

## **Webinar: OJJDP Tribal Consultation**

**June 25, 2020**

### **Host:**

William Moore, OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC)

### **Moderator:**

Caren Harp, OJJDP Administrator

### **Facilitators:**

Korey Wahwassuck, Cree, Minnesota District Court Judge for the Ninth Judicial District  
Audriana Mitchell, Colorado Rivers Indian Tribes, UNITY Peer Guide, Miss Indian Arizona

### **Welcome**

William Moore: All right. So good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's Tribal Consultation. Let me move this slide here. My name is William Moore and I am with OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center. First and foremost, I want to thank you all for joining. Before we do begin, I would like to go over a few technical-related questions, or excuse me, items for you all before we start.

### **Consultation Recording**

William Moore: Please note that we are recording today's Webinar. Today's Webinar will be posted on the YouTube page.

### **Technical Tips**

William Moore: Note that if you would like to download a copy of any pertinent handouts, you may do so by locating the Handout Pod where you can click the name of the document and then click the "downloads file," that will allow for you to download the pertinent documents that we have for today's Tribal Consultation.

William Moore: Please make sure that your computer speakers are indeed muted for the event. Note that the audio for today's Webinar is coming through the phone line. If you experience any technical difficulties, please feel free to send a private message to the host, or you can contact the OJJDP TTA Help Desk. The telephone number is 1-833-647-0513.

### **Adobe Connect Platform Information**

William Moore: Please note that we do have some features here in Adobe which include the chat box. The chat box will allow for individuals to easily communicate with us. Very simple to use. You just simply take your mouse and you click inside of the open space there until the cursor appears, and you can click and type your message. So, you can feel free to type any message there. Right now, as you all see, we have the speaker sign up where you will be able to sign up if you would like to speak. We would like for individuals to please indicate their name, their title, their tribe, and whether if they would like to be on either video or just through the phone line.

## **Help us Count**

William Moore: Now, really quickly, for those of us who are attending, we would like to get a sense of who is on the phone and if individuals are joining through a group. So, therefore, if you are joining in a group, meaning there is more than one individual with you viewing today's Webinar, please help us count. Go into the speaker sign up and please type the number of additional people that are in the room with you today. If you are viewing by yourself, there is no need to type anything at this time. You can just type in the total number of additional people in the room with you today. And I will give folks just a couple of seconds to do that.

William Moore: All right. So, with that being said, I will now turn today's presentation over to the OJJDP Administrator, Ms. Caren Harp. Caren, take it away.

## **OJJDP Administrator Caren Harp**

Administrator Caren Harp: Thank you, William. Hello, everyone. Oh, it is good to be with you. My name is Caren Harp, and I am the Administrator at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We also call it OJJDP. Welcome and thank you for participating in today's Tribal Consultation Webinar. I hope you and your families are safe and healthy, and I look forward to hearing how we can best support your efforts to meet the needs and challenges of youth in Indian Country.

Administrator Caren Harp: OJJDP and its staff have been supporting tribal youth for many years through the Tribal Youth program, Tribal Juvenile Healing and Wellness Court, and pass-through awards from our Title II Formula Grants program. I know my staff is eager to hear from you as well. I think, is somebody trying to say something to me? No. Okay. I am going to keep going.

Administrator Caren Harp: Because this is our first consultation and it is virtual, we ask for your flexibility and patience as we kind of navigate through this discussion. We would certainly have preferred to meet with you in person, but keeping everyone safe is a priority during this particular COVID pandemic. I want to thank the hundreds of tribal leaders and representatives who are on the Webinar today. We appreciate your time and your input, and we look forward to a productive discussion.

## **Facilitators**

Administrator Caren Harp: Let us see here. All right. I want to give a special thank you to the facilitators of our discussion, Judge Korey Wahwassuck and Audriana Mitchell, who likes to be called Audri. In a few minutes, Judge Wahwassuck will lead us in prayer, and then Audri will sing a traditional Navajo song. Before they begin, I want to share some background information for you about these two facilitators.

Administrator Caren Harp: First, Judge Wahwassuck, from the Cree tribe, served as a tribal judge for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court from 2006 until 2013, when Governor Mark Dayton appointed her to serve as a Minnesota District Court Judge for the Ninth Judicial District. She previously served as a Kansas Supreme Court Certified Mediator, and practiced law for 15 years, specializing in Indian law, child welfare, and juvenile delinquency. Judge Wahwassuck was a founding member of the first joint tribal-state jurisdiction wellness court in the Nation. She is also a member of Project TEAM, which stands for Together Everyone Achieves More, which helps other jurisdictions create tribal-state collaborative courts in their own jurisdictions. She earned her bachelor's degree and law degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Administrator Caren Harp: Audri is a Navajo member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. She was selected as one of 12 peer guides in OJJDP's Healing Indigenous Lives Initiative, administered by United National Indian Tribal Youth, known as UNITY. The project fosters leadership development in tribal youth, with a focus on addressing juvenile justice and delinquency prevention challenges in Indian Country. Audri is a member of the 25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders of 2018, and is currently studying communication and organizational management at Mesa Community College. She is also President of the Mesa Community College Inter-tribal Student Organization.

Administrator Caren Harp: Thank you to both of you for facilitating our discussion today. Judge Wahwassuck will now offer a prayer.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you, Caren, for that introduction. And you know, we hear a lot about what we do and have our experiences, but I want to introduce myself again and say (*speaking in native tongue*). I am called Sibikwe and I am Fish Clan. That means River Woman. And I think that is – the who we are is what is most important. So, if you, if you want to know more about background and things like that, I think it is in the material. But, I want to welcome everyone to my home. If we were not doing this virtually, I would not have this silly headset on and we would be eating. But, we are not, so. Audri and I have been asked to offer some thought in our own ways. And before we begin, I want to apologize from the beginning to those elders that are out there in cyber land that I know that there are many of you that can and do pray for your children and your communities and your nations every day. So, I am sorry for getting out in front of that. But we will do our best to start things off in a good way.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: An old man that I knew, Wahwassuck, always said that you never know how far a thought travels. And I hope that the thought that we offer now, that that flows out and reaches each and every one of you today, and that we take something away that you can, in turn, bring to others that you work with and in your families and communities. And I hope that we set in motion a change in the trajectory for our children in their lives that what we can start here is going to help the next seven generations.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: (*speaking in native tongue*). Thank you to the one who made everything and to all of my relations for the blessings that you have given us. And I love that word – I love that word "gohm" (*spelled phonetically*). I just have to say that it is everything that has led up to this now. It is all of our experiences, everything, our ancestors, everything that has come up to this moment right now. And when we say "eguen" (*spelled phonetically*) it is like even more than just thank you. So, anyway.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: So, I hope that in the time that we are in right now, right this second, that that little bitty word of "gohm" encompasses so much. And our individual life experiences, everything that has led up to this now shapes who we are. It is the lens through which we see the world. And to move forward in a good way for our children, we have to start out knowing that. I hope that we can recognize and embrace that. Because it means we all bring different tools to the table. We have cultures that are proven to heal, and we know what local solutions work. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) changes the trajectory of what juvenile justice becomes. It is my prayer that together we can shape that future, together we can reform the face of juvenile justice in the juvenile justice system. My hope is that this consultation is a beginning and that it is the beginning of a collaborative effort that helps all of our nations break the cycle so that we can heal the circle, no matter where that circle is and no matter who is standing in it.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Potawatomis also have a word – it is called “mahto” (*spelled phonetically*). And the way it was explained to me, it is to ask, when you are asking for help. There are over 500 people that are registered for this event and every single one of us has a different perspective. All of us are looking up from our own experiences. And we look at the problems that our nations face from the angle in which we look, based on our own experiences up to this – to this now. And so, when we have asked the question, I hope and my prayer is that we would be willing to listen to the answer and take what we hear to heart and act on it, because that is what consultation is all about. In our work, not just today, but every day in our lives, can we take these lessons and reform how we take care of our kids, our families, our communities, our nations?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Help us in our everyday work to recognize the realities of youth and formulate strategies that take into account the documented effects of trauma on the brain, body, and behavior. Help us to remember that our kids are, after all, kids. Help us to trust that culture heals and that local solutions work. Help us to circle back and pick up what we left along the trail, no matter what our journey may have been, and to use what we find there to help our children, our communities, our nations. (*speaking in native tongue*) And now I am going to turn it over to Audri and she has a gift for us.

Audriana Mitchell: (*spoken in native tongue*) Hello, everybody. My name is Audriana Adzaan Mitchell. I am Navajo and Cheyenne, and I am from the Colorado River Indian Tribes. I am so happy to be with you all today on this call. I want to thank Korey for that beautiful blessing and prayer, and setting us in the right check for this call that we have today. And I also want to thank OJJDP for inviting me for this call today. And I also have a song that I would like to sing to start us off in a good way. It is called Shis Nizhoni and it talks about The Beauty Way within the Navajo culture, and it brings blessings from all four directions. And so I will share that with you today. (*song sung in native tongue*) Thank you.

## **Agenda**

Administrator Caren Harp: Thank you, Judge Wahwassuck, and thank you, Audri, for that beautiful song. All right, now I would like to give you an overview of what it is we are going to be talking about today. Go ahead and look at the agenda there on your screen. We are just going to discuss some of the, the new provisions in the JJRA that might impact practice and workout in Indian Country. And we are going to talk about the questions that are provided in the agenda and our tribal youth programs. At the conclusion of the meeting, we will be discussing next steps.

