Respects Nothing I'm Ogalala Lakota. Okay. [IndigenousLanguage] Good to see you all today, my relatives that I like to shake their hands all the way around. Thanks for having me. I'm currently working as a health navigator for Herbal Gardens Wellness. Currently, at the gathering place, the women's shelter and transgender and family day shelter here in Denver. I'm currently doing our Native American Women's talking circle. They're actually patiently waiting for me to get on mute. So yeah, just doing that. I'm supporting our native community. Isn't that good to see you all, and I am just here to listen. Thank you.

 Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 12:41

Good to see you as well. Christinia.

 Christinia Eala 12:49

Hello, everybody. My name is Christinia Eala. I'm Sicangu Lakota and also I knew I was gonna do this. My father's from the Philippine Islands. So Ilocano, Ilocano Filipino, and See, I live in Fort Collins. I have a small nonprofit. It's called Tiyospaye. Winyan Maka, which is a Lakota language for. Oh, dear. Extended family of women of the earth. And I also I have partnered with several organizations that I think are really important to the work that I do. I am, I am with that. I work with a Native American boarding school healing coalition that were in Colorado Springs, and I and I work with, with women who have suffered a historical trauma. Help them understand that it was trauma and not their fault. Then we go into grieving and then finally healing. And I've also, I'm also connected to the permaculture world, because I think that natural medicine is so much better than anything else. Oh, that's it. Thank you. Nice to be here. Oh, and I wanted to ask a quick question. So a friend of mine, Shane Patterson, really wanted to be here today. And he couldn't because he works for the city. And they were having a meeting and he's supposed to do a presentation there. And I'm wondering if there are if there were any more board openings, he's really interested in it in that. I just saw him I made a mention.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 14:50

I can reach out to you after the meeting about the openings if that would work.



Christinia Eala 14:55

Okay. Thank you. I appreciate you.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 14:57

Of course not our problem, Nancy



Nancy Rae Kochis 15:06

I already went.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 15:08

Oh, you must have left and then come back. So I just wanted to give you a second opportunity, I guess. So since that's everybody, we're so glad that you're here. And I will turn it back over to Matt.



Matt Lunn 15:21

Yes. Thank you so much everyone for taking the time. I know it does take time away from our discussion. But it's really important to me that I get to know a little bit about you. And as we move forward, I hope to learn more and continue the conversation. I'm new to this space, I came over from Denver. And a lot of the work that I did in Denver focused on working with nonprofits and community members to try and improve both short and long term outcomes for

everyone that called Denver home. And so I'm, I'm just really excited to be here, excited to learn from all of you, and find ways that we can further engage to continue moving this important work forward. So I sent out an email yesterday afternoon, kind of giving a semi structure to the conversation for today. So I just wanted to go over and get a sense from you all, kind of where we're at right now, what's working, not just with OMMIR or the advisory board, but it's the community as a whole. Where you see opportunities for continued improvement and growth and collaboration. And then I'm really hoping to end the conversation today, with any current events or initiatives that you think are important for the, for the good of the group. And really, one of the things I like to end meetings on too is sharing, and celebrating events. So hearing about the birth of a new child is very exciting. So we we've checked that one off the list, but anything else that people would like to share with the group to help build community I would, I would love to hear about. So let's start off with kind of where we're at right now. And for my benefit, as someone new to this group, what has been working as far as getting the board up and running and having these collaborations and conversations, what's been working across the state? How do you all see that? Are there things related to these initial meetings that you all have found helpful? I know, we've just kind of gotten started, I think there's been a couple board meetings to date. What are your thoughts on that?

C

Christinia Eala 18:13

Well, you're right, Matt, we are fairly new. And, and I've been working in you know, in mental health and, and different things like that. So I usually get people after they've been traumatized, you know, and help them work through that. But what I would like is more in person, if we can I like in person. Some in person training around how to do it, how do we put groups together to go to a family who maybe has a missing relative or child? And, you know, the, I just would like to have some training about that. You know, how it begins where and where it ends after that part of, of it is, is done?

M

Matt Lunn 19:08

Yeah, absolutely. So if I'm hearing you correctly, I hear kind of two things there. One is that you would like more in person interaction with the group, and the other is training on additional resources and understanding the process. Okay, that's great feedback. Have there been previous conversations about holding at least one of the meetings, maybe one of the quarterly meetings in person? What are people's thoughts on that? I know that Google Meet platform allows for maybe more availability, but I also understand the importance of being in the same space together. How do other people think about that?

M

Meskee Tsotaddle-Yatsayte 19:50

Hi, Matt. This is Meskee. It might be a little difficult for me. I live out in New Mexico. So that may be a little challenging. Just for myself.

M

Matt Lunn 20:01

Yeah, yeah, I know, we're kind of from all over the state and in the region. And so that does present some unique challenges. One of the things that I have wanted to work on is going out

present some unique challenges. One of the things that I have wanted to work on is going out more and being present with you also, one thing that I would put out to the group, and I've extended this to some of you already is, I would love to come down to where you are, and have a conversation and understand your experience. So I'd like to I'd like to put that out. On the other issue that was brought up related to training and understanding the process and the roles of different individuals involved in this process. What are thoughts on the group on what training is currently out there to help people understand what can be a complex process? And what would people like to see moving forward that they think would be helpful for the community?

