

Tribal Justice Committee Report Summary

Meeting: IMPACT Date: February 6-7, 2023

Location: Washington, D.C.

Keesha O'Barr Frye, Secretary Tribal Justice Committee.
(name of person reporting)

Committee met under the direction of Chairperson Bruce Lee
(name)

6 Tribes were represented. 6 Committee Members Attended.
(number) (number)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS ACTIONS taken:

1. Tribal Justice Committee members received a presentation presented Monday, February 6, 2023 by Marcelino Toersbijns, Unit Chief , Missing and Murdered Unit for the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Task Force for Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaska Natives also known as Operation Lady Justice was formed through executive order 13898 to address the legitimate concerns of American Indians and Alaska Native communities regarding missing and murdered people specifically indigenous women and girls. The Unit is looking for assistance from tribes to partner and bring cases to the unit as needed. The Unit is also creating and updating a missing persons log for Indian Country. They have a total of 618 cases in 2021 and 2022. Several Resources have been acquired by the unit and are offered to tribes when needed; Ground penetrating radar, water aircraft, ATV/UTV, etc.
2. R. Glen Melville, Director, BIA, provided OJS updates on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Topics included recruitment and retention issues for tribes and the BIA. There are a lot of vacancies in the BIA as well as Indian Country. A recruiter was hired for OJS; eventually would like to Officer Recruiter to provide assistance to tribes to recruit new BIA law enforcement Officers.
3. Several representatives from the CTAS Grant Team (Matt Lysakowski (COPS), Trish Thackston (BJA), Christine Ramirez (OJJDP), Carmen Roberts (OVC) and Julius Dupree (BJA) provided updates, guidelines and projected outcomes for the CTAS Grant opportunities due March 28, 2023. Recommendations were also made that tribes consider applying for non-tribal grant opportunities. It was stated that all tribes that applied for the non-tribal grants last year were awarded.
4. Steven Perry, BJA Statistician, provided a presentation regarding Improving Tribal Justice Data: An overview of the census of tribal law enforcement and court systems on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.
5. The committee held a roundtable discussion with Norena Henry, Department of Justice, Senior Policy Advisor for Tribal Affairs. Discussions were held regarding the hiring of Vince Davenport, Associate Deputy for Law Enforcement for BJA and plans for this position, additional funding for tribal law enforcement and making sure the tribes are included in national enforcement discussions and promoting tribal laws and resources, and Officer safety and Wellness Initiative.
6. Jennifer Styles, IACP provided a presentation regarding IACP Indian Section/Programs/CRI-TAC updates and resources offered to tribes including crisis intervention training, mental health and substance abuse, and other available resources offered by IACP .

7. BIA OJS District VI on Monday, Tuesday, February 7, 2023 regarding several topics including recruitment of law enforcement officers, Budgets and historical funding levels, retirement funding and proposed statutes.
8. The committee had a business session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 discussing the plan and agenda for the next two (2) scheduled USET meetings. The committee also elected a new Chair for the committee, Joseph Brooks, Police Chief, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Bruce Lee, Public Safety Executive Director was elected as Vice Chair for the committee and Keesha O’Barr Frye will remain as Secretary.

MOTIONS passed:

1. The approval of the Tribal Justice Committee Report Summary for Nashville, Tennessee on November 2019.

RESOLUTIONS submitted for Board consideration:

Prepared by: KOF