## **Mission**

Administrator Caren Harp: As we start all of this, I put our Mission slide, the OJJDP Mission slide up, because everything that we do at OJJDP kind of sits under or flows through – if you want to think of it that way – through this framework of our mission. And in particular, the three goals that we have which is to enhance public safety, and ensure that kids are held accountable to crime victims, and that we are empowering youth to, to take responsibility for themselves, for their decision making, for how they behave in their environments, and to help get them onto a safer, more successful, and productive path. And so, everything that we do at OJJDP, all of the programs we fund, everything we do is guided by those, those three principles. And of course, you will see in there it talks about doing all of this in a fair and equitable way. That is our goal in all things. So, that is the mission of OJJDP.

## **Juvenile Justice Reform Act**

Administrator Caren Harp: And then, with that, we administer – or through that framework – we administer the Juvenile Justice Reform Act as it was passed in 2018, December of 2018. And we have amended the original Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (OJJDP) that was passed in 1974, and actually created the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. And it did include some new language, some new opportunities for tribes in these amendments.

## **Title II Formula Funding**

Administrator Caren Harp: Today, I think we are going to look at or focus a little bit on the Title II funding. Title II is awarded to states through a block grant, and it is to help them administer and support their state and local juvenile justice systems. And again, with the focus on safety and accountability, and equipping kids to live productive lives.

## **Title II Requirements**

Administrator Caren Harp: The requirements for Title II money, you may or may not be aware of, there are four core requirements. Deinstitutionalization of status offenders. Separation of juveniles from adult inmates. Removal of juveniles from adult, from adult jails and lockups. And reducing racial and ethnic disparities. Those are the four core requirements that if states are working on those, or achieving those things, then they are eligible for, or they can be eligible for Title II money.

## **New Requirement – State Advisory Groups**

Administrator Caren Harp: Here is something new though for, for the tribes. This one provision, this first provision actually we want to talk about in the Act requires now a tribal representative to serve on State Advisory Groups (SAGs), or it requires the State Advisory Groups to bring in a tribal member – let me put it that way. States with one or more Indian tribes need now to include a representative from a tribe, or an individual with significant experience in tribal law enforcement and juvenile justice in tribal nations.

Administrator Caren Harp: Some states have already done this, which is wonderful. A great example of this is Minnesota where Gary Charwood of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is currently the SAG chair. He is the chairman of the State Advisory Group. So, Minnesota has certainly led the way. That was in place before, I believe, the amendment was passed. Mr. Charwood was the chair before that time. Natella Shaw of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes is a member of the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission. That is the name for their State Advisory Group. And she is chair of the Tribal Juvenile Justice Council. So, state SAGs are working on this. They are bringing in tribal representatives to participate on these State Advisory Groups and it is, it is just so important. And we encourage everyone to reach out to their SAGs or reach out to us and get the information that you need to make those connections and see if we cannot bring the tribal representation to the State Advisory Groups.

## **Expansion of Allowable Programming with Title II Funds**

Administrator Caren Harp: The second provision that we wanted to look at here – I think I have another slide maybe, yes – is to expand the types of programs that can be supported with Title II funding. This applies to, to states and local governments and also to the tribes. What you can do with those pass-through funds – there are now I think 23 program areas which is an increase. I do not know exactly how

many it increased, but it is quite an increase in the types of things that you can do with pass-through money.

Administrator Caren Harp: South Dakota, for example, has – I am sorry – let me tell you, states often provide more funding than just that amount that is provided in the pass-through, or required in the pass-through. South Dakota being a great example of that, they have almost doubled the amount of funding that they pass through. And some of those funds have been used to pay for a juvenile probation officer dedicated to offering culturally-specific services to meet the needs of tribal youth in tribal justice systems. That is just one example of how states can make use of their tribal pass-through money.

### **Process for Providing Input**

Administrator Caren Harp: We would like your input on how we can support you in making use of these provisions and others in the JJRA. Our facilitators are going to ask you for comments from tribal leaders first. And we welcome input then from others following their comments. I think, yes, we have a slide here with – it looks really technical and I think I am going to ask William from NTTAC to go ahead and talk with you about this process for providing your input. William?

William Moore: Yes. Thank you very much, Administrator Harp. And so, really quickly, everyone, it is a very simple process that we will have. Everyone, basically this is a reminder that our facilitator will recognize speakers in the order they appear in the sign-in box. Please be sure to turn off your computer speakers so your sound is only coming through your phone when the facilitator recognizes you. If you would like to offer any remarks on video, make sure your camera is enabled on your computer. Please click the start button in the gray band or banner at the top of the video box to start your webcam. Please note that you are on mute, and when you are called on to speak, you can press \*6 to unmute your line. Thank you, Administrator Harp.

Administrator Caren Harp: Thank you, William. Judge Wahwassuck and Audri, I will turn this over to you now to facilitate the responses to our first set of questions in the agenda. There may additional input that is unrelated to the questions we post, and we are certainly going to allow time for that in the agenda as well. So, if you would please, Judge Wahwassuck and Audri?

### **Consultation Questions**

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: All right. Thank you. I am going to go ahead and start off. And I just wanted to remind everybody that if you have technical issues, I think that there is a box somewhere here, maybe it was for audience questions. And William is standing by – I feel like a telemarketer – he is standing by though if you have any technical problems. And I noticed in some of the chats that people were having trouble hearing and that kind of thing. So be sure to ask that question and they can follow up on, on the end there.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And so, in terms of the feedback, we are – as has already been said – we want to hear from tribal leaders first and then other tribal, other tribal folks that are involved in tribal agencies, and then others. And so, we will go ahead and get started. And do not forget to ask for that help if you need it. And then, was there anyone that – some of you aspiring TV stars out there, I am trying to see from some of our tribal leaders. Is there anyone that is a tribal leader that would like to make a comment either by video or by audio? And let us see, do we have, do we have Zach Dalton? I

know that this is for a prosecutor or assistant general counsel. Was there any comment that you wish to make?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. And he may just be listening in here.

Zach Dalton: No. Sorry.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Oh, okay. All right. So, we will turn it over to you. And the first, the first question that we are asking, and this is we want to get input on how can the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention best collaborate with tribes on the implementation of the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, as related to your tribe? And you have the – up on the consultation questions in this small box here that is to the right of our video where we have the questions. And so, that is the question that we, we have asked for the input on first. So, go ahead.

Zach Dalton: Yes. I am sorry. I actually just ran in from court, so I am a little bit behind.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Oh. I am sorry. Okay. And we can, if we can get you back in line here, are you ready for your question now? Or we can move on if there is someone that, that would like to ask a question.

Zach Dalton: Yes. If you can put me later on, I – that is just fine.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. Thank you. And do we have Denise? Is it – I am sorry if I butcher your name – is it Kinegest? Or is it Gloria Simeon from the tribal council on audio only? Did you have – would you like to provide some input on that question?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. Let us see then, do we have – do we have Oscar Flores, the Chief Prosecutor? He is on the phone only. And Mr. Flores, do you have any answers that you would like to give us to address this first question of how OJJDP can collaborate with tribes?

[silence]

Administrator Caren Harp: I noticed in the comments section that it says we are all on mute. We might want to unmute folks. I mean, if we did that globally through NTTAC to mute everyone, we need to unmute everybody so that they can get in here.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Thank you. Because we are not hearing any of these comments.

Oscar Flores: Am I on mute now? Am I on mute?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: No. You are not. No. We can hear you. What is your name?

Oscar Flores: This is Oscar Flores with the Pascua Yaqui tribe.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Flores.

Oscar Flores: No, no. I did not have any comments. I just wanted to – I was just responding to the question. I do not – I did not have any responses to the first question. Thank you, though.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Oh, okay. All right. Well, I will go ahead and let others speak up if you can identify yourself. Anyone that has input that they would like to give with the first question for how OJJDP can collaborate with tribes to implement JJRA. If you – tribal leaders first.

Amanda Jiron: Hello?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Go ahead. Who do we have?

Amanda Jiron: Hi. I am sorry. My name is Amanda Jiron and I am calling from the Pueblo of Isleta. And I have our Chief Judge with me, and she would like to make a comment.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Go ahead.

Judge Verna Teller: So, good afternoon. My name is Verna Teller. I am the Chief Judge for the Pueblo of Isleta in New Mexico. We are right outside of Albuquerque. So, our tribal court has been working very diligently to establish some systemic changes in terms of how we are addressing issues with, regarding youth, youth offenders that are either system involved or that are right on the cusp that are at risk. And so, I am very interested in learning more about how our tribe might access some of these funds. But, just listening to your comments earlier regarding the advisory committees or the advisory boards that are I guess currently in place at the state level that include tribal input or someone from the tribe – someone from any of the tribes that could represent the tribal needs in that state. Do you know whether or not the state of New Mexico has that type of a board in existence? Because, that would be a great mechanism for that type of collaboration that you are asking about. How can OJJDP best collaborate with tribal communities? And so, if you are saying that there are boards, advisory boards in existence in the states, I am not aware of that, and so I am asking whether or not you know that New Mexico has such a board?

Administrator Caren Harp: Judge Wahwassuck, can I say something here?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Go ahead.

Administrator Caren Harp: Okay. It is - it is I believe all states and territories have some form of State Advisory Group. I know New Mexico does because they were a participating state. Meaning participating in the Title II process. So, I know they have one. I believe Dr. TeNeane Bradford is on the line, and she runs our Title II division and may have some more specific information about the state of the New Mexico SAG. But I – I believe they do. And I believe we have contact information for you. Go ahead.