M

Monycka Snowbird 21:05

I think there needs to be specific training regarding the bills, we shouldn't just necessarily assume that because everyone is on the advisory committee that they understand the ins and outs of both of the MMIR bills that have been passed. So maybe a comprehensive kind of walkthrough of those steps and the roles of this advisory board. This board will not be meeting with families in an advocate role. So when we're talking about potential trainings, we need to kind of keep that in mind. Keep the training specific to what the board's scope of work is going to be. And if you are looking for advocate type trainings, there are I mean, there's one going on here in Colorado Springs, from the National Tribal Training Institute this week, I mean, that they're going on constantly. Raven and I are working with and our task force are working with law enforcement and district attorney's office to develop additional trainings regarding MMIR as a crisis. But as far as advocacy, because this group will not be meeting with families. Maybe we can be better about distributing information on other advocate trainings that are going on across the state and across the region. A lot of them are available online, that are pretty accessible, some are free, some do have costs associated with them. But I think really, the responsibilities of this board and going over the ins and outs of the bill and what is what has been passed and what we still need to work on for potential additional legislation because there are things that are not currently working with with the two bills that we've passed.

M

Matt Lunn 22:41

Okay. That's great feedback. I it'd be interesting. And I know, Joel, I believe is on the on the call be interesting if maybe Joel and somebody from the advocacy community that helped kickstart these legislative initiatives can maybe tag team that to provide maybe a little bit broader perspective on the bills, as far as getting information out about what resources are currently available, and trainings are currently available. I think that's an amazing idea. And would you be willing Monycka to share some of those resources with with us with Adrienne and I and brainstorm ways in which we can make those resources more readily available for the for the public? Beyond just beyond just the board?

M

Monycka Snowbird 23:33

Yeah, we'll send them some resources to you in an email today.

M

Matt Lunn 23:37

Okay, that'd be great. What other things would people find helpful in the in the training space, beyond legislation or accessing advocacy trainings that are already publicly available?

L

LaRenda Morgan 23:53

Hi, Matt, this is LaRenda. Um, you know, when I think about training, as far as you know, like what what our role is on the advisory board, I would recommend maybe looking at providing just some general information like a general training, or some maybe holding some type of I don't know how many regions you have there in Colorado, as far as for law enforcement, because one of the things that I think families are impacted by is their interactions with law enforcement when their family member goes missing. And that's something that many law enforcement agents, as far as you know, you have we talk about a lot of times about tribal and state jurisdiction, but beyond that, there's other types of jurisdictions, such as you have city, you have counties, you have, you know, the state law enforcement bodies? Because I know, here in Oklahoma, you know, they talk about, you know, the tribal and state jurisdictions how they have, you know, they clash a lot. But I will tell, you know, we have counties in Oklahoma that clash that have nothing to do with tribal jurisdiction, you know, about law enforcement cross certain boundaries, arresting people, pulling people over. So there's a lot of jurisdictional issues that are just, you know, don't have anything to do with tribal, but when you add these type of things in, I think it's good to just have a reminder, or even just something out there for law enforcement, within, you know, city county to say, hey, maybe at the state level, we're going to have this, you know, provide this training. And, you know, if you're interested in learning more about, you know, missing and murdered indigenous people what that means, and then also coordinate and collaborate, you know, this, this office, could collaborate with the BIA, because that's another big part of, you know, tribal jurisdiction, you want to make sure that, you know, even if it's just a zoom, you could do zoom training for law enforcement, and have the BIA come in and talk about, you know, what their role is, if you have already some law enforcement agencies that are, you know, on the up and up with missing and murdered indigenous people, I'm sure there's some out there, not every entity is, is going to be knowledgeable, but you might have some, you know, law enforcement officers out there who do know, and you might want to pull them in to speak or to present, and just have them, you know, maybe a family member, you know, make it a one hour zoom, or just something an informational for law enforcement. I mean, that's what I would recommend, because, you know, for us to be coming to these meetings. And I think that, you know, we want to make sure that we're being impactful, we want to make sure that we're helping you to get moving on what your office needs to do. And I think that would be good is to first and foremost, you know, just for you know, since we're talking about training, maybe think about having that type of training, doing a zoom for the for the officers of all across the state.

M

Matt Lunn 27:30

No, I think that's a great idea. I know, Colorado P.O.S.T, which certifies all police officers in the state has a training. I think there's opportunities to continue to expand that. And I love your idea of bringing in BIA, and, and sharing personal stories. And because look, I come from local law enforcement, I'm not a I've never been a police officer. But I do come from local law enforcement. And so I certainly understand the jurisdictional issues and some of the some of those challenges. And this is new, right for for many of them, and understanding the mental process or understanding how to better work within these spaces. And so I think that's a wonderful suggestion. And I think that this board could really help us build out what that

collaboration should look like, and from your all's lived experience and lived experience of of your relatives, what would be most important for you as the as the receiver of those services from law enforcement? What would be most helpful? Christinia, did you have a another comment?

C Christinia Eala 28:51

No, I actually didn't say that was somebody else. Okay.

L LaRenda Morgan 28:57

I do have I do have another thing that I wanted to kind of point out was that, you know, one of the things too, that I think is really important, and because I don't want to assume that all law enforcement are culturally competent, as far as you know, native customs and, and the sensitivities regarding, you know, missing or murdered, or if a family member has to be contacted by law enforcement and just a certain way that, you know, tribal citizens, how they, you know, we're a little bit different as far as customs, tribal customs, and, you know, in there's different tribes and different ways of doing things. So, I think it's good to have an important reminder to law enforcement as well, that there is a you know, maybe to have a little portion of a future training on cultural competency on cultural sensitivity training. Because that's something that we're kind of pushing here for Oklahoma, I've talked to many law enforcement agencies. And we've also like this might be an idea for you all. We recently had a missing persons day where we worked with the Oklahoma Medical Examiner's Office, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, different law enforcement agencies came together. And what we did on that day was we had a day for, you know, it was for MMIP. But also, we opened it up to everybody to where they could come out, you know, for anybody that had a missing person, for them to come and give DNA samples and to make sure that they had the forms filled out to be for their loved one to be make sure they were listed in NamUs. And in so that might be something to also, if you guys haven't already done that in Colorado to make, you know, that might be a good idea of something to plan for the future to a collaboration to make sure that all the tribal members there in Colorado, if they have a missing loved one, that they give that DNA sample, and they have that on site, and so that if there are any, you know, if anything comes up in the future, or if there's any unidentified remains, they can be checked to make sure to find, you know, if to help find missing persons.

