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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN TASK FORCE

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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A P P E A R A N C E S

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- MS. LYNN TRUJILLO, Cabinet Secretary
- MS. BRENDA GONZALES, Department of Interior
- MS. KATHY HOWKUMI, Department of Interior
- CAPTAIN TROY VELASQUEZ, DPS
- MS. BEATA TSOSIE-PENA, Santa Clara Pueblo
- FIRST LADY PHEFELIA NEZ, Navajo Nation
- MR. MATTHEW STRAND, DNA
- MS. STEPHANIE SALAZAR, Indian Affairs Dept.
- FACILITATOR: MS. SAMANTHA WAULS

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1 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I want to thank you
2 you all for traveling out to Gallup for our second
3 meeting of the task force. Really appreciate the
4 time you've made, to come out here, in your
5 schedule. I want to thank you.

6 You have the agenda that was sent to you
7 in front of you, some material as well. I just
8 really wanted to thank you all for being here. I
9 look forward to a productive work session. I know
10 we're waiting on a couple of individuals running
11 behind. I want to get started in the interest of
12 trying to get on with the agenda today. With that,
13 I'll turn it over to Samantha.

14 MS. WAULS: I know we're also trying to
15 get to know each other. At least that was some of
16 the feedback that was shared from some task force
17 members, is to give you an opportunity to get to
18 know each other, so let's do introductions. We'll
19 start with the task force members, get your name and
20 your role, and share a highlight or update you have
21 from the November 1st -- the November meeting that
22 we had. Then we'll have IAG staff and myself in the
23 discussions. Start this way.

24 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: We were going to do
25 an icebreaker, but we couldn't think of one. We

1 should do the one with trust, and somebody catches
2 you. I wanted to add some levity to it. I know
3 we're trying to get to know each other, and we
4 recognize that. So go ahead, Matthew.

5 MR. STRAND: I'm Matthew Strand. I work
6 for the DNA Legal Services, Farmington, primarily
7 regarding domestic violence and violent orders of
8 protection in court, representing clients.

9 Regarding an update from the last
10 session -- I don't think much of an update. It
11 seems this issue has gotten more national attention,
12 it seems like, in the past few weeks, in reading the
13 news. That is a personal update. I don't have
14 much.

15 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Can I ask you -- I
16 want us to have conversations to facilitate. I
17 mean, that's part of why the agenda was structured
18 this way for this meeting. Definitely the intention
19 wasn't to have a closed, secretive kind of session,
20 but I think, really, one thing that we wanted to
21 facilitate was to facilitate a session among the
22 task force members and having that conversation.

23 For me, Matthew, I would be curious to
24 know after the first task force meeting what you
25 might have heard from your colleagues or any

1 questions or anything related -- any feedback they
2 might have had in terms of just --

3 MR. STRAND: People in general, whether
4 it's colleagues, are aware of the problem, the scope
5 of the problem, but not necessarily the extent of
6 it. Various barriers that are involved and just
7 stories that people presented with the last session,
8 they were difficult to hear. They were very
9 powerful, very moving, and I think the people that I
10 work with and my colleagues are really, really glad
11 that this task force exists. Hopefully we can
12 accomplish something.

13 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Thank you.

14 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Good morning.

15 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Good morning,
16 Captain.

17 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Captain Velasquez.
18 This is my stomping grounds. We're in Gallup. I
19 supervise as the district commander, Gallup and
20 Grants, and working with the Navajo Nation, Zuni,
21 Acoma, Laguna. I've been doing this for 15 years.
22 Prior I spent nine years in the Marines, and so
23 happy to be here. This is something that's
24 important to me, like I said before, maybe not to
25 everybody.

1 The context of where I'm coming from, I
2 grew up on the reservation. I live on the
3 reservation. I have daughters, I have a wife,
4 right, so this is important not only from that
5 standpoint but, you know, from the law enforcement
6 perspective, dealing with it with the tribes and
7 with the county and the city and the other agencies,
8 dealing with this issue and seeing -- you know, 15
9 years I've seen, I don't know, hundreds of people
10 missing or murdered or killed, you know, so I think
11 we as law enforcement kind of become numb to it.
12 Right? It's just another person missing, just
13 another, you know, death, and so that's really what
14 I want to focus on with my guys too, is taking that,
15 you know, case -- and I've tried to -- I've tried to
16 implore to my troops, as a commander, no matter how
17 small of an incident that it is, we as state police
18 try to give it our attention, right, because
19 sometimes it might be something as small as they
20 stole a shovel from my garage. Okay. Whatever. At
21 that point in time, that's the biggest problem in
22 that person's life, right? We've got to stop what
23 we're doing and deal with it.

24 I'm pretty happy from the last meeting to
25 have talked about toolkits and things like that that

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1 would help law enforcement. I'm working on some
2 ideas for that. I think -- was it the Navajo task
3 force team that talked about toolkits? I was
4 fortunate to be with some of these ladies last week
5 at the conference in Bernalillo and talk a little
6 bit about some of the things, but those of you, I
7 guess, for one update, those of you who were at the
8 first meeting, and we had a presentation by -- I
9 want to say Christine is her name. Christine had a
10 presentation, and she talked about her sister --

11 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Dione.

12 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: -- being murdered, and
13 I came back after that meeting and started knocking
14 on doors, and I met with the district attorney. The
15 district attorney is different. She hadn't even
16 seen this case. So that case has been picked up,
17 dusted off, and they opened it back up, and they're
18 looking at it. And the district attorney was
19 supposed to have a meeting with Christine, and they
20 had a meeting with Gallup PD. It's a Gallup PD
21 case. What we did as state police is say, you can
22 have all our resources. If you guys need
23 something -- because we have a cold case unit, and
24 we have -- we have guys who are experts in, you
25 know, like, blood pattern recognition, whatever, so

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1 we reached out to Gallup PD and said, if you guys
2 need help with this case, let us know, and we'll
3 help out. Hopefully they reach out to us, and we
4 can help them out. Dione's case is opened back up,
5 and they're looking at it. Hopefully we can get
6 some closure on that. I guess that would be my
7 update.

8 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Thank you, Captain.

9 MS. WAULS: Beata, we are introducing
10 ourselves, so if you want to sit a little more,
11 we'll move on to First Lady and go back.

12 MS. NEZ: Good morning. I'm Phefelia Nez.
13 I'm here as the representative of the Navajo Nation.
14 From the last meeting -- you know, I was just
15 looking at my notes. I guess one of the things is
16 people tell their stories, share their stories with
17 us, and even with the NDR forms, right, I always
18 wonder, right, are there certain information, like
19 certain key things that we should be listening out
20 for or -- and the thing I always -- and I went to
21 the same conference in Bernalillo last week, and
22 when you look at this through the entire system,
23 there's different players at different -- all the
24 way through, right, and there's discussion after
25 every point, and so I always wonder about, okay,

1 we're hearing just from their side of the story.

2 Right? They're hearing from one person.

3 Then if you were to ask, like, the PD or
4 just even the officers or whoever were there and
5 then who -- and then if it went through prosecution,
6 you know, these different people that -- we don't
7 get to ask those questions. We don't ever go back
8 to hear what other things were involved in that
9 certain -- that certain case, right, or the
10 situations. And I always find that kind of -- I
11 guess to me is an incomplete story almost. I don't
12 know. That was one thing that I kind of went away
13 with.

14 But other than that, I was -- just
15 basically what you mentioned before -- really
16 getting to get into these conversations and
17 pinpointing, okay, what is it exactly that -- how
18 we're moving forward and where the pieces are going
19 to be.

20 And the other one, just being at the first
21 lady's office, right, now we're getting emails or
22 people who either want to somehow help with, like --
23 with this or -- and then yesterday we got one, I
24 guess, who was asking for a family who had a missing
25 person, and they were wanting to see how we can help

1 them, but this is the one family person, so -- but
2 right now I've not -- you know, we haven't -- we
3 haven't responded to any of them anyway, so that was
4 the other one, too, that came when we ask how can we
5 help, how can we -- either how they can help and get
6 involved or how do we -- if they come to us asking
7 for help.

8 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: And I think, First
9 Lady, if I may, like to your first point about
10 having the whole story, and that's part of what
11 we're going to shift towards in terms of the work
12 and looking to the statute, because it calls for
13 relationships and collaboration, so what does that
14 mean, and what does that look like, right? How do
15 we engage law enforcement, engage the district
16 attorney's office?

17 I talked a little bit about Captain
18 Velasquez about that. What venues does that take
19 place so that we do get a complete picture as much
20 as we can in relation to hearing from other
21 individuals who are part of this, like the continuum
22 of missing persons and/or murdered persons.

23 And then I think that the -- I lost the
24 second point, but I just want to thank you.

25 MS. GONZALES: My turn. Good morning

1 everybody, my name is Brenda Gonzales. I'm with BIA
2 Office of Justice Services. I'm the assistant
3 special agent in charge. I oversee all our direct
4 service and our 638 law enforcement programs for our
5 district, which is New Mexico and Colorado. I
6 started out my career 16 years ago as a patrol
7 officer and slowly worked myself up. I was chief of
8 police at our northern pueblos' office for three
9 years and then was promoted to our district office
10 almost a year ago. So it's been very interesting
11 having to work with all of our tribal law
12 enforcement entities and see what kind of programs
13 they have and being able to assist them when I can.

14 I think the update that I would have to
15 give is since this has been so much of the focus
16 throughout the nation, I've heard through the
17 grapevine, not directly from our headquarters,
18 they're looking at establishing a cold case
19 department specifically to tackle cases that haven't
20 been worked on in a while or need special attention,
21 such as, you know, missing people. So I think
22 that's good to hear.

23 My concern is just how are we going to
24 collaborate with everyone in the state to tackle
25 that problem. And like what she said about we only

1 see one side of the story, it was heartbreaking as a
2 police officer to hear that possibly law enforcement
3 wasn't doing anything, but, you know, like I said,
4 we have to think about that there's always another
5 side to every story, and coming from law
6 enforcement, I would just hope that something was
7 really being done and we weren't just hearing about
8 it. Thank you.

9 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: And I appreciate
10 that, Brenda. I think that's part of this larger
11 conversation. Thinking of things is not -- like
12 institutions, too, where there's breakdown in
13 institutions. I also think about that too.

14 I was out here last Friday in Gallup on a
15 different issue, but Gallup PD was there. It was
16 interesting to hear from them. This was in relation
17 to alcoholism and alcohol consumption in Gallup,
18 just to hear how short-staffed they are. They have
19 the FTEs and the budget, but they don't have the
20 force to do some of the stuff they want to do. It's
21 always good to have perspective.

22 MS. HOWKUMI: Good morning. Kathy Howkumi
23 with BIA's Office of Justice Service. I'm the
24 acting victim's assistance supervisor, supervising
25 the victim service program across the bureau, and

1 I've been with the department since 2012, and prior
2 to that I was working with our eight pueblos as our
3 chief coordinator for our domestic violence. I was
4 in Washington, D.C., the Office on Violence Against
5 Women, as a program manager, addressing crimes
6 against women.

7 So I've been doing this work for quite a
8 number of years in different capacities, and I guess
9 my standpoint is just to support our law enforcement
10 agency in whatever way now that this topic is coming
11 to the forefront. It's on everybody's mind and, you
12 know, we need to do something about it, and we can
13 help the department better support law enforcement,
14 the communities, to make sure that the families of
15 these victims are receiving services and that we
16 continue to support them not only in their healing
17 but in the trauma that affects them every single day
18 that the status is unknown. So not only short-term
19 but long-term services for families, just kind of
20 thinking about what they need.

21 MS. WAULS: I think that's another
22 perspective we need to be exploring, is that service
23 provider perspective. And again, another
24 collaboration is how to serve providers and law
25 enforcement work together in providing healing and

1 justice.

2 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Good morning. I'm
3 Secretary Trujillo in Indian Affairs Department. I
4 think one of the things I want to share about the
5 last task force meeting for me was I really
6 appreciate the feedback, the amount of discussion
7 and feedback that we received from people who came,
8 who were interested. I think it was a gift like all
9 the people who were here in the public to provide us
10 with some guidelines in their words and to share
11 stories, so I think that was a really positive thing
12 that I want to highlight from the first convening.

13 I know that we have a lot of work to --
14 some things that we kind of need to set in place in
15 terms of the task force and in terms of direction.

16 I just want you to know that for the
17 Indian Affairs Department we've been invited by the
18 Western Governor's Association -- it's several
19 governors from the western states -- to be a part of
20 the panel presentation on what the task force is
21 doing here in New Mexico. And our governor,
22 Lujan-Grisham, is actually going to be moderating
23 that panel. I think it really just goes to show the
24 efforts of what we're doing, beginning to do as a
25 state and just nationwide and being able to take

1 some of -- share a little bit of what we're faced
2 with in terms of the task force to share with other
3 western governors too.

4 Various states do have their own task
5 force or initiatives, but I think it's an
6 opportunity where we could probably -- I know we're
7 going to get to this in one of the reports we looked
8 at, but to learn from other states that are engaging
9 in some of that work as well.