Judge Verna Teller: That would be great if we could get that. Because I think it would be – it would really serve the interest of our youth, our Native youth in New Mexico. We have got 22 tribes. And so, we are currently in the process of working with the state Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) in, in establishing some protocols for notification to tribes when our, when our youth get in, come into the, are system involved outside of the, our lands. And that is for all the tribes. So, it would really enhance



this effort and I think it would also speak to the mission of OJJDP and the, and the Reform Act to, to kind of collaborate with what we are doing with the state CYFD and this SAG. And now, I am not sure under what department in the state that this board exists, so I would really be grateful to get more information. And I think that is a step toward that collaboration that you are asking about.

Administrator Caren Harp: Great. We will absolutely provide you that information. I do not have it at my fingertips right now, but we will get you that information and which agency runs it.

Judge Verna Teller: That would be fine. Okay. That would be great.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And I think that would be, it sounds like that is, you know, would be one really important way that they can both support involvement on representatives and also how to implement – how to collaborate. Are there other tribal leaders that wanted to provide some input on the best way to collaborate with tribes? Some of the needs that you have? If you can just identify yourself, we will have you speak up.

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. And do we have...? All right, any other tribal leaders, whether you wanted to hook up through video or just by audio to provide any input about collaboration? And really, I think that collaboration covers a lot of things. We talked – and the second question is about the representatives on State Advisory Groups. And so was there anyone else on that wanted to provide input about the State Advisory Groups? I know that Audri and I had talked about sort of sharing things, but I think really these questions sort of flow one into another. So maybe we will open that up to say – see if anyone has any answers to that question or input you want to give regarding the State Advisory Groups. Audri, I will let you see if there is anyone that wants to ask – answer any questions.

Chief Nathan Barker: Can you hear me?

Audriana Mitchell: Yes. I believe there is someone.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Go ahead.

Audriana Mitchell: Oh, yes.

Chief Nathan Barker: Yes. Chief Nathan Barker of the Snoqualmie tribe in West Washington. So, I think – I know this is your first gathering like this and being, if you could create a site that each state, that each tribe could go to, and their affiliates with them, and communicate that way. Because we are going to learn by, you know, not just our experiences, but by the rest of the tribal communities' experiences out there in dealing with the public. Especially with the stuff that is going on nowadays recently in the news and stuff. So I think that the more we can globally reach out as a nation within nations and, and share our, our information – if we could come up with a letter or something or, you know, a call in every so often just to make sure that we all stay in compliance of this, so then we can share our experiences and what we are doing or what we can learn from others. So, it is just that – let us work on this all together. Because they are our future, (crosstalk).

Administrator Caren Harp: That is a great idea. Oh, I am sorry. I did not mean to interrupt.

Chief Nathan Barker: No. That is okay.

Administrator Caren Harp: If you look at the [www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov) website, we have an interactive map on there. You can just click on the state that you are interested in looking at. When you click on the state, then up comes all that information that you just requested. The State Advisory Group members, the designated agency, and all the programming funds that come – all the grants from OJJDP that come into that state and all the active grants programs. Then you can click on them and find out all the information about the current funding in your state so that you can tap into those things, tap into that information. As you so accurately said, we are all in this together and we all need to see how each other, you know, how we are all responding to these things and good ideas. But, I would – first stop would, for me to recommend to you would be [www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov), and then look for the Title II or Core Protections label and click on the interactive map. Just click any state in the union and you can find the information you just discussed.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Do we have anyone else that wanted to provide any information on the first questions of how to collaborate and also supporting involvements on these State Advisory Groups? Do we have other tribal leaders? How about – I see that we have some other people that are registered that work for tribal organizations that are otherwise involved with tribes. Anyone want to provide some input from their perspective?

Audriana Mitchell: I believe we have Gloria Simeon.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. Gloria, and you probably have to unmute if you are on mute. Gloria, are you there? She may be having trouble with the...

Audriana Mitchell: If you are on the phone, I think you have to press \*6 to unmute.

Gloria Simeon: Can you hear us now?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes.

Audriana Mitchell: Yes.

Gloria Simeon: Hello. This is Gloria Simeon. I am with the Orutsararmiut Native Council in – we are the Native village in Bethel, Alaska. And I am looking at the consultation questions and it seems that, actually, one kind of touches on the next. And I am going to try to put as much as I can into responding to the first question on collaborating with tribal communities. Our problem, our barrier, our challenge within the state of Alaska, I think the sheer number of tribes in our state is so overwhelming that the state of Alaska just cannot seem to grasp the fact that there are 220-plus tribal nations within the state and we are deserving of every bit of cooperation, collaboration, and respect. Just, it has been a barrier to us and our ability to provide the services we need to our tribal citizenry when this relationship with the state of Alaska is so adversarial and conflicted that – I mean I – we, we have a hard time understanding why the state has get – has gotten these Title II block grant funds as pass-through funds. It is just making it very hard and difficult for us with another middleman to access these funds and their reluctance to deal with us in a good way. So, regarding tribal representation, with that number of tribes in Alaska and the different regions that we are located, and we have 12 different regions that are very culturally diverse. And one representation on this State Advisory Group is not going to help us. I believe it would cause more conflict and division within than is necessary, and we need to have representation

from each, from at least each of the regions to get that, that equity there. And as far as having culturally specific services and programs, this also needs to be addressed with the diversity issue. One area might be totally different. Each tribe is different. Each tribe is different. You cannot boilerplate us. So those, those need to be considered. And also, I do not know what kind of pressure you can put in from the federal level, but definitely it needs to be impressed on the states that we are in this together, and we need to work on win-win situations rather than putting up barriers to – to make it harder. Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: That is such an excellent point. And Gloria, I wonder if you – if you have any – anything that are suggestions for things that OJJDP might be able to help to increase those partnerships and be supportive. I think that, you know, definitely I think that I agree with you there. What, are there other specific things that you think you need to help build those partnerships?

Gloria Simeon: Just having access to those tables is going to be major. And looking at tearing down those barriers and making sure that there are win-win situations. We have a vested interest in keeping our people out of this revolving door that Western, the Western society calls justice. We want rehabilitation. We want to get our people out of the system and become productive and prideful Native people. And we do not want our young women to end up another statistic in this violence against women that our state is known for. It is a shame. So, we need to be at every table where these decisions and funding mechanisms are being put place and not – make it mandatory for the state to include the tribes. Not advisory but mandatory that the tribes are at every table. Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. So, Gloria, it sounds like really to OJJDP to help to provide assistance for getting people to the table so you can get those conversations started, if I am hearing correctly. So, thank you for those comments. We have Stanley Johnson who is the – from Mississippi Band of Choctaw. I think that you had indicated you wanted to make a comment by phone. And are you with us? Would you like to make a comment? And if you are on the phone, Mr. Johnson, you probably have to hit \*6 so you can unmute your phone.

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And I am not hearing Mr. Johnson. We also had a request to speak from Tia Grisham from Mississippi Band of Choctaw. Ms. Grisham, are you there? Would you like to make a comment by phone?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And just wanted to remind – just wanted to remind people that they may be on mute if you are trying to say something. How about Vivian Korthuis? Do we have Vivian Korthuis? Vivian, are you on the line?

Vivian Korthuis: Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes, we can. Thank you. Go ahead.

Vivian Korthuis: Thank you. I do have some prepared comments, if I may.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Please do. Go ahead.

Vivian Korthuis: Good morning. My name is Vivian Korthuis. I serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP). So, I would like to thank you for holding this consultation today. The Association of Village Council Presidents is the largest tribal consortium in the United States. We serve 56 federally recognized tribes located in Western Alaska. Our tribes are the 48 villages along the Kuskokwim River, Yukon River, and Bering Sea coast in an area the size of state of Washington. Our 48 villages are not connected by road to each other, or to the rest of the state by a road system. The main transportation during the winter is snow machines, vehicles on the ice road, summertime boats, and, weather permitting, small planes throughout the year. The AVCP region has identified public safety and its related issues as the number one priority for our region. The population of our region is approximately 27,000 people living in villages anywhere from 50 to approximately 1,300. And then, of course, the hub here in Bethel of over 7,000 to 8,000 people. We have a very large region and our median age of our young people is less than 25 years old. It is important that we position our young people for success. This includes minimizing their involvement in the child protection and juvenile justice systems. It also means making those interaction positive and empowering. When considering how tribes can best implement programs supported by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, it is important to remember that tribes must build the necessary infrastructure to support these programs. While we need programs focused on prevention and intervention activities for youth, tribes must also, must also be able to fund basic needs like tribal courts, court clerks, judges, tribal court facilities, public safety officers to sustain justice programs for our tribes to succeed. Some of the challenges include hiring full-time or even part-time tribal court personnel. Some tribal courts are entirely volunteer based, and struggle to find available space to meet in their community. At the same time, tribes struggle to find sustainable funding to hire and retain community-oriented law enforcement officers in our villages. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and all of the Department of Justice Programs, can increase the implementation and success of the Act provision in rural Alaska by supporting basic tribal justice and public safety infrastructure and needs. Funding the proper infrastructure and support for tribal justice and public safety programs will allow tribes to use and expand the Reform Act program that has been proven to work, such as wellness courts, [unclear] sentencing, youth and elder programs, and healthy families for our youth. AVCP supports the work of all of our 56 tribes in our region. We desperately need the proper infrastructure so that the framework needed to make programs funded by the juvenile justice program work to improve the quality of life in all of our villages and tribes in our region. Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you so much for your comments. And it sounds – when I hear you talk, it sounds like the experience that you are going through is so much like the tribes in rural communities in a lot of places. And that sounds like really one of those basic needs that you are identifying is just that basic infrastructure so that your tribal justice system is able to operate in the best way that it can. And so, I wanted to, to remind people, too, and maybe if people have gotten on late, about how to submit comments. And we have an ability for people to help us gather some of the answers to the questions that OJJDP posed in the, in the paper that went around for registration. And certainly, we will make sure that everyone has the ability, if you have long comments, longer comments that you wish to make, I think it is very important that we get that input so that can be heard.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And so, I know that there were some comments that were made, and I am seeing some comments that came through about states accessing Title II pass-through funding and about accountabilities for that, and to make sure that that goes through. So, Administrator Harp, is there anything that you possibly wanted to address about what is being done to hold the states accountable on this pass-through money in support of making sure that it gets to, gets to the tribes? Because I am seeing a couple of comments about that.