M Matt Lunn 31:23

Yeah, absolutely. And I know, Monycka mentioned it in the chat. I know CBI has worked on this previously. And I think it's something that we can continue to look at ways that we can make those services available. Colorado's unique to and that you mentioned, Oklahoma, Oklahoma has a centralized state medical examiner system. But it would be interesting to engage the Colorado Coroner's Association, because each county has their own elected coroner. And then share this information with them as well. I remember working with tribes when I was in, I worked in the state of Iowa for a number of years, quite a while ago. And we did a lot of trainings around cultural competency issues as a related to investigations of, of decedents and

so great suggestion. I think that's another group that we could reach out to to continue to build those coalitions that information sharing. Are there other training issues before we move off of that point that people would like to raise to put on the radar for future opportunities?

R

Raven Payment 32:33

I think, perhaps an open communication with the Peace Officer Standards Training, we've had a number of like victim advocates from law enforcement agencies reach out to the task force, just in terms of having a hard time understanding how to present information that they are not from because there are non Indigenous people presenting this cultural awareness portion to law enforcement. And they've they've had some some hiccups with that as well. Even in terms of them not feeling like they're empowered to speak on that, which I tend to agree with. But in any case, perhaps that's something the board could take up and helping facilitate some of those, just heartburn that they're having right now with that training.

M

Matt Lunn 33:22

Yeah, absolutely. Great feedback. Any other any other training issues? Or ideas? Um, what's working right now in the community as a whole? Right, not just the OMMIR, our office or the or the task force? What do you think is working really well in Colorado, that we could elevate? Or that we could help help expand or build off of?

N

Nancy Rae Kochis 34:02

Well, I think visibility is an issue. We have 106,000 members in Denver in the seven county areas, but we probably have contact with maybe around 6000 known to to within inter agency within the nonprofit organization structure. I think that part of what happens with our our people going missing is that a lot of times people assume that we are immigrants or from other countries due to the historical narrative. And I think that discussing some type of PA, that could be done usually with to Raven's point cultural competency. And to Monycka's point that would include a lot of different nations that are here that have had a need to be seen and heard, the more we're kept invisible within the state. While, the state has done a great job on LGBTIQ issues. They've done a great job on on immigration issues, they're starting to come around on the houseless relatives. I think that visibility overall for people is something that needs to be discussed at the state level, and some assistance. We've been working with Rocky Mountain PBS, in terms of having some positive narratives shared. But I think that the state needs to do a better job of discussing that we have both historical tribes, we have federally recognized tribes, we have tribes like mine, who did not go to the reservation and do not follow the American way of life. You know, there needs to be some discussion and some visibility around our people. As long as it's silence, there just seems to be a blinder on when it comes to this issue. And so it's great that law enforcement is being trained, but some type of preventative or protective measure, creating visibility is where I think we need to go. And I would invite Monycka or Raven to, to comment on that. They usually have a good redirect or good support, something to say and and they're very valuable in that in the fact that they're the ones who have sacrificed a lot of their time. And I know they don't see it that way. But they've given a lot of their time to not

only the legislation, but to the day to day, going out and searching and being there in Colorado Springs in Denver, Monycka Raven, do you guys have any ideas about visibility for the community?

R

Raven Payment 36:38

You can't see me because my camera's off. Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Monycka, I'll be quiet.

M

Monycka Snowbird 36:42

No, you won't. I think visibility is getting better. I think a lot of organizations and agencies are at a surface level trying to be more inclusive of native folks. But I think sometimes it's on an after the fact kind of kind of policy like, oh, we have this group of people, oh, we forgot a native let's go get a native somewhere. So the fact that they are actually inviting us to some of these tables, I think is good, but they need to be including us at the beginning, not at the end, when they want to make sure that they have native representation, when they talk about it for their dog and pony shows. We're not like the sprinkles on the top of the cupcake, you know, that you add after the fact is still a very vanilla cupcake. So we want to and not necessarily always be at their tables, but have spaces to make our own tables and have our own representation. So I think we're doing good on some of those we're getting, we're doing much better on some of those things. Obviously, there's always going to be room for improvement. When we sorry my phone is on GCS people. Um, so I think another thing that we're doing better is that we are getting some better relationships with local law enforcement. Like here in the springs, we work really closely because we do provide direct service advocacy. We work very closely with CSPA and El Paso County Sheriff's Office, we are very privileged in that relationship. I know that is not the same for other law enforcement agencies. So if we could figure out ways to get more native folks in front of law enforcement on a local level, this the advocacy or the the advocacy teams for law enforcement are usually pretty incredible to work with CSPA advocacy, like I wouldn't, if any of them were native, I would hire them all to work for us in a heartbeat. They're amazing. They're on top of things. And I think if we worked a little bit more with some of the advocacy teams, we could probably get in a little bit better with some of the law enforcement, I know there's some pushback with law enforcement, interpreting that the alert is an optional investigative tool versus something that they are required to do. So we are having to push back with a lot of law enforcement agencies on actually getting them to issue. Sorry, my birds are freaking out over here today. But they, we need to figure out a way to improve that. And, you know, we have law enforcement knowing that they need to put the "I" in the dashboard, but not grasping that they. So they're very consistent about doing that. They're just not consistent about then following up with CBI and actually getting that MIP the MIPA alert issued. So, you know, there's baby steps, I think for sure, I would like to have much more hands off, you know, when we're still having to give families scripts on what to tell law enforcement when we're still having to follow up with law enforcement, when we're still having to very regularly contact CBI to help them with their data and the accuracy of that and then also, hey, you know, there's an alert that should be coming if you don't hear from it. Can you call law enforcement, you know, Melissa and Audrey had been incredible in that like that relationship, the relationship that we have with Melissa and Audrey at CBI from our task force is something we are doing really well. They are reliable, they are passionate about this, and they are consistent in their responses to us. So we do definitely appreciate that. But yeah, I think I think there are some things going well, and then there's a lot of things that could be going way better.

