

Alaska Natives Combating Substance Abuse and Related Violence Through Self-Healing: A Report for the People

Appendix A

Bristol Bay Women's Conference Draft Recommendations to Stop Violence

Recommendations to Stop Violence In Our Personal Lives and Homes

1. Say "No" to all the excuses that allow violence to continue
2. Stop drinking alcohol and using drugs
3. Open your hearts to your sisters and start talking about the violence in our lives
4. Speak up and do not allow the violence to continue
5. Do non-violent activities
6. Form support groups
7. Be a role model
8. Counsel victims of domestic violence
9. Control our anger
10. Get pre-marital screening
11. Screen the media (turn the TV off)
12. End the denial of domestic violence
13. Make batterers responsible for their actions
14. Call the police when violence happens
15. Bar batterers from public places
16. Never stop speaking out against violence

17. Never give up trying to end violence
18. Follow up with individuals, families, and communities that need help

Recommendations to Stop Violence In Our Region

1. Form women's forums.
2. Provide full funding for the Drugs and Alcohol Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) project.
3. Ban alcohol and drugs.
4. Provide more funding for the Village Public Safety Officer (V.P.S.O.) program. Officers need better wages, benefits, and training. More officers are needed in each village, and background checks need to be more thorough before officers are hired (in particular, firearm violations). There should be limited family ties in the village where the Officer works so preferential treatment is eliminated.
5. There should be more public announcements on domestic violence.
6. Service agencies should address domestic violence and sexual assault issues directly and educate people on how to stop violence.
7. Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) should host a women's conference.
8. Networks need to be created for village support.

Recommendations to Stop Violence In Our State

- I. Changes in the criminal justice system
 - A. Mandatory requirements
 1. Jail time for domestic violence offenders.
 2. Refer all domestic violence offenders to Batterer Intervention Programs screening, and require program completion.
 3. Completion of Batterer Intervention Programs for incarcerated offenders.
 4. Impose minimum standards for third party custodians.
 5. Longer sentences for child abusers.
 - B. Increase detection and prosecution of bootleggers.
 - C. To reduce alcohol abuse, ban alcohol statewide. Short of this, initiate a drinking license, the equivalent of a driver license, which could be revoked if abused.

- D. Bristol Bay needs a full time, resident District Attorney (preferably an Alaskan native woman) who is culturally competent, adequately trained in domestic violence and sexual assault, and has a positive attitude.
- E. Rural courts need increased funding for staff, training, and equipment.
- F. The Department of Corrections needs increased funding for innovative and effective rehabilitation for Alaska Natives.
- G. Protective Orders need to be part of a nation wide electronic tracking system.

II. Changes in the educational system

A. School curricula

- 1. Have non-violence programs from kindergarten through grade twelve.
- 2. Investigate benefits of year-round school.

B. Make more money available to schools so they can be kept open for community groups to meet.

C. Provide funding for workshops and conferences addressing violence against women.

III. Changes in Law Enforcement

A. Village Public Safety Officers

- 1. A minimum of two in every village.
- 2. Provide a rotating schedule to avoid high turnover rates and burn out.
- 3. Require screening and background checks prior to hire.
- 4. Require thorough training in domestic violence and sexual assault.
- 5. Provide higher salaries, benefits, and support services.
- 6. Require working according to codes of ethics.
- 7. Require minimal family ties in village where residing.

B. Require an initial training of forty hours and annual continuing education on domestic violence and sexual assault (a minimum of twenty-four hours by qualified personnel) for Alaska State Troopers. Increase the number of Troopers.

C. Establish respectful, cooperative, and equal partnerships with the Division of Family and Youth Services and the Tribal Children Service Workers, Indian Child Welfare Act Workers, and Family Service Workers. Require continuing education and training in domestic violence and sexual assault for all workers.

IV. Village Initiatives

- A. Organize village councils to represent the needs of the whole community.
- B. Provide safe homes for men and women in villages.
- C. Provide “blue tickets” for perpetrators and ban repeat offenders from the villages.
- D. Provide village based Batterer Intervention Programs.
- E. Provide translators, parenting training, and family intervention and confrontation counseling.

V. Media

- A. Provide a statewide public education and awareness campaign.
- B. Provide information on domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse with marriage licenses.
- C. Promote a “Week Without Violence.”
- D. Recognize and honor good role models.

