

# OMMIR Community Advisory Board...eting (2023-08-11 09\_58 GMT-6)

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

work, cbi, resources, colorado, information, office, alert, law enforcement, community, indigenous, legislation, meeting, melissa, families, missing, group, terms, question, agency, talking

## SPEAKERS

Vanessa Torres, Rosie Small, Adrienne Perkins - CDPS, Debbie Oldenettel, Raven Payment, Amy Barcenas, Christinia Eala, Melissa McGaw, Arron Julian, Nancy Rae Medina Kochis, Rick Waters, Phillip Gover, Natalie Bullion, Paula Vargas

A

Arron Julian 00:00

We'll give everybody a couple minutes to log on before we get started with our meeting. So we're looking at probably a couple more minutes see who else we will be able to sign on and then we'll get started.

N

Natalie Bullion 00:14

Thank you so much.

A

Arron Julian 00:34

What's up everybody. Good morning. Um, give ourselves a couple more minutes to see who else can log on and we'll get our meeting started.

A

Arron Julian 03:38

Good morning, everybody. We'll go ahead and get started. Just to respect everybody's time, we'll want to get everybody the opportunity and appreciate everybody's acceptance to this meeting. And we'll go ahead and get started. I want to thank you, everybody for showing up. We're going to start recording this presentation here very shortly and for opening prayer, I'll go ahead and start the opening prayer. Like I said, my name is Arron Julian and if you do not know who I am, I'm the Director for Liaison for Office of Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives and we'll get started with opening prayer. Heavenly Father, The Great Creator, we come to you today asking you for guidance, wisdom and support as we begin this meeting. Help us engage

in meaningful discussion allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace as we make decisions that might affect the staff, faculty and continue to mind us we do here, what we do here today, all that we accomplish is for the pursuit of truth and the greatest glory and for the service of humanity. We ask you for these things in your name. Thank you, everybody. And like I said my name is Arron Julian. We're gonna go ahead and get started. I'm gonna go ahead and introduce um, Debbie, she will give. She's the Acting Director for Criminal Division of Justice, Debbie.

D Debbie Oldenettel 05:10

Thanks, Arron. And thanks, everyone, for being here. We're excited to have our second meeting. So we're going to make this a little more organic. I know everyone has the agenda, but we're kind of going to change things up for the purpose of flow. So for the last meeting, we were able to spend a little bit of time introducing everyone, sharing your role on the committee, what you hope to why you hoped to be on this committee. And so today, we'd like to offer anyone who is new and wasn't able to attend last meeting to maybe do the same. And for those who were here, just a reminder of who you are, who you represent, kind of a quicker introduction, if you will, we were able to spend quite a bit of time getting to familiarize ourselves with one one another last time. And then if we have anyone joining who's not part of the committee, but is interested and has joined, please note that as well. So to start, as Arron said, my name is Debbie, Oldenettel, Acting Director for Division of Criminal Justice, which is where OMMIR sits, and I am going to go across my screen in terms of introductions, so the first person is Jason Jones.

D Debbie Oldenettel 06:51

Not sure Jason if you're on mute, or you're I could move to next person. Okay, I'm going to go and if I pronounce people's names wrong, I'm sorry, Jason we'll give you a minute. Let's see, Rosie.

R Rosie Small 07:20

Hello. Hello. Can you hear me?

D Debbie Oldenettel 07:22

Yep.

R Rosie Small 07:23

All right. Awesome. Yeah. My name is Rosie. I'm from Denver Indian Health and Family Services. I'm a behavioral health therapist here. My, my specialties are looking at victims of crime, individual counseling for them. And then on the side, there's addiction counseling, and things like that. Um, we have other ones too, around here, like an integrated care clinician, and then a therapist that focuses on use. But yeah, I'm here. On another side note, I kind of am

involved with the victim advocacy around Colorado. I used to intern or be at another agency that offered those services. So a little bit of background like that, too. But good to see everyone. Good morning.

D Debbie Oldenettel 08:12

Great, thank you. Christinia, you're on mute.

C Christinia Eala 08:42

I found my way back. I went to forward this email. Oh, you know, I've got on twice. Wait a second. Hmm. Oh, there we go. Okay. I left. I left here for a minute to go invite somebody to the meeting that said he would like to join. And and that's how I got lost. Just so you know. Oh, am I still muted?

D Debbie Oldenettel 09:10

No, you're good.

C Christinia Eala 09:11

Oh, okay. Well, my Oh, hello, Arron. Good morning. My name is Christinia Eala I'm a Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud Reservation initially, and but I live in Fort Collins now. I have a small nonprofit called Tiyospaye Winyan Maka, which is the extended family of women of the earth. I work with women primarily helping to establish homesteads and I have an underground railroad as well to help women who are in a domestic violence situation. To get out of that I bring them to Fort Collins put them in shelter here and then raise the funds to get them to where they need to be to get out of a dangerous situation and I'm really interested in MMIR because so many of our relatives are missing and murdered. And I can't remember the young man's name that Black Elk. What was his name? Anyway, he's a relative of mine. And I still can't remember his name. His first name. So yeah, I'm really happy to be a part of this team. And I look forward to working with each one of you and learning more about you. So thank you.

D Debbie Oldenettel 10:36

Thank you. So next is Natalie.

N Natalie Bullion 10:42

Hi, I'm Natalie. I'm Chickasaw. And I'm here representing my organization Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA and so we operate nationally, providing both education about the MMIR and MMIP issue, and also providing direct services to families, keeping the public aware of missing persons cases and murder cases of indigenous people across the United States through our social media. And we also are currently developing a youth program

as well. So it's definitely busy here, but serving here on the advisory committee, is something I'm very happy to be able to do. I'm very thankful that we were invited to do because we definitely want to use our organization experiences, both my personal and that of the women that I work with on our team, using those experiences to help pave a better way. Thank you.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 11:57

Thank you. Paula, I have you next.

**P** Paula Vargas 12:03

Hi, can you hear me? My mic is working. I am the Public Information Officer with the Office of OMMIR. So I contribute to elevating the story of OMMIR and how they provide the tools and resources with community across the state of Colorado

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 12:24

Thanks Paula and Rick.

**R** Rick Waters 12:31

Good morning Rick Waters. I'm Kiowa and Cherokee, the Executive Director of the Denver Indian Center and we're an organization that works in all facets of of native community and from the go to place to information to direct services to referrals, you name it. And if it's involved with American Indians or natives, we're generally often the first step. So I apologize for missing the first meeting. I was in Crow Country during the time of remembrance the Little Bighorn, so.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 13:13

Thank you, Melissa.

**M** Melissa McGaw 13:18

Hi there. My name is Melissa McGaw. I'm with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. I am the missing person and MMIR analyst. Here at CBI, we're responsible for the MIPA Alert for administering that. We work as a liaison with various offices to put out the alert. And we also work with various offices in missing person cases throughout the state. I'm happy to be here.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 13:47

Thanks. And LaRenda.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS

LaRenda is actually having an issue with her audio. She mentioned in chat.



Debbie Oldenettel 14:08

While you're on Adrienne, do you want to introduce yourself.



Adrienne Perkins - CDPS

Sure. Hi, Adrienne Perkins. I'm the Administrative Assistant for OMMIR. I'll be handling any of the resources that you need for these meetings. So feel free to reach out.