Administrator Caren Harp: Well, you know the – not the easiest way – but certainly one thing that can happen is if tribes are not receiving their pass-through, then they need to notify us. And then we can work with the, with the state to figure out what the problem is and, and address it with them. We audit the states and we audit what they are doing with their, with their funds. For Title II, for some years, a decade or more, there were not audits of states. There were maybe two or three a year. At one point, there was a year or two where there were maybe eight states per year audited. But in recent years it was no states audited in the course of a year. And that really creates a problem, because it just kind of creates an environment where nobody is checking behind SAGs to make sure that the funds are spent properly. Since late 2017 and 2018, we have stepped up to 15 states a year are now audited. So, we are out in the field, in the state. You can expect a visit, an auditing visit, from us once every roughly 3-1/2 to 4 years. And that, I think, is a huge help in finding out what is going on. Our Office of Audit Management, and I do not want to misspeak here, but I believe they also have a role in, in auditing certainly. The, the – but again the best way is if a tribe is not receiving their money, or if they have a question about the funds, they have got to reach out to us and let us know so that we can get behind it and find out what is going on, and correct it if there is, you know, if we have that ability or that authority and just find out what is happening. If we do not know about it, we cannot fix it.

Judge Corey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Are there – is there anyone that wants to address maybe a specific barrier that you have experienced to accessing those funds that OJJDP needs to be aware of? Is there anyone that wants to talk about any barriers that they may have encountered? Okay. What about – and, again, I just want to remind you of the \*6 in case you are on mute. Sometimes it takes the audio a little bit of time to catch up. So, what about, with regard to those Title II funds, are there specific things that you think that OJJDP needs to know as far as helping you to access those funds? Is it not knowing that they are available, or is it lack of being able to apply for the funding? Are there particular things that you think might be helpful with accessing that Title II pass-through funding?

Carole Justice: Hello. Can you hear me?

Judge Corey Wahwassuck: Yes. Yes. Who is that?

Carole Justice: Oh. Thank you. I will put my name in the speaker box. I did not know if this would work. This is Carole Justice and I work with the Northern Arapaho tribe on the Wind River Indian reservation. And I am a retired tribal prosecutor there for both tribes and have worked for the tribes of Wind River for over 25 years. Wyoming is not a participatory state in OJJDP. It was for about 3 years under Governor Sullivan. Actually, I am the one that wrote the application for the state of Wyoming at that time for it to participate. So, it is not. It is the only one of your 50 states. So, therefore, there is your barrier to Title II monies for the tribes. The Northern Arapaho tribe and the Eastern Shoshone tribe are both on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Any assistance the Department of Justice (DOJ) might make in encouraging the state of Wyoming to reenter the Act, I truly believe it is a situation of will, not cannot. And so, that is the biggest barrier. And again, they are a non-participatory state. Also, I respect very much the comments from the folks from New Mexico and Alaska. And I also would suggest that under – to make State Advisory Groups respectful of the government-government relationships, I would suggest perhaps having tribe, tribal governments put forward names for those Advisory Groups. And the more the merrier. Because, as the folks have already mentioned, tribes are very different. They all deserve their voice. And so, however that could be accommodated would certainly be the best thing. Thank you for listening and taking my call.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. While we have you, do you have any suggestions for how OJJDP can help tribes, your tribes to collaborate? Or any, any of the other barriers that you are facing to remove those?

Carole Justice: There has been – the SAG in Wyoming, the non-competitor, they received the non-competition grant – non-participatory state grant – sorry. And so, they have come to the reservation to hold meetings. They have occasionally had American Indians on, on their group. Actually, how I ended up in Wyoming in 1981, was the first non-participatory OJJDP grant ever to hit Wyoming, and it went to Wind River [unclear] at Fort Washakie, Wyoming, the tribe. Tribal Legal Aid was the applicant. And so, there has been relationships. But, again, Wyoming does not pull down the monies. They do not. Therefore, they cannot pass it along. One suggestion that I do have, because years ago as prosecutor, I tried to. Can we, the tribes, apply for those monies in the face of the fact that the state will not? And there is no, there was no provision for tribes to do that. So that is another possible option is if the state of Wyoming does not – or any other state – pulls out of the Act, that tribes can then receive those funds direct. Because I agree, the more direct route, rather than going through the state, is the best route. Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Thank you very much. And I think that we had – is it Latisha Miller, Vice Chairwoman. Did you wish to make some comments? I think you wanted to appear by audio.

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Do we have Ms. Miller? Okay. We will see if she gets her audio there. And I am curious from – and I know that this, a lot of what we are talking about is writing grants. And having written a lot of grants myself that it is – I always felt like sometimes I was trying to make a, a culture and a way of life fit a grant solicitation. But, we have Cynthia. Is Troop or Toop? From Shoalwater Bay Indian tribe. Is there anything from that perspective, from the grant writing perspective, that you wanted to identify as areas that tribes might be able to get some help? Ms. Troop? Okay.

Administrator Caren Harp: Can I just say one thing here as folks are working out their technology?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Please.

Administrator Caren Harp: It is as it relates to the pass-through, I did not want there to be any confusion that somehow states have to write a grant or apply for pass-through funds from the state. They do not. That is simply money that the state has to pass through to the tribes. There is no process there other than just simply the pass through. Tribes do not have to ask for it. The – I do not remember the speaker's name – the former prosecutor who spoke just moments ago is exactly right. If the state does not participate, opts not to participate, then those funds do not go to the state. The law requires that those funds then are offered to nonprofits in local governments as recipients of that amount of money. That allocation that has been used to further the four core protections. And states do not even have to – you know, they, they participate if they choose to. They submit the application. They, they go through the process of becoming compliant with the four core protections. I mean, there are certain number of strings associated with Title II funds. But then the – if they do not participate, that money is offered, as I said, as a competitive grant to nonprofits and locals. And I, you know, we are sitting here and I am just not certain, but I believe tribes – I am not sure – I think tribes can apply for that funding, the non-participating funds money. I will have to verify because I am just not sure. I do not want to mislead

anybody. But I will ask and make sure. But I know it is nonprofits and units of local government. So, let me, let me see if that includes tribes.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. Thank you.

Cynthia Toop: Hi. I am here now.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Oh, okay. Go ahead. If you could identify yourself.

Cynthia Toop: This is Cynthia Toop, grant writer, Shoalwater Bay tribe. To be honest, I was not familiar with the Title II funds. I am very familiar with the OJJDP TYP (Tribal Youth Programs) funds and have applied for and received those grants in the past. I did quickly look up to see how much is, is allocated in these grants in Washington state, and it looks like to me it is \$14,000. And to me, you know, that would be a good supplement in some ways. But, so many of these programs are very cost heavy in trying to respond to these issues. So, I need to do more research into the Title II. I know that the TYP funds have been very helpful. And being able to apply directly to OJJDP for those funds has been a pleasure. So, if that becomes a possibility for tribes to be able to apply directly, I think that that would be very beneficial.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you very much. That is – appreciate your comments. And I think that we had a – is there Lynelle Blackhawk from Winnebago tribe, from the tribal court? I think you may have indicated that you wanted to make a comment from your perspective. Is there any comment that you had on the questions that we are discussing?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And I do not know if there is – do not forget \*6 if you are on mute. All right. And we have Sherri Ann Moore from Rosebud Sioux, is there – from Lakota tribe – is there anything that, that you wanted to say? Any input that you had? I think, I am looking at our speaker sign-up sheet so I am picking on people.

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. I am not hearing anything.

Sherri Ann Moore: Here I am.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Go ahead. Yes. There you are.

Sherri Ann Moore: Hi. I think maybe I accidentally got put on the wrong speaker. I was – I am signed in. I am actually the – I am a member of the Rosebud tribe, but I am Deputy Director of DOJ's OVW (Office on Violence Against Women) Tribal Affairs Division. So, I am listening in for the content. Yes.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Got you. Okay.

Sherri Ann Moore: Great call so far. Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. And do we have Andre Parker from Mashantucket Pequot? We will pick on law enforcement here. So, any input that you wanted to, to give?

Andre Parker: Yes. I am here.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Did you have some input? And we are not really addressing our questions in any order. But if there is any, any input that you wanted to make sure OJJDP gets while we have time here.

Andre Parker: I just know that they have been a good resource for us here in Connecticut. We have had kind of a changing of the guard in the past couple of years. So, we are trying to get ourselves back on track now. I have gone from non-tribal to tribal law enforcement in the past 7 years. I have been with the tribal law enforcement at the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. So, we have our own challenges here that we are working on. We do not currently have any representation on the state SAG. I was unaware of that part of it. So, I am going to relay that on and see what we can do about getting that changed.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. From your perspective, is there any assistance that, that OJJDP could give to help build collaborations of those tribal-state partnerships?