10 Thanks again for being here. I know you
11 volunteer your time, so I really appreciate that.

12 MS. WAULS: Stephanie?

13 MS. SALAZAR: Hi, everyone. I'm Stephanie
14 Salazar. I'm the senior policy analyst with the
15 Indian Affairs Department. I was a tribal
16 prosecutor for the Pueblo of Isleta, and prior to
17 that I worked with the American Indian Law Center,
18 doing tribal court assessment in New Mexico as well
19 as California. I'm happy to see all of you here.

20 We haven't had a chance to just kind of
21 speak as a group. I hope that this morning will
22 provide a lot of opportunity for us to get centered
23 and focused and to really plan out the next several
24 months and what our work will look like, updates
25 from me, Secretary mentioned WGA conference. I

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1 think that's a wonderful opportunity.

2 We had another opportunity to present at
3 the American Indian Justice conference that First
4 Lady also attended. Captain Velasquez is one of our
5 presenters. Samantha Wauls invited the team from
6 MMDR to copresent with us. I thought that was a
7 great opportunity. I know since that we probably
8 have two more speaking requests.

9 And so I think as -- one of the things we
10 talk about today is how do we divvy up a lot of
11 presentations. I think public awareness is very
12 important. That's part of your role. I know we
13 also have a lot of work to get done. If that's
14 something you're comfortable with, please volunteer
15 your time if you have it; otherwise, it falls on me.
16 I don't mind doing that at all.

17 One more update. We were approached at
18 the department by the National Geographic
19 information support organizer, and his name is Gary
20 Couch, and he's partnering with the department of
21 information technology through the state. What they
22 do is basically mapping all across the nation. They
23 work with Esri, who does a lot of the maps
24 nationally.

25 One of the things they've approached us

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1 with is creating a mapping database for MMIW and
2 using New Mexico as a test site, and one of the
3 really interesting things, you know, that they'd be
4 able to do is with the existing information that we
5 have, start plugging that into a map showing where
6 people are going missing or where a lot of these
7 cases are happening.

8 And I think, you know, one of the
9 things -- they don't really have a set vision. I
10 think one of the things they would like to address
11 with the task force, if we're interested, is really
12 from the perspective of the task force what do we
13 need, what kind of data do we need to analyze this
14 issue in terms of where is this happening and also
15 what is a public need, what kind of tool would be
16 beneficial to the public if they have a loved one
17 missing, and what would be useful to them.

18 So I think they are interested in working
19 with us. From my perspective, it's a really great
20 opportunity for us to really start seeing where is
21 this happening, and if there's areas where it's
22 concentrated, that would help guide our work to
23 focus on where -- in certain areas -- maybe Gallup
24 is one of them from what we heard from our first
25 meeting -- what kind of infrastructure and tools and

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1 resources do we need to help the community. I think
2 if the task force is interested, Mr. Couch or Clark
3 from the department of information technology,
4 they're willing to do a presentation and maybe give
5 us a few samples on some of the work they're
6 offering to do with us. Those are my updates.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. WAULS: I do want to recognize the
9 other folks in the room. If you can just state your
10 name, Brenda. Beata, after Beata, those who are
11 observing today's meeting, just state your name and
12 who you represent. Go ahead.

13 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: My name is Beata Tsosie.
14 I'm from Santa Clara Pueblo. I'm a pueblo
15 representative nominated by the All Pueblo of
16 Governors Youth Counsel. And so I guess my
17 background with those youth has been, you know, a
18 lot of environmental justice advocacy, social
19 justice work. And also come from a background as an
20 educator, I've been doing the environmental justice
21 work for the last 11 years, mostly around oil and
22 gas issues, nuclear weapons production in our
23 homelands in Santa Clara Plateau, and I also am
24 really involved in birth work, recognizing
25 indigenous woman as the first environment, water is

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1 our first environment, and looking at those
2 preventive approaches to violence and how we
3 approach this, looking at the overall culture of
4 violence that our children are born into and how
5 that kind of plays into these microcosms leading up
6 to the issues that we're here for today.

7 I've been with Real Women United. We've
8 worked in advocacy for a long time. I'm not here in
9 that capacity. I'm here as a pueblo person, and I
10 think, you know, the first meeting was really
11 intense, and hearing all of the stories and
12 realizing the complexities of the issues and the
13 intersections of kind of having to look at this big
14 picture but not really being able to name things
15 explicitly. I noticed the contradictions as far as
16 looking at accountability, the root cause of
17 colonialism. I hope we cannot be afraid to have a
18 critical view of the systemic issues in helping
19 perpetuate murdering people.

20 I think that was the -- you know, just in
21 the time that's passed, looking at our governor and
22 the oil and gas and fracking and man camps, we can't
23 ignore those connections, so how do we continue to
24 promote these industries that directly contribute to
25 the issue we're trying to address.

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1 Thinking about my own home, where what is
2 it that pushes our children and people to the
3 margins of our community that we're not able to hold
4 them close to us and really love them and accept
5 them and embrace them, and that takes me to, well,
6 what is the membership and all these things where
7 we've been connected from our natural teachings of
8 what is truly how we bring our children into our
9 community and recognize them so that there's no
10 question that they belong.

11 So I think those are thoughts that have
12 been in my mind. It's like I feel like if we could
13 put these things back, it would go -- it would be
14 huge in doing this and just really paying attention
15 to what the community is seeing. And there's a lot
16 of criticism on task force and other phases. I'm
17 wondering how we can learn of what's already been
18 done and just really being clear on what our
19 objective is so that there's no question as to,
20 like, where we take this, where we take this. Also
21 been approached by a few media people. I'm not sure
22 how to deal with that. I'm just forwarding emails.

23 And not really any more updates as far as
24 that, just looking forward to getting how we can
25 work together in laying down protocols. I know

1 there was a request for meeting spaces. I'd be
2 happy to try and set up a meeting maybe at the Santa
3 Clara Casino. They rent the room out for
4 nonprofits, I'm happy to coordinate that for future
5 meetings.

6 MS. WAULS: Thank you all. I do want to
7 recognize those who are going to be observing the
8 meeting.

9 MS. ANTONIO: My name is Cheyenne Antonio,
10 and I am the sex trafficking coordinator for the
11 coalition. I'm here for support in ways that I
12 could help the task force in just guiding
13 conversations at the coalition, and we're not a
14 direct service, and so all of the reports that were
15 provided, I've read them a couple of times, kind of
16 see the frameworks that are working in other areas
17 and in other indigenous communities such as Canada,
18 Washington, and sort of a conversation of
19 accountability and what that looks like and also the
20 impacts of, like, extraction of oil and gas, because
21 I feel like since we are water, what does that look
22 like as far as young people in the future and
23 protecting the sacred all in all. Can't really
24 separate the two.

25 So I'm here to learn, here to help,

1 anything, you know, just let me know.

2 MS. WAULS: Thank you, Cheyenne.

3 MS. BEGAY: Good morning. My name is
4 Sonya Begay. I'm staff assistant to First Lady Nez.
5 I'm here assisting for the day. Thank you.

6 MS. ALLISON: Good morning, everyone. My
7 name is Stacy Allison. I'm the deputy legal counsel
8 for the office of the president and vice-president,
9 Navajo Nation. I'm assisting First Lady with the
10 MMIW task force here, and then we've also had
11 some -- I've been attending the Arizona study
12 committee meetings, not on the task force there but
13 just being present at those meetings as well.

14 Prior to working at Navajo Nation, I've
15 had several positions at Navajo Nation. As an
16 attorney, one of them was as a prosecutor for Navajo
17 Nation. I've also served as a prosecutor for other
18 tribal nations, such as Hopi Tribe and Yavapai
19 Apache Nation in Camp Verde, Arizona, where I served
20 as a special domestic violence prosecutor. Prior to
21 law school, I was also a victim advocate.

22 MS. WAULS: Hello, everyone. My name is
23 Samantha Wauls. I am the project assistant for the
24 task force. I work really closely with Secretary,
25 and primarily Stephanie, to help put together,

1 facilitate the task force meetings and make sure we
2 are moving along in accomplishing our goals and
3 drafting the final report. You all were sent the
4 vision boards during today's meeting.

5 A little bit about my background. I
6 recently relocated to New Mexico from D.C. I was
7 out there for a little over four years, working
8 on -- working with victim advocates nationally,
9 trial victim advocates, and special people and
10 practitioners to really understand the gaps and
11 needs for services to support victims and survivors
12 of crime and abuse in our tribal community so we can
13 seek justice and healing. Like you said, not just
14 the immediate crisis response that's needed but the
15 long-term care and trauma care that they need.

16 So did a lot -- did a lot just trying to
17 understand the gaps and where the needs are and put
18 together a really great innovative tool that was
19 never done, a tribal resource tool which hopefully
20 could be a resource to the work we're doing and
21 trying to understand some of the barriers and gaps
22 and resources that are needed.

23 And then prior to that I was an educator
24 on my tribal reservation, Lower Brule tribe, and
25 that really motivated me to go to Washington, D.C.,

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1 and really be an advocate for my community and other
2 tribal communities, especially native children,
3 because they are being overlooked, are being pushed
4 to the side, and I think this issue is directly
5 related. A lot of the stories and experiences that
6 my students would bring to me were always connected
7 to violence and how do we provide a safer
8 environment so that they can thrive and live.

9 So yeah, that's what brings me here, and
10 I'm looking forward to working with this group to
11 put together something that's going to be meaningful
12 and impactful and transform our communities.

13 In the future I will be starting law
14 school at UNM next fall. I'll be a future
15 litigator. I'm really excited to learn from you all
16 as well.

17 Let's go ahead and move on. Really
18 quickly, some of the things that we want to discuss
19 today, really some of the stuff that you all have
20 brought up in your introduction, is what we really
21 want to tackle during today's meeting. Our key
22 objective is look at the legislative goals and
23 narrow them down and frame them to begin to
24 establish data and develop a state involvement plan.
25 We're not going to be able to accomplish these

1 things on our own.

2 We also want to start to develop a work
3 plan so we can accomplish those goals, whether
4 that's from the subcommittees or identifying other
5 folks that we need to engage in order to do this
6 work, and we will also -- so the first part of the
7 meeting is closed, which is up until 1:30. After
8 that, it will be a public forum.

9 We'll also spend some time today talking
10 about our ideas about how the public forums will be
11 structured moving forward, and you guys can give
12 input on that.

13 Let's start with the legislation, the
14 purpose of the task force, and you all have a
15 document in the packet of information that lays out
16 the scope of the report, but we all know that we're
17 here to really --

18 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Does everybody have
19 that? Everyone has it.

20 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: I don't have it.

21 MS. WAULS: So the purpose is really to
22 better understand this ongoing crisis of missing and
23 murdered indigenous women within the state of New
24 Mexico and develop recommendations that will be
25 useful to not only just state agencies but also our

1 tribal communities and our law enforcement agencies.
2 And these are the goals that were set out by the
3 legislation.

4 Hopefully what we can accomplish today is
5 how do we narrowly define those goals, what do they
6 mean to us as a task force, what that work will look
7 like, because they are broad, and I think we need
8 further clarification in order to develop a roadmap
9 for what we're going to accomplish and how we're
10 going to get there.

11 The first goal is creating recommendations
12 on how the state can increase the resources for
13 reporting and identifying MMIW cases.

14 Second, collaborate with tribal law
15 enforcement agencies to determine the scope of the
16 problem, identify barriers, and address the problem.

17 Third objective, create partnerships.
18 Well, we need to talk about what partnerships we
19 need to be creating, what's going to be key to
20 better address this ongoing crisis, and working with
21 tribal governments and communities and collaborating
22 with the DOJ to improve information sharing,
23 processes, and incorporation of resources and
24 reporting in investigating cases.

25 So I think how we want to approach this is

1 simply going through each goal and objective and
2 really talking about what that object -- what's
3 really realistic for us to accomplish in these next
4 couple of months, how these objectives will be
5 reflected in the final report, and then how do we
6 develop strategies to meet these objectives.

7 So let's start with the first objective,
8 and I think if people have responses or input on how
9 do we further define what we need when we say the
10 task force is going to create recommendations around
11 increase in state resources for reporting and
12 investigating cases.

13 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: I think we need to
14 define MMIW and then have either a subreference to
15 indigenous people and trans/LGBTQ people given the
16 feedback that we got on the first meeting, either
17 recognizing the name and, like, that we're centering
18 indigenous women and girls but we are also standing
19 with indigenous peoples and LGBTQ communities and
20 being able to reference some of those statistics and
21 data that many was provided on that.

22 MS. WAULS: I think that's a good point.
23 Go ahead, Secretary.

24 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: So, like, to your
25 point being, like, having a shared vocabulary and

1 understanding, like, the focus of this report might
2 be MMIW, right, and defining what that means but
3 then also the recognition that we also understand
4 there's other LGBTQ girls that are part of this
5 larger issue, but that may not be the focus of this
6 report, right? Is that kind of what you're saying?
7 Like, just to have parameters?

