

Practices for the Sacred Circle:

Response Protocol for Problematic Sexual Behavior

Example from one tribal community

1. Completing an intake for a call regarding a child who is suspected to have problematic sexual behaviors.

- The Advocate taking the call will:
 - » remain calm and matter-of-fact during the interaction
 - » Fill out the Universal Society of Care Referral Form step by step and gather as much information as possible.
 - » Encourage relative to tell his or her story and be heard. Ask clarifying questions if needed.
 - What type(s) of sexual behavior has/have occurred?
 - How often is the sexual behavior occurring?
 - Is there a significant difference in age, size, intellectual level or functioning among the children?
 - Did the behavior cause harm or potential harm (physical or emotional) to any child?
 - Is there adult supervision?
 - What was done to address the sexual behavior? How did the child(ren) respond?
 - Did the behavior involve coercion, force, or aggression of any kind? If so, what?
 - » Ask if police have been notified if needed;
 - If there is an incident of problematic sexual behavior of youth who is 10 years or older (depending on jurisdiction), inform relative that you will report this information to the Police Department due in the capacity of a mandatory reporter and the police officer may want to speak with the relative regarding the information they have provided.
 - » Get name of child/youth who is suspected of having the problematic sexual behavior
 - » Document child's gender, and ages of other children involved. Include names as appropriate.
 - » Parent/guardian name.
 - » Community/directions to home and any other pertinent information.
 - » Referral will go to an available advocate trained to respond.
 - » Talk with the person making the referral and explain types of response based on the age of the child and determined by jurisdictional issues.
- » Ask if the child is okay and if additional services or resources are needed

2. Child Victim-Referral during the same conversation (if information is available):

- The advocate will remain calm during the interaction.
 - » Fill out the Universal Society of Care Referral Form step by step and gather as much information as possible.
 - » Ask if police have been notified if needed;
 - Inform relative that information will be reported to the Police Department due to your responsibility as a mandatory reporter; further advise that the police officer may want to speak with him/her regarding the information provided.
 - » Get the name of child/youth who is suspected of being a possible victim of a youth with problematic sexual behavior. Gather contact information for the caregiver.
 - » Referral will then go to Sexual Assault Advocates (or others as defined by the tribe), which will respond to the child victims.
 - » Sexual assault advocate will respond accordingly.
 - » Referral of the alleged transgressor is forwarded to the advocate. Ask about immediate practical concerns that need to be addressed.
 - » Attempt to identify and address any concerns or barriers that would impede access to services.
 - » Schedule the next appointment as quickly as possible.

It is very important that both advocates who respond to the alleged child transgressor and child victim keep work separate. Each must focus on the relative each is working with.

3. Youth With Sexual Behaviors Response Protocol

- Referral is brought to the attention to advocate
- Brief staffing with available individuals who are trained. It helpful if the MDT is involved in this process.
- Identify family, note any history.
- Identify child –location, school, community, other.
- Other relevant information.
- Call to 911 to make report.
- Document time, date and officer who responded, if available.
- Respond within 24-48 hours, depending on weather and circumstance of the situation.
 - » If child is arrested, meet with family and arrange a time to meet with child.
- If child is not arrested, respond accordingly.
 - » Information packet consists of information for the family and information to be gathered. This may include:
 - System of care referral form (for referral to any of the services)
 - Resource Directory, if available
 - Sexual Behavior Rules, if applicable
 - Private Part Rules, if applicable
 - Consent for release of confidential information
 - Contact form
 - Aftercare Follow-up form
 - Cultural interventions available
 - Information for families dealing with PSB
 - Legal Advocate brochure
 - General brochure
 - Victim Protection Information (youth with PSB may also be a victim of child maltreatment or other crime)
- Mental Health or Wellness Kit if available;
 - » Contents vary based on tribal protocols. Kits may include: small abalone shell and small amounts of sage, flat cedar, lavender, and sweet grass.
- Respond to referral in a culturally sensitive way.
 - Remain calm and collected.
 - Keep voice steady and soft.
 - Introduce yourself to family/child.
 - I am from _____. I received a referral regarding your child displaying inappropriate sexual behaviors toward another child. I am here to tell you about services available to you and your child. We are here to help.
 - Start to build a relationship with family/child.
 - Fill out needed forms if necessary.
- Get referral to therapeutic services immediately after visiting with family.
 - If child is arrested, the therapist can still see the child but problematic sexual behaviors will not be addressed until the child has gone through the court system.
 - If a youth is arrested, determine service options for the youth and family.
 - Child who is arrested can still seek counseling services. The therapist will focus on other traumas the child may be experiencing.
 - MDT (if available)

- Report will be made at MDT with any information and current referrals made on behalf of child.
- Data will be entered into tracking system.
- Begin coordination of services and guidance.

4. Case Management

- Create a file for relative with all information gathered.
 - » Assign a number to relative.
 - » Information will be recorded in a spreadsheet.
- Follow-up with child/family.
 - » Reach out to child and visit and learn what has happened since last visit.
 - » Provide support and encouragement for any services the family has received.
 - » Inquire about barriers and ways to overcome them if family has not been able to access referred services.
 - » Has family been contacted by therapeutic provider?
 - » Is child in counseling or equine?
 - » How is child performing in school?
 - » Any involvement in the children's court system?
 - » If yes, any upcoming court dates?
 - » Make contact with probation officer if one is assigned and coordinate wrap-around service meeting
 - » Is child involved in any extra-curricular activities?
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Does the child have at least one positive friend?
 - Any other youth groups?
 - » Is there interest in organizing a ceremony?
 - If family wants to participate in any cultural healing, please refer to tribal specific protocols on arranging ceremony etc.
- The goals should be documented and outline the specific action steps of the child, family and staff. Everyone should receive a copy so they can all be on the same page
 - » Document all interactions with family and child and enter notes in child's file.
- Continue to follow up and adjust goals and action steps as needed; provide supportive services, referrals and transportation, if needed.