Debbie Oldenettel 14:25

And Nancy



Nancy Rae Medina Kochis 14:33

[Indigenous Language]. I'm Nancy Rae. I'm a Apache in four directions from southeast Colorado, including the original people the Apishapa, the Vaquero, the white shell also known as the Carlanas in the hispanic or Spanish occupation and my mother's people are part of the modern Jicarilla Apache Nation so it's good to always see my cousin, Arron. I'm a medical clinician and here representing a rural statewide health organization called Herbal Gardens Wellness, which I co founded and I'm the chairperson of. We primarily work in lifestyle medicine, which is a new modality that the attorney sorry not attorney that the head of the health department for the federal government has now approved. We primarily work in chronic disease conditions related to cardiovascular disease, type two diabetes and obesity. We have our organization does both events, community education. We also offer individual CBT/DBT therapies in addition to traditional methodology that we use in an integrative and holistic manner, and both are nursing and medical clinician practices. We have recently launched two programs in Denver. One is the Strong Willow Circle that is a peer led initiative by Nizhoni Key who is in a Baskin elder with us of the Dine' people and also Carla Will Speak to the addictions program will be running out the gathering place. Carla and I both have done a lot of more private type investigations due to our positions within the community and the frontline work that we have done over the last 10 years. We often get reports, or hear or even go out and look for people once we hear that they are missing in our area. Our primary concern is Highway 80. It seems to be the biggest trafficking spot north to south, and then also the continued issues that we have faced historically with genocide and murdered and missing indigenous relatives. I want to thank my cousin Arron for his patience and all of the work that he has done as he's coming into community. And I'd like to thank my elders for allowing me to speak before them and the women in the group for hearing me and I look forward to our mutual work together. Thank you.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 17:02

Thank you. And next is Raven.

R

Raven Payment 17:08

Hey, [Indigenous Language] My name is Raven Payment. I am Ojibwe and Ganigahaga and I live south of Denver. I am the co chair of the Denver American Indian Commission, and I am a member of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Task Force of Colorado, which is a grassroots certified nonprofit. I'm joining you from my mobile office today, I have my 18 year old chauffeur next to me, shuttling me around the city as we handle good business. I'm also one of the individuals that established and wrote the legislation that created the Office of MMIR and also this Advisory Task, Advisory Board, I am incredibly honored. And my heart is very full to see so many incredible people that I've partnered with in the past and that I know about and respect. So I'm just here to kind of listen in and cheer everyone on as you guys do good work on this advisory board. And also just really happy to see familiar faces. So thank you [Indigenous Language].

D

Debbie Oldenettel 18:11

Thank you for joining us Raven, and I like that you have a chauffeur. Next is Jennifer.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 18:29

Okay, so people have moved around on my screen, Jason

D

Debbie Oldenettel 18:42

I'm think he was having some technical difficulties. Okay, Philip.

P

Phillip Gover 18:52

[Indigenous Language] Morning, everyone. I'm Philip Gover. I'm Pawnee and Choctaw. Work currently for Colorado Department of Human Services as a Tribal Affairs Specialist. But I think initially when I was asked to be on the board, I was still working at Adams 12 as a Native American youth advocate, and had some connection with those others. And thank you, Nancy. Appreciate that. Also as similar to Raven, I'm so happy to get to see a number of people that I have met through that position when I was at Adams 12 and helping families in that route. And it's good to see everybody. Thanks.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 19:33

Thank you, Amy.

A

Amy Barcenas 19:37

Oh, hi. Hi Phil. Chippewa Cree. I'm from Montana. I was born and raised there. I live here in Denver now. I work with kids nonprofits, and I volunteer my community as an indigenous lactation consultant, and I just was certified as a postpartum, an indigenous postpartum doula. And I'm currently studying, more in the birth work and just kind of really enlightened to work in that space within the indigenous community. And so I'm excited to be on this board as well. Thank you.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 20:25

So I'm gonna need some help here. People have moved around on my screen, and then I can't see everybody which all the names, which I'm sure there's a way, but are there others that can jump in and introduce yourself if you haven't had a chance?

V

Vanessa Torres 20:46

Hi, everyone, this is Vanessa Torres. Southern Ute Tribal Council member, and I'm on here to have more awareness in our area. I know there's a couple of other tribal members who are on the task force as well. I am interested and willing to learn to grow to evolve with the group. It is very important to bring the awareness to our area. I know we've had some cases down here already, but I'm so excited to be here and just to be part of this group. Thank you.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 21:23

Thanks, Vanessa. Are there others?

D

Debbie Oldenettel 21:35

Okay, well, we will go ahead and move on. If anyone joins I'll try to, Adrienne maybe, you can alert me and we can not introduce folks, others join late. So we wanted to talk a little bit about kind of what has been done since our last meeting. And before we do that, and like I said, we're gonna kind of tag team this, Aaron and myself, we'd love all of you to join in to make it more of a conversation. But Arron, do you want to just really touch base quickly on what we covered last meeting and how people can get informed about those, those topics?

A

Arron Julian 22:19

Sure, yeah. Our last meeting was great. We had our first meeting back in June and just a real quick review, we basically had a general introduction and some of the work we've done with Senate Bill 22-150. I want to thank everybody here and there wasn't, there was a great opportunity for everybody to meet each others. And and we also said in the last week that we

will be needed any notes or information that that meeting was recorded, it is on our website, if you have the chance that you take the time to review it. We did post that information from Colorado P.O.S.T as well on the website, and regarding that last meeting.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 23:13

So you and I can tag team kind of what has been done and then Melissa, from CBI, we haven't had a chance to talk about this, but if you have anything that you want to add, feel free to jump in. And feel free to raise your hand if anyone has questions as we go along. So last time, we talked about CBI. So this is a partnership within the Colorado Department of Public Safety between CBI and then our office. OMMIR, which sits in like I said, the Division of Criminal Justice. CBI is tasked with having additional investigators designated to this critical topic. And one of the pieces that they have worked hard on is developing an informational card for law enforcement. As all of you I'm sure are very familiar, there's so many jurisdictional issues that can be confusing to folks in terms of how to request a report, a missing persons or missing person, and then also to request a MIPA. And so they have produced the card. I believe that we sent that out to folks prior to the meeting. And if not, Adrienne's probably already putting it in the chat. And so this card is kind of going to be they're using that to train and to distribute to law enforcement across the state. In addition to that, we talked last time and heard from P.O.S.T Academy that trains all have the peace officers across the state of Colorado. And so they're incorporating this information and then one of the pieces that can become confusing for folks is thinking that Arron and OMMIR, investigates or can help with this. And that's not the case per the legislation, or per jurisdictional issues and so Arron is using this card to help educate folks that contact him in terms of how to report a missing indigenous person, as well as how to help truly train law enforcement as well, who might not be familiar with this, particularly if they're in rural communities. And so, I'll stop there to see if anyone has any specific questions, or Arron do you have anything you want to add to that?

**A** Arron Julian 26:03

No, I don't have anything but yeah, anybody has any questions? Want to thank everybody for being here? Feel free to jump in. If you have a question, raise your hand, we'll, we'll answer your questions as they come up. Nancy?

**N** Nancy Rae Medina Kochis 26:20

Thank you for taking my question. If this office is not in charge of investigations, who is the contact for investigations? And is that a goal of Arron and the office eventually to be able to handle the investigative part? In which case then we would need Raven and that wonderful group of hers, to do some more work in legislation. So my question is, who does it? And if not, if it's our goal, how do we get it done? So that it's it's this office? If that's a goal of Arron's?

**A** Arron Julian 26:52

Sure, that's a very good question. Yeah. So we don't take the police reports. We don't do the investigations, but the original law enforcement agency that takes the police report, they're in charge of the investigations. And if they needed assistance, they can request through the



change of the investigations. And if they needed assistance, they can request through the Colorado Bureau of Investigations for assistance, as but it directly to your question is that the law enforcement agency that that takes the initial report is the investigating agency and like I said, if they need additional support or need additional resources, they can request that through the Colorado Bureau of Investigations.

D Debbie Oldenettel 27:36

Sorry, go ahead.

A Arron Julian 27:38

No, go ahead. Good.

D Debbie Oldenettel 27:40

So that's a great question, because that's been a huge point of confusion and I think it's going to take a lot of continuing education. And we look forward to having all of you help educate the public as well as law enforcement, in terms of the current system, how it's set up. With Colorado being local control, as Arron said, it's the local jurisdiction that is responsible for those investigations and many people aren't aware of this, but CBI is a by request entity. So they only become involved, if a local jurisdiction, and Melissa, please jump in if I get this wrong. But if a local jurisdiction reads, reaches out to them requesting assistance, or if that local jurisdiction reach reaches out and asks them to file, a MIPA, and so that's been, you know, understandably difficult for folks to understand. That's not only kind of how the legislation was written, but that speaks to jurisdictional issues across the state with regard to law enforcement, if that makes sense. And then the MIPA piece is critical to know, you know, good, bad or indifferent, it is up to that local jurisdiction to request that. So, Arron can't call CBI and request it. The family can't call Cbi to request it, but what Arron's been doing a great job is trying to help people understand that process so they can navigate it and CBI as well, as people contact them. Does that help?