M

Matt Lunn 40:26

Yeah. And I, you brought up reaching out to local law enforcement. You know, I know, CBI has been engaged in that work, particularly with the Colorado or the County Sheriff's of Colorado Association. You brought up some things that weren't going so well, would you mind sharing some of those with me,

M

Monycka Snowbird 40:46

The thing that gets me the most right now is the the MIPA, it should be a seamless process, you know, we helped to draft this bill, we put this in place, it's passed, I don't want to talk about it anymore, to make sure this is going out on all of these cases. And because the way you know, there's some, there's some language in the bill that says "may". But there's also language in the bill that says "will" there is that eight hour requirement. And so when a native person goes missing, they are required to notify CBI within eight hours, we'll entering that "I" on the dashboard covers that notification. But that's not what's going to generate the alert going out, they have to actually call that call CBI or email them to get that to happen, that needs to be a better automated process in some way. Because if it's not going to be interpreted as a requirement, then as soon as the "I" goes in, and CBI needs to have some sort of alert on there, and then it's and it can just go. You know, when my own son who's currently missing when he when we first filed his missing person report, it took six days for the MIPA to go out. And that's when I'm spoon- feeding them the information. One of the other things that needs to be better with law enforcement is not releasing mug shots. For the MIPA's. Most law enforcement agencies have the policy for external communication, that it should not be a mug shot, that it should be a family photo, or even a driver's license photo. So we have had to push back on that with a lot of agencies when families are insisting they submit the photos. And the MIPA goes out with that mugshot anyway, that, you know, that happens more often than not sometimes law enforcement not thinking that an unhoused relative or someone with an active warrant or someone with an active substance abuse or substance abuse disorder, that they could not be also a missing person. So there's delays on alerts going out for that. So you know, there's some of this is specific to different agencies. Some of this is the bill itself. Our intent when the bill was written was that the alert would be mandatory. We had a lot of attorneys look at this, you know, Raven, and I are not attorneys, we are not lobbyist, we really hate doing this. So the fact that it wasn't caught by someone who didn't realize that, that one word is going to make something an optional tool versus something that's required, that's going to bring our people home. Because when we look at the average, they're coming home within a week of the alert going out. When the alerts are not going out it can be months before these people are coming home. So I don't understand what the pushback is on why they don't want to do this. When it's proven that it works.

M

Matt Lunn 43:36

Thank you for that.

K

Kirby Lewis 43:38

I can address some Oh yeah. Thanks. Monycka. And I know we've talked about this in the past

I can address some of, yeah, thanks, Monycka. And I know we've talked about this in the past. I would just say that for the mandatory portion of that or optional. Obviously, we encourage them to be notify, notify us as early as, as and as often as as needed. The reason we left some I don't want to use left some discretion to law enforcement in those certain situations where we have a call for somebody who has been missing for an extended period of time. The purpose of the alert and the bulletin is for people to take action immediately. And if it's a situation where it's a year or two old information that somebody's being reported as missing. The bulletin or the alert system gives the a little bit of discretion to that originating agency instead of mandating that all of the all of the reported missing go out immediately. But we certainly encourage that for those that go missing. Call as soon as they go missing that helps us get the information out, helps get people activated to go looking or to pay attention to what's going on around them. And so that that rulemaking process kept that portion of optionality into law enforcement, if that helps at all.

S

Susan Medina 45:21

And yeah, I just And thanks, Kirby. Thanks for that. A bit of background, I think it should be stated to how proactive your team has been Kirby in reaching out to law enforcement. I know, we do have the post board training. But over the last several months, our team has been, I think, pretty aggressive in working with local law enforcement, just making sure that they're aware of the, the the MIPA and and how to move forward that especially in our, our rural and underserved communities, as well. So I think we're seeing some, some definitely traction on the awareness piece. And as you can see by the number of alerts that have been issued, I don't quote me, Kirby, but I think it's one of our highest alerts that have been issued throughout the year. So I think we are having tremendous success with it. But but certainly, we are building on that.

M

Matt Lunn 46:12

And one thing I would add to, it might be part of that training component for the board. And for the law enforcement members on the call to have that discussion and understand why an alert may or may not be issued, I think that would be probably helpful information, because I do think there is some level of confusion around why why one agency may report something for an alert and why another may hold back, or do more investigative work prior to requesting that information be sent out. So I think that would be a good topic to continue to discuss further. So we have a better understanding not just as a board, but also as we talk with people outside of this space. Monycka, do you have any follow up on that?

M

Monycka Snowbird 46:58

Yeah, I think that that's a two way conversation, there needs to be also a conversation for law enforcement, why there may be a delay in filing a missing person report, when people have high risk lifestyles when they are chronically unhoused, when they have active warrants. So they are not interacting with other agencies. It's, you know, you may not know until someone has a birthday, where they normally would call and check in and then you don't hear from them. You know, there might be an annual, you know, an anniversary of some sort where that person checks in every single time and all of a sudden, they don't and then you can't find them. So, you know, like when my son went missing in May, because he is unhoused, and because he

is an active addict. You know, it wasn't, I wasn't expecting to see him every week, you know, but the fact that he wasn't communicating with his sister for a prolonged period of time, we looked for him actively on our own, could not find him with any unlicensed serving agencies. And so the alert was issued, you know, a little bit later than what the?