8 MS. WAULS: Yes.

9 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think, like, the
10 legislation is really specific with respect to what
11 this task force is being convened for, but I also
12 feel like we should make a notation in whatever
13 report that there are other -- like that came up at
14 the last meeting, transgender, that we -- I don't
15 know how -- if we include those in here, but I think
16 that we need to make a notation maybe why we're not
17 collecting some of that data or why there might be
18 limitations on the data that's provided in this
19 report. Is that where you're getting to?

20 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: I think so. I think
21 there's a framework that can be, like, where if you
22 center indigenous women and girls, and they're at
23 the center of a standard of protection, that a lot
24 of groups are going to be protected by default if we
25 really protect that group and, like, who are the

1 most vulnerable in our communities and recognizing
2 those vulnerable groups, I think, because a lot of
3 the social factors that come with being indigenous
4 set everybody up for those same scenarios.

5 So yeah, I don't know what that would look
6 like if we have to spell it out right now, but I
7 think it's important to -- why is it why we're
8 centering on indigenous women and girls in this
9 report. You know, just really -- but I think we can
10 frame it in a way that's, like -- that we also stand
11 with justice and protection for all indigenous
12 peoples.

13 MS. WAULS: I think it would be helpful to
14 really, again, just start with the legislative
15 objectives and figure out -- you know, further
16 define what that means and what it will look like in
17 the report, because then we're able to really
18 understand what task is in front of us and what's
19 realistic for us to accomplish, and that can help
20 inform whether or not we need to expand the report
21 to include our focus on other subgroups aside from
22 women and girls, because we do only have a couple of
23 months to put this report together, and if we decide
24 to expand the scope to include LGBTQ, two-spirit,
25 other subgroups we want to focus on, that could take

1 more time, if that makes sense.

2 MS. NEZ: And with the MMDR forums, what
3 I'm noticing with their -- it's almost a year now,
4 and that's what they've been doing. They've been
5 expanding it. Now they're inclusive of the
6 transgenders and the elderly they also put in. They
7 found that more people are men -- like male.
8 There's more getting a report of missing, murdered,
9 than women. So they're okay -- so there's that.
10 And they also include the disabled, so they're all
11 inclusive of -- they're making it like that. Yeah,
12 that was kind of where you're going to get into a
13 whole lot of other stuff.

14 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think we can't lose
15 sight of what is being referenced. We can have the
16 focus in terms of the report, but we need to have
17 the broader framework that you're talking about and
18 provide a context, and we were talking about this
19 too, where some of those root causes of colonialism,
20 too, to -- we may not be examining that or have a
21 subcommittee around that, but I think it's important
22 to place the report in that context, and maybe we as
23 a task force won't do it, but maybe it's part of the
24 reporting, and we can figure that out. That places
25 the work that we're doing in terms of this task

1 force in context, right, in context in terms of
2 institutional racism, colonialism, and maybe we're
3 not focused on that, but it's part of the larger
4 framework that we can't lose sight of that you're
5 talking about as well as these other protected folks
6 that we want protection to extend to that we need to
7 also recognize that as well.

8 MS. WAULS: We can also further discuss
9 that later on too, even after we have this
10 discussion about the objectives, to really start to
11 outline what the report -- the report so we can
12 create, you know, content areas that focus on some
13 of the things that you all are bringing up.

14 But in terms of recommending how this can
15 increase resources for reporting and identifying,
16 MMIW, I think we need to answer the who, what,
17 where, when, and why of that objective to further
18 narrow it down, so do you all have -- if I could get
19 input on how you would frame objective number one in
20 your own terms and what you think the task force
21 needs to be accomplishing in terms of objective
22 number one.

23 MS. GONZALES: What I think about right
24 away is a lot of times we see things on Facebook
25 first, so sometimes people aren't even being

1 reported missing to law enforcement, and normally
2 we'll hear word of mouth, and then we'll go follow
3 up. I think there needs to be some kind of
4 re-education -- not re-education, but something out
5 there like report -- to report a missing person,
6 contact your local law enforcement or something,
7 because there's, like, a disconnect. They'll put
8 something on Facebook versus calling law enforcement
9 when that kind of gets the ball rolling. Call law
10 enforcement first, we'll take a report, enter them
11 into the system, do follow-ups, but I think we need
12 to get that information first, law enforcement does.

13 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think it kind of
14 goes to -- when I look at the first goal and
15 objective, the question I have is, like, well, what
16 are the existing state -- what are the existing
17 resources.

18 So before we can propose increasing
19 resources, I think we need to understand what
20 already exists, and so I -- so one, I don't even
21 know if we have that, what exists, and then it's
22 talking about reporting and identifying.

23 My question is are those two separate
24 things, or how are they tied together, so we need to
25 understand the relationship of those, because -- and

1 how does reporting work, right, so having an
2 understanding of reporting and then identifying. I
3 don't understand the relationship between reporting
4 and identifying. Maybe somebody from -- else knows
5 the correlation between those two, but I don't. I
6 think that's important to this discussion.

7 MS. WAULS: Can you summarize what you
8 just said so we can write it?

9 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think before we can
10 propose what resources need to increase, I think we
11 need to understand what resources are currently
12 available. I'm trying to find out -- it says for
13 reporting and identifying. I don't understand
14 the -- if there's a -- if there's a relationship
15 between the two. I can understand resources for
16 reporting, and so then if you look at that, then
17 what is the existing system or systems in place for
18 reporting somebody who goes missing.

19 So this is the other thing, too. We're
20 talking about missing and murdered, but we really --
21 is it reporting missing women and then reporting
22 murdered women, and then that whole conversation
23 between just because someone's missing not making
24 the assumptions that they're murdered and
25 understanding that, too, and being clear. That's

1 that aspect. And then the identification, I don't
2 understand what that is around in terms of
3 identifying. What's the difference between
4 reporting and identifying?

5 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: The process of
6 identifying recovered murder victims, which would be
7 the OMI process, how do we take them out and remove
8 them from the national systems, those recovery
9 processes of that. I think that's what they're
10 talking about.

11 MS. WAULS: And I think we also need to
12 frame that, define what those are. It looks like we
13 need to define what does it mean, resources for
14 reporting and then resources for identifying.

15 MS. GONZALES: Identifying they're even
16 missing, because there's times we get reports from
17 mom because she hasn't heard from her daughter in
18 two weeks, and we find the daughter, I'm 45 years
19 old, I don't tell my mom where I'm at. Okay. Are
20 you safe? And we take them out of the system right
21 away. We still have to go through that process.

22 MS. NEZ: That's something that always
23 goes through my head, too. It's one thing just to
24 report 3,000 people were reported missing, right,
25 but what was the outcome of each of them. How many

1 are still missing and how many of them are cases
2 like that, and they're missing for some time, and
3 they're okay.

4 MS. WAULS: In terms of reporting missing
5 people, who -- key players, like who are those
6 systems that are responsible for receiving those
7 reports and investigating those reports? We know
8 law enforcement.

9 MS. NEZ: I think that's all what we need
10 to be educated on. I've never had anybody missing.
11 I don't know the experience of it. You would think
12 if you are on the tribal lands, who do you report it
13 to and when. If you're off the reservation -- you
14 know what I mean? I think that would be something
15 good to know.

16 MS. WAULS: Captain Velasquez, do you want
17 to speak to the process for reporting?

18 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: The process for
19 reporting for a missing person in general is going
20 to be a report taken, right, by that initial
21 responding officer whether or not it's tribal or
22 city, county, PD in general, a report is taken, and
23 what happens is a report is taken or uploaded or
24 sent to a dispatch, and the dispatch uploads that
25 information into a national database, and that's

1 going to be your first step where you're going to
2 start having a little bit of confusion, because some
3 tribes, pueblos, agencies don't use NCIC. Right?
4 We talked about the NAMUS deal. It's going to get
5 uploaded into NCIC, National Crime Information
6 Center, or it's going to be uploaded into NAMUS,
7 which is National -- what does it stand for? We
8 don't use it, so -- something database, unidentified
9 missing person database. Anyway, and then you go
10 from there. So that's the initial steps, right,
11 initial process.

12 And then to take it further, like an
13 officer, if he was to do a follow-up, there are some
14 other forms that we can fill out and add into the
15 missing person registry, like we can add dental
16 records, we can add, you know, other things, other
17 identifiers. We can add other stuff in there. It's
18 very detailed once you get to that point where
19 you're uploading someone in as a missing person.
20 You detail tattoos, dental records, height, weight,
21 pictures, all kinds of stuff. It goes into a
22 national system.

23 The reason why, if somebody ends up
24 deceased in South Dakota, and we find a body that's
25 deceased in South Dakota, and we don't know who it

1 is, we should be able to go into the system and say,
2 this person has a tattoo or an anchor on the
3 forearm, and everybody that has a tattoo of an
4 anchor on their forearm is listed. We start to
5 cross-check that stuff. That's the simple process.

6 And these guys can talk a little of it
7 where you literally have three or four databases
8 that are used that are national databases, and even
9 the tribal -- the tribal have a program, too, called
10 a tribal access program.

11 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Yeah, TAPs.

12 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: TAPs, you have NCIC,
13 you have a lot of agencies that are tribal that
14 aren't part of CJIC. I can't go in there, and I
15 can't see what they're reporting, so I don't know
16 how BIA and FBI get their data from these tribes
17 that don't use the criminal justice information
18 center, so, yeah, it's -- it's -- it's a little bit
19 crazy, but that's -- that's the basic on the -- on
20 the reporting procedure. Right?

21 Now, you can get into the nuts and bolts
22 of it. Like what was talked about earlier, there's
23 officers who will say, we're not going to take a
24 report until this time -- 24 hours, 12 hours, 14
25 hours. Is she 18 or over. Okay. She's an adult.

1 She can do whatever she wants. That's individual
2 department policies.

3 So what happens when we do enter somebody
4 missing, and this has happened a lot of times where
5 they're 15, 16, 17, we don't find them until they're
6 19, 20, 21. We find them in the border towns.
7 Farmington, Gallup, Albuquerque, and they're okay.
8 They just don't want to go back home. We take them
9 out of the system. They're okay. Where's that
10 follow-up? Where's the connection? We're using so
11 many data systems and data tracking, that's one of
12 the main problems.

13 I was reading again the report from the
14 Washington State Police, the one you sent us. It's
15 a good report, really detailed. It's a lot of stuff
16 they're talking about. The reporting system is what
17 we're dealing with down here, so one of the issues
18 is that they say in their report that we're required
19 to use NAMUS New Mexico. I've never heard of that.
20 We're not required to use it. Washington thinks
21 that we are, and we're not, so -- I hope that
22 answers your question.

23 MS. WAULS: I think what we need to be
24 discussing now, like Secretary mentioned, what are
25 the reporting systems that we need to understand and

1 probably gather information from to better
2 recognize -- to be able to develop these
3 recommendations on how the state should support
4 those existing systems or add to them.

5 So law enforcement is one of them, and
6 then, like, you know, you said tribal. There's
7 tribal law enforcement, there's state, the different
8 level of actors that are involved. You mentioned
9 those that, you know -- cases that are happening,
10 incidents that are happening but are not being
11 reported to. Right? They are being -- they are
12 happening on Facebook. People are organizing around
13 that, which I think is that happening at a
14 grassroots level. So are there organizations that
15 have existing systems in play that we need to also
16 be engaging with to better understand.

17 MS. HOWKUMI: I think that's one thing
18 that probably has to at least be identified as who
19 has access to that. There are some systems that
20 even the grassroots might not be able to have to add
21 to, but law enforcement may be able to have that
22 stuff. We may not have access to that information,
23 maybe not the types of systems being used but the
24 accessers, who has access and what kind of
25 information is required and from who is that access

1 required, because not everybody can -- like you just
2 said, this individual, find them when they're over
3 18 years old, and you ask them do they want to
4 notify the family, and they say no, then that's your
5 obligation. Right? You don't have to notify the
6 family.

7 So they may continue to think that they're
8 missing because they might not have access to some
9 of the systems, so I think that's something that --
10 how that whole kind of process works.

11 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: I think that's why
12 NAMUS was created. It was created in 2007 because
13 it could technically be a public viewed site. I
14 could go on there and see everything that tribal and
15 OMI and all these other entities entered into this
16 system. That was the reasoning behind it. I think
17 it took off. NAMUS is more flexible, so it gained a
18 lot of ground. NAMUS was able to say, hey, look at
19 us. We're entering data fields to identify females,
20 to identify tribal members, Natives, so a lot of
21 tribes, smaller tribes, 638 tribes, began to use
22 that system because maybe it was easier or maybe
23 they didn't have -- the Navajo Nation didn't have,
24 for a while, access to NCIC at all. So is that the
25 reason they were using that system?

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1 MS. GONZALES: I think across the board it
2 seems like most agencies utilize NCIC. I think
3 that's what should be the main focus still, and in
4 that system we still put in there their ethnicity.
5 I think if we had a drop-down box if you want to go
6 into specifics where are they from, what tribe are
7 they from to help track better to know if someone
8 from this tribe wants to know how many people are
9 missing from their tribe, we can actually give them
10 that information, but as far as tribal law
11 enforcement departments, they're mandated to follow
12 our policies and procedures in our handbook, which
13 we have specifically for missing persons, and that's
14 a mandate to enter them into NCIC.

15 The newest one was the NAMUS, but what we
16 do is if the tribe doesn't have someone specifically
17 designated to enter that information into NAMUS,
18 they come to us, and we have our analysts then put
19 that information.

20 But I don't know where this, like, 24
21 hours came from. It's kind of been -- I've heard it
22 when I was on patrol. I've never seen it in black
23 and white. We've totally gone away from that. If
24 somebody wants to report somebody missing, we take
25 the first step and start the process.

1 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Even if they're
2 adults?

3 MS. GONZALES: Yeah.

4 MS. SALAZAR: So BIA enters into NCIC and
5 NAMUS?

6 MS. GONZALES: Yes. For our direct
7 service areas we have our program analysts do our
8 NAMUS, but we've sent out -- we keep in constant
9 communication with the tribes. We ask them, do you
10 have someone designated specifically to enter your
11 missing persons into NAMUS, and if they don't, we
12 take that responsibility over. So we still leave it
13 up to the tribes. If they want to take -- if they
14 want to do it, that's up to them to do it. If they
15 don't have the resources, then we'll do it.

16 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: May I ask you, so --
17 I think there's a couple with reporting. There's,
18 like, existing systems, and we can't lose sight of
19 all those instances where people don't go to law
20 enforcement traditional mechanisms to report.
21 Right? Maybe mistrust of law enforcement
22 communities, other factors like we're talking about,
23 root causes. Right? So there's some of that. Our
24 folks don't have the capacity or they don't know how
25 to access the reporting. I think we can't lose

1 sight of that, that grassroots that you're talking
2 about.

3 I feel like on the reporting stuff it's
4 kind of like mapping out when an initial report
5 comes in, and there's traditional -- I guess a
6 standard way where it goes through law enforcement.
7 Right? I think we need to think of -- like where
8 does reporting happen? And one of the ways is
9 through law enforcement, and I think then who's
10 responsible for the reporting is dependent upon the
11 location. Right? So we have to go to the
12 jurisdiction, and then that's going to talk to --
13 then whoever that jurisdiction is generating that
14 report, it's going -- we need to understand, like,
15 then what type of database or how they're doing
16 their reporting to understand that.

17 Then there's the whole other segment I was
18 talking about. People are missing, but the
19 reporting isn't happening through this other
20 standard model that's out there.

21 I feel like we need some of that mapping
22 done.

23 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Once they're in the
24 NCIC, that's what triggers the Amber Alert for
25 missing persons?

1 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: State police in New
2 Mexico, we're responsible for the missing persons
3 clearinghouse and exploited children. Part of that
4 is the Amber Alert system, the Silver Alert, some of
5 those systems.

6 So you can send out an Amber Alert before,
7 you know, immediately, so when you call us to the
8 house, and you say, I don't know where my
9 five-year-old kid went. He was here five minutes;
10 we don't know. We get basic information. We have
11 criteria sheet. Does it meet A, B, C, and D? Does
12 it meet this? Yes, it does. Amber Alert and Silver
13 Alert, they're in partnership with KKOB. There are
14 some other agencies that don't have Amber Alert and
15 go through us. Others have training. Santa Fe,
16 Albuquerque Police Department. Some of the other
17 agencies, you can get it out soon; however, if it
18 doesn't meet a certain criteria, it won't get sent
19 out.

20 That's where we get hung up a lot of
21 times, too, on adults. If it's an adult or they're
22 not in immediate danger, they don't have an illness,
23 dementia, or something like that, and the family's
24 like, hey, we don't know where so and so is at.
25 They left yesterday.

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1 Are they in immediate danger?

2 I don't think so. Everything kind of
3 stops there. It's like we won't enter them as a
4 Silver Alert, but we'll do it as a missing person,
5 and they get entered. There's no, like, bright line
6 where, hey, look out for this guy, look out for this
7 vehicle from the get-go. We've had a lot of success
8 with Amber Alerts and Silver Alerts.

9 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Is there a need for
10 resources? I think, like, gosh, this kid is
11 missing. I hope they're making roadblocks and
12 checking every car that's leaving the area. Is
13 that, like, a resource issue, or are people starting
14 an investigative process or a detective process or
15 putting all their resources into --

16 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: For our agency -- I'll
17 speak for state police. No, it's not. It's sad,
18 but we don't. We use the power of technology to get
19 the word out quick. If you have the lone officer
20 who goes to a house in Grants or, you know, nearby
21 there, seven-year-old kid is missing, puts the word
22 out, Amber Alert is sent out. When that Amber Alert
23 gets sent out, it's going to text, radio, TV, and
24 then every single officer on duty that has a
25 computer in his car gets a big, bright message, look

1 out for this car. We have a kind of like grace
2 period where everybody's looking, everybody's on the
3 lookout.

4 There's a five-year-old missing, send me
5 50 officers to this area, unless the kid walked off,
6 and we have a starting point, and we have a definite
7 starting point, and we can say this kid walked off
8 from this direction going this way, now it's a
9 search and rescue. Now we're putting dogs,
10 resources, helicopters, all that stuff.

11 If the family's like, I really don't know.
12 I don't know if he drove off, he got picked up, I
13 don't know, and it's real vague, and there's no
14 starting point, we go another route. We don't,
15 everybody drop what you're doing, come to this
16 house, look for this kid. We don't do that. It
17 goes out on TV, radio, text message. We get the
18 alert on our tablets.

19 And yeah, the guys do stop what they're
20 doing if they're on patrol. They start doing what
21 they got to do for the vehicles, and a certain
22 amount of time will pass, say an hour or two. Okay?
23 It's apparent we're probably not going to see the
24 vehicle, catch the vehicle that this person was last
25 seen in, what are we going to do? What are the next

1 steps.

2 The way the state police is assigned, we
3 have an investigations bureau. Me, as the
4 patrolman, patrol guy, I will take a case only so
5 far, and I'm going to say, okay, this is going to be
6 a big case, you know, so now I'm going to give it to
7 you, and all you do is investigate cases. Now I
8 give you the case, and you do all the follow-up. I
9 go back to stopping cars, issuing speeding tickets,
10 catching DWIs, and first responder stuff.

11 MS. WAULS: So just to kind of summarize
12 some of the ideas being thrown out here, how we're
13 further defining objective number one is when
14 someone wants to report a loved one missing, what
15 mechanism, whether it be traditional mechanism or
16 other grassroots mechanisms, are they utilizing to
17 report that individual missing and then
18 understanding those systems that each of those
19 agencies are utilizing in order to document that and
20 move forward with an investigation. Who has access
21 to those systems. How can those systems be improved
22 in order to better investigate in order -- and find
23 or move those cases forward.

24 And so I think a lot of that -- I think
25 we're doing a good job as kind of trying to narrow

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1 down objective number one.

2 Let's talk about identifying, right, and
3 what that means, identifying MMIW cases. Captain
4 Velasquez, you talked about OMI and the resources or
5 the systems they utilize for identifying maybe an
6 unidentified missing person or unidentified body.
7 What are some other things that we need to -- that
8 we want to be looking at or analyzing when we talk
9 about reporting and also identifying?

10 A. I don't know. Identifying, I think that
11 there's a lot of -- there's a lot of people that are
12 in the system that shouldn't be, because the systems
13 aren't purged correctly, like taking people out.
14 That shouldn't be in there, right, once they're
15 found. If Farmington Police Department enters
16 somebody missing, and, like I said, APD comes up on
17 this person two weeks later, they're over 18 -- are
18 you okay, this says you're missing, now you're an
19 adult -- that's good. They don't do the follow-up
20 to put that in the system.

21 One of the hang-ups is that person has to
22 be removed by the agency that entered them into that
23 system most of the time, right, so APD, Albuquerque,
24 will do a report. Hey, we found this lady. She's
25 okay. She's 20 years old. She lives in an

1 apartment in Albuquerque. You guys entered her
2 missing five years ago. She's a grown woman. She's
3 fine. She doesn't want to go back home to
4 Farmington. We need to identify the report, contact
5 Farmington, and Farmington needs to take them out.

6 One of the issues with identifying them is
7 the system needs to identify how the system needs to
8 be connected. That's the national system. Maybe
9 with the president signing that bill on MMIW stuff
10 that, like, these ladies can -- or we can push for
11 the federal level, okay let's clean up CJIC, let's
12 clean up NCIC. Let's add the fields to NCIC. Let's
13 do all this stuff. One being identification, right,
14 and then another part to identifying is officers not
15 following up properly when they enter -- when they
16 enter or find people that are identified that are
17 remains. Right?

18 So I don't know if every case is getting
19 entered into NCIC that that's a remains case or is
20 that OMI's job. If we found remains -- and we have
21 found remains here. If she's hiking in the
22 wilderness, and she comes upon remains, and she
23 calls the police, and we go out there, and there's a
24 skull and a shoulder and an arm and leg, we're going
25 to look at it as is there any immediate trauma, is

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1 there any evidence of a crime. If there's not,
2 we're going to call OMI. They're going to come out,
3 they're going to remove that scene, the bones,
4 right, and they're going to take it to OMI and try
5 to identify who it is through dental or DNA. But is
6 OMI going to lead them back to NCIC or the other
7 two? I don't know.

8 MS. NEZ: I was going to say, you know,
9 when you go back to missing and murdered, right, are
10 we talking about missing and/or murdered women, or
11 are we talking about -- the way I read it the first
12 time is missing and murdered. When you read it that
13 way, it's just an and, right, and then we're talking
14 about what we're talking about now, right, finding
15 remains or finding bodies, and then if that's what
16 we're focused on, then we're talking about
17 somebody -- somebody that gets found somewhere,
18 right, and try to make a connection back to where
19 they came from, right, somebody's body gets found
20 somewhere, and they're, like -- initially they're
21 Hopi or something, making them -- I don't know. Is
22 that what we're talking about, or is it more the
23 expense of anybody and everybody who's ever gone
24 missing -- I guess that was my first thing when I
25 first read this.

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1 MS. WAULS: I think that's what we're
2 trying to do here is trying to frame what we mean.
3 I think you pick up a good point, going back, again,
4 to missing and murdered. From those limits, how do
5 we further define that first objective that we talk
6 about? How do we increase resources for reporting
7 and identifying missing and murdered cases?

8 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: I think it's and/or.

9 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Yeah, and/or.

10 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: It implies and/or, and
11 to take that further, which is what I was going to
12 speak on is identifying indigenous, that's not
13 necessarily tribal or native peoples, indigenous to
14 detribalized peoples or mixed heritage peoples.
15 Part of this report is getting resources for numbers
16 or correctly identifying the scope of the issue,
17 then that would -- if we were looking at indigenous
18 communities or self-identifying indigenous peoples,
19 that's going to increase the statistics quite a bit,
20 which I think is important, because, if anything,
21 there's less resources for detribalized peoples as
22 far as support systems and, you know, just having to
23 deal with street poverty and no community that's
24 necessarily recognizing them or including them as
25 part of this, like, framework.

1 So to me, indigenous is a really broad
2 definition of a group of peoples, including south of
3 the border, including not necessarily a citizen.
4 You know, a lot of discussion, I think, like the
5 border communities with victims of violence, those
6 kind of things, then they would fall into those
7 categories, and we could then make recommendations
8 on behalf of them. So I think it's -- I think it's
9 important to recognize all indigenous peoples in
10 this scope of work.

11 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: One of the resources
12 that we -- I'm pretty sure we do, and we've offered
13 to do, I think it has to do with funding and things
14 like that in the past, where some type of way of
15 identifying as a state entity going out to the
16 tribal communities, working with BIA and offering
17 free, like, DNA sample collection testing days or,
18 you know, testing sites, or whatever it may be, and
19 then putting this in a database somewhere with BIA
20 or FBI, so now -- whether it's we go to the schools
21 on reservations and taking a ton of DNA samples,
22 right, and having these in a big database somewhere.
23 Later on down the road, they become of value, and so
24 it's kind of like Tag Your Tots deal we have at the
25 State Fair, where kids come in, tag your tots.

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1 We'll come in, take a picture, take a fingerprint
2 and, you know, all this stuff so that way eight
3 hours later when the kid's missing, we have a
4 fingerprint, a photograph, all this stuff. It's one
5 of the proactive ways.

6 I know we don't do it. We tried to figure
7 out how to do it in the past. The state never had
8 funding. That would be a pretty big project, is
9 getting -- it doesn't have to be just the kids. It
10 can be everybody. Right? Hey, we're going to have
11 this day where if you want to give DNA or a
12 fingerprint, and it goes into the database that BIA
13 has, or anybody. God forbid, three years later this
14 lady's missing, kid's missing, guy's missing, the
15 DNA's in there, the DNA, fingerprint, photograph,
16 and you have a place to start.

17 Or on the identifying part, ten years
18 later they find bones in Flagstaff, Arizona. Right?
19 They take DNA, and it's in that database, comes
20 right back. Boom.

21 MS. WAULS: So I think in this discussion
22 we're starting to lay out kind of the steps we need
23 to take in order to meet objective number one in
24 coming up with the recommendations.

25 So I think the first step is really

1 identifying those existing systems, what are the
2 mechanisms for reporting and what are their systems
3 that they're utilizing to investigate and record
4 that information, defining what we mean by missing
5 and murdered or what are the variables that need to
6 be defined in order to understand what
7 recommendations we need to come up with, so
8 identifying what we mean by indigenous or what do we
9 mean by -- is it missing and murdered, missing
10 and/or murdered.

11 So how do we move -- what's our ideas
12 about strategies for accomplishing objective number
13 one? What are the steps that we want to take as a
14 task force?

15 MS. NEZ: Is that going to be a separate
16 meeting?

17 MS. WAULS: Say that again.

18 MS. NEZ: Is that one of the things -- in
19 my mind, is that going to be a task to one of the
20 subcommittees?

21 MS. WAULS: That's one strategy, forming a
22 subcommittee. What would the subcommittee do? What
23 would be their role and work?

24 MS. NEZ: Identify all what you mentioned,
25 the resources, the systems in place right now,

1 maybe.

2 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: I think somebody --
3 doesn't have to be any one person -- could be
4 assigned to identify, like, what the secretary said,
5 what resources do we have now so we're not
6 identifying the same resources and then the
7 government says, we already have that.

8 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think that it's
9 part of, like, deciding here, and I know we have a
10 number of them to work through, and it's 11:30, but
11 I think this goes to the larger question of, like --
12 really makes me think about what's our capacity.
13 That's why I started out thanking everybody, because
14 you're volunteering your time. You have to be
15 realistic in terms of timeframes. There's realistic
16 in terms of timeframes that's called for in terms of
17 this legislation, realistic in everyone's schedule
18 and how much time they can devote to a task force
19 and subcommittee.

20 The reason why I mentioned that is because
21 we're very open. There's, you know, appropriation
22 with this subcommittee -- with this task force. I'm
23 also open to looking at our small budget in terms of
24 a department, where we need to add capacity to what
25 our task force is doing. And so, you know, not to

1 say that we should supplant the work of the task
2 force, but we need to work with other allies and
3 other resources to bring in that information just
4 because we have so short amount of time, and we have
5 to be realistic about our capacity.

6 And so one way is through subcommittees or
7 if we can contract with somebody that could take on
8 a research project to do this work, we at Indian
9 Affairs, we actually, through Stephanie's efforts,
10 we worked with the Southwest Indian Law Clinic and
11 have law students do research for us. Could we get
12 that in kind or even in a contract with somebody to
13 do that. Then the work is done. Then it comes back
14 to the committee that we discuss and that we can
15 share with our public partners.

16 But I just put that out there, because I
17 want us to be open about it, to just know that it's
18 not realistic for the task force to do all of this.

19 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: That's a good idea on
20 the study.

21 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: And if we know of
22 anyone, like you're talking about trusted partners
23 or other people that we worked with in the past or
24 you worked with in the past that is not here now
25 that we need to reach out to, then we should -- I

1 want to have that on the table, too.

2 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Someone pulling out all
3 the reports and assemble that as we go along. I
4 think it would be important that, you know, going
5 back to man camps and fracking, what other resources
6 that we can draw from that directly contribute to
7 this issue that should be accountable to providing
8 resources to -- to the state to, like, put these --
9 like recommend how the state can increase resources.
10 Let's look at what are some of the root causes and
11 some of the corporations or structures or, like,
12 private businesses, private detention, things that
13 are causing the death of others are directly
14 contributing -- like they should be contributing in
15 solving this issue. There's a level of
16 accountability that we shouldn't shy away from.

17 MS. HOWKUMI: I was going to say something
18 too. This is just the way I think, but it almost
19 makes sense to me that if we were to do something
20 that kind of lays out for us and for the people that
21 are coming forward, as you get a report, what does
22 that look like? Where does it go so that then we
23 can identify from here to here what happens from
24 here to here and then all through this what's
25 needed, but if we don't understand what this looks

1 like across the board, we're going to be talking in
2 circles, and so we have to become pretty focused in
3 terms of okay, a report comes in, let's detail that
4 out and say, okay, step one, this is what happens in
5 my department. This is what happens with my agency.
6 So then we can direct where those gaps are, and then
7 we can also direct how we get that information to
8 the public and how they can kind of fit into it, so
9 what gaps are there.

10 To me, that kind of makes sense, because
11 I'm not seeing a straight line for any of us to
12 understand how we fit into this big puzzle. Just a
13 thought.

14 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: There's the parts, like,
15 where things kind of stop, like we have to -- then
16 we draw from community resources, and let's, like,
17 really activate the community net, safety net, to
18 take over where law enforcement kind of fizzles out
19 in the process. Those steps -- now is when we need
20 to bring in other entities or --

21 MS. HOWKUMI: The community gets notified.
22 Is there a search team that can be created here that
23 goes out? How do you train a search team? How do
24 you -- how do you empower the community to become --
25 in certain parts of the state to be that second

1 resource that says, okay, we have this child that's
2 missing now. It's winter. We put it out there, but
3 we need boots on the ground to get out there, but
4 how to do that in a way that doesn't disturb a crime
5 scene or a potential crime scene.

6 There's different factors to consider, but
7 it's, like, the community can do something, because
8 they know the areas best. They know people. They
9 know families, so how do we engage that. So that
10 comes down at some other point, but until we kind of
11 factor all of these steps in, I think, okay, at this
12 point I think this is when we can engage them, or
13 this is who we call.

14 MS. WAULS: I think you're right. I want
15 to move the conversation along and ask the task
16 force, so we can talk about the other goals and
17 objectives, is how do we want to further understand
18 the process and the agencies involved and be able to
19 analyze and come up with recommendations around
20 that, the forming of the subcommittee. Do we want
21 to, like secretary said, contract with an agency or
22 someone to do all of that work for us and present
23 that information so we can start to come up with
24 some recommendations, and if so, who is the best
25 actor to gather that information for us?

1 MS. NEZ: Somebody who works dealing with
2 law enforcement and probably the court systems, I
3 would think, because we're talking about processes
4 and institutions, and we're talking only about
5 reporting and correct identification, markers of a
6 person, right?

7 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Yeah, I think UNM's a
8 good resource, because they have access to a lot of
9 entities, right, and then identifying, like what was
10 brought up, if you come up on the wall on a certain
11 area, then reach out to this group or that group or
12 this community, go from there. And so -- you know,
13 reaching out to them for a study or whatever it is,
14 but yeah.

15 MR. STRAND: What resources do we have in
16 terms of minor funding to contract somebody to do
17 something?

18 MS. WAULS: Secretary?

19 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: So we have limited
20 resources. We have an appropriation that came along
21 with the work of the task force, which we're using
22 for certain things for food and per diem and meeting
23 spaces and other things, so how much was that
24 appropriation?

25 MS. SALAZAR: 100,000.

1 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: 100,000 that we have
2 to expend. We also -- to expend by the end of
3 June 30th of 2020, the legislation for any work that
4 might need to be continued afterwards. We're
5 concerned after the appropriation expires at the end
6 of June between when this report is due in November
7 there isn't going to be any appropriation. There
8 will be a gap. What we are considering is depending
9 on what we gathered so far, there may be a data gap.
10 We might need to hire somebody or contract. We're
11 looking at UNM, Dr. Gabe Sanchez, the Center for
12 Social Policy, in working with him in some of the
13 data gathering that might need to be put into this
14 report too, right, so we're looking at that.

15 So right now we have that \$100,000
16 appropriation. We have a budget for it. I was
17 talking to Stephanie last night about it. There's
18 some areas where we're not expending as much in
19 certain areas, and we were looking to shift that.
20 There would be money available.

21 In addition the, Indian Affairs Department
22 is entering into a contract, an MLU, with UNM, Dr.
23 Gabe Sanchez, for some other work, but part of MMIW
24 could be a part of that scope. It's around policy
25 issues.

1 And one of the things we talked about, I'd
2 like to talk with the task force about, is we talked
3 about other folks -- us contracting to get research,
4 right, accumulated and condensed down into a version
5 for us, but one of the other things that has come up
6 is in addition to subcommittees is focus groups, and
7 Dr. Sanchez' group has a lot of expertise in
8 convening focus groups, and I think that -- to me,
9 that might be another avenue in exploring some of
10 these goals and objectives and the focus groups
11 really be oriented towards not the task force but
12 communities.

13 And they have a protocol and a way of
14 gathering that information, and I think that's
15 something we heard from the first meeting and I know
16 in some conversations, the importance of continuing
17 that, right, having community voice and not
18 necessarily having one way of having community voice
19 where it has to be in community forum, but maybe it
20 is those focus groups, for lack of a better word,
21 where you're grassroots engaging folks in their
22 community, and we could contract with them to do
23 that work.

24 They did that in relation to education. I
25 know they did that in Indian education. That's

1 something I would like to look at. We do have a
2 budget for that.

3 MS. WAULS: Okay. I think we have a clear
4 understanding of what we -- we would need to really
5 first analyze before we accomplish goal one, and so
6 we have some ideas about how we would go about doing
7 that with some of the funding availabilities.

8 Let's move on to objective number two in
9 collaboration with law enforcement agencies to
10 determine the scope of the problem, identify
11 barriers, and address the problem. Similar to what
12 we did for number one, what do we mean by
13 collaboration with tribal law enforcement? What do
14 we want the outcome of this objective to be?

15 MS. NEZ: I think a lot of it has to do
16 with the sharing of information and that they have
17 access to the same systems as anybody else, because
18 I heard a mention, you know, somebody goes missing
19 in one tribal community, but they're in another
20 tribal -- you go from one reservation to another
21 reservation. You're not on state lands anywhere.
22 These two don't share information. Sharing and
23 access to it is important.

24 MS. WAULS: Sharing and access to
25 information. Okay.

1 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: I think training is
2 one, training for tribal and even state agencies,
3 where, at some point, whether it's BIA or us or
4 together, going around to all the tribal entities
5 and saying, hey, look, here's a quick update on the
6 process and the protocol, and here's your resources,
7 and, you know, because there's such a high
8 changeover sometimes in some of these agencies, and
9 these guys don't have the proper training when it
10 comes to some of that stuff. Getting -- getting all
11 of these tribal entities on board is -- is going to
12 be a beast, right? And I deal with it all the time.

13 So, you know, having -- having quarterly
14 meetings with the tribes and things like that, what
15 I do -- that's what I do, try to keep all my guys in
16 the loop, my tribes that I work with. We have
17 quarterly meetings and trying to keep everybody
18 abreast of what's going on, but somebody talked
19 about it earlier, that one of the biggest issues is
20 jurisdiction. If somebody goes missing in
21 Albuquerque, and they go to Laguna to report it,
22 Laguna says, oh, you got to call the county. The
23 county says, you got to call the city. The city
24 says, where are you from? You got to call Laguna.
25 Laguna says, you have to call state police. People

1 are exhausted and frustrated and confused. They
2 don't know where to go. That would be the training
3 that I would suggest. It doesn't matter where.
4 Let's get them in the system, get the ball rolling,
5 get it out, and let's go from there.

6 MS. WAULS: So I'm hearing a lot of, right
7 now, collaborating with tribal law enforcements to
8 understand what are some of their barriers in terms
9 of sharing information, having access to that
10 information, the training they would need in order
11 to build a capacity to respond and what are some of
12 the jurisdictional barrier challenges that they're
13 having. And I'm guessing the outcome would be what
14 recommendations do they have to help support the
15 response to the crisis.

16 What about in terms of collaborating with
17 tribal law law enforcement to control the crisis of
18 MMIW? Do we want to be looking at cases that they
19 are documenting on missing and murdered people?

20 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Stephanie and I were
21 at that training last week, and we were in the same
22 room, and I don't know the guy's name. Somebody was
23 talking. I told Stephanie, I said, this would be
24 really cool or great to have another meeting or an
25 extra meeting or have a time where Indian Affairs

1 invites all the tribal law enforcement brass, the
2 heads, the chiefs, you know, to one -- one -- that's
3 a whole separate meeting, right, part of this.

4 Now you have all the tribes and chiefs of
5 police and those guys in one room, and what are your
6 issues? What are your problems? What are you -- we
7 collect that data.

8 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: A focus group.

9 MS. WAULS: A focus group with law
10 enforcement?

11 MS. GONZALES: We actually have chiefs of
12 police quarterly meetings with BIA and all of the
13 state. In the past -- is it Isham?

14 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Isham. He used to be
15 the tribal liaison. Invite me. I'll go.

16 MS. GONZALES: We've had a change in our
17 upper management, so our meetings kind of -- kind of
18 fizzled out, but we're having them back again. I'll
19 invite you to our next one. It's probably going to
20 be in January or February. I think that would be a
21 time to educate them.

22 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: It's important.
23 That's the biggest downfall. I don't know if all
24 the tribes go there. The chiefs, they're all there.

25 MS. GONZALES: They have to at least send

1 somebody.

2 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: That would be great.
3 We reach out to them there or that forum. I've been
4 pulling my hair out the last couple of days dealing
5 with the commission of Laguna Pueblo. We're
6 constantly working with them. It's just getting
7 them all on the same page. Because another
8 problem -- it's not a problem. I live on the res,
9 too, and I've served in office, and I know that we
10 have our own systems. Right? We have our own
11 tribal sheriffs and, you know, things like that, and
12 so how do those guys play into effect when it comes
13 with our state entities?

14 We've gone onto pueblos where the tribal
15 sheriffs said, we're the law of the land. You guys
16 get off the reservation, and we have to back off.
17 And later on, the governor is saying, why didn't you
18 collaborate? Why didn't you work with our tribe?
19 They didn't want us there. They didn't need us
20 there, didn't want us there.

21 We had a case in Acoma where we had to get
22 permission from the governor to go on the -- and
23 we're talking, like, two o'clock in the morning to
24 go on the pueblo, bring our helicopter, bring our
25 stuff, looking for a missing lady. Just the

1 politics. Four days later the governor says, yeah,
2 you can go on there. Just do it. Yeah, we do. The
3 tribal commission police said we had to do it. Four
4 days later, we found a dead lady.

5 At an Indian Affairs level way up high,
6 working on a mutual aid agreement or something that
7 says -- that's pushed out to all the tribes through
8 either BIA or the state at some point, hey, look,
9 when these types of cases -- without a shadow of a
10 doubt we're all going to work together. There's no
11 boundary. We shouldn't get hung up on the
12 bureaucracy of you wear this uniform and you wear
13 that uniform.

14 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: It's about the
15 person.

16 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Right. Yeah.

17 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think that's part
18 of the -- I don't know how to say this. My issue
19 with, like, that objective, it's assuming that
20 there's already ongoing efforts of collaboration
21 around these agencies to talk about the problem.

22 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: There's not.

23 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: You can't talk about
24 the crisis of missing or murdered people when you
25 don't recognize how the institutions work or don't

1 work together. I feel like we can't -- how can you
2 even start with determining the scope of the
3 problem? And I didn't find areas related to MMIW
4 when really there is fundamental barriers and issues
5 related to just even law enforcement in general,
6 because that doesn't even exist. And so I think,
7 like, it may be that we don't get to an MMIW
8 discussion right off the bat where you need to
9 acknowledge you have a lot of different law
10 enforcement agencies that just can't even get in the
11 same room, where it's difficult for them to get all
12 in the same room and have a shared understanding,
13 and I think we can't assume that, and we see that at
14 Indian Affairs in terms of, like, different -- it
15 could be MMIW; it could be cross-commissioning,
16 something else. It's that fundamental lack of that
17 understanding and collaboration that needs to happen
18 first before we can even really start to, like, I
19 think, identify barriers.

20 MS. WAULS: Is that going to be the
21 objective of -- and the framework for objective
22 number two, is bringing those agencies together to
23 start the conversation?

24 MS. NEZ: Is it my understanding that the
25 report that we're doing is going to all be

1 recommendations? It's not our job to get people
2 together to sign MOAs or some kind of agreements,
3 right?

4 MS. WAULS: I think that's for the task
5 force to decide.

6 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: She has a good point.
7 When we get the report, the report can say, get all
8 the law enforcement together, and hash this out.
9 That's a good point. We could have a focus group
10 either way, like we're talking about, a focus
11 group -- we did have a focus group. We had 35 law
12 enforcement. She was in there, and they said these
13 are the top five issues with this topic. In the
14 report, the report recommends, like, hey, you need
15 to get these guys in the same room, or something
16 needs to be figured out.

17 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Could it be that we kind
18 of pull them in, though, with the first objective
19 and maybe a survey to tribal law enforcements with
20 what are your steps and process for your own missing
21 and murdered cases that they can then give a little
22 bit of preliminary input?

23 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: I think Stephanie even
24 has the ability to do that, right, through email?

25 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I empower her to do

1 whatever.

2 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: You have, like, every
3 chief in the tribe?

4 MS. SALAZAR: Yeah, so --

5 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: She's got the power of
6 everything.

7 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think that's a good
8 idea.

9 MS. SALAZAR: One thing I've considered in
10 how we address this is it's going to be really hard
11 to know what all 23 different tribes have, what
12 codes they have, what's the manpower of their law
13 enforcement and the capacity. And for me, it seems
14 really, like, overwhelming to think about the law
15 enforcement portion if we don't understand, like,
16 what is each -- what's, like, the scope within each
17 tribal jurisdiction. What does that look like?

18 When we talk about all these things that
19 are good recommendations, it comes back to tribal
20 codes and capacity. I don't know through BIA or OJS
21 if that data's already compiled. I know when I did
22 tribal court assessments, a lot of that was
23 compiled, but a lot of that is just mostly for the
24 feds, and I don't think we have access to that. It
25 almost makes me wonder if we have to do a whole new

1 type of survey of our tribal law enforcement, but
2 not just law enforcement, justice systems, but it
3 also comes to social services and some of these
4 agencies that are directly connected, and are they
5 using NAMUS. So that's one thing that I was
6 discussing with Secretary yesterday. But I'm happy
7 to help, and I can contact the --

8 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I would think we
9 should try to figure out, like, what information
10 exists, like, that we can get, and then we can think
11 about -- maybe we ask the law clinic and get a law
12 student to start putting this -- some of this
13 together and then have -- look at the gaps, and
14 that's maybe where we utilize the survey, right,
15 like stuff we do know, where we don't, the reporting
16 systems, what do they have available, what
17 resources.

18 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: It would be a wish list.

19 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Like having a
20 context. And then I think also, you know, we're
21 talking about tribal law enforcement, but I also
22 don't want to lose sight of this report also
23 thinking about all our relatives who are living in
24 urban population areas. Right? So we need -- it's
25 like two --

1 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Citizenship.

2 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Right, and making
3 sure, like -- I get that it's the same tribal law
4 enforcement agencies, but we also have to be aware
5 of how many of our native people live in urban
6 population areas and those folks that are part of
7 that conversation as well.

8 MS. WAULS: So maybe we frame the report
9 to where there is a focus on tribal and then focus
10 on urban?

11 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Uh-huh. Or at least
12 acknowledge -- we have to acknowledge that and not
13 lose sight of it. My fear is someone takes the
14 report and, like, oh, this is the whole, you know,
15 universe of the issue here in New Mexico. And I
16 think that for everything, it's not. In my mind,
17 it's not a failing to be explicit about things that
18 we didn't get to or that we weren't sure about. We
19 need to just be explicit about that, because I think
20 that's part of the conversation, because we don't
21 totally all know. Not everyone knows, and I think
22 what -- if you don't -- if you're not explicit about
23 that and don't state that, then people make
24 assumptions, and that's very -- I think that's --
25 that could be a detriment to what we're -- what

1 we're working towards. Right?

2 MS. GONZALES: Just chiming off on that, I
3 know just recently I found out that APD has a task
4 force just geared towards cold cases and missing and
5 murdered people --

6 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: So do we.

7 MS. GONZALES: -- as well. So that was
8 new. I'm sure -- I do know they have a lot of
9 cases, and they're overwhelmed, and I don't know how
10 many agents they have, but they do have a task
11 force. I'm not sure how often they meet, and they
12 include the law enforcement entities.

13 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Food for thought.
14 That was one of my ideas. How do we add somebody
15 from APD to our task force, or do we include APD and
16 state police on the task force? I think we have
17 four guys that work cold cases, and they probably
18 only do four or five a year and solve one or two.

19 Now, talking about cold cases and murdered
20 people, that gives you -- having that
21 cross-jurisdiction with BIA, now we're working a
22 case that crosses the boundary lines. There's no
23 boundary. It's state or BIA working together or --
24 I think the way we get around it now is the NCIC.

25 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: So at the first meeting

1 there was somebody talking about hiring private
2 investigators. Does that come into this at all or,
3 like, resources for families to hire someone like
4 that, or, like, is that number two as far as -- and
5 then there's even officers, like, that work for
6 tribal law enforcements that aren't tribal. Is
7 there training that needs to happen on
8 antioppression or internal biases or things like
9 that with officers, like, if you're working for a
10 tribe but not -- you don't come from there or things
11 like that -- so, yeah, I was just hearing that
12 families are turning to private investigators, and
13 is that a solution to some of the these barriers
14 that families are turning to?

15 MS. WAULS: I think you bring up -- go
16 ahead, Matt.

17 MR. STRAND: Just as a practical matter in
18 terms of jurisdictionally-wise, I don't know what
19 jurisdiction or power a private investigator would
20 have on tribal territory. I don't know if a private
21 investigator was to go poking around or wandering
22 around the reservation, I don't know if it's a
23 practical barrier or not. I don't know if somebody
24 else can answer that.

25 MS. WAULS: What comes to mind, what you

1 were saying, Beata, that I think also answers to
2 Matt, is we have -- so far we're really thinking
3 about the law enforcement side, right, and the
4 institutional side of this issue in how these
5 systems are working together or not working together
6 in order to identify, report, and respond to this
7 crisis. But the other side that I think we need to
8 really focus on as well is the community and the
9 experience of those who are being directly impacted
10 and how they are experiencing these systems and
11 where are the gaps from those experiences that we
12 can even highlight to law enforcement.

13 To what you were saying, First Lady, is
14 that, yeah, a survivor in a family has their story
15 and their experiences. We also know that law
16 enforcement has challenges and barriers too. If we
17 can start to address those, then we can help
18 facilitate to close some of those gaps that
19 individuals are experiencing when they're trying to
20 report a loved one or get justice for someone who's
21 been murdered.

22 So I think people end up having
23 conversations about how do -- do we even need to
24 have focus groups to host our hearings, where we
25 have -- where we bring talk to community members and

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1 family and loved ones impacted by this.

2 To wrap up objective number two, it sounds
3 like we definitely want to have focus groups with
4 law enforcement agencies to first tackle objective
5 number one and then talk about what collaboration
6 and coordination needs to take place in order to
7 really understand the scope of the problem, because
8 I think you're right. Even these reports that we
9 reviewed prior to this meeting point out the fact
10 there's a lot of data gaps because there's so many
11 barriers that already exist and systems we need to
12 improve upon in order to understand the full scope.

13 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Just how things get to
14 that point of someone being murdered. Like in
15 domestic violence situations, where I think that
16 that training really comes in with tribal areas is
17 nothing is done at that point is a domestic violence
18 situation, and that's what I hear from that
19 community, and that's where I think, like, what is
20 this -- what kind of screenings are being done on
21 who gets hired into law enforcement that might have
22 their own issues with these things, what kind of
23 framework are people coming, officers coming into
24 these communities and understanding social dynamics
25 and being able to, like -- I think there's the area

1 they have to meet that judgment and determination
2 that they have this level of discretion, and I feel
3 like there's something there that can be
4 strengthened by it as far as being able to use the
5 right discretion to prevent murder in domestic
6 situations.

7 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: The prevention part.

8 MS. WAULS: Exactly.

9 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: That's a big part.
10 Talk about it all day long, about the murdered and
11 missing. It's how did they get there in the first
12 place. The domestic violence, the alcohol, are we
13 tracking how many cases on the reservation or off
14 the reservation involve alcohol? We don't. We're
15 able to see that data in all this stuff, and so I
16 don't know -- I don't know where the times kind of
17 got changed around. We involve social services,
18 too, and things like that.

19 Years ago before I went to state police
20 academy, I actually went to FLETC, and the BIA had
21 me -- the Federal Indian Police Academy actually had
22 the best training on domestic violence stuff. I
23 learned so much in a week on domestic violence.
24 Working on the reservation as a tribal cop for about
25 a year, that's all we did, was domestic violence

1 calls. Like holy cow. So I can see where they
2 become numb to it. The mentality was, like, knock
3 it off. If we have to come back, we're taking you
4 to jail. They leave. The circle of violence
5 doesn't stop with them being separated, and it's the
6 norm. I thought that was the norm.

7 The state police is no BS. We're going to
8 arrest somebody. You see the difference. Hey,
9 mandatory arrest no matter what, and we're going to
10 do an investigation and do a follow-up, get a
11 packet, a protection order, all this stuff, and it's
12 just like I wonder what's going on on the res. I
13 don't know if it's mandated by the feds or those old
14 tribal chiefs, right, that are making their own
15 policies as they go along, and the more you have
16 retired county, city, state police guys that are
17 becoming tribal chiefs, are they doing what they're
18 supposed to be doing. Are we doing it like this?
19 This is how we used to do it. Now you have all
20 these discrepancies. There's no fine line of how to
21 do it.

22 Your young tribal cops are trying to
23 figure it out as they go along. They're just
24 figuring it out. Bad habits are passed on to them.

25 MS. WAULS: I think we're really starting

1 to create a vision here how we want to move forward
2 as far as objectives one and two. What your point
3 really leads us to is objective three, creating
4 partnerships to create the reporting and
5 investigation.

6 You started to point out the other things
7 that need to be involved in this coordination with
8 law enforcement with community members in order to
9 really address this, to understand and be able to
10 address the crisis. And so thinking about who are
11 the direct service providers, the advocacy
12 organizations that are going to help influence
13 policy, help to address those underlying issues of
14 the institutional racism that maybe exists or other
15 challenges that are helping maintain what is
16 happening in our community.

17 So let's talk about what objective number
18 three looks like. What are some of the outcomes we
19 want to see with objective number three? What do we
20 mean by create partnerships to improve reporting and
21 investigation?

22 MS. GONZALES: I think since we've been
23 talking about mainly law enforcement, I think not
24 only state but tribal and federal entities need to
25 work closely -- more closely together and share

1 information. And I know back on my patrol days, I
2 knew all the county officers. I knew the state
3 police officer, D1, D7. They were my backup. I was
4 the only one on duty, responding to calls, so, you
5 know, I relied on them and vice versa. If they
6 needed assistance, I was there.

7 I noticed that's kind of gone away, and I
8 don't know why. I don't know if it's because --
9 like the captain said, there's been a lot of
10 changeover. There may be somebody that I used to go
11 to in the state police, and they're no longer there.
12 It's building that relationship up again, that
13 partnership and that trust. I think that's what we
14 need to re-create.

15 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: To improve --

16 MS. GONZALES: Law enforcement entities.

17 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: In the community?

18 MS. GONZALES: Yeah, the community as
19 well. In order to share the information, we need to
20 trust each other to share the information. As a
21 community, we always want the community to trust us
22 or come to us. If they don't want to, they can go
23 to another entity.

24 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Why wouldn't there be
25 trust between the state and --

1 MS. GONZALES: I'm not saying there's not.
2 I'm saying we used to have a closer relationship,
3 due to high turnover. I knew the former tribal
4 liaison, but he's moved on. We just need to have
5 that relationship again.

6 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: The changeover is so
7 frequent, the tribal and state officers don't have
8 enough time to build relationships is -- I think is
9 what she's trying to say. That's one issue from the
10 law enforcement side. Those relationships are not
11 there anymore. We're not building the
12 relationships. Over the years, there's been cases
13 where we've had mutual agreements to work on
14 Mescalero, Navajo Reservation, different stuff, and
15 something happens, whether Santa Clara or Mescalero,
16 whatever, we go over there, help them out, we get
17 sued, a tort claim. What does that do? The state
18 police says, we're not going to do that anymore.
19 There's that barrier we talked about. Houston Largo
20 is a Navajo police officer that got shot, and we
21 were the first ones there, literally the first on
22 scene, treating his wounds. He was still alive. We
23 call an ambulance, everything, set up a crime scene,
24 look for the bad guy, and now we have this barrier.
25 And say we call our own guys, get a helicopter. We

1 can't. We can't bring our helicopter out there to
2 look for a guy that -- you know, so because maybe a
3 year or two later -- before we had just been sued on
4 something, so, you know, that was one of the reasons
5 why we recently sat down with the Navajo police
6 chief and deputy chief and their legal counsel. I
7 think it was a week ago. We do have a current
8 Navajo cross-commission with the Navajo Nation, so
9 we sat down with the Navajo Nation a week or so ago.

10 We need to make the cross-commission
11 stronger. We need to make language in there to
12 provide you with the dogs, bomb team, helicopters.
13 That's what we're working on now, is adding the
14 language to that. The politics are taken out of it.
15 When and if something happens again, it's like,
16 cool, all right, let's go. We don't have to ask or
17 worry about it.

18 Same thing with the reservations. You see
19 a lot in the past, the northern pueblos, see state
20 police on the reservations at the Fiestas, and
21 because of the liability, us not wanting to be
22 there. Those of you who went to Gathering of
23 Nations maybe ten years ago, you saw state police
24 there. We worked the powwows. At some point
25 somebody said something or did something; they

1 didn't invite us back. When we asked, they said,
2 we're not including state police. You guys are
3 racist.

4 The next year we sent 20 native State
5 Police officers that are Navajo, Mescalero Pueblo,
6 all native, and still, you guys are too racist. You
7 know, so this -- like what happened? Where did this
8 come from? Now we're not even invited back to it.
9 The goal was to use us to police our own people,
10 because we can kind of relate to them a lot easier,
11 a lot better, but that's not happening.

12 MS. WAULS: What about partnerships
13 outside of law enforcement, the different levels,
14 state, tribal, federal working together? What about
15 partnerships with other agencies, especially when we
16 talk about the reporting that's happening that is
17 not being documented by law enforcement agencies
18 that is happening on Facebook or within grassroots
19 efforts? How do we bridge the gap between -- how do
20 we bridge the gap so that law enforcement can be
21 involved or can be aware of those cases in order to
22 address and investigate? Is there a partnership
23 that needs to be happening outside -- that law
24 enforcement needs to have with other organizations
25 or entities in order to do that?

1 MS. HOWKUMI: From a victim services
2 standpoint, federal, tribal, and state -- I don't
3 know if you guys have victim specialists.

4 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: We used to.

5 MS. HOWKUMI: Again, that's another gap
6 that they don't have where they have to respond to
7 provide support to the families that maybe the state
8 might be investigating.

9 So having first responders there that work
10 for the federal agencies I think is important,
11 because that's really for the families, whether --
12 whether a case -- so what we do is not necessarily
13 to support the case, but it's to support the family,
14 so it's -- we would love for those individuals to be
15 held accountable, but that's not sometimes what the
16 victims want. It's really to support the families.
17 Victim services, wherever they are at, at the
18 attorney general's office or the sheriffs or the
19 tribal or the federal, I think that's important.

20 MS. WAULS: Relationships between --

21 MS. HOWKUMI: Get the same information to
22 support the law enforcement and the individuals,
23 families. That would be another cooperation I would
24 see if --

25 MS. WAULS: So law enforcement at various

1 levels and then law enforcement with victim
2 services?

3 What about what you've been mentioning?
4 Beata is getting at the root causes of underlying
5 issues, law enforcement is reporting and documenting
6 and investigating these cases, then who do they need
7 to be sharing that information with outside of law
8 enforcement to really start to describe the problem
9 and analyze some of the root causes to start to talk
10 about prevention? That is something that's come up
11 even in our first meeting, that we need to move
12 beyond response but focusing on prevention. Should
13 law enforcement be partnering with epidemiology
14 centers and advocacy groups, sharing this
15 information.

16 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: I think with working
17 with the behavioral health services is huge, and
18 crisis response in tribal communities, it's like
19 there's nothing. Literally nothing. And we can
20 point fingers at past administrations, but like even
21 our own court systems I feel like don't look at
22 healing addiction, don't look at healing young
23 people with -- like, before things get to a certain
24 point and how so much of our strength as tribal
25 peoples, through our spirituality, through our

1 land-based connections, and using those traditional
2 modalities to help people, I guess, into -- help
3 people heal from some of the illness and addiction
4 and violence that are cyclical in families, abuse,
5 you know, different levels of abuse.

6 And it's, like, how do you partner and
7 collaborate with things that aren't even in place,
8 that aren't even there, you know. Like if there's
9 any recommendations that come from this report, it's
10 like we need to make sure that every community has
11 this, this, this, and this, so that it's not just
12 like straight into the jail system or straight into
13 the prison system, getting trafficked or going into
14 where the 16-year-old isn't reappearing five years
15 later. That's just like, what is that about? That
16 there was nothing -- there was nowhere for that
17 16-year-old to go where, like, we have conversations
18 in our community where, like, why isn't our kivas
19 open for our 16-year-olds to go to the kiva if they
20 need a safe place to go.

21 So there's this big gap where the only
22 systems that we have to turn to in times of crisis
23 are Western, and so I know there's a whole other
24 task force, probably. I think it's another
25 Catch-22. Like with number two, how you were

1 saying, how do we create partnerships with these
2 systems that don't exist yet that need to be there
3 if we really want to make a difference with this
4 issue.

5 MS. HOWKUMI: I think it's like what you
6 were saying, first understanding the trauma that
7 exists, right? First, how that affects everything
8 else, the substance abuse, the mental health issues,
9 the societal issues that come into effect from
10 something way back here in one family that's been
11 ongoing and not addressed or healed. It perpetuates
12 and blocks them. Instead of treating this -- not
13 treating. Instead of providing assistance to this
14 individual, now you've got many more family members
15 who have now been traumatized by not taking care of
16 this right back here, what happened to this
17 individual. And you don't have those. You don't
18 have those systems in place.

19 MS. WAULS: So we've been talking about
20 focus groups, establishing focus groups to
21 understand from the law enforcement side, some of
22 these objectives that we're trying to meet. Maybe
23 we also -- and then also having the community input
24 so we can understand how folks are being impacted
25 trying to navigate the systems and the barriers

1 there.

2 Maybe another focus group or groups that
3 we need to target to gain information from, as you
4 said, the service providers, prevention specialists
5 who are also engaging with this issue can also
6 provide some perspective so we can better understand
7 again what partnerships or systems need to be
8 created.

9 MS. WAULS: So we're going to take a
10 break, and then when we come back, we'll run through
11 the last two objectives and then really start to
12 talk about some of the framework, I think what Beata
13 is getting to, how do we want to define, how do we
14 want to frame the report. Do we want it to be
15 inclusive? Do we have content areas that talk about
16 other subgroups and demographics that need to be
17 also addressed?

18 But we do have some food available, and if
19 folks want to also maybe leave and grab something,
20 we can do that for about 30 minutes, and then we'll
21 come back and continue working before the public
22 forum.

23 (Recess was taken from 12:29 to 1:09.)

24 MS. WAULS: We're going to move on,
25 everyone, because we have less than 30 minutes to

1 wrap up before the public starts to join us. It
2 really sounds like we need to prioritize the
3 objectives and also create subcommittees around each
4 objective, and so just based on the discussion we
5 had earlier, it sounds like the task force wants to
6 first understand the existing systems for reporting
7 and identifying MMIW cases, so our recommendation is
8 we focus on objective number one first at our next
9 meeting and maybe just figure out, in terms of a
10 work plan, what objectives we'll focus on after our
11 third meeting.

12 And we also want to start to identify who
13 we want to bring in, what state partners we need to
14 bring in to be able to really, I guess, narrow these
15 objectives and also be able to put together a
16 framework for the focus groups so we can start
17 gathering that information.

18 At the next meeting in January, focusing
19 on objective one, how the state can increase
20 resources for reporting and identifying, is there
21 someone on the task force to take the lead to work
22 with Stephanie and myself to put together the agenda
23 and identify the state people or experts we need to
24 identify at the next meeting?

25 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Is that a question?

1 MS. WAULS: Can we have a volunteer from
2 the task force?

3 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: What do volunteers do,
4 first?

5 MS. WAULS: You would work with Stephanie
6 and myself to develop the agenda for our next task
7 force meeting which will focus on further defining
8 the goals and the strategies for objective number
9 one.

10 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Can there be
11 simultaneous work with the focus groups right away,
12 too?

13 MS. WAULS: Our setup is that yeah, we
14 focus on objective number one in order to create the
15 framework for the focus group, and the focus group
16 can be held the following month outside of the next
17 task force meeting.

18 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: I've got a tight
19 schedule, so it's not volunteer for me, it's
20 voluntold. I'm doing a bunch of stuff at the same
21 time.

22 MS. WAULS: Let me ask the question, does
23 it make sense to create subcommittees around the
24 objectives?

25 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Yeah, I think so, not

1 all objectives. A subcommittee can tackle one or
2 two objectives.

3 MR. STRAND: The subcommittee would meet
4 at separate times?

5 MS. WAULS: The subcommittees would meet
6 on conference calls, primarily. That's what we're
7 thinking. It might make sense to have the
8 subcommittees focus on one or two. Based on the
9 conversations, it sounds like there's certain
10 objectives we need to address first to get to
11 another objective. If we could quickly think
12 through what's the first objective we need to
13 address, our recommendation is it's number one. Is
14 there another objective that ties into it that we
15 may need to attach to --

16 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: One and two, like you
17 said.

18 MS. WAULS: One and two. Okay. And it
19 may happen where one and two are together, and
20 that's a subcommittee. Next meeting we'll focus on
21 the first part, and the following meeting is the
22 second part.

23 Who would like to sit on the committee
24 that covers objectives one and two? Thank you,
25 Brenda. Brenda, Kathy, and Captain Velasquez.

1 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: What about -- I'm
2 sorry, I don't know her name. The lady from
3 Farmington, because she works for Farmington PD too.

4 MS. SALAZAR: Becky Johnson.

5 MS. WAULS: We'll send a follow-up from
6 what we discussed today, a letter so we can follow
7 up with those people who aren't here. Thank you for
8 recommending Becky Johnson. We'll confirm with her.

9 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: On that subcommittee,
10 are you guys going to be a part of it too?

11 MS. WAULS: We'll help support you all and
12 set up the conference calls and put up the logistics
13 from the programming side. You guys would further
14 refine those goals and help us structure the next
15 couple of meetings to develop the framework for the
16 focus groups.

17 MS. SALAZAR: So, for example, I think for
18 the first objective, how to increase resources for
19 reporting and identifying, between now and our next
20 meeting. I think we need to talk about who do we
21 need to bring in to present this information, what
22 would that look like. It's almost like developing
23 the agenda, maybe creating additional
24 recommendations based on the experience between
25 those individuals on the call, and I think that can

1 be refined when we bring in more people, but I think
2 we need to start getting more substance out of,
3 like, each of these objectives, and so I think the
4 subcommittees can work on that. So that's just an
5 example for the next meeting.

6 MS. WAULS: So objectives number one and
7 two, one subcommittee, and a lot of you talked
8 about, really, frame those objectives from a law
9 enforcement perspective, but we really also need to
10 think beyond just law enforcement and start to
11 identify other key state partners, that the task
12 force needs to create partnerships with in order to
13 meet the other objectives or all the objectives that
14 we have set forth.

15 So maybe three and four go together. What
16 are your thoughts about the next subcommittee?

17 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Can you also go into it
18 a little bit? I think -- I know that when doing
19 focus groups or any kind of research in tribal
20 communities, there's a lot of permissions sometimes
21 that need to happen. That's why I was wondering
22 about getting things rolling on that, especially
23 just with elections coming up in January, so that at
24 least they have a heads-up that we want to come in
25 end of January, we want to come in February, into

1 the communities, and talk to people.

2 MS. SALAZAR: I think that goes to the
3 need for almost like a data subcommittee to start
4 talking about permissions and working with tribal
5 governments, because for data, a lot of that work
6 needs to happen now in order for us to get the
7 information five months from now, and for me, that's
8 an immediate -- I think that needs to -- we need to
9 have maybe at least an initial call with UNM before
10 the end of the year to talk through what are some
11 ideas and what can we do with the budget we have and
12 start that planning, and I think it brings up good
13 points of what are those permissions that we need.

14 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Especially if it's data
15 gathering, like asking about cases or, like,
16 numbers, then we have to look through a few layers
17 before we get that granted.

18 MS. HOWKUMI: For just for a
19 recommendation, would be like Gil Vigil at the Eight
20 Northern Indian Pueblos Council. I think he's just
21 a good person to go through to see if maybe he might
22 be able to get on the All Indian Pueblo Governors --
23 I don't know if that's what it's called.

24 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: All Pueblo Council of
25 Governors.

1 MS. HOWKUMI: You can make the
2 introduction before you go into the tribal
3 communities with individual whatever it may be,
4 because change is going to happen here pretty soon,
5 and --

6 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: If we get, like, a
7 resolution drafted, like supporting these
8 objectives, then that's already -- that we could get
9 on the agenda for, like, January, February.

10 MS. HOWKUMI: They have the big meeting,
11 right, in February?

12 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: January, February.

13 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: That might streamline
14 the process a little bit.

15 MS. WAULS: Let's do a data-gathering
16 subcommittee that kind of overarches objectives
17 three and four, which is those partnerships and
18 collaborations that they may need to have it at the
19 tribal level, the community level.

20 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I guess how is that
21 data gathering? I don't understand.

22 MS. WAULS: I mean, based on what my
23 understanding is, from what everybody is saying,
24 that in terms of these partnerships in
25 collaboration, what information are we -- what are

1 the outcomes that we want from those partnerships;
2 what are the data points or the information we want
3 to be able to --

4 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Because my understanding
5 is there's this -- I don't know if mandate's the
6 right word, from the state, that this task force is
7 established. We want a representative -- like how I
8 came into it -- from pueblo communities. That
9 doesn't necessarily ensure cooperation from tribal
10 communities. Just because this came down from the
11 state, right, this initiative, so -- yeah, how do we
12 get in officially?

13 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I think we can
14 facilitate that within our department. That's kind
15 of our role to help with that, because I do see
16 where we need -- especially number four, work with
17 tribal governments, like we need them, because that
18 is also part of what the tribal law enforcement
19 issue they were talking about is involved with it,
20 so if we don't have cooperation from the sovereign
21 body itself to do things --

22 MS. SALAZAR: So who can kind of be on
23 this data-gathering subcommittee? I know the public
24 is starting to come in. If we could identify some
25 people that I can follow up with in the next week

1 and talk through some these things. So -- Beata?

2 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Yeah, I can do it.

3 MS. WAULS: And maybe First Lady, we can
4 ask her.

5 MS. SALAZAR: Matthew.

6 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: You can put me down
7 for that one, too, just because if we're talking
8 about specific tribes, like, within -- where I'm
9 working, I have that accessibility to -- you know
10 what I mean? I'm right there instead of sending her
11 to Acoma or -- you know, I'm right there, can rub
12 elbows with them and get some data.

13 MS. SALAZAR: That sounds good.

14 MS. WAULS: On objective number five,
15 maybe we can send out follow-up after the meeting
16 and see who wants to --

17 MS. SALAZAR: Collaborating with
18 Department of Justice?

19 MS. WAULS: Yeah.

20 MS. SALAZAR: We need Kathy and Brenda --
21 do you have ideas for objective number four and
22 collaboration with DOJ? Is that five, what that
23 might look at, or is that something you can help
24 facilitate?

25 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: We need to find out --

1 we need to find out exactly what would -- again from
2 the new legislation --

3 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: The executive order?

4 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Yeah, that's one of
5 the -- right now it's fresh in everybody's mind.
6 Literally is BIA or state. Are we going to -- could
7 we -- could we get funding for that from something
8 before it all fizzles out?

9 MR. STRAND: Look at the federal
10 resources.

11 MS. HOWKUMI: That would be a good one to
12 bring to the governors, because it's an executive
13 order, and the US attorneys are going to have
14 individuals, coordinators, who are going to be in
15 certain areas, and so they should also be coming to
16 the -- to the tribal leadership to say exactly how
17 they're going to impact this mission, because it's
18 that -- maybe they can come report on that, see how
19 DOJ impacts here in New Mexico, what's the position.

20 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Maybe we can help
21 facilitate that, so just we were -- Stephanie and I
22 listened in to the call that they had on the
23 executive order from the administration, and it just
24 sounds like -- I didn't hear any talk about
25 additional resources. It just talked about a bunch

1 of federal agencies getting together to talk about
2 MMIW.

3 MS. SALAZAR: And what is the scope.

4 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: And what is the
5 scope. And they weren't really involving states.
6 So it's like a lot of information, and the focus
7 that we heard from BIA interior secretary was, like,
8 they were going to conduct tribal consultations. So
9 that was pretty much it.

10 So -- but I do feel -- like one of the
11 questions that Stephanie and I were discussing is
12 the office of tribal of justice. Tracy Toulou was
13 on the call and is involved in this, and what we
14 wanted to inquire about here in relation to DOJ and
15 the AUSA is what were they going to be doing in the
16 state of New Mexico. How can we partner around this
17 if we started this effort, and they're going to be
18 doing it as a result of this executive order? How
19 can we collaborate when we're together?

20 I know Tracy -- reach out to Tracy, and
21 he'll probably put us in touch with the local US
22 attorney here, and then probably -- I've talked
23 with -- we've talked with Kyle Nayback before, and
24 there was interest to work with us, but now there's
25 an executive order where they're going to be

1 directed to work on this. So we can follow up and
2 have those conversations and then I think bring back
3 that information and see who wants to help
4 coordinate those efforts.

5 MS. WAULS: I think what we can do is
6 while we're gathering that information, the first
7 conference call will be on the first subcommittee.
8 Maybe we can schedule that within the next two
9 weeks. The second conference calls would be the
10 objectives subcommittee, three and four, and we'll
11 talk about -- do another conference call where
12 hopefully you'll have some updates for that.

13 The next task force meeting will be in
14 Albuquerque. That's what we're recommending. Those
15 folks on the first subcommittee, you guys will help
16 us narrow down the location and things like that.
17 But yeah, I think that's it for right now. I think
18 we have actionable next steps to take and folks that
19 are going to lead the efforts.

20 In terms of the public forum we're about
21 to transition to, everything is going to be
22 transcribed, so we're going to let people know that
23 whatever they share will be recorded, and then also
24 if they don't want to -- they don't -- if they want
25 to share and don't want to be recorded in the

1 transcription to come see one of the task force
2 members, and let us know where we can either set up
3 a separate meeting, a call, a one-on-one with that
4 individual.

5 So please make yourselves available and
6 also coordinate with us if someone does come up with
7 you and say, hey, I want to meet with a task force
8 member. We are going to set a time limit, five
9 minutes. Five minutes' speaking time.

10 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: It's for two hours?

11 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: It's an hour. I
12 think the other thing is we didn't have the
13 opportunity to discuss this, but we probably will
14 going forward, and it's about public comment and
15 what we think about that, and do people need to sign
16 up in order to be able to come up during public
17 comment, should there be a timeframe for that, and
18 what does that look like.

19 And the other thing is just -- Beata
20 brought this up. When you receive requests for
21 public speaking -- so we are aware there's a lot of
22 things that -- protocols that we haven't put in
23 place or discussed with the task force. I just
24 mention it for you to know it's kind of like in the
25 parking lot we have gone about it. I think always

1 email Samantha and Stephanie.

2 We're trying to -- because we're also
3 convening a task force at the same time -- like
4 we're doing our work at the same time we're trying
5 to set it up. I mean -- so it's like somebody
6 explained recently to me, we're traveling in a
7 spaceship that we're still building. That's kind of
8 the nature of this, and so I don't want to lose
9 sight of some of those things, because they are
10 important, where we as a task force might need some
11 guidance.

12 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Would it be possible
13 that we have follow-up conference calls for
14 subcommittee meetings for loose ends?

15 MS. SALAZAR: Yeah. Can we set that up
16 for now, at least for this meeting, a follow-up?
17 Samantha and I can outline what we talked about
18 today, set up goals and objectives. During that
19 conference call we can talk about that is what we
20 captured, if we're capturing it correctly, and
21 further capture some of that work.

22 MS. WAULS: Does early next week work?

23 MS. TSOSIE-PENA: Yeah, and then can
24 those -- I don't know if that defeats the purpose of
25 subcommittees. Can those calls be open in case we

1 can get on the conference calls for one or two or
2 three or four, that anyone can get on if able to?
3 We're not --

4 MS. SALAZAR: Yes, I think absolutely.
5 Can somebody set it up during lunch -- call Monday
6 or Tuesday, setting up the lunch hour?

7 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: Monday's good for me.
8 Are you going to be at that Indian Affairs meeting
9 on Wednesday?

10 MS. SALAZAR: Yes.

11 CAPTAIN VELASQUEZ: If I can't get on the
12 call, I'll see you Wednesday.

13 (Off-the-record discussion.)

14 MS. WAULS: Thank you all for coming. We
15 are going to start. We have a little bit of time
16 for the public to join us. We'll start in about
17 five minutes or so. We are going to look for your
18 comments based on a sign-in sheet that we have.

19 If you want to speak and you want to give
20 your feedback to the task force, please sign up on
21 the sign-in sheet. This helps us reporting this
22 session, and it just helps us be able to document
23 that you want to share. I want to encourage you to
24 go ahead and sign up on the sign-up sheet now, and
25 we'll start in five minutes.

1 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I also wanted to take
2 this opportunity -- we have a little bit of water
3 here, and there's a little bit of food that's left
4 over, so if you didn't get a chance to eat something
5 before you came, please, we don't want the food to
6 go to waste. Don't be shy. Help yourself. It's
7 right here in the kitchen.

8 Then we also have -- we also do have a
9 room set aside for self-care. We're going to have
10 an advocate here. We'll start shortly. Help
11 yourself to some -- I think there's coffee, water,
12 and there's fruit and vegetables and a couple of
13 sandwiches left and some chips. Okay.

14 (Recess was taken from 1:37 to 1:45.)

15 MS. WAULS: Thank you, everyone, for
16 showing up today. We appreciate you. I'm very
17 happy that you all got here safely, and I definitely
18 want to acknowledge those who definitely want to be
19 here but for other reasons were not able to be here
20 today, including some of our task force members.

21 We're going to go ahead and begin the
22 public forum, and there may be some people that
23 trickle in. I'll make announcements to let people
24 know.

25 In terms of the public forum, we want to

1 give everybody five minutes to speak. We'll start
2 with those that have signed up on the sign-up sheet.
3 If we have additional time, we'll open it up to
4 those who want to speak.

5 Now, I want to make it clear that what is
6 shared today during the public forum -- we have a
7 transcriptionist here who is documenting everything,
8 so be mindful of what you share. If you want to
9 give input to the task force, but you don't
10 necessarily want it to be recorded, or you don't
11 want to share it amongst everybody, that's fine. We
12 do have sticky notes. You can give us your feedback
13 or input.

14 And we also want to -- the task force is
15 making themselves available to speak to individuals
16 one on one, so pull one of your task force members
17 aside, can you come to me, and let me know that you
18 would like to speak with us to share your input or
19 your insight on the task force work and the effort
20 around missing and murdered indigenous women. There
21 are opportunities for you to collaborate where you
22 don't have to come up and publicly speak.

23 The other thing I want to point out is
24 restrooms are over here if at any point you need to
25 use the restroom, and there are also some in the

1 hallway over here, and we