A Arron Julian 29:35

Yeah, I thank I'm Nancy. Um, yeah, this should add about one thing that we're trying to get up to you too, is that the missing indigenous persons alert, the MIPA, is that it is still a voluntary requirement or not requirement voluntary resource for the local law enforcement. It's not mandated that they have to do one it's by their discretion is the way the law was, has been written. So we do our best to to help those entities and also with the families and if that's something that they're able to do, and we do what we can to help.

D Debbie Oldenettel 30:18

Nancy, did you have another question? Or should I move to someone?

N

Nancy Rae Medina Kochis 30:22

Um, just a follow up question, is there then a liaison within certain departments or jurisdictions that can work directly with the families at this point? Or is that something that would require additional legislation? Because during these cases, I know that Christina mentioned the young man Black Elk that we were all praying for, and very concerned about, but a lot of the confusion for the community came from the fact that there was no one for the family to speak to. And so to be proactive, is that, again, something we need to look at through legislation? Or is that something the advisory committee can work towards? Because it's really the families that suffer. And those are the, you know, the questions that they have, they need someone more than just a community member volunteer to listen to them. They're seeking answers. And so that's kind of you know, our question, you know, Rosie, and I can do a lot in terms of supporting through therapy, but you know, people want concrete answers, or at least some type of protocol or expectation of things to go. So are there liaisons? Or is that something that we would need to create? And thank you, Rosie. Yes. In the moment support.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 31:39

Um, so in terms of the point of contacts or the liaisons, I'm assuming you're talking about in the local jurisdictions?

N

Nancy Rae Medina Kochis 31:53

Yes. Are there liaisons within those specific jurisdictions? Like we have, Phil, you know, we have community liaisons that who's who's working with them, and who's working specifically with the tribes, because there are also cultural differences from the Lakota to the Ute to the Apache, and there's cultural differences are pretty important to have that education and training on when working with the families.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 32:16

Absolutely. So So to answer the first question, we don't have the ability to require jurisdictions to have specific liaisons. That's not something that we have the ability to do prior to the legislation or with the legislation. Arron is an, Arron you can speak to this to, you know, one of the things that we want to work with all of you on is like, what resources can we help identify for families? Because Arron is so far as office of two with Aaron and Adrienne and then we will be adding another person to the office. Well, we have to be cognizant of bandwidth in terms of what direct support Arron can provide, but that really is going to be a role that that he provides. And Arron, I don't know, if you want to speak to that. The place where it gets difficult is that that cannot include any specifics to the investigation, because we don't have that's local law enforcement jurisdiction and we aren't privy to that information.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 33:37

Melissa, do you have anything to add from the CBI? Sorry to put you on the spot.

M

Melissa McGaw 33:42

No, it's all good. I was just gonna say that. Yeah, these informational cards that we've been distributing to various offices is trying to pretty much inform them that what we're wanting them to do is pretty much anytime Denver has reached the point anytime they receive a missing person report that they're aware of that the person is indigenous, they'll just call us and we'll go ahead and issue an alert. But we yeah, CBI, as Debbie mentioned, we can only issue the alert if a law enforcement agency requests us to do so. I feel like sometimes agencies will not request it based on some aspect of the case. Maybe they're not wanting to tip someone off due to the investigative processes they're using through the case, but we definitely are trying to get that out there especially to the smaller agencies that they just call us if they have any questions, especially if a person is indigenous so we can go ahead and work with them and also to issue that alert.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 34:49

Thanks, Melissa. I'm not sure who is next maybe Phillip.

P

Phillip Gover 34:57

Thank you. I just missed it just so I can be clear because I haven't worked within Colorado understand the structure in the system. So some of this is new to me and I can go do some more more research, but this is just so I understand it. The local jurisdiction, you're talking about, let's say, Denver Police Department, these the group's the police officers themselves, and whatever investigators they have within their force itself. Correct.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 35:28

Correct.

P

Phillip Gover 35:29

Okay. And then CBI is the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. So but they're also part of CD, CDPS, which is, in a sense, another little group. Julian is under the Department of forget, which is a juvenile. I'm not doing now, just so I can know where everybody's housed. So this is also part of Colorado Department Public Services. So please.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 35:54

Yeah. So and we should you know, what might be helpful as we could get this group in org chart? Because, you know, right, because I'd like to be bureaucratic. But yes, so the, so CDPS is the overall arching organization. So that's the Colorado Department of Public Safety and then

within that, there's a number of different divisions, one of which is Colorado Bureau of Investigations, and one of which is ours, which is Division of Criminal Justice. In our division, we then have multiple offices and OMMIR is one of those offices.

P

Phillip Gover 36:34

So so when you have an incident happen, when somebody comes reports, my cousin's missing, they're going to the local police jurisdiction, the local jurisdiction decides if they go to CBI, so there's nothing that compels them to say, since this is a native person, and we know, MMIR is there, and that this is an issue, I make the decision locally, to say, I need this and you're saying what they often do is just come asking for, hey, we got a native person, how do I best talk to the family, they're not going to you and saying, Hey, CBI, we have a native person who's probably missing, let's make sure unless you just have somebody locally, who feels compelled that, you know, every time I have an in person that's missing, let's just go ahead and throw out this MIPA. But that's still their decision. Even CBI, once you have that contact, you can't say, hey, we need to do a MIPA, but as you can try to do is convince them to tell you to go do a MIPA, but it's still going to be that local officers decision on that. So I haven't looked at the legislation as an act created the Office. So even in legislation, it didn't make any changes to how the policing should be done. It just says, here's another resource you choose if you want to use it. Correct?

D

Debbie Oldenettel 37:53

Correct. And I am not going to pretend like I'm a law enforcement expert, or even anything close to that. And so we can talk maybe for another meeting, to get someone maybe from the Attorney General's office. I'm trying to think where it might be best, or Melissa, you might have ideas, to talk about kind of that, you know, jurisdictional issues in Colorado when it comes to law enforcement entities. Just to be clear, from what I've learned and understand it to be the case, I think in very few cases, would it be up to an officer like a line officers discretio. It's more of the, I'm not going to speak for all law enforcement agencies across the state, but I believe there's typically a process that those entities would follow. And it's the same for other missing persons, as I've learned. And Melissa, I'm going to look to you or Arron to see if you can help there are certain requirements that they have to follow if a case has been missing for a certain number of days entering it into is it NCIC and CCIC, Melissa?

M

Melissa McGaw 39:10

Yes, so by requirements, they're supposed to enter the law enforcement agency. So let's say Denver Police Department receives a missing person report they're required to especially with the indigenous person to put that person into the NCIC/CCIC system. So this system is used by law enforcement, so it will notify, with NCIC, will notify law enforcement throughout the nation. CCIC, is is Colorado so it will notify will not necessarily notify but it will be in the system that that person is missing so law enforcement will be able to see this person is missing in the state of Colorado, and they're required to put that in for eight hours for adults, two hours for children and most of the time it is going to be an officer taking a missing person report, but it usually goes for, let's say the bigger agencies will go to a missing person detective, smaller agencies, it will just go usually to an officer. And that's why myself and my colleague, Audrey are trying to

hit the various offices, especially the smaller offices to train them to about this alert about the missing indigenous person alert, and especially records and dispatch, who can also get reports are there, they'll be putting these these records into the system. And so we're trying to make sure that everyone is aware of this alert, so they can use it and give us a call. Don't like I said before Denver has, has now become a partner in anytime they do receive an alert or the missing person, I'm sorry, not an alert, a missing person that's indigenous, they're missing person detectives will go ahead and call us. And I feel like they've kind of trained down a little bit after, after certain issues we've had in the past. And we've been able to go ahead and just issue an alert automatically if any indigenous person goes missing that they're aware of immediately. But yes, that it's not required for the agency to call us it is upon their determination. It can be a little confusing, yes.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 41:29

And part of what we're hoping is that, you know, this is still new, and in our collaboration with CBI and others. And like I said with all of you, the more that we can educate law enforcement, that that's a resource for them. Hopefully, it'll become more of a regular practice. And then in addition to that, because of the confusing nature of it all CBI is also working on an informational card that's more geared toward the general geared toward the general public. So they understand the process as well.