M

Matt Lunn 47:59

Yeah, I'll pass it to Raven, she's got her hand up. But Momyca, I appreciate you sharing your story and advocating. It sounds like you've been doing this for a while, but I this the first time, I'm hearing it. So I just want to thank you for sharing that story with us and with me.

R

Raven Payment 48:15

I think she lost her connection. So not just the MIPA. And I kind of want to go back to what Nancy said before because I was nodding my head while she was talking. And she's very sweet. And I appreciate her kind words, the lack of education. So when I'm hearing about the the MIPA for example, and there are other areas and law enforcement that I would point to where we're having these heartburn issues, giving law enforcement that discretion to not issue an alert because maybe a person has been missing for a year. The lack of education around indigenous issues, the historical violence that we have faced create unique issues for our community, which is not just underserved, but were historically excluded. So in that rulemaking process for the MIPA, for other issues, when we're going through these post trainings with law enforcement, what has been the norm for rulemaking and these other areas does not necessarily apply to our community, which is why we're sitting with this cluster of a crisis that we're facing today. So in terms of applying this to the board, and the suggestions that need to come forward with CBI and the DCJ, and CDPS is again, like really understanding the crux of these issues for our community. I mean, we're averaging one native person going missing a week. In the past two weeks, we've had seven alerts go out, two of which were were minors, they were children. So again, that MIPA even if they've been missing for a year like that may be a unique circumstance. is where it's really frustrating with law enforcement because of their lack of education will assign a number of derogatory bias against us as to why we don't deserve the alert or why we don't deserve that attention. So back to Nancy Rae's point, that educational component is paramount to actually addressing this crisis. And everyone's heard that soapbox from me before you're new to it, Matt. So welcome. And that's all I have to say on that. Thanks.

M

Matt Lunn 50:27

I appreciate it. I appreciate the feedback. And I'm gonna pivot here, and it's not because I want to move off this topic. I appreciate that direct and honest feedback. I'm pivoting because I want to get to the next part of the conversation, and that is, as we start to move towards hiring the next director for OMMIR, what characteristics do you think are most important that we look for as as we're as we're starting this national search?

N

Nancy Rae Kochis 51:06

I'll speak to that. I think that we would like I know that sometimes for Americans gender is a odd topic, but I would prefer to see a somebody who is female who has had this experience

bad topic, but I would prefer to see a somebody who is female who has had this experience, mainly because who they're going to be interacting with and who represent the heads of families are still matrilineal, they're still matriarchies, it's mothers, and being able to have that rapport and to build that rapport is going to take that now, Arron, he's my relative, he did a fabulous job with what he was handed in a very difficult situation on the handoff. And I really appreciate everything that he has done. And I would also say that it's I would like to see somebody from the southern tribes represented because there's often an misrepresentation of our southern tribes here in Colorado, which is their origin lands, this would be the Pueblo, the Kiowa, this would be the the Udo Azteca tribes, all seven Paiute, the Shoshone who aren't even spoken about here as having a presence. It's important to us not only that the person is from our tribes, but the gender is specific, because they are going to have to work with activists here in Colorado. And we're not activists because we want to have a title or we want to be seen. We are activists, because we are the mothers who have children missing. We are the cousins of people who are found in rivers. And those stories are never published. You know, I'm not sure. Matt yourself, or Kirby, or Miss Medina, if you know what your history here in Colorado is, but to Raven's points prior to the Americans occupation. In 1876, when this became a state from a territory, there were Spanish influences here. And those Spanish influences were running children and drugs from Mexico under the cave system. You guys know about El Chapo, he is light compared to what goes on. And you know, there is a disconnect when when we don't have someone we can trust, to go and speak to who actually we don't have to start at the beginning with that, because they already know that the drug and human trafficking are a continuation of occupation and residential occupation that is illegal. So you know, we're not when the young woman earlier LaRenda spoke about speaking to law enforcement, you know, we need the person that's representing this office, to have the ability and the comfort to be able to speak with that and have that in their experience in their academia. But we also very much need somebody who is spiritually to Christinia's point spiritually and emotionally connected to the community. So I would suggest that as part of that process, whether you choose members of the advisory board or a subcommittee is formed from these members that you seek their guidance prior to offering or extending an offer, that is our state to state right. That state to state right is not only tribal government sovereignty from a federally recognized tribe, that also implies and is stated and is encoded, that we as individuals have that right. So I think that again, although I love my cousin Arron, and I'm really sorry that he's not here and I'm really thankful he's going on for what's best for his family. When we're looking at who we're bringing in next. This committee should have a part a say so. They should be, they should come became to or come to as advisors to allow them to express what they see in those individual candidates and how they feel that person is going to work within our community. Don't do that. Here's what I'm gonna say don't, do it make a misstep, don't include us and here's what's gonna happen, you're gonna get another person who comes in for a short period of time, who has to learn the community again. We see this in our organizations, when we hire from outside of Denver community, it, you have to know the history is here. It's important to know Rick Waters at Denver Indian Center, it's important to know, Carla, you know, who's who does the majority of the houselessness work and finding our relatives, you have to know where to go to find them. To Monycka's point, we don't see our children who suffer under addiction as the problem, we see the problem as a lack of enforcement, and a lack of ethics that has coursed through the culture of who we are occupied by. So it's very important that you listen to Christinia that you listen to Lydia, when it comes to Fort Collins, it's important that you listen to Monycka and to Raven, when it comes to this Colorado Springs and southeastern area. It's important because they are the ones who will be supporting your efforts. It's not just that they're supporting finding our own children and our own people. These women have used your system, they have

come to you and as advisors and applied for this position to be of advice, so please utilize them in a good way. That would be my advice, Matt, that would be my advice, Kirby and Miss Medina.