VI. Increase funding for the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program and staff.

VII. Create a rural domestic violence/sexual assault coordinator position for Alaska, and for every village.

VIII. Provide funding for rural offices of Alaska Legal Services.

Recommendations to Stop Violence In Our Nation

I. The Legislature

- A. Decrease the level and occurrence of violence on television and in video games.
- B. Emphasize education on domestic violence and sexual assault in the legislature and in schools.
- C. Advertise healthy communities.

- D. Congress should declare one week every year for freedom from domestic violence.
- E. Crack down on gangs and other groups that promote violence and hate crimes.
- F. Hold domestic violence and men/women conferences on the village, regional, state, national, and international level.
- G. Increase funding for grass roots agencies that provide support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including shelters in small communities for both men, women, and children.
- H. Link domestic violence and sexual assault agencies to each other.
- I. Provide more funding for recreational centers and batterer intervention programs in small communities.
- J. Increase funding for law enforcement protection in communities. Require a minimum of three days in training on firearms for village officers.
- K. Import law enforcement agents from outside into small communities.
- L. Insure adequate funding for judicial system services and programs.

II. The Judicial system

- A. Enforce and strengthen laws that are already in place.
- B. Make batterer intervention and other rehabilitation programs mandatory for all domestic violence offenders, and provide thorough follow-up on all cases.
- C. Create tribal courts and provide support for personnel training.
- D. Include parents in the progress of juvenile crimes and educate them on non-violent behavior. Allocate more responsibility to parents of juvenile offenders to correct violent behavior.
- E. Have computerized access to all court orders and lists of offenders.
- F. Create a national offender's list.
- G. Impose stiffer sentences on offenders.
- H. Support a proactive and consistent sentiment.

Appendix B

Sentencing Circle Procedures

SEATING: Complete the seating plan before participants arrive, or before they enter the conference room. Victim(s) and supporters to the left of the coordinator; offender(s) and supporters to the right.

GREETING: Greet participants on arrival. Invite victim(s) and supporters to wait in a private room until all participants have arrived. Seat the offender(s) and supporters in the conference room, in accordance with the seating plan. Then invite the victim(s) and supporters into the conference room, and seat them in accordance with the seating plan.

INTRODUCTION: *Welcome. As you know, my name is --- and I will be coordinating this community conference. Before the conference begins, I would like to introduce everybody and indicate their reason for being here. (Introduce participants.)*

At this stage, I would like to thank you all for making the effort to attend. This is a difficult matter, and your presence here will help us to deal with it.

The conference will focus on an incident which happened at [place], [time], involving [offenders' and victims' names].

[Do not provide details of the incident.] It's important to understand that we will focus on what [offender's name] did and how his/her behavior has affected others. We are not here to decide whether [offender's name] is a good person or a bad person. We want to explore how people have been affected, and see whether we can begin to repair the damage that has been done.

[To offender] You have admitted your involvement in the incident. If at any stage in the conference you no longer wish to participate, you are free to leave - but if you choose to do so, the matter may be dealt with differently. This matter will be finalized subject to your satisfactory participation in the conference and your compliance with the conference agreement. Is that clear?

TELLING THE STORY AND EXPLORING THE IMPACT: *[Coordinator to offender(s):] to help us understand who has been affected by this incident, could you start by telling us what happened?*

- *How did you come to be involved?*
- *What were you feeling/thinking at the time?*
- *How have you felt? What have you thought about since?*
- *Who do you think has been affected by your actions?*
- *[self, family, friends and the primary victim(s) have been nominated.]*

Victim(s)

- *What were you feeling/thinking at the time?*
- *How has this incident affected you?*
- *How did your family and friends react when they heard about the incident?*

Victim Supporters

- *What did you feel/think when you heard about the incident?*
- *What has happened since?*

Offender Supporters (To parents:)

- *It must be very difficult for you to hear this?*
- *What did you feel/think when you heard about the incident?*
- *What has happened since?*

AGREEMENT AND CLOSING THE CONFERENCE:

[To victim, then to victim's supporters:]

- *What did you want to see come out of today's conference?*

[To offender and offender's supporters]

- *Does that seem fair? Would you be happy with that?*
- *What I'm hearing is [summarize agreement]. I want to record the agreement that's been reached here. This will formally close the matter, subject to completion of the agreement. Is there anything else anyone wants to say? [If not] Thank you all again for coming. This has been a difficult matter for everyone, but the agreement you have reached should go some way towards making good the harm that has been done.*

[Write up agreement and have it signed. Invite participants to refreshments.]