



# Tribal Elder Protection Team Toolkit: Developing Your Team

APRIL 25, 2018

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**ElderJustice**  
INITIATIVE



**OVCTTAC**  
OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME Training and Technical Assistance Center



# TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

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- ▶ If you are experiencing any technical issues with the audio for this session, please let us know in the feedback box.
- ▶ If you have technical difficulties during the webinar, contact Kaila Hough, who is providing technical support for this webinar. Her email address is [Kough@ovcttac.org](mailto:Kough@ovcttac.org).
- ▶ Today's session will be recorded and made available on the training website.
- ▶ If you have questions, type them in the feedback box. We will address as many as possible throughout the webinar.

# ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE

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The **mission** is to support and coordinate the Department of Justice's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target older adults.

The Initiative does so by—

- ▶ Promoting justice for older adults.
- ▶ Helping older victims and their families.
- ▶ Enhancing state and local efforts through training and resources.
- ▶ Supporting research to improve elder abuse policy and practice.

# ELDERJUSTICE.GOV

**You're fighting elder abuse on the front lines. We've got your back.**

The mission of the Elder Justice Initiative is to support and coordinate the Department's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target our nation's seniors.





# About the MDT TAC

A New Program from the  
Elder Justice Initiative

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**ElderJustice**  
INITIATIVE



# ABOUT THE MDT TAC

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- ▶ A new project from the Elder Justice Initiative
- ▶ Our mission is to provide tools, resources, and individualized consultations to facilitate the expansion of elder abuse case review multidisciplinary teams across the Nation.

# SERVICES

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- ▶ Responding to requests for materials (e.g., sample documents or research)
- ▶ Phone and email consultations to discuss problem solving and in-person consultations for communities needing a more hands-on approach
- ▶ Educational opportunities such as webinars
- ▶ **Newly launched MDT Guide and Toolkit**

# PRESENTERS

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Project Director

National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative



**Sloan M. Henry**

Project Coordinator

National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

# National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

## Tribal Elder Protection Team Toolkit

# Objectives

## Section 1:

- ❖ Introduction to the Tribal Elder Protection Team (EPT) Toolkit

## Section 2:

- ❖ How To Use the Tribal EPT Toolkit To Develop Your Own Team

## Section 3:

- ❖ Developing Tribal Elder Abuse Codes

## Section 4:

- ❖ Discussing the Roles and Responsibilities of Various Team Members

## Section 5:

- ❖ Cultural Sensitivity Resources

The Restorative Justice approach as an alternative to prosecution.

# Section 1:

## Introduction to the

## Tribal Elder Protection Team Toolkit

- ❖ What is a Tribal EPT?
- ❖ Why create an EPT?
- ❖ Considerations
- ❖ Tribal EPT Flow Chart

## A Tribal Elder Protection Team

- ❖ Provides assistance
- ❖ Improves communication
- ❖ Includes professionals
- ❖ Limited team membership

Tribal Elder  
Protection Team

# Why create an EPT?

- ❖ Reduce stereotypes
- ❖ Improve standardized protocols
- ❖ Improve responses
- ❖ Improve communication and coordination
- ❖ Provide training for professionals
- ❖ Standardize reporting