P

Phillip Gover 42:10

Yeah, I think that that's, it is an education issue, because I don't think most people probably understand the way the structure the police departments work with each other. I think we all in our daily going round, we think this is what it is because it looks like this is how information is passed and CBI gets, you know, this bureau investigations are always brought in. But I don't think we really understand those interactions or those pieces and what's required. That's where, like I say, I'm not from Colorado, originally, my law background comes from Arizona, so I got to understand a bit of that system and police departments are local rules, state, local rule kind of things, they all do them a little bit different. So I think that's really important, and really is going to be that training then because if I doubt, most officers may be fully aware, or probably even, let's say why do we even need do it? That's always my concern, the officer saying why is there this MIPA and we got a missing person thing? Why are why is this even? And it's like, no, you need to be trained, you need to understand that. But I I just I know, I need to look at that structural entity of what policing looks like to even know, because I thought it would be CBI's, you know, decision once they got information, but that's where it's like, say, jurisdiction, police jurisdiction is always a big a big discussion, we'll call it when you're on like even a highway within a small town within whatever the action is, gets a little bit like tribal jurisdiction and you native, non native and who's going to do what and where. But that's, that's good information. But yeah, if you could get an org chart, and maybe even a flow of how a case would be handled, because items like that, too, even as we go into the public. This is going to be a little bit of analysis of how policing even works in general similar to how when ICWA came into play, how this child welfare work within the state, there are things that have changed since ICWA came into play that now child welfare and concepts of kinship have changed. I think this is one of those kinds of opportunities to relook at how policing works and that interaction in terms of of these things, but thanks for that information, because that is helpful to understand I appreciate it.

M

Melissa McGaw 44:28

Agreed, and I'm sorry, Debbie.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 44:30

No, go ahead, Melissa.

M

Melissa McGaw 44:32

I was just gonna say it is very confusing, and especially when you're not in law enforcement. And for instance, when I was in grad school, I had no idea how that worked as well. And so then when you enter into this into law enforcement, you realize how it flows and the jurisdictional issues. It is very confusing and I feel like getting that out to the public is of utmost importance. Just to educate because I think that's still a big confusion, um, we still get calls to file missing person reports. And we always encourage of all people, and we always encourage those people to call their local agency, because they can always request our assistance, but it has to come from the local agency. We always encourage them to report that person missing to their local agency, just due to the fact that that local agency can start to investigate that, that report and that missing person and if they feel like they need assistance, they will always call us or they can always call us. We're always here for that. But yes, it is very confusing and we have a lot of those cards. So if you all would like those cards to take to, to distribute to your local agencies, I'd be happy to send them your way. We're trying to distribute those throughout the state to educate as many agencies as possible, we really want to target the smaller agencies. So they're aware of the of the MIPA alert, and the criteria and everything that we can do to help them in missing persons that are indigenous.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 46:08

Thanks, Melissa and one thing I was going to add to and some of you heard this last time, but part of the legislation required the P.O.S.T Academy, which is within the Attorney General's Office and does as I mentioned earlier, all the training for peace officers across the state develops specific curriculum to add into their training around missing and murdered indigenous people, some of the cultural issues that need to be considered. I'm assuming that also Arron, you could probably speak to this include some of the jurisdictional issues. And so that training is now part of any new new police officer going through becoming certified, but then also becomes part of the annual training requirements. And so again, we're hoping that like, by hitting this through multiple different avenues, will get more educated about the process.

A

Arron Julian 47:11

Yep, um, Debbie you're correct it. The MMIR training is part of the new curriculum for new police officers it's also required in the in service training for older police officers and to address Phil's question that his concern is getting the education pieces out there. And yes, that this through legislation that, that MIPA, that Missing Indigenous Persons Alert is not mandatory for

law enforcement agencies. But the way it was written, it was left at discretion to law enforcement agencies. So So definitely get an education out there, we'll be more than happy to provide that information as much information can get to not only you, to this group, but also across the state is what our goal is to get information out to everybody, including the public, of how you report a missing native, and the importance that it starts with reporting to the local law enforcement agency and informing them that they are Native American and through their law enforcement. You see, as Melissa stated, they can request a missing indigenous persons alert, but as Phil said, it's it's not a mandatory, but it's just a discretion. It's another tool for law for law enforcement to use.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 48:34

Thanks Arron. Natalie, I think was next?

**N** Natalie Bullion 48:39

Hi, yes. So um, you know, part of the work that I do besides just managing the whole organization, working, we work one on one with families, and myself and some of my advocates have worked one on one with families in Colorado, as well as many other states. And we have dealt with the MIPA alert as well. And we definitely see how useful it can be the sooner you get it out. But we've had problem, well, we had a problem come up in the past where there was a bit of an issue with getting the alert out promptly people not like people within law enforcement not knowing who was supposed to be doing it, which obviously the training would help to fix that problem, ideally. But what I want to know because I work from that family advocate perspective, what can families do if law enforcement refuses to reach out for a MIPA alert?

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 49:51

I mean, at this point, and Melissa, please jump in. It really is going to be up to that local law enforcement agency to do it. So, we can't intervene. CBI can't intervene in terms of those jurisdictional limitations that we have. So so that is part of it and Arron, helping to guide families on how to do that advocacy piece is going to be critical to part of this office's role.

**N** Natalie Bullion 50:27

Okay, thank you.

**M** Melissa McGaw 50:28

One thing we can always do too, as CBI, we can always, if a family reaches out to us, we can always call the agency. And of course, we can't tell them how to do how to investigate their case. But we can always call them and just remind them of the alert. And just let them know that this is a very good tool that they can use to help find their missing person. And again, we can't tell them if they can or cannot do that. But we can just go ahead and just reiterate what it is, and how it can really help their investigation, and just kind of put forth that positive outlook

on the alert and how that could really help their case. So that's one thing we can do. Again, unfortunately, we can't force the agency to do it. But we can always just call them and reach out. And so we're always happy to do that, too. If the family always wants to call myself or my colleague, Audrey, and we can always call the agency and just go ahead and reiterate what the alert is and kind of re-educate on how it works and how it can help.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 51:37

And and I'm Melissa I don't want to speak for CBI, I will say that, from what I've watched, and what I'm learning over this process is because of those jurisdictional issues, Phillip that you've raised and the confusion around them, it's it's a fine line. For CBI, in terms of because their request by request agency, it's a very fine line in terms of providing that education versus appearing as if they are trying to interject themselves into the investigation. Again, I'm I'm not I don't want to speak on behalf of CBI. Um, but Melissa, is do I have that accurate?

M

Melissa McGaw 52:21

Yes, yes, that is accurate. Again, we always approached the situation as, hey, this is an alert and it could definitely help if you feel like it would help your investigation. Again, we can't tell them how to if they should issue or should not, but we can always just offer that education piece. And yes, we never want to seem like we're interjecting on their investigation, but we always come forth as an as it as an education point.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 52:57

Thanks, Melissa. Raven.

P

Phillip Gover 53:00

Yeah, thanks.

