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MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN TASK FORCE WEBINAR AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Time: 12:00PM-2:30PM

To Join Zoom Meeting (online): <https://zoom.us/j/125021875>

To Join by Phone: dial (669) 900-6833, code: 125021875# or dial (346) 248-7799, code: 125021875#

Webinar Description: Victim service providers, organizations, and advocates play an essential role in addressing the MMIW crisis. Not only are they vital to providing support to victims/survivors and impacted family members on their road to recovery and healing, but they often are the first to respond to incidents of violence in tribal communities where disclosure to law enforcement is impaired by distrust. The task force has reached out to survivors, family members, tribal service providers, organizations, advocates and governmental agencies to join this webinar. They will share their perspective on the scope of the MMIW crisis, existing barriers to providing healing and support services to survivors and impacted family members, and recommendations on how to further address the issue.

Panel Speakers:

Michelle Curtis

Michele is a Caring to Achieve Resilience and Equality among Survivors (CARES) Lead Case Manager for First Nations Community Healthsource. She began working with First Nations in July 2018. She is an enrolled member with the Navajo Nation. She is actively involved with the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force and with the New Mexico Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women's Task Force. Michele has earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Native American Studies from the University of New Mexico. She is from Nenahnezad, New Mexico and lives in Albuquerque with her loving husband and beautiful daughter.

Gail Starr, RN

Gail is the Clinical Coordinator at Albuquerque SANE Collaborative where she has worked since 2007. They conduct domestic violence and sexual assault exams free of charge and very patient centered. She has 16 years of nursing experience and is an educator in the areas of Gendered Violence. She is a core trainer for SANEs for NM. She also passionately teaches about Strangulation, Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence even to the point of stopping strangers on the street to inform them of the need to discuss these topics in our communities. She strives to ensure the SANE response is inclusive and supportive to all members of the community. Yoga, watching Korean Dramas, and running with her dog make up a large part of her self-care.

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| Katelyn Johnson | Katelyn is am a senior at Volcano Vista High School, and she is very involved in her school community, where she is a member of the student organization called DECA. From there, she and Shanaia Benally wanted to create their own little organization. So they created a Native American Student Union, where other native students can be themselves and express their culture. Being a Native American Women and coming from the Pueblo of Acoma, Katelyn was always raised to be proud of where she came from and embraced her culture. After high school she plans to go to college at New Mexico State University and get her masters in Social Work. |
| Shynaia Benally | Shynaia is a senior at Volcano Vista High School. She participates in many extra-curricular activities such as Native American Student Union which she co-founded. She is very passionate about her culture and being a Native American Women from the Navajo tribe. She think it's important that Indigenous people are represented in the population, if that's within education or other demographics. Shynaia has also participated in a national broadcasted Cultural Sharing at Phillips Academy in Massachusetts. She is an (MS)2 alumni, where she represented her tribe and state in attending the summer program. |
| Christine Means | Christine is Arikara, Navajo and Dakota. She grew up in Gallup, New Mexico, and resides in Albuquerque, NM. Christine is an advocate for her sister, Dione Thomas, who was murdered in 2015 at the Colonial Motel in Gallup. The support and work of the NM MMIW Task Force has been integral in making progress for Dione's unsolved case. Christine is dangerously close to becoming a hoarder while currently practicing physical isolation with her two young children and husband. She enjoys writing about herself in third person and a strong cup of coffee. Christine holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and has worked in education, media and wellness. |
| Jose L. Villegas, Sr. | As the NM Law Enforcement Chaplain, Jose Villegas, Sr has helped victims and law enforcement officials deal with the emotional aftermath of violent crime. Chaplain Villegas has volunteered countless hours to assist victims of violent crime, providing counseling, leading peer support discussions and serving as a mentor to youth. He has also contributed his time to responding to families and colleagues of officers killed in the line of duty. As the only certified law enforcement chaplain in northern New Mexico, Villegas is on call 24 hours a day and responds to emergencies in a region covering seven large counties. He carries out this volunteer work in addition to holding a fulltime position with the New Mexico Department of Corrections. |

IMPORTANT NOTICE: WEBINAR WILL BE RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED.

Any information shared during the meeting may be referenced by the task force in its final report. Should you have concerns, please contact the organizers of this event and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

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