Andre Parker: I just – knowing that they are there and that, you know, we can have the contact is the most important part. I think the biggest part for us now is knowing that in order to get any part of the funds is that we have to have someone on the SAG, which I did not know.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Well, thank you. Thank you. And I think we also had a – I believe it is Shaleen Cansea [*spelled phonetically*], I think I am saying that right, from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians from the Healing to Wellness Court. Do you have any comments that you would like to make from your perspective?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Shaleen may be muted here. Let us see. What about – do we have Tricia Poncho from Coshatta? I think we have you on the phone only. Were there any comments that you wanted to make?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. I will just sort of throw the doors open here. I know that we have a lot with this many people that are registered, if you have some input that you wanted to give, we will just kind of take first come first served. We have got about 6 minutes left between – before we wrap up this first section. And again, I wanted to remind everyone that this is a work in progress. You know, we are trying to figure out the best way to get input. And it is, it is very important that OJJDP hears from you what you need to, to be able to access this funding and to build those partnerships. And I think that hopefully the input that we are able to provide to OJJDP then could use for to adjust – to look at how the assistance that you need and the grants in the future. So, kind of open up the floor. Do we have anyone else?

Carole Justice: Hello?



Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Okay. Carole?

Carole Justice: Hello. Thank you.

Audriana Mitchell: I believe we have someone. Carole Justice.

Carole Justice: I wanted to comment on the pass-through item. Generally, the census is the pass-through amount. Years ago when I did the grant, when Wyoming was in, the Governor and I discussed using tribal enrollment figures. And that is what was allowed at that time. I do suggest the tribal enrollment figures are much more accurate than census. And definitely more accurate than BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) labor data, which is many years behind at all times. So, if that type of an adjustment could be made, I do believe that that would result in larger pass-throughs simply by rule if that, if the tribe would be able to offer its enrollment data versus score census, or whichever data source might be the highest. I would recommend that since the pass-through portions are so small. And Ms. Harp is correct, tribes can apply for the non-competitory, or non-participatory state grants. But I do not believe that they can apply for some other funds, Title V or whatever, that you have to be a participatory state in order to get additional monies. But that is, that is old knowledge on my part. But, yes, it still would be very difficult, I believe, for tribes to, to put in a competitor – a non-participatory state grant application since it is written primarily not for tribes. But, it is open, it is open to both now. So, you were correct on that. Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you very much for those comments.

Administrator Caren Harp: Judge Wahwassuck, can I just clear something up here about the other types of grants that are available? We are going to get to that in the second part of the, of the consultation. But Title V funding and, and our CTAS (Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation) funding, and all of those other things are open to tribes. State, local, and tribal governments across the board, people can apply for. But we will cover that a little bit later in the consultation. But those that – I love – but this suggestion about using enrollment figures I have not heard that before. So, I am very grateful for that input. And let me see what we can do with that.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Well, we have about 2 minutes and 45 seconds left. Do we have other people that would like to provide some input?

Rhonda Hardshow: I do. Can you hear me?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. Yes. Who do we have?

Rhonda Hardshow: Okay. Great, great. This is Rhonda Hardshow [*spelled phonetically*] and I am with the Creek Nation and Mississippi Choctaw. I used to work on the Hill and we worked on a number of provisions dealing with OJJDP and the Tribal Law and Order Act. And some of those provisions were included in the reauthorization a couple of years ago and many were not. One of the things that we did discuss was tribal participation in the SAG. And I cannot recall off the top if, if that actually got included as part of the requirements of the state plan. But if it is not, then, you know, I would recommend that perhaps OJJDP host some kind of a meeting with the SAGs where you can discuss the benefits of tribal participation, and how that might be something for states to start doing now. If you look at the provisions that are in the pending Tribal Law and Order Act Reauthorization – I believe it is S.210, that is

still in the Senate right now – there are provisions that talk about how tribes can be partners with in various ways with the states. So, I would recommend that you look at some of those. And perhaps if, if you cannot as a matter of law require it as part of the state plan, then start recommending and suggesting and hosting meetings with the SAGs to include tribes as part of their advisory groups.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Great point.

Administrator Caren Harp: It did make it into the last...

Rhonda Hardshow: If you have like...

Administrator Caren Harp: It is a requirement now.

Rhonda Hardshow: It is a mandate?

Administrator Caren Harp: Yes.

Rhonda Hardshow: Okay. Well, then I guess, then if it is a mandate, then are not you mandating it? Are not you guys mandating it?

Administrator Caren Harp: It is a – it was part of the 2018 reauthorization.

Rhonda Hardshow: Right.

Administrator Caren Harp: And that the tribes or states with one or more tribes within their boundaries have to include a tribal member or somebody with extensive experience in tribal practice, tribal work, doing something with just extensive knowledge of, of the tribes in that particular jurisdiction. So, I say that to – extensive knowledge of the tribes. At any rate, yes, it is now required. So we will...

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And it sounds like that...

Rhonda Hardshow: Then how do you mandate it? How would you mandate it? Would not you, as part of approving their state plan, say, "Okay. Now, do you have somebody yet?" Or is it – are you going to wait until you audit them?

(crosstalk)

Administrator Caren Harp: No. It is already part of the application process. It is part of the application process to apply for the money. It is in there.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And it sounds like that is one of the things that, that is included in the reauthorization that maybe something that OJJDP, that may be a gap that we have just identified here and a real opportunity to build some of those collaborations.

Rhonda Hardshow: So, yes, and so maybe you need to educate the states on these right now, on how they can do it. Is that – is that what you are asking now?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: I think you have identified a way that is definitely a barrier and a gap that, you know, that the tribes need help with to make that happen. So, I think that is a definite area that we need to explore. Well, at this point, we are going to have to kind of shift gears a little bit. Again, this is kind of a new process and this is the first time that we have started this conversation so OJJDP can get some input. Really want to encourage people to followup with your written comments, because I think it is important that they have that information. But, we are going to move on and talk about the Tribal Youth programs and get some input on those. So, I think that Administrator Harp has some comments that she wants to make to lead us into the next section.

### **OJJDP Tribal Youth Programs and Funding**

Administrator Caren Harp: Right. Here, let me see where we are. I cannot see what that slide is. No. No. I am sorry. I am not sure which slide is up at the moment. Maybe that is it. It is so small, and I am really having a hard time seeing that far away. But, at any rate, first of all, thank you all so much for participating in the first portion of this consultation. Your input was wonderful. It was right on the mark. It is the information that we need to figure out the best way to, to facilitate the flow of funds from, from our programs to you, and to how to support you in your work with tribal youth. That was really helpful.

Administrator Caren Harp: So, now we have some other funding that we make available to support the federally recognized tribes in their efforts to prevent and reduce delinquency and provide a fair, beneficial system for American Indian and Alaska Native youth. We participate in the Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, that we call that CTAS for short. You might be familiar with that. CTAS encompasses nine Purpose Areas the tribes can apply for through just the one application. That is why, I believe, CTAS was created in the first place to try to simplify the process of applying for funds and make it easier for tribes to apply for funds. So now, just through the one application, you have access to these nine Purpose Areas.

Administrator Caren Harp: OJJDP's Purpose Areas are number eight and number nine and they support the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court and the Tribal Youth program. Purpose area eight is the Healing to Wellness, and nine is the Youth – Tribal Youth program. Over the years, we have supported a lot of innovative programs and services through CTAS the tribes have, in the past, identified as being really critical and helpful for young people. In particular, CTAS funded – that funding supported the creation of the Healing to Wellness Court where state and tribal partners help you to get substance abuse treatment that aligns with tribal values and culture. And CTAS also supported diversion and after school programs, summer camps grounded in cultural approaches, truancy prevention efforts, and some boys and girls clubs.

Administrator Caren Harp: Now, again, not sure – oh, here we go. I can see that. All right. Let us see. We have applicants from tribal communities for the CTAS grants, specifically the Tribal Youth program. But we receive very few applications for other types of OJJDP funding opportunities. And that is a little bit of what we were discussing before. Tribes are eligible, with rare exceptions, tribes are eligible for all of the funding that we have put out. It is, it is state, local, and tribal governments that can apply for our funding and we receive very few of them. Most of the tribes do not apply if they are not tribal specific. That is, that is kind of what we are seeing in our applications when they come in. Our goal is actually to ensure that tribal communities are aware of and apply for all of these funding opportunities. Not just those specifically targeting or, or maybe making available just for the tribes, but for all of the money that is available out there.

### **Other OJJDP Funding**

Administrator Caren Harp: We have other sources of funding to support services and programs for tribal youth. We put out a solicitation to support the creation of Tribal Children's Advocacy Centers, and we created a specific tribal category in our new Delinquency Prevention Solicitation. So, we have those out there. Let me see what else. All right. I am sorry. That was the slide, I think, that explains quite a bit of that.

### **Training and Technical Assistance for Tribes**

Administrator Caren Harp: We also support the Tribal Youth Resource Center, which provides training and technical assistance to help tribes develop, expand, improve, and maintain their juvenile justice systems. And in 2012, we began funding The Resource Basket, an Alaska-specific training and technical assistance (TTA) center. This particular TTA center is building the capacity of tribal communities across Alaska to address specific needs and challenges of youth who – of those who work with Alaska Native youth.