R

Raven Payment 53:02

So I want to be very clear that when the legislation was written, it was never intended to be optional for the alert to be utilized. And there is a discrepancy between the rulemaking that was developed around the alert and what the legislation says. But that is a conversation for a different day. One of the issues that we have had in utilizing the alert with law enforcement, law enforcement making this optional is a variety of disparaging and offensive reasons why they do not want to utilize the alert. Stereotypical tropes involving substance abuse, involving status of housing in which they are choosing not to use this alert, that comes down to education and overcoming bias, which is how do I put that a process that is ongoing for groups that aren't just including indigenous people and that's kind of the problem with allowing this to be optional for law enforcement to utilize. I'm looking at this card and one of the things I want to emphasize and I say this with gentle love for whoever designed and wrote the language for



this card, going out to law enforcement is that messaging and marketing matters. When I read this card, it's very sterile. It's very, there's a law so now you should do this thing. If these officers receiving this card aren't sitting in a room to hear from Melissa, for example, about how positive and helpful that this alert is, they're not getting that tone from this card, they're getting a very blank piece of information that makes it almost sound like an additional burden on top of countless responsibilities and duties that these officers already have to do in their day, day to day. So I would have a gentle suggestion that this card should be designed or written with a more positive attitude about A) how helpful this is. Solving their missing persons cases and soliciting leads to recover these people and then also the educational component to overcome some of these stereotypes and these biases. Because out of I don't even know how many alerts were on now, 26 / 27 alerts, I think only six of them, like the grassroots Task Force has not had to intervene and call Melissa and Audrey on a Saturday night at midnight just to try to get law enforcement to do their job and help recover these loved ones. So with that I did say I was going to be quiet on this call. I'm sorry, I'm going to be quiet again. But just some context for everyone in terms of what's going on and not going on with this alert.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 55:41  
Thanks Raven.

**A** Arron Julian 55:42  
Thank you Raven, that was awesome. We definitely take that information and see what we can do to, to incorporate it in our in our future. But I appreciate you stopping in and giving us that background on on the legislation, something that I've been, I've been hoping for to get more information on the history of it, and I appreciate it.

**M** Melissa McGaw 56:07  
And maybe, I'm so sorry, no, we can we can maybe work with you can to kind of redevelop this card. Again, I don't know the publisher of the original of the card, but we can maybe get with you to kind of make the language not so sterile. And again, yes, you're right. So we can put it out to these agencies to look at it as a very positive aspect of trying to find these missing people in their agency.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 56:39  
Raven, did you have another question? Or is that your hand from before?

**R** Raven Payment 56:44  
Nope, I just forgot to hit the button.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 56:46

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 56:40

Thing I just didn't want to move on. So in the interest of time, this is a very positive conversation. And I think, Melissa, I've asked you, and we can do the same in our work collaboration with CBI, who are developing those cards, but I think that will be a key piece to share with them as they develop the informational card for the general public. So I think I'm glad you raised that. And we can share that in terms of the the current development of that card as well, to make sure it's not too sterile of language, if that makes sense.

**A** Arron Julian 57:25

I think it does and I also want to add that we can also take the suggestions from the advisory board. And if they can take a look at that information and see how we can come together to make sure that we're we're sending out a very positive message to help our native communities. And that's that's been our basic goal. So like I said, just provide your suggestions, take a look at it, and see how we can make it better and language that's more pleasing to the native community.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 57:57

Um, so another way that is working kind of fits into this discussion is it also the legislation called for a 24 hour, we're calling it a resource hotline. So this kind of falls into the same issue that we've been discussing. So this is a 24 hour hotline that sits in what is called the CIAC, The Colorado Information Analysis Center, here within the Department of Public Safety, it's going to run into the same issues, to be honest of what we've been talking about. So they this, you know, the folks from CIAC cannot initiate an investigation or do any of that, but we'll have this information like we're talking about to provide and help be another source of education for people to go to their local law enforcement agencies or to inform local law agencies how they can request an MIPA and or how they can request the assistance of CBI. So let's see.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 59:19

I'm trying to see what else I have missed. So we do have I just think it's important one open seat that is left on the board. Um, in terms of education and I believe, Adrienne, can you help me in terms of the position we have so many different positions on this?

**A** Arron Julian 59:49

The open position we have available is we're waiting on is the Utes, Ute Mountain from Towacc. So yeah, we're waiting for final who they're going to designate as the next person or the person that's going to be representative from their, from their tribe we are just waiting for their final approval or appointment.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:00:14

So I'm just looking at the agenda here to see, I know we're a little bit behind schedule. So do is there are there any other questions or we can move into having Arron or Adrienne go over the

there are there any other questions or we can move into having Arron or Adrienne, go over the website.

A

Arron Julian 1:00:35

If there's no additional questions, which we have the website up and running will also add additional information that Adrienne's, Adrienne and CBI have been working on. And the so Adrienne's can give you an introduction of what the new addition to website will be.

P

Paula Vargas 1:00:58

So this is a draft of the website that we've created, it hasn't gone live, although we do have the names of the board on our website, this is an additional webpage strictly for the board members. So here, once we scroll down, you'll see that we have a calendar, if we can scroll down to show the calendar. So in this calendar to tell you when the upcoming board meetings are scheduled and within those, once we have the agendas you can click in there and take a view of the agenda. In addition, once we scroll a little further down, not just on the calendar, but you'll notice that we have upcoming meetings, you'll be able to also click there for the agenda. And if you miss a meeting, we have the videos on there for you able to catch up, at your convenience. One of the things that we were going to ask is we have your names on there, but if we get any questions asking for, for connection with one of the board members, those are going to be redirected to Director Julian and he will forward those on to all of you or to whomever they are asking a question of. But our goal here is to to show you the draft that we have, and to let you know that it's going to go live here soon. And we're not sure if you've had an opportunity to take a look at the OMMIR website now as it stands. But we also are interested in learning if you've had an opportunity to take a look at it and to see if there are new resources on there that you do want to add or any resources that you see out there that maybe we don't have on there that maybe we should add. So that is our goal of showing you the website here the draft and kind of introducing you to the website and now I'll turn it back over to Director Julian.

P

Paula Vargas 1:03:01

Director, doesn't look like we have any questions if you want to continue moving down the agenda.

A

Arron Julian 1:03:09

Thanks Paula.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 1:03:11

Sorry, go ahead.



A

Arron Julian 1:03:14

Oh, no, I'm just saying thank you, Paula.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 1:03:18

So one of the things that that this office is tasked with and would love the kind of input and advice from this group. As last time we discussed, this group is there's different types of boards within the state. And this is referred to as a type two board. So it's really providing input and advice to the department, which in turn will go to the legislature, legislative body as appropriate. So obviously things that we can't change, we won't be able to make those changes. But we do want to make sure we're getting input from from all of you as the experts and the people who are doing this work on the ground. So one of the pieces as we work to educate and advocate, we want to have kind of a similar process in terms of what resources should we be identifying for families. And so I think a number of you have asked this question, but you know, where do families go? What could we offer? So, you know, I would like to hear and we would like to hear from all of you about suggestions of what should we be working to gather, if you will, to then have as resources for families who are going through a situation like this. So for example, to me, an obvious one would be different mental health resources. You know, we have to be careful of, you know, not promoting specific providers necessarily, but directing people to where they can find mental health resources, educating people about that process. You know, human services in the behavioral health organization, that's kind of their areas of expertise. Phillip, I don't know how much as CDHS employee, you have information on that. Of course, nothing is simple when it comes to the state. That those are the types of things that, you know, we would like to hear from you that what would be helpful to families that are going through these terrible situations.

P

Phillip Gover 1:05:47

Yeah, and as I'm learning about the office, because I'm relatively new to but that is one of the things that, I think, I don't know if it would be with Arron Julian, but it but with whoever it needs to be, and myself talking internally, as to what those resources would be and where they'd be available and how to make them available. One thing is the behavioral health is its own entity now, outside CDHS. So we probably would even need to make contact with them, and then determine how to utilize probably the local agencies wherever the families at. And that is something that I do think we need to talk about, at least through the state on how to make those resources available. But that becomes a question because I do think some of the culturally tied resources is going to be found in these other groups that are also here. But as you said, we're not able to give you said any kind of direct, hey, here's these groups, or maybe there's a way to create under CDHS, at least a listing of, hey, here's some other resources, then at least we can say, we keep that that is something I think my office, we probably do need to think about and discuss, at least on how to support and think through CCiA health and wellness, we had this discussion on how to be supportive to MMIR. So I think some of that is in the very beginning works and then we need to just figure out where to put that in a way that doesn't become I'm saying, go to this group. But at least we know, culturally tied groups and creating a listing might be a good idea. Wondering even under the website itself that you've created, whether or not you can tie and connect some of that information, or that becomes one of the places to just place groups who would definitely actually that might even be the better place. Because when those who are the victims or the ones the family members in need of the

support. They know there's at MMIR, they're already in that space, then that might be a listing of a place to put it like you say I think mental health resources is one of the big ones in terms of counseling and supports, just to get through the trauma, but I am definitely open to hearing what everybody else who definitely is handling these families has much more of detail than I think I would but I'm definitely going to listen so I can determine how CDHS can be supportive.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:08:22

Natalie.