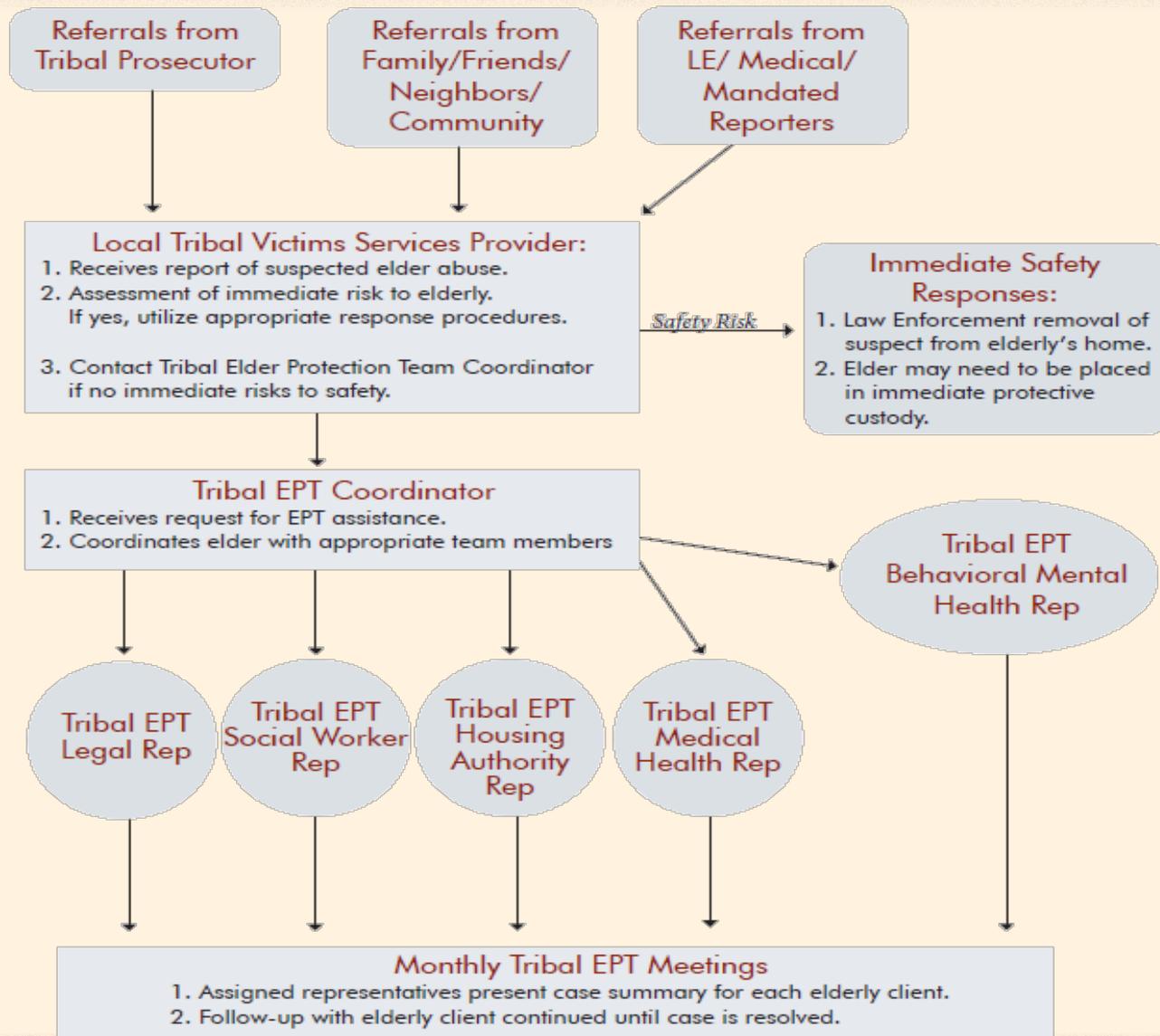
## Elder protection programs vary:

- ❖ Available infrastructure
- ❖ Jurisdictional considerations
- ❖ Availability of traditional justice systems
- ❖ Tribal and/or state civil or criminal courts

## Defining

1. Responsibilities and functions
2. Membership
3. Purpose
4. Roles and responsibilities of members
5. Community awareness and prevention

# Tribal EPT Flow Chart



## Section 2:

### Using the Tribal EPT Toolkit to Develop the Team

- ❖ Getting started
- ❖ Benefits
- ❖ Developing rules

## Getting Started

1. Build a team of professionals
2. Identify community needs
3. Complete a Statement of Needs
4. Develop organizational rules
5. Establish a tribal elder protection code
6. Learn about state and tribal laws in your area
7. Program considerations include—
  - Identify technical experience available (e.g., computer resources)
  - Determine sufficient economic resources available
  - Determine the legal requirements or restrictions for the EPT
  - Develop a business plan and budget addressing operations
8. Develop a sustainability plan

## Benefits

- ❖ Access to coordinated services
- ❖ Receiving services across multiple agencies concurrently
  - Increasing awareness of available services improves access to all programs the elder needs.
- ❖ Positive outcomes for elders

## Challenges

- ❖ Attendance
- ❖ Commitment
- ❖ Few cases
- ❖ Differences in agencies' policies and mandates
- ❖ Frustration with difficult cases
- ❖ Confidentiality
- ❖ Costs, travel & time
- ❖ Mandated reporter policies

## Organizational Rules EPT

- ❖ Who is the leader (e.g., EPT coordinator)?
- ❖ What are the goals of the EPT?
- ❖ What protocols & documents are needed?
- ❖ Why a written commitment?
- ❖ Effective communication rules

## Section 3:

### Developing Tribal Elder Abuse Code(s)

1. Obtaining support of tribal government
2. Establishing a working group
3. Gathering or collecting information
4. Identifying tribal values
5. Writing the tribal code
6. Obtaining final approval
7. Developing a protocol to implement the code(s)
8. Implementing the code(s)

## Section 4:

# Tribal Elder Protection Team Members

### ❖ Roles and Responsibilities

- Coordinator
- Social Worker
- APS
- Medical Services Representative
- Tribal Housing Authority Representative
- Law Enforcement Officer Representative

## All Members of the Tribal EPT

- ❖ Represent professional agency
- ❖ Provide information about the EPT to their agency staff
- ❖ Make referrals and share client information with EPT, when appropriate
- ❖ Provide brief client summary reports for EPT meetings
- ❖ Coordinate with other EPT representatives
- ❖ Provide expert input, review of cases, and follow up
- ❖ Conduct case investigation and intervention
- ❖ Act as a liaison between the EPT and their agency