Administrator Caren Harp: We also have a long history of supporting American Indian and Alaska Native youth leaders. We held our first Tribal Youth Summit in 2010, and learned so much from our discussions with tribal youth from across the country. The feedback we received from those summits led us, led us to expand the weeklong leadership camp into more comprehensive ongoing leadership development initiatives that have been funded since 2013. We have partnered with UNITY for this work. And as we mentioned before, Audri is one of the peer guides supported through that initiative.

### **Process for Providing Input**

Administrator Caren Harp: Having said that, though, we are here to listen to your feedback, both on the work we have already done as well as the programs and services that you think we need to provide going forward. What do we do? How do we improve what we are doing so that we are a better support to you? Our facilitators are going to lead us through three questions that will relate to these particular topics. And in the previous section of this meeting, as we did then, they will ask for comments from tribal leaders first, and then a welcome input from others. Judge Wahwassuck and Audri, I will turn this back to you.

### **Consultation Questions**

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And I think in this section it seemed to work well with us sort of looking at all three questions rather than each one individually because we have a limited amount of time. So, I am going to turn it over to Audri and she is going to lead us and get input on a discussion about how OJJDP can encourage tribes to apply for discretionary grant programs and what would enhance public safety and ensure youth are held accountable in your communities, and how your programs, existing programs and support can be provided to help with innovation. So, Audri, take it away.

Audriana Mitchell: Yes. So, if we have anybody in the – who would like to put in their input, please identify yourselves and we will have you speak on some of these questions. And again, the first question would be: What actions can OJJDP take to encourage tribes to apply for discretionary grant programs that prevent delinquency and victimization?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: So, I would be, I would be curious from – maybe if there is anybody that is involved in some of the Healing to Wellness Courts, or some of the other programs that are innovative ideas and things. What kind of support do you need to be able to access this funding, these funding sources? What about training and technical...?

Spritz Stemlick: Judge?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Oh, go ahead. Yes. Who do we have?

Spritz Stemlick: Hello?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: You are cutting out a little bit.

Spritz Stemlick: Yes. Spritz Stemlick [*spelled phonetically*] from Kipnuk, Alaska. I am working on the Healing to Wellness Court program here. It is for young adults and we do not have any programs for juveniles who get into trouble. One obstacle here is that we do not – like there is only one person authorized to apply for grants and that would be the tribal administrator. But, working on this Tribal Healing to Wellness Court project, I think my only comment or – is that a lot of, a lot of tribes are not probably not getting the information, or they are just not getting involved maybe because the application process is too long, or maybe they have auditing stuff problems or something.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: So, it sounds like maybe some assistance with applying for grants – some technical assistance. Would that be helpful where you are?

Spritz Stemlick: Yes. So, I was, I was – I need to find money for my program like for [unclear] and prizes for participants in a Healing to Wellness Court, stuff like that. But I am just not authorized to do any of that.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay.

Spritz Stemlick: And that is one obstacle. Applying for the grant, I guess.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. Is there anybody else that is working either for a program or a tribal leader that wants to talk about other barriers that you are experiencing in being able to access these funds?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: So, maybe we can talk a little bit about accountability. And I know that with all of our different tribal nations, we all have different ways – we all have our aunties and grandmas and people like that that hold our, our communities and our families accountable and that sort of thing. It is different everywhere. So, what, what types of programming would help to enhance public safety and that accountability in, for your tribe or for your program? Because, I think, when we talk about accountability, we get there by different roads. But, what, what would help to promote that accountability in your community that OJJDP needs to know about? Is there anybody that is involved in a specialty court program or law enforcement maybe?

[speaker unidentified]: Hello?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Who do we have?

Latisha Miller: This is Latisha Miller. I am the Vice Chair for the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians. I was trying to do comments on the screen but they would not go through, so forgive me. We are not as into it as far as some other tribes. We are still in the beginning stages of trying to figure out options for our members and other natives in the community that we serve. And right now, the only thing that we have been able to do is try to create a relationship between the tribe and the local governments, you know, our government-to-government relationships that we are trying to create. And reaching out to – I have reached out to the District Attorney. I reached out to the jail here. We had social services come in. We are all trying – I was trying to get this group together to see what services they offered and the services that we offered that they did not, how we could complement each other. And the biggest roadblock I get is that it is always up to the judge. The judge is, you know, the judge has the last call on how our members will receive services. And that is even with the juveniles. And it is frustrating because they will go before the judge and they will say, “You know, my tribe has funding available for me now to get me help instead of sending me to jail.” And because of the past, they will just say, “No. We do not think you will finish it,” and they send them to jail or to juvenile hall without the tribe being able to come in and dictate, or help dictate the service for that member rather than the county.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: So, do you think that it would be helpful that one thing that OJJDP could be, maybe in terms of technical assistance, is to get people together to have those conversations?

Latisha Miller: Yes.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: I know, being a judge, sometimes if I know what is available there and I know I have everybody at the table – so do you think that is one area that would be helpful?

Latisha Miller: Yes. And helping tribes figure out a way to create an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the county or, you know, and because I know that they are open to that relationship. I have met with them. But I do not know how to create that relationship or the MOU and how to even approach that.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Right. Sometimes it is hard to even just get started. I know.

Latisha Miller: Right.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. So, are there any other things along those lines that may be helpful? Because I think a lot of that is getting the right players to the table. And a lot of, there is a lot of really innovative things that are going on different places. Is there anyone that wants to address maybe ways that if – for innovative programs that you have that are sort of local solutions to local problems? What, what could OJJDP do through these funding sources to help promote that? Anybody want to tackle that one? We are going to start calling on people.

Denise Kinegak: This is Denise Kinegak with Orutsararmiut Native Council. Can you guys hear me?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes, yes. Good afternoon.

Denise Kinegak: So, like Gloria Simeon, our – one of our tribal council members stated earlier we are in a really rural part of Alaska. And I know that we have talked about being understanding of the culture. I think some of the funding needs to be less restricted and allow for us to utilize our cultural knowledge and be able to teach our kids about food security and how to kind of go back to being self-sustainable within our families. You know, a lot of the services that we see currently right now are Western. And it is really hard for our children and families to understand and navigate these systems, programs, and services. So, if like, ideally, ONC (Office of the National Coordinator), we would like our fish camp to be funded. That is where we go and traditionally subsist. Those type of cultural activities are very restorative. It is already built into our Yup'ik culture to – it is something that we call – I think it is (inaudible). It is like the circle of life. You know, those types of teachings need some sort of funding, preventative funding. We get told a lot, is this best practice proven? And, you know, your, the Western way of proving what is the best practice is really difficult. And we already know how to serve and restore the youth through our Yup'ik cultural activities and teaching. So, it would be great to have, you know, the OJJPD office come up here to Bethel so you guys could kind of get the feel for what we are saying when it comes to culture, being culturally connected. Because, one of the things that we see is our youth are disconnected and, you know, we want to pull them back into our family units and our cultural teachings and bring back that identity, because that is where the strength comes from to move forward in a, in a good positive manner. So, looking at kind of changing the prevention funding to be very culturally appropriate, maybe not having those expectations of it has to be Western best practices or anything like that. Because, you know, here within our tribe we have a curriculum called Healthy Families and it is a 12-week-long class where we meet once a week. And it goes through the whole life cycle. And it is incredibly amazing to see children and families engage in the outcomes. But these sort of home-grown curriculum and programs, it would be nice to have additional funding. When you go into our state system, I think the detention unit here in Bethel, which is the Bethel Youth Facility, at times is culturally semi-relevant. But for the most part, it is Western. So, when we have kids that are in the facility or going through probation system, they cannot connect. They cannot, they do not understand. And I am a former juvenile justice officer, so I have worked here within my community under the state, and then as well – I mean, and then I switched to tribe side. And I really feel like this is where it is at when we are talking about restorative justice and keeping kids intact with their families and culture and, you know, becoming healthy. I think, I do not know if the state would be able to, you know, transition to be culturally relevant. But tribe side, I think, we have the capability of doing that. It is just we need continuous funding, not grant development funding. It needs to be – I would prefer it to be compact funds rather than grant funds or block grant funds just because we get these programs built, developed in our region, and then it is just a development grant. It is really difficult to find local funding to meet those program needs. So, kind of an uphill battle. We do as much as we can on our own without federal funding. I feel like if we had a little avenue to where we could get these, these funds compacted and continuous, we would be more successful in working with our youth and our families.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: So, part of what I am hearing about, do you think it is helpful if there were consideration of funding for site visits or some of that cross-site and cross-agency communication so we can all learn from each other?

Denise Kinegak: Well, I think the same way AG (Attorney General) Barr came up here to Alaska, I think to – for everybody to truly understand, you know, how unique Alaska, the Western region specifically... *(music begins playing in background)*...would be great to have, it would be great to have the Office of...

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Oops. Somebody has got a great ring tone.

Denise Kinegak: I think somebody is stuck on mute.

William Moore: Sorry. We are fixing that in the background here. My apologies, everyone.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: I am not sure if everyone can hear me (inaudible). Audri, I am going to have you pick up (inaudible) trouble with my audio here. I cannot hear you.

Audriana Mitchell: All right. Thank you for your input. Korey, we can hear you just a little bit. Okay. I do not think Judge Korey's speaker is working. So, if anybody else has any more input about the following questions that we were discussing earlier... I believe Danica Brown had some insights that she would like to share with us as well.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Danica, do we have you there? Well, in case – maybe Danica – I just want to remind folks to \*6 to unmute your phone. And Danica, do we have you there? Okay. I think I saw that on someone's name – is there someone from the Yurok Tribal Court? I know that there is a lot of innovative programming that is going on there. If there is anything that maybe you wanted to talk about or the programming that you have got going. If there were any barriers that you might have been helped through some of these things that we have been talking about?