**N** Natalie Bullion 1:08:24

So one thing that I want to bring up that Phillip mentioned, you know, just like coming up with ways to support families. When we work with families, and this, I'm not just being Colorado specific, but for the entire United States. Families we have worked with, you know, oftentimes, a lot of the people who are going missing, especially in a family setting is someone who's in more of a leadership position in their family, you know, someone who's taking care of a lot of people, a lot of children especially, and so, um, you know, one thing that we do commonly help with our organization is supplementing needs that arise from those caretakers, you know, the foundational members of families who keep everything going, you know, supplementing the needs that come up when those family members go missing. And so there's definitely like, you know, having to bring in social services, help them get connected to resources. I think that's one thing to consider as well. You know, things like child care, especially. Recently we worked a case where a woman, this was not in Colorado, but she left behind seven children and so what happens to all those children, you know, and so thinking about that as well, in terms of the resources that are provided. Things like that are definitely important.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:10:12

Yeah, I think I think that's a great point, Natalie. And in my former life, I worked in Health and Human Services and just helping educate people about the resources that are out there, but then unfortunately, a huge part of it is how to navigate those systems to access those resources too. So I think it's going to be a learning process and educational process. And, you know, potentially, a lot of education for this group. So then, just like with the law enforcement component, you feel empowered to go help spread that word as well. And then I'm now losing track of who said what, but also, that would be a huge component of OMMIR, and how we help people with those resources. And it'll be an ongoing process as we identify those needs. So someone had their hand up, Rosie?

**R** Rosie Small 1:11:16

Thank you, thank you, for the others to Natalie and Phillip there for bringing up some good things. I agree, maybe a resource list of like, you know, of the, of the resources around here. And then, but so like, mine goes back to, I can't read her name on here, I don't see it anymore, but it kind of was I resonated really well with what she was saying earlier about the in the moment sort of processing and stuff, kind of like so like how I kind of envisioned it. And self

disclosure to is that I encountered a house fire last year, over Labor Day weekend. And, you know, police were called, they were making the reports and things like that and things. So I was given lots of cards, I feel like of who to contact. So this was my investigator, this is, you know, who I call for the report or things like that, it was really helpful to keep all that. And then also just to kind of see, like, who's who's kind of in support of me of that time. I and I've heard lots of narratives, too, that the police and law enforcement is very hard, because we have a really, we don't have a really good relationship with them. And again, it goes back to all of those racial, the race, minorities under you know, and that stereotype and bias. I really appreciate, you know, that that one, I can't I'm not good at names. I'm good at faces. But you know, that that brings it up, you know, like, they might just label us as like, not important. Even if we are encountered with you know, we're having a couple drinks that night, we're kind of just already stereotyped as being Oh, they're just drunk, you know, they're calling, they're not being serious and things like that. But um, I think so it's something I feel like it will be really helpful. Maybe that advocacy at that time. Um just to guide them and especially with all this process and information I have now, I'm trying to look over the entities and be and connect them and like who's goes where who goes now, after learning that myself, you know, I'm able to pass that on. But also it's kind of really complex, you know, we're seeing the umbrella of it, but really it dissects into these different entities and stuff, so maybe some more information or training on that. So that we can pass and educate forward as well. I don't know, I kind of just ramble on, but maybe you guys can take something from that. But maybe just again, that of advocacy of somebody there someone that I can they can also have those resources and say, Well, you know, like this into this agency can offer support groups for grief and loss or something like that. Is that something you want to go into? You know, or get assistance with calling the cops or things, you know? Yeah.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:14:27

No, I think that's great and I think that's great feedback. And, you know, a goal and, you know, Arron, please speak to this but a goal of our office. I mean, the challenges that that we face is that OMMIR is not a 24/7 office, but as much as we can get information out there. So those so people are aware of the resources, I think it's going to be huge. And I think this group, you know, we're not just looking to get those identified today, but um we'll develop a mechanism where we can continuously build that, have people learn more about, you know, victim advocates in their communities and like you said, human services, mental health, behavioral health. I think those are all going to be critical. And then the last thing, I'll say, and see if someone else has questions, but that educational piece that you talked about, like, just us understanding. I'll just share a really brief story, but when I was in child welfare and adult protection. We were working to try and get family access to mental health services and it was a separate entity from what we were. And I decided to try myself as a kind of family or a person in the community to navigate that system and it was incredibly difficult. And I worked in the system. And I just think that spoke volumes to how we need to, you know, figure out ways to better educate people and help them with that process, especially when they're in times of crisis. So thanks for those thoughts.

**A** Arron Julian 1:16:12

That's gonna appreciate that. We got some great ideas, great resource information, how to get it out there. I know, for our office, we reached out to tribal entities and other grassroots organizations, as well as working through our tribal liaisons across the state to get our message

out, and to bring better information. So with everybody's help here, we can make that happen. A little more easier and I think we have some really great ideas and we can, we're taking those on the information. So what do you want to make sure that we provide the best service to the native community?

R

Rick Waters 1:16:52

I have a question. This is Rick at the Denver Indian Center and I know Arron, I we've had a discussion early on, we're talking resources. And is it part of the responsibility of this group to provide that input on what some of those requested resources by victim families, I'll just say that, in terms of putting something together, because I know when we first spoke, it was you gave an example of a missing person that was found. And basically, there was no budget in your office to handle transportation or housing, or even food in terms of the transition of this person back to their family or to their home, or that kind of thing. So is there any thing that we would provide input on I know, we we try to, to a degree with the MOU we have with with with you. And I'm just wondering, because I think our resources are limited as a nonprofit, but I think of examples because people talk about the cultural responsiveness across the board, so you know, in my mind, as an example, somebody gets sick in your family, they get airlifted to Denver, they live in South Dakota. It's just the Indian way. Grandma and Grandpa, or those close, they're gonna pack up and leave, right then without even thinking about where am I going to stay? What am I get, you know, a lot of times they're in a position financially that, you know, that's, that's an emergency that they haven't, they're not prepared for. So I can see this as an example, somebody missing, you know, from out of state and they get located here. I guess it would carry over into broader discussion, if somebody missing here gets found or investigation takes place in another state, but those resources I'm thinking, you know, we can put it in a more of a format of, of how we could help. And that's what I'm getting at, you know, what is the input of how we can help the agencies. So right now that just to give you an example, what I'm thinking through my mind, somebody is located here missing from New Mexico, located here in Colorado. And like I said, they're at the police station, they let them out, or they're at the hospital, they let them out family, it's gonna be just packing up and coming up here, but maybe doesn't have gas money to get back. No place to stay. It's a two day trip or whatever. You know, that's kind of where, you know, simple and you can't really put it because it can't be cookie cutter. Just when you think, you've got all the ideas, some new situations circumstances going to come up, but kind of rambling a little bit here. But that's what I was curious is that this group to continue to provide input on how we can help your office with assisting families? In the moment, I guess?

A

Arron Julian 1:20:24

Yeah Rick, you're absolutely correct. We need we need information we need help on on getting those resources like these last couple cases we've had throughout my time here. I've been reaching out to other grassroots organizations to help people with transportation, shelters, housing. But yeah, we need like I told you before our office doesn't have a budget for any of that stuff. And so we're reaching out to whoever we can to get that information, but yes, you are correct, that this board will be great to help provide the information and how we can bring all those resources together. So we can provide the information.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:21:11

And just to reiterate that, I mean, I think that's part of the education and part of the frustration, in terms of like establishing this office. Is that this office is not direct service. So Arron doesn't have the bandwidth to be, you know, going out, or we don't have the staffing, the resources, that's not the way the legislation was written. So, Rick, you're absolutely, like spot on in terms of getting input from this group to help identify those resources. Or what, what resources are missing, that need to be identified to help these families. If that makes sense?