## Tribal EPT Coordinator

- ❖ Team facilitator
- ❖ Ensure proper management
- ❖ Increase accountability
- ❖ Possible dual role

## Tribal EPT Social Worker

- ❖ Respond to crisis situations
- ❖ Coordinate medical and community response
- ❖ Assess the elder's needs
- ❖ Refer clients to community resources
- ❖ Facilitate clients' access to benefits
- ❖ Assist with detection, investigation (when appropriate), intervention, and prevention
- ❖ Provide follow up

## Comprehensive Assessment Information

- ❖ Client information
- ❖ Functioning
- ❖ Legal information
- ❖ Physical environment
- ❖ Social supports
- ❖ Physical health
- ❖ Psychological health

## Tribal Adult Protective Service

- ❖ Assess the elder's needs and safety
- ❖ Respond to crisis situations
- ❖ Coordinate medical and community response
- ❖ Act as a liaison between agencies
- ❖ Refer clients to community resources and services
- ❖ Assist with detection, investigation (when appropriate), intervention, and prevention
- ❖ Coordinate with tribal court systems, law enforcement
- ❖ Provide follow up

## Medical Services Representative

- ❖ Make referrals to the EPT
- ❖ Coordinate communication between health care and EPT
- ❖ Provide expert input, review, and follow up

Additional responsibilities may include:

### Implement a Safety Screening

Conduct annual safety screening during health care appointments

### Elder Abuse Interview Protocol

Allow elderly time to tell their story.

### Capacity Assessment

Evaluate level of cognitive functioning

- Understand the client's ability to make decisions.
- Cognitive and physical impairments:
  - Impact ability to perform instrumental activities of daily living (IADL).
  - Make at risk for abuse and exploitation.

- ❖ Consider cultural issues when conducting a capacity assessment.
- ❖ Persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences may not perceive structured tests as being aligned with their world views.
- ❖ Some issues with the current cognitive impairment tests include:
  - Language issues
  - Native Americans' memory is related to an oral tradition of storytelling
  - The words the elderly are expected to remember also need to be relevant to their lives. Some words may be meaningless and hard to remember.

## Tribal Housing Authority Representative

- ❖ Assist in the collaboration of services
- ❖ Make referrals to the EPT
- ❖ Assist with detection, investigation, intervention, and prevention
- ❖ Follow up to ensure resolution of concerns
- ❖ Provide support and assistance to other EPT members

## Law Enforcement Officer

- ❖ Responding to crisis situations
- ❖ Coordinating medical and emergency response
- ❖ Sharing client information with the EPT, when appropriate
- ❖ Assisting with detection, investigation, intervention, and prevention
- ❖ Providing expert input on reviewed cases and follow up
- ❖ Providing support and assistance to other EPT members

## Section 5:

### ❖ Tribal EPT Cultural Sensitivity Resources

- Response to Abuse and Neglect of a Native Elderly Person
  - Highest priority is to ensure the safety of the elderly person while **respecting their autonomy.**
- Interview Questions for Neglect or Physical Abuse
  - Background Information, questions about housing, caregiver, general finances, suspect-related and case-specific questions
- Recommendations for Developing Tribal Relationships
- Tips for Working in Tribal Communities

### ❖ Restorative Justice Approach

## ❖ Lack of reporting

- Fear of prosecution of family member
- Fear of retribution by caregiver/family

## ❖ Need alternatives that—

- Address the safety issues of the elderly
- Resolve issues contributing to elder maltreatment
- Help elderly to age in place
- Provide support to the caregiver

- ❖ Community Policing – Operation Golden Shield
- ❖ Tribal Elderly Guardians Council – Fiduciary
- ❖ Elders Council – Culturally based
- ❖ Family Restoration Program – Treatment Plan
- ❖ Native Peacemakers – Mediators
- ❖ Tribal Elder Protection Teams – Coordinated Services
- ❖ Deferred Prosecution/Sentencing

For More Information

## National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

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Toll free Number: 855-834-1572

Email: [info@nieji.org](mailto:info@nieji.org)

Website: [www.nieji.org](http://www.nieji.org)

Thank You!

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# CONTACT THE MDT TAC

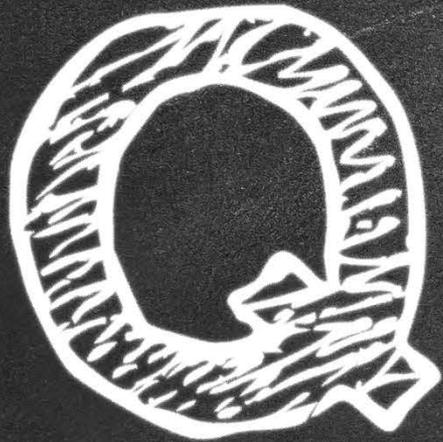
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# QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

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