Danica Brown: Hi. This is Danica. Can you hear me?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes.

Danica Brown: Oh. Hi. Sorry. There is like three buttons. So, I will be brief. So, my name is Danica Brown and I am the Behavioral Health Manager with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and also the Project Director on the Northwest Tribal Juvenile Justice Alliance, which was a planning project that we got funding through the National Institute of Justice that we just completed a needs assessment with the tribes in – our member tribes in the Northwest, which are the 43 tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. And I noticed that some of our partners on the Alliance are actually involved in this, this Webinar right now. But, I just wanted to share briefly. We conducted an 18-month study to look at the primary issues that were kind of impacting our tribal communities as far as juvenile justice issues were concerned, and there were two primary findings that came out. One is around data surveillance and tribal people not being accurately tracked within the juvenile justice system, and what those things look like. Obvious jurisdictional issues across the three states are really challenging. And then, the other one that I am, I am hearing echoed throughout this Webinar is a major concern for our tribal communities was being able to access community or culturally-based activities in the juvenile justice system, as well as when tribal, when citizens, tribal citizens are being released from custody, tribes being able to have access to, you know, work with those youth and families to engage them in those works, in that work to support their tribal citizens. And in the state of Oregon, we have been really lucky because when kind of the federal government was really about 20 years ago pushing, you know, the funding of only evidence-based practices, there was a group of tribal people and prevention specialists and treatment providers in Oregon who started doing work around what they called tribal best practices. And there has been a lot of work and support of tribal best practices in the state of Oregon. The state of Oregon acknowledges those as a sequel to evidence-based practices, funding for those happened. But it is really kind of set for, you know, those protocols are set in place for Oregon and not other states. And so, you know, our committee, and in the research, what we found was that across the board, whether it was youth stakeholders, tribal stakeholders, juvenile justice organization stakeholders all agreed and acknowledged that culture is preventative and should be funded by federal government in a more



substantial way. Which I – and what I am also hearing from other participants on the Webinar is that is a concern. In Oregon, our tribal partners, primarily Dr. Caroline Cruz and Dr. John Spence, have developed an adaptation tool to adapt or to develop tribal best practices. And in the state of Oregon, we actually have 23 tribal best practices that are – we are able to fund through Medicaid and insurance and things like that. So, I just wanted to leave it up, you know, the two primary concerns are obviously data, data surveillance, and also data sharing. You know, we are sovereign nations and we own our data. And that is also a hindrance in applying for funds many times with federal agencies. I do not know if that is specifically true with OJJDP funds, but I think that that is a consideration. And then being able to fund and provide funding for culturally-based, tribal-based practices for our communities. We do have a report that we just finished, and I am certainly willing to send that out to anyone who is interested in looking at those findings. Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. So for those programs that are incorporating culture in the foundations of your work and are, have some really innovative ideas that are going, what kind of support do you need in the funding when you, for sustainability or for ongoing operations? What can OJJDP do to help?

Danica Brown: Well, I mean, I think that a big issue or a barrier is what funders define as what is rigorous and fidelity, and that we need more flexibility in defining what those two things are. And like I said, with Dr. Cruz and Dr. Spencer – Spence – have developed kind of a tool and protocol to be able to define those from a tribal perspective. But we need organizations, primarily funders, to acknowledge and support those tribal best practices and fund them. We believe that our knowledge and our practices, our time and memorial, are rigorous and have fidelity within our own communities. But because tribal, you know, it is hard to prove evidence based because our numbers are just not – we do not have enough numbers to justify an evidence-based practice. So that automatically leaves us out of those loops, or out of those funding sources. And the adaptation of a Western model to a tribal best practice is not always appropriate or culturally sensitive. And so, I think just, you know, expanding the, expanding the definition of what an evidence-based or practice-based or tribal-based practice is to allow for tribal communities to be able to do things. Like they were talking about, their fishing camps or their hunting camps, or canoe journey, or any of these other things that we have been doing. And we have heard this from youth, too, is that they really are, are just thirsty for that cultural connection. But resources are so scarce in providing those resources and providing those positions and working with...What we also find is that in, in Oregon and Washington, in particular, is that when youth enter a facility, a state facility, their access to traditional activities and medicines get impacted, right? Because they do not have access. They cannot use their traditional medicines like sage or tobacco or these things, because it is considered contraband. But, creating a way – in Oregon, too, we are working on a state policy to be able to work with the Oregon Youth Authority so that cultural liaisons can go into the facilities and work with tribal youth in utilizing those cultural activities and cultural medicines. So just being flexible and aware of, of those kinds of things I think would help if our funders were funding those, and being aware of the rigor and the fidelity that actually we are being able to prove. So, it is just – those are my thoughts about that.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: So are there – thank you for that input. So are there other tribes or folks that are representing tribes that you, that you need help with in terms of being able to document what you are doing for sustainability and to show it? As you said, we know what works, but moving it from what we know works and a promising practice to what is recognized as best practices in the outside world here, it helps to maybe to do those evaluations recognizing that it is not the number of people that you are serving, but the impact that you are having. Anybody else that has any input on those lines? And Audri, I cannot hear you. I do not know if you are on mute. Yes.

Audriana Mitchell: Can you hear me now? Okay. And I believe we do have some questions for people who were not able to speak up on the phone. One of them is from Sheila Vave Sion [*spelled phonetically*], I believe. I am sorry if I say that incorrectly. But she asks: Can any urban 501(c)(3) Native American Indian programs apply for this funding?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: And I think it – and that might be a question for Administrator Harp. I do not know in terms of – and that might be identified another, another area for assistance is to let people know who actually can apply for funding. Is it just a federally recognized tribe? Is it – are they Native American-run 501(c)(3)s? I do not know. Administrator Harp?

Administrator Caren Harp: It, it will always be listed in the solicitation who is eligible. And most of the time it is always going to be states, local governments, tribes, 501s, you know, nonprofits. It might not list out the types of nonprofits but it will just say nonprofit organizations and a variety of things. It is always listed in the solicitation who is eligible. And it varies from, from solicitation to solicitation. So, you will just have to – you have to look at those. When you see a funding stream that looks like something you might want to participate in, just right on the first page, right at the top it talks about who is eligible. And you can click on it and find out.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you. One question that I would throw out there, too, is in terms of the, the pots of money that are out there in some of these discretionary grant programs. And we are all familiar, as we talked about, with the CTAS funding. And again, having had my grant writing hat on, it takes us so much time and everything to get geared up to get our CTAS grants in. But there is a lot of other pools of money that are available out there that tribes are not applying for. And so, what can OJJDP do to help tribes to be able to apply for those?

Administrator Caren Harp: Are you asking us, or are you asking the tribes?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. No. For the tribes...

(crosstalk)

Audriana Mitchell: I see that we have....

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Our participants on the line. What helps?

Audriana Mitchell: Yes. I see that we have Annette Leyva, or Annette Leyva.

Annette Leyva: Can you hear me? Hello.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes.

Audriana Mitchell: Yes. We can hear you.

Annette Leyva: So, yes. I am with the Pascua Yaqui tribe, and I am the Administrator to the Attendance Achievement program. And I know that I have participated in some Webinars and conferences as far as innovative practices within court systems and navigating our government system. So, we have developed a system where we identify truant – truancy issues through our neighboring schools, because

we do not have K12 schools on our reservation. But we know that that affects our tribes and they impact all of the other elements that are taking place in our children's lives. So, we utilize that partnership with our court system. And then, the court system then exercises the economy to connect them to a diversion program within the tribe that connects us to the education department that is a web of services that wrap around each of our families and work with them within 6 to 9 months to address any issues. This year is I believe our sixth or seventh year since the inception of the program. And, you know, coming from – I worked in education over 15 years with the tribe and, you know, counting with the school district, it has been well over 20. And knowing of a program – we know what needs to be done, we know what practices work, and to be able to create that structure and move forward to identify in that half year if we are doing what is right with some [inaudible] measure was something that we could not hold back on any longer. And this is why we created a structure that was a pilot that we could grow and develop every year and navigate through that. And taking effective practices from tribes, effective practices from other entities, other schools, and try to resonate that uniqueness within our community. The challenge I see is the, the data collection in being able to capture the qualitative and quantitative measurements to be able to reflect accurately what our youth need specifically. And it is – it is a whole lot of what I am hearing right now. And it is connecting to families. It is the cycle of our generational traumas, and it is that connection and reconnections to culture. And especially when we are looking at, in our perspective, education is one of the biggest keys for our people to overcome challenges and to be self-sustainable to be able to address and empower families when they, too, have suffered a lot of those experiences within the educational system. There are so many measurements that we are not capturing, and then to be able to have it in a system that effectively does that, I would say would be a great benefit to a lot of us that are spending so much time trying to do the work. And that alone, you know, would take another person or another few people just to identify those factors. And then, in addition to looking at innovative practices, I know that Pascua Yaqui was able to be identified as one of the federal Yaqui tribes because of its practices that are, you know, innovative and outside of the scope of a lot of what the structured grants that we see. And the Attendance Achievement program is one of those metrics because of the way we work as a family. We work as a family to help our families. And I really enjoy conversations at the tribes sometimes regarding this Attendance Achievement program because sometimes we talk about it really does not fit in a certain program. And I am like, well, that is how we, we replicate our families because they do not fit in a program. They are whole and they encompass everything in that wraparound system. So to be able to network and connect to systems that are non-traditional in a sense of evidence-based practice, but that are very cultural when it comes to the way that we work and live, and help our families. And I know that a lot of the speakers and facilitators are asking a whole bunch, "What do you need from us?" And I am thankful that you are doing that. And I just want to give my gratitude to you who I feel opportunities like this – it is doing opportunities – providing opportunities like this for us to gather and to create the momentum that we see this happening in the Nation right now. And to know that we have been addressing and trying to get this moved for long before we see a lot of movement happening now as far as working together for our youth. So, I thank you all for your time and hopefully you can kind of translate all of the goodies I shared.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: In terms of grant funding and innovative programming, things like that that you need assistance with, is there anyone else that wants to address maybe some of – what types of programming that, that you want to have funded? Or, if there is barriers in the existing funding to – some of the things that we know work that you want to start in your communities. Any barriers there that anyone wants to talk about?