**R** Rick Waters 1:21:58

Just a quick comment as well. Oh, I thought of it earlier. Arron, do you have any contact or association with a National Native American law enforcement agency or association out of DC? Do you ever they do training with police mostly tribal, but also in communities of higher native populations? But I was curious if you knew of them or even worked with them?

**A** Arron Julian 1:22:26

Yes. NNALEA, we, I'm aware of them. We do get information from them, so we're providing it. Colorado has this resource and let not only NNALEA know. And also the tribal section for the Indian or the International Association of Chiefs of Police, they have a tribal section that we are operational and working to to help the native communities and people go missing. And we're able to do what we're able to do to help with that information. But yes, I did reach out to the NNALEA as well and IACP.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:23:12

So this has been a great conversation. And we're obviously getting a lot of great ideas in the chat and we'll be capturing this. And then we'll continue to find ways to get your input on what some of those resources may be. As well as talking about what would be helpful to have come in and speak to this, you know, possible speakers to this group to help educate about different parts of the system, if that makes sense. Arron, did you want to move on to the deliverables?

**A** Arron Julian 1:23:55

Sure. Yeah, move through our agenda. I know in Senate Bill 22-150. We do our office does have a deliverable to the state. And also to the community is a is advisory report of everything we've been doing since the creation of this bill. Now, unfortunately, part of that is July of last year, this bill went into effect. I was hired in November, and there was other entities that were was started their programs. So we're gonna clear out all the information and we're gonna deliver that report to the legislature by December of this year. Also the advisory board in the new legislation, Senate Bill 22 -0, or I'm sorry, Senate Bill 23-054. Also, the Advisory Board does have a requirement to provide a report to legislation as well. So the summary will be from the advisory board and it's recommended that we're going to check on the deadline as to verify exactly when I'm present when that report is due. And when we get that information, we will forward it to the advisory board. But the advisory board will also next they will be required to put a report together of things we've all worked on and recommendations of how to make this



office better, or what we'll hasn't been working, what and what worked in and it'd be your report that has to go forward. And also, like I said, additionally, my report will go forward, but also, before that goes forward will be a draft to the advisory board, as well. So we can all take a look at the report that that's coming out of my office for the legislative requirements from legislation. And as far as those two deliverables, anybody have any questions?

D Debbie Oldenettel 1:26:05

Arron were you're gonna speak to seeing about who on this board may be interested in?

A Arron Julian 1:26:11

Oh, yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, um, for the advisory board their report, want to get volunteers and was interested in helping put together that report. Any volunteers be great? Can we help us with data information, data sharing? Or how do we collect information? There's many great people here on this board that's able to do that. So if you want to be volunteer, just please let me know. And we can put a little working group together so we can get get it done. And Natalie, I see your chat. That's awesome. Yeah, we can well, we have one volunteer from that, really. So that's great.

D Debbie Oldenettel 1:26:56

And so just to address so Adrienne put in there. The report from OMMIR will be due to the legislature at the end of this fiscal year. So actually calendar year, I apologize. So December of 2023. What Arron was referring to earlier, in terms of clarification of the date is in this latest piece of legislation that referred to this advisory board doing a report. And the question was, the legislation was vague in that stated December 31. And every year thereafter, but it didn't specify it was 2023, or 2024. So we're going to work with our legislative liaison to find out if it in fact, it's this year or next. Our assumption would be it's next year, but we need to clarify that.

D Debbie Oldenettel 1:28:01

So Arron, do you have are there other, I feel like there was someone that made a suggestion for a meeting, an upcoming meeting for training on something or a topic, or something.

A Arron Julian 1:28:13

Natalie did suggest on when we sent a request more information and training for on human trafficking as it pertains to MMIR regarding law enforcement training. So we had constraints of time, but something we we did take a look at and we're on we're looking at finding out who to bring that forward.

D Debbie Oldenettel 1:28:36

And we do have a human trafficking office within the Division of Criminal Justice. So we can definitely get something, someone from that office to come and speak to this group.

A

Arron Julian 1:28:51

Natalie, that's something you were what the question was, or your recommendation.

N

Natalie Bullion 1:28:57

Yeah, so just being able to inform us, you know, about how the handling of human trafficking works in Colorado, because of course, you know, the way human trafficking is nowadays, and the way that it's been handled in the last 10 years, especially I think has changed drastically compared to like the history of it. And as it is a rising issue and one that is growing more awareness. Also more public outcry. I definitely think we need to look at how it actually works and seeing how we can educate the public about how it is handled, you know, as much as that would help. And then looking at how it pertains to Native communities. What can we do as an advisory board to help with the education about that? Help with everything else that could potentially come with that?

D

Debbie Oldenettel 1:30:00

Today, I think that's perfect and our office of human trafficking sits within the Office of Victims programs. And that's been exactly what you're talking about as they've been doing a huge educational campaign and public awareness. So all of that would be really important for this group to have an awareness and resources, etc, that can then again, get the word out to communities.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 1:30:36

So I think we've covered all the topics on our agenda. Is there anything else that anyone wanted to have questions about or discuss? Our next meeting is scheduled, I believe it's on the agenda for November 17.

R

Rick Waters 1:30:56

This is Rick, at the Indian Center and somewhat unrelated, but in, in one sense, everything's related. On August, the 20th, which is a Sunday, the new mayor of Denver is having a town hall here at the Denver Indian Center. I'm just giving this announcement, particularly to the Native community that's on this zoom, but it's the topic will be homelessness, and the mayor's kind of initiative and what he's doing right now. But I'm sure other topics may come up that I was just throwing that out there for those that sending out information on Arron. And I just sent us something with a with a flyer, but it's on Sunday, August the 20th. Here at the Denver Indian Center from 2, I think they originally scheduled till 3:30, but doors open at 1:30. So that's open

to the Native community as well as general communities, but the focus, obviously be here is to be a comfortable, safe place for a native community to come in and voice their concerns about what's happening here in the city.

A

Arron Julian 1:32:08

Awesome, Rick. I would appreciate that. Yeah, we can get that flyer, we'll send it out August 20 and we will look forward to being there. Thank you.

C

Christinia Eala 1:32:19

Also, I would like to digress, too, what somebody was talking about the families that come from the reservation, to to be together when somebody's missing or somebody is found and I think that Tiyospaye Winyan Maka could be a good resource for that. You know, because, you know, like I say, I've got that. I've got that underground railroad thing that goes on and so I have already established quite a few resources for families that would come this way. I just want you to know that.

A

Arron Julian 1:32:57

Oh, thank you. I'll make my way back up to Fort Collins. And we can have have another meeting and we want to have to get the information. Thank you.

C

Christinia Eala 1:33:07

Thank you.

N

Natalie Bullion 1:33:09

MMIW USA can offer resources for travel for MMIR families as well. That is a direct service we've been doing for a while. So you know if anyone encounters a family that needs funding for travel, whether it's to get their loved one who is found home safe, both inside of Colorado or outside of the state, or you know, whether it's family travel, for whatever reason related to the case, please know that we're here as a resource for that as well.

A

Arron Julian 1:33:45

Awesome, thank you Natalie. I appreciate that.

C

Christinia Eala 1:33:47

Yeah, I think it would be nice to collaborate together at some point, Natalie.

N

Natalie Bullion 1:33:52

Yes, I will put our contact email in the chat. So you can write that down.

C

Christinia Eala 1:33:57

Okay, thank you.

D

Debbie Oldenettel 1:34:05

Well, this has been great, you guys. We so appreciate all the feedback and they're looking forward to putting together some great resources for families. And we're capturing all this I've taken a ton of notes. I know Aaron has Adrienne has. So we look forward to this continued partnership, we'll get something out there and then start kind of compiling your ideas in terms of those resources, even in terms of categories, but then maybe specific resources might be one way of looking at it and then if you can bring forth those ideas. So the human trafficking piece in terms of education, I think the law enforcement jurisdictional aspect of it. You know, I just think you know, various things that the cultural aspect and the the biases that exist and wondering how this office could; I'm thinking out loud now. So that can be dangerous. But you know, how could we contribute to better educating communities, law enforcement, etc, on that exact topic?