M Matt Lunn 56:29

Well, thank you so much for sharing that I really appreciate that. Others?

L Lydia Lerma 56:39

I don't know if you guys can hear me, this is Lydia Lerma.

M Matt Lunn 56:42

We can.

L Lydia Lerma 56:43

Okay, my apologies. I've had some technical difficulties with my, my work computer and I worked for Colorado State University. So one of the things that and I I've kind of been in and out of the conversation because of those technical difficulties. But I actually sit on the CSU Police Department advisory board. And I think it's really important those outreach efforts with local law enforcement that we have people like myself, and like the members of this board, sitting on those local law enforcement advisory boards, because that's where we make those really personal connections, where when we raise the issue of our missing relatives, they know the history, they know the reality of it. They know, the challenges that we've had, getting those announcements made getting the word out sharing that information throughout the Rocky Mountain states. I've worked on MMIW, cases out of Montana, you know, we have Interstate 80. We have people being trafficked from Montana to the Dakotas, who knows, you know, along I-25, as well. So I think it's really important. And I don't know, I apologize for my ignorance as far as the State of Colorado Law Enforcement Association, but pulling in an association like that, and having local law enforcement agencies reach out to their communities and say, Hey, we have an advisory board, we need your input, we need you to share this historical information. We need you to share what's currently happening on a local level and on, you know, currently, we have over 5000 cases right now at the federal level of missing people. And that's just within our communities. So I think it's really, really important just from a real grassroots effort to reach out to those local law enforcement agencies and say, pull people within the communities. I'm not the only one in Fort Collins. We have a lot of people we just had Indigenous Peoples Day on Monday. And we polled people. We're available. And we're there. And we're willing to provide the input needed to make sure that this becomes a top priority for the state of Colorado.

M Matt Lunn 59:06

That's great. Thank you. I won't make any jokes about CSU being a CU. Grant, but, but I appreciate that. Um

appreciate that. Um,

L Lydia Lerma 59:16

I'm also an Oregon grad. So there's that.

M Matt Lunn 59:21

All right. All right. LaRenda has a comment in the chat about state representative to help bring visibility to the issue. I think so one of the other things that I was thinking about as you all were talking as it relates to visibility is we are relaunching some of our public relations strategies. And Paula Vargas is on the call with us today. She's our PIO. And to the degree you all would be willing to help us message out about the communities, the tribal communities here in Colorado, we would love to get that message out. And so if there are some of you that would like to help with that, please reach out to me and we will get working on that. What else as we as we continue to move forward, what things would you all like to see us consider as we look for the next director of this office? Would all would you like to see the focus be moving forward to continue to better serve the community? Raven?

R Raven Payment 1:00:33

Yeah, going back to my soapbox on education. So when, when director or former director Julian was hired, there were a lot of concerns from community in terms of his background being a career law enforcement agent. So one of the things I would like the hiring process to consider is the history and the current climate and relationship of law enforcement to Native people. It varies from region to region for, hopefully, what is an obvious reason. But it's something that is, again, unique to this community. And I can't, it can't be overstated. In my opinion, Nancy made a lot of great points about some of the qualities that person should have, just in terms of trauma centered, victim centered, survivor centered approaches and to Arron's strengths. I think that was where he was kind of lacking and caused some some harm along the way. So again, qualities that I don't know how you write those into a job posting, but should be considered as part of that, that nuance and that personality as you guys are vetting candidates.

M Matt Lunn 1:01:54

No, I think that's exceptional feedback. A victim centered approach is really important to me. It's something that was important to me when we were building out alternative responses to various issues in the community, when I was at the local level. And so I, I greatly appreciate that feedback, Lydia?

L Lydia Lerma 1:02:14

One of the comments that I've had, and one of the things that I've noticed, just in the Office of Equity and Inclusion through the City of Fort Collins. Are people don't get paid enough to do this kind of work. And the kind of time and effort that it takes for people to work something at such

a state level, I think they're highly underpaid. I was looking at the Office of Equity and Inclusion here at the City of Fort Collins, and I work as a consultant with them. I make more for them as a sourcing specialist at CSU. I made I make more than Julian made as a sourcing specialist. I'm a buyer. That's it. So resources, funding, we need to put our money, where our mouth is, and we need to pay people to do this kind of work. Because this is, as I've said, in the past, I've worked missing and murdered indigenous women cases. This is the most emotionally draining and demanding work I've ever done. And I've never been paid for it. My job at CSU pays my bills. My heart does this work because this is what I believe in. But if somebody's going to be hired to do this kind of work, they need to be compensated for it, at a director level,

M

Matt Lunn 1:03:37

Yep. No, I appreciate that. Thank you. Any other thoughts along the line of qualities? Things we should consider as we as we start this, this process? Hearing none, are there areas that we haven't focused on yet that are consistent with the legislation that you would like to see or OMMIR focus on moving forward? Philip?

P

Phillip Gover 1:04:18

I'm sorry, I had to go to a different meeting. Hold on here. I'm sorry, I'm trying to handle some things at home and I had to take care of and then I had other meeting had to run to so I probably missed part of this conversation. Yeah. Thank you. I understand you were looking about certain qualities and the next person that comes through, and I'm not sure what everyone else had said. But I I also believe that this position doesn't necessarily need to be someone only with a public safety kind of background. I think this is a community type position in which someone who is culturally tied. If that's possible, it'll depend on who shows up and applies, but I don't, I think in this position, you need to look outside the box. And they can be able to relate with the police department is always good. But they're also here, I think, as a community representative, and that part is equally important. And I appreciate everybody cause I did hear some of this discussion. And, and as you can see here, the women of our communities are our biggest leaders, and often are the ones who are most clear as to what needs to be said in a way that needs to be said. And I appreciate that of the women that that are here, and also women within our community. And I would take that into account. Sometimes this discussion isn't about making sure who we're talking to, is they need to understand the emotions of these families. They need to know that these these are big concerns. We this has gone on too long in our history. And this is just a continuation of it until we really start to look at our system. So thank you.

M

Matt Lunn 1:06:08

Great, thank you, sir. Any other comments on that or on things from the legislation that you would like to see OMMIR have a greater level of focus on as we continue to move forward, Nancy?

N

Nancy Rae Kochis 1:06:24

Yeah, you know, there's a component missing in terms of the investigations piece, and I'm not

Yeah, you know, there's a component missing in terms of the investigations piece, and I'm not sure if that is new legislation, I'm not sure if that can be handled in policy. But during all of this, Monycka is going through her own personal battles, I'm going through my personal battles, you know, everyone on this phone on this call to Phil's point, we're all impacted, not just historically, but modernly and contemporarily, by these things. And so having someone to go to that the community can trust not just in this position of the CPS liaisonship towards the communities. But the investigations. I don't know if that's a CBI level thing. I don't know if that is an investigator to Raven, and Monica's points in, you know, local police or Sheriff's Office, which would be very expensive, I would think, you know, we also have to contend with what is realistic and appropriations for some of these things, not only because of Tabor in the state, but also because of county, county codes and county laws and what what they're able to afford, I myself live in a county without an active jail, because the new legislation requires a medical doctor to be present. So we now in a very, in a, in a county, very close to the trafficking that happens. You know, there's no jail. And, and so these kinds of things, we understand that those are realities. But we need somebody who can listen to the community, who can actively know where these investigative processes are going. I don't know if that's an appointed special investigator by some department. But without that piece, you're going to need to, you're going to need an investigator who actually can go out and listen. And you're going to need a liaison who can take those things and work with the families. It's irresponsible, it's irresponsible to not have those two positions in this endeavor, not only because of the numbers and in the history, but also because by doing something like that, we start to see best practices develop to Phil's point that help us as an entire community in Colorado, regardless of our genetics, it helps us to get ahead if we're doing things better together. And I think overall, that's been the message that Governor Polis has tried to get out is that, you know, we need to do better together, it is about together. Well, the only way it's going to be together to meet those needs realistically for missing people, is to have somebody who does investigations and somebody as a family liaison. That's what I think, Lydia, what do you think?

L

Lydia Lerma 1:09:14

I just added to the chat that I've actually been trained through the Public Agency Training Council on death and homicide investigations. I actually paid for that training myself. It was a week long training, but I think that type of training should be available to other community leaders. And the role that I see myself in is a liaison between the families and law enforcement. I, because of that training, I know what questions to ask. Because of that training. I know how to follow a case and I know how to translate what's happening to those family members and say, Okay, this is where we're at within the law enforcement process. This is what's happening. But again, that training is expensive. It's not always is available, I actually got special admission into that training through the former director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He gave me an exception for the training because typically that type of training is reserved for law enforcement. But we could duplicate that kind of training here in the state of Colorado, that could happen here.

M

Matt Lunn 1:10:24

I appreciate that. I always worry about putting the onus on victims and advocates. But I see the benefit, right of the education and the training. And so I see it two ways, right, the increasing the awareness, and the cultural competency of those doing the work in the field from the law enforcement, from victim services, and, but then also finding ways that we can support you all

who are who are doing such great work in your communities and working with these family members. So thank you for that. Any other thoughts along that line? All right. Hearing none, I What I'd like to transition to is, end this meeting, with an opportunity for you all to share any current events and things, anything that's going on, that you all think would be good for other members of the community, for those of us at the state to know that are happening. And so if you or some good news to share that we can all celebrate. So I will open it up to that.

M

Meskee Tsotaddle-Yatsayte 1:11:35

Hi, I have one, this is Meskee. Navajo Nation, they will be having a Missing Persons Day, November 4, everyone's welcome to come. And I believe it starts at 10:30. And it's on Saturday.

M

Matt Lunn 1:11:51

Great, thank you any other bits of information for the good of the group.

R

Raven Payment 1:12:05

So I recognize while what why we're what we're talking about, we're sitting here we're very much talking about a struggle for for Native people and our trauma and our history. One of the things I would encourage our our non native partners on this call to do is maybe come out to a local powwow, for example, there's going to be one here at the end of the month. So that just as much as you're seeing our struggles, you can come out and see our beauty and our success and our celebration in our culture, to kind of also give you that understanding of some of the finer aspects of the native life. So I'm happy to share some of those flyers as those events come up. And I think it would be a great opportunity for you guys to see the reasons why we celebrate and the reasons why we do this work so that every day is like a powwow for us. And we're thriving instead of just surviving.

M

Matt Lunn 1:13:03

Thank you for that Raven. And that was how I was going to kind of end this call. But I'll put a plug here, I if you will all will have me in your space, I would I would love to be involved in any activities. Or any events, any powwows. Whatever the case may be, so please reach out. If you feel comfortable doing so I would love to I would love to join you. Lydia, did you have something to add?

L

Lydia Lerma 1:13:35

I just posted in the chat that October 21. CSU is hosting our annual PowWow. So you all are welcome to join us.

M

Matt Lunn 1:13:43

M Matt Lunn 1:13:43

Great, thank you. Anything else? Nancy,

M Meskee Tsotaddle-Yatsayte 1:13:53

Matt, I think it would be really good. If you did come to that missing person day. And they'll have emergency management out there which is in charge of sending out the text alerts when someone goes missing on our rez and NamUs will be there, a representative from CODIS. And just meeting people, that would be really good for you to be out there. So if you need any more information you can go to if you're on Facebook, Navajo Navajo Police Department has all that info on there. They have their flyer up already. Um, if not, you can email me and I'll give you some more information. Thank you.

M Matt Lunn 1:14:30

No, I think that's great. Thank you so much. This will age me slightly but I was one of the Colorado representatives that helped launch NamUs a few years ago, so that was that was quite a while ago, but but anyways, I'm very familiar with the program. It's a great program. So, Nancy?

N Nancy Rae Kochis 1:14:51

Just in closing, I wanted to thank you, Matt and Kirby. We know that when we speak to you we are carrying very serious tones about the heaviness of the loads that we have and the lack of capacity to Lydia's point, to Phil's point carrying this for generations, it's heavy. You know, it's really heavy. And we know that, you know, you're not the people that are out, we hope not anyway, because sometimes that happens, but we hope that you're not the people out there, you know, contributing to to that issue, right, we have to also reach back to you as a relative in this circle. And I would advise that the more you make yourself, open, honest and humble, the way that you've done today Matt and listening and trying to process these things, Kirby, we appreciate you. You know, at this point, in juncture, in time, with climate change, with two wars going on, with the rate falling of the federal rating system with lots of debt, and increased pressure in Congress, there are a lot of concerns we're all carrying, we don't, you know, we want you to know that we acknowledge that, too, that you're coming to this also, carrying things you know, and one of the practices is not to burden each other, but to lighten the load, by sharing what we know. And by making room for mistakes. You know, as we get to know each other in this kinship, but my best advice to you is, again to Christinia's point, and to your offering, meet with these women. I'm probably one that you won't meet with, my capacity is always very stretched, especially at this juncture. But I would say the best thing you could do is to go have a cup of coffee or a cup of tea. Be in Colorado Springs with the Colorado Springs community with the task force, understand and see our families, see us. We wear red so that the Creator will see us and hear our prayers. And we're asking you, Matt and Kirby to do the same. See us see us for the noble family bloodlines that remain. See us for the 1000s of years of investigative, scientific processes in our logic, see us for the exquisite ability of love beyond a mother, a mother's loss, a mother's concern that you see Monycka Snowbird showing up, see it in Raven, who fights for everyone. See us, that's all we're asking, come be part of us and get to know us for who we really are, I guarantee you will learn so much, I guarantee you will

become a better human being as a result. And I can tell you that I love each and every member of this community, whether we know exactly where they're at, or whether we're still looking for them. And every member of this community is family to us. We are all related by bloodlines. So when Monycka's son is missing, every day, we're looking every day, we're praying every day, that is on my heart and mind. And I wake up with that, and I go to sleep with it. So understand that there's been maybe 262+ nations, but at the heart of who we are, it is about love. It is about family. And the biggest thing that this occupation has taken away from us is the safety that we created in our families. So thank you for helping us. Thank you for hearing me today. Thank you for these considerations. And I'm about four to six weeks out right now on appointments. But if you have time, and you would like to have a personal conversation via zoom, I will try to fit that in. But I would I would say that Monycka and Raven and Lydia are really great contacts as well as Phil, and I personally recommended them. I personally recommended them because we all work together in other parts of the community. And you will learn a lot by listening to Phil with the children by listening to Monycka and Raven with the communities by listening to Lydia with her real experience with law enforcement and her real investigations. So thank you for today. Thank you for being willing to be here in this circle. And thank you for the work that you will continue to do which is not easy.

M

Matt Lunn 1:19:15

Well, I appreciate the words. I think what I hope that you find that I'm available. I want to be there. I want to listen, and I want to learn from you. I'll leave fixing Congress to Kirby. But but, but no, I really appreciate that. And I think Adrienne had her had her hand up wanted to say something.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS 1:19:43

I just wanted to let everyone know that these events as they're coming up, please feel free to send them to me or text them to me. I'm happy to share them with the group as well as with DCJ staff in the interim while we're working on filling the director's position. I'm not going anywhere. So you can always reach out to me.

M

Matt Lunn 1:20:08

And you all know this already. But Adrienne is phenomenal. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of the DCJ Team. And, and she better not be going anywhere. So, but thank you so much, Adrienne, for all your work in the space and I know the great work that you'll continue to do. And does anyone else have any last comments, concerns? questions before? Before we wrap up Lydia?

L

Lydia Lerma 1:20:39

I just had a question about are all of our campus law enforcement agencies connected to this office?

M

Matt Lunn 1:20:48

Are the? Well, you would have to define for me what I mean by connected but what I would say is, it's really important to me that, I know CBI has already engaged in this in this work of reaching out and in working with the Colorado Chiefs of Police Association, the County Sheriff's of Colorado, it's really important to me to that OMMIR, is actively engaged in those spaces as well with our campus law enforcement agencies. Because we want to get the word out, we want to be a resource for the state. And we want people to feel like they're prepared if they unfortunately have to deal with an issue related to one of these cases. And so that's my hope and to the degree, you can help make those connections at CSU with the with the campus police there, I would greatly appreciate it.

L

Lydia Lerma 1:21:45

Yeah, I'm actually drafting a message right now to Chief Callahan. So I'm really excited about engaging him and seeing how we can get Northern Colorado law enforcement more connected with our community.

M

Matt Lunn 1:21:57

Great, thank you so much. Any other comments? All right, hearing none, I will just say again, thank you, thank you, thank you, for your time for your thoughts for your energy, and for doing this important work. I really look forward to continuing to working with this group. And if anyone ever wants to reach out, have a conversation, have a cup of coffee. Just let me know. I would love to make time for that. So take care. Let us know if you need anything and we will be in touch soon. Okay.

L

Lydia Lerma 1:22:40

Thank you.

M

Matt Lunn 1:22:43

Take care everyone.

M

Meskee Tsotaddle-Yatsayte 1:22:45

Thanks, everybody.