Audriana Mitchell: I think we have Kory Danner from Barrow, Alaska.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Do we have Kory there? Are you on mute maybe?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Okay. Are there, are there others? In, in terms – maybe we can just switch gears a little bit to talk about in terms of things that would enhance public safety in your communities. And I know that we – so much of what I have seen and we have heard so much throughout this conversation is about our, our culture and traditions where we live. And that it might not be huge numbers that we necessarily deal with, but that is where the healing is, and you can really change the trajectory there. So, are there other ideas for improving public safety that you think your tribes are – or in, in your work that, that OJJDP should be aware of? What kind of programming could be, could be offered?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Oh. We have – have we got somebody there?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: What about – do we have anyone, for instance, that – I think I saw some names of people that were involved with juvenile programming. I think we, is Kory Danner? Do we...? I know we just tried. Do we have Kory yet?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Anybody else that is working in facilities, for instance, that, that wanted to talk about some of your needs or ideas for programming?

[silence]

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: We have got about, well, we have got about 6 minutes left. And I think if – one, one other thing. I know that we, again, we have – there is a lot of really innovative programs that are out there where tribes are infusing their culture and trying to make changes that way. Anybody want to talk about some of the barriers? And we have heard about a few of those, but what are some of the barriers that you are encountering for applying for your local programs? What kind of programming and funding opportunities do you need to be successful and carry on? Anybody that wants to tackle that one?

Vivian Korthuis: Hi. Are you able to hear me?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Who do we have?

Vivian Korthuis: Hi. My name is Vivian Korthuis. I called in earlier and I made a prepared statement. I would like to answer your question about barriers to public safety.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Go ahead.

Vivian Korthuis: So, again, my name is Vivian Korthuis and I am the Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) in Bethel, Alaska. That is where our headquarters are. Our tribes live on the Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, and Bering Sea coast. AVCP is the consortium of 56 tribes. We meet on an annual basis; 4 years ago, our tribes identified public safety as the number one issue for our region. I would like to summarize my testimony that I presented to the Presidents' Law Enforcement Working Group about from 2 weeks ago. And one thing that I would like to pass on to this, for your information, is that we were asked the same question when we testified in front of that Presidents' Law Enforcement Commission. And we brought forward three recommendations. The first recommendation that we brought forward was that, especially in rural Alaska where we have a declared public safety emergency or crisis, a law enforcement crisis declared by AG Barr when he visited out here last summer. Our first recommendation is that appropriate funding be given to tribes to adequately fund public safety in every community in rural Alaska. The second recommendation that we brought forward was that tribes receive appropriate training dollars that all of our tribes need to train local law enforcement. And we want that training to be done here in Alaska, in rural Alaska specifically. And then, third, we want to address tribal jurisdiction to where we have all the appropriate jurisdiction that tribes enjoy and operate in our community. So that answers the question that you posed. What were some of the obstacles and what are some of the recommendations specifically for our law enforcement? Thank you.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you very much. Anyone else that – from law enforcement or working in services? Anyone out there?

Kory Danner: Hi. This is Kory.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Hi.

Kory Danner: Hello. I am finally through.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Go ahead. Good, good.

Kory Danner: I am, I am from Barrow, Alaska, and we are a small community. I work for our tribal government as the Juvenile Program Coordinator. So, I run the Wellness Court, the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court here that we have. As far as what OJJDP can do for us, we are pretty new in understanding the grants that we have and how to utilize them right now because, for a while there, we, we just did not have the right, you know, people in the right positions. But, now we have a pretty solid team and just tackling a bunch of these services that we can provide for our community. And I think that going off from what one of the speakers from Bethel said is a, you know, a site visit would be great. We can keep in contact with that just so you can see where this funding is going to, or what we would like to do with it. Because culture, I believe, is so embedded in our community up here in a way that is restorative and can provide a lot of healing for our tribal members. So that is something we would like to focus our funding on is for more culturally-appropriate activities. And I think that if we could get that sometime in the near future, I think it would be a lot of help to us in, you know, helping with understanding the grant work and all the logistics of it, the writing in it, what we can use with it. I think that would be great for us up here in Barrow.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Thank you for those comments. Well, we are drawing to the end of our time here for the second section of the consultation. And again, I, I really want to encourage everyone to submit comments. We have so many people on the line and so little time to really be able to talk to

everybody and get your input. I think that this is – it is really an important first step, I think, in opening dialogue up. And I think that we have an opportunity here. OJJDP is asking. That we are not told – they are saying, “We are asking for your help. What, what can we do?” And I think it is really important for us to take this opportunity to speak up and provide the input so that we are all going in the same direction in terms of trying to improve outcomes for our kids and to change that trajectory. So, I know that we are, we are all going to the, to the same goal. So, really, submit your written comments behind us. And also, if you have ideas for improving the process, again, this is, this is new. I think we are all adjusting to the virtual world. So, I think we, you know, this is a great first start. So, at this point, I want to thank everyone again for spending this time with us. And I am going to turn it over to Audri who has another song that she is going to gift us with, and then Administrator Harp will close us out for the day. Audri?

Audriana Mitchell: All right. Thank you. I also just want to thank everybody who joined us online today, and hope you got some more insights about how OJJDP can better support you and your tribes. And so, the song that I will be singing for the closing is a blessing song. And it is a Navajo song, and it was composed by Jay Begaye. And I just want to sing this song to kind of help everybody go on their way and hope that we can all (inaudible)...

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes. Audri, I think that is why I said uh-oh. I think I am having a little bit of trouble on your audio. You are cutting out just a little bit.

Audriana Mitchell: Can you guys hear me?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: I do not know if it is the audio or the video feed there, but, but we can hear you now.

Audriana Mitchell: Okay.

Administrator Caren Harp: I can hear you, Audri.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: Yes.

Audriana Mitchell: Okay. Does it, does it seem, does it seem all right now? Okay. All right. So, I will sing this song and then we can hand it over to Caren for the closing. (*song sung in native tongue*)

Administrator Caren Harp: Thank you, Audri. And thank you, Judge Wahwassuck. Thank you both for your facilitation of our meeting today. It was just such an honor that you agreed to serve us in this capacity. I also want to just extend a special thanks to each and every one of you who shared your thoughts and feedback, your ideas for us. It is so valuable. It will be just extremely helpful to us as we go forward.

### **Connect With OJJDP**

Administrator Caren Harp: If you did not have an opportunity to share your thoughts today, or if something comes to you, if it, if this triggers some thinking and, and sometime later you want to share some additional feedback, or different feedback with us, please, please do that. It is not just during this phone call, but we are going to leave the comment period for this open for 60 days. So, we would just greatly appreciate your written comments. Feel free to submit them by August 25. That is the 60 days – the close of the 60-day period. And I believe the site is provided somewhere in your consultation

materials. But it is [ojdptribalconsultation@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:ojdptribalconsultation@ojp.usdoj.gov). Please just submit us any of your comments. We would love to hear from you. My sincere hope is that this is not the end of anything. That this is, in fact, just the beginning of a lot of great conversation and great consulting and just great relationship building going forward. Because we are – OJJDP is blessed to have people that are purely committed to trying to improve the lives of Native youth and, and working with the tribes. And we just, we just want to help. We want to be useful to you in every way we can find to be. So please feel free to contact us at any time and we look forward to any additional written comments that you have for us. And I think that is all we have. Are we done for the day? Judge Wahwassuck, is that everything?

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: I think it is. We have got about 3 minutes to our closing when they pull the hook on us. But I, again thank you, everyone, for being with us. And I think that it is really important, as part of this process, that we also get input from you about how these consultations go in the future. I, I think that really consultation is – it is important that it is a two-way street and that, that we are able to as tribes to provide that input. And so, if there is ways that the process could be improved, I am sure that Administrator Harp would like to hear about that, too, because I think that this – it is all about our kids. And it is about changing the trajectory for them, and how we can work together to improve those outcomes in the future. So, Audri, I do not know if you have any final words that, that you wanted to share with anyone?

Audriana Mitchell: I just want to thank everybody who is able to put on this call, and everybody who is able to participate. I know we did not get to everybody, but I hope you all can put down your comments and whatever questions you have. And I hope we can all just take in whatever we learned today. And hopefully use this information to better support our Native youth.

Administrator Caren Harp: Thank you all so much. I think we can end a minute early or 2 minutes early for you two.

Judge Korey Wahwassuck: We all get out of class early. Take care, everyone.

Administrator Caren Harp: Take care, be well, be healthy. Thank you all so very much.

William Moore: Thank you.

[End.]