P

Phillip Gover 1:35:26

I just had one quick question is, is there resources within the Department of Public Safety, like crisis type resources for a noticed there was victim compensation, which means you're putting it out, and then we'll compensate you if it meets whatever. I'm thinking in terms of like, like, when I went to the hospital, once my daughter really was in danger. There was a basically a caseworker, who was there to help you be aware of those resources, especially since the parents or whoever is in crisis mode, it's hard to be clear and thinking at that time, and you needed that one caseworker to explain you the processes or those things. Is there anything similarly structured? I'm going to look at CDHS too. But is there a similar thing through CD, public safety? And concept similar?

D

Debbie Oldenettel 1:36:20

Unfortunately, not. I wish that was the case and from my experience at the local level, that was something we always wanted, for families as well. So I wish I had a better answer for you, but that our agency, particularly Division of Criminal Justice is not like direct service. We do a lot of grants, and that sort of thing.

P

Phillip Gover 1:36:46

That would be interesting, because even with a grant, maybe creating a third party, group

that's under grant fund. Okay. That's what I was wondering. Thanks.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:36:54  
Sure.

**C** Christinia Eala 1:37:00  
Is there? Oh, oh, sorry.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:37:04  
Your hands?

**C** Christinia Eala 1:37:05  
Okay.

**C** Christinia Eala 1:37:05  
Well, anyway, so if they're, you know, if there isn't something in place, to help families in time of crisis, I know that I've worked in mental health for probably 40 years or so as a psychiatric technician and a caseworker and whatnot. I think it would behoove us maybe, for those of us who do work in mental health, to form some kind of volunteer team to be able to go out into community, you know, if, if, if we're called on, you know, just sit with a family? I think it's really an important piece of this.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:37:47  
I see. I also think, like I mentioned before, the, you know, as the Behavioral Health Authority establishes itself, and, you know, I'm not part of that organization. It's definitely in its early formation, but, you know, typically, they're set up in terms of regions and will have community mental health providers. And so, you know, that would be something that would be interesting. Phillip, I don't know if you can help with this, but how do we make that connection and see what services are available through that mechanism as well.

**C** Christinia Eala 1:38:28  
Well, if I could just interject for a quick moment, I'm not talking about people. People who are non native, I'm talking about putting together a team like young woman just moved here from South Dakota. And she's a licensed therapist as well. And she, I invited her to share my office with her because she wants to start seeing just indigenous people, because, you know, and I

think that getting qualified therapists like that, on a team is really important. Because, you know, people, okay, so suppose some, you know, the mental health send somebody out, and they have no idea about the cultural practices.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:39:14  
Absolutely.

**C** Christinia Eala 1:39:15  
Seeing.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:39:17  
Absolutely. And I don't think I was clear, but that would be something that this group could try and educate, you know, the DHA. And again, no promises, but that the need for that the need for culturally appropriate mental health services for the indigenous population.

**C** Christinia Eala 1:39:36  
Okay.

**A** Arron Julian 1:39:37  
Thank you.

**C** Christinia Eala 1:39:40  
Thank you,

**A** Arron Julian 1:39:43  
Vanessa.

**V** Vanessa Torres 1:39:44  
Thank you, Julian. Arron, Mr. Julian, you know, this is all great information as I am learning more about this and I think it really does come to awareness, education and training. Um I really interested in the human trafficking information, the more that we have resources, the more that we can utilize in our tools, and of course of the cultural sensitivity as well. And not just for our reservation down here, but to help others along the way, if it's cuz, you know, we're

jurisdictional issues as well. So the more that we have, the more that we could have the awareness to not our tribal people on the reservation, but other community or counties and communities within the Colorado and New Mexico, since we're so close, and I'm just grateful that we have this here to assist one another, in these times of needs. But thank you, everybody.

A Arron Julian 1:40:48

Thank you, Vanessa. Um, yes, we this absolutely, we've reached out to New Mexico and other law enforcement agencies around those, that border or state also, to let you know that I'm looking to travel down south, for your while on September, and also if I can make it down to the motorcycle ride, and be able to to set up a little booth and answer any questions about our office. And we help educate the community that how to properly report on native and that goes missing, but I will be down there next month.

V Vanessa Torres 1:41:26

And just in addition to that, we are having an MMIR run from Durango, Harley Davidson to our cultural center to Vallecito and back to Harley Davidson. But just to make that awareness for people that are coming through, thank you.

A Arron Julian 1:41:47

This September 3rd. Yeah, I'm looking to try to travel around there. And we'll be able to answer questions and handle our business cards and be present at those two events you guys have.

A Arron Julian 1:42:09

And if nobody has any other additional questions. Debbie, you have any more, are we ready to conclude our meeting?

D Debbie Oldenettel 1:42:18

No, I just want to thank everybody. This has been extremely educational and positive. And that is exciting in terms of all that all of you have to offer to help us and setting up this office and helping the communities. Nancy.

N Nancy Rae Medina Kochis 1:42:42

I just wanted to take a moment. And thank you and the rest of the state representatives that are on the meeting today. Often you will hear that we are more solutions based as a community and that the needs that are there are prevalent not just in our community, but what we have seen across the board in black communities, Hispanic communities, migrant communities, and yes, even white communities. I don't believe that there's anything realistic

about privilege, other than to create a barrier. And I just wanted to thank you, Debbie, for being here in your own skin, in your own way in the awkwardness and also in your beauty. As a relative, as we all you know, try to turn this ship around and make these changes happen not just for our community, but all communities, children, women, LGBTQ and those impacted by being stolen, murdered or exploited. So I just wanted to thank you, Debbie. And I wanted you to know that sincere from my heart. Because it's not often easy as a woman in your position doing what you're doing. It's not often easy in your position, no matter your gender or skin color to bring about change. And I just want you to know that you have our support, and to feel free to reach out and ask the women and the men in this group questions when you come to stumbling blocks outside of these meetings, because we all really need to pull our hearts and minds and hands together in order to make this change, and to see this trafficking end. So thank you, Debbie, and Director Julian, I just want to again, offer my humble gratitude for your knowledge and wisdom in the way that you conduct your meetings, the way you conduct the business. And thank you for representing our Apache people in a humble and loving manner. It was really good to be in this meeting today and it's a huge change. Thank you.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:44:35

Thank you, Nancy. I just have to share how honored I am to be part of this effort and have seen the need for it and have done work in this area in the child welfare arena and in some of my past positions, and have definitely seen the need and continue to love to learn from all of you and hopefully move things forward in a positive way. But thank you, Nancy, for those kind words.

**A** Arron Julian 1:45:10

And Nancy [Indigenous Language] and it's great to always see you, everybody, and I want to thank everybody for coming. We appreciate everybody's information. And there's tons of information that you guys can share. Please get with me, as I'll be meeting with everybody that's been on the board or is on the board at a later date. We can have a one on one and we can listen to all your deals, make a list, and we can continue moving forward making this office a better opportunity and better resources for the Native community. And it's something that definitely has been needed for years. And want to thank the grassroots organization now, the MMIR taskforce force for putting the legislation together to make this give the Native American community a voice in the state of Colorado, and we were doing the best we can to make this happen. And like I said, everybody has great ideas. And I'll be meeting with everybody on a one on one and further to listen all to more, the ideas and all the resources we can put together and stuff we can put on our website. And also to work together as a group is something we're looking at making sure that we move forward in a positive forward step. Thank you.

**D** Debbie Oldenettel 1:46:17

Thanks, everyone. Hope you all have a great weekend. Take care.

**R** Raven Payment 1:46:28

Thank you Rve



Thank you. Bye.

**R** Rick Waters 1:46:31  
[Indigenous Language]

**A** Arron Julian 1:46:34  
Have a good day.

**A** Amy Barcenas 1:46:35  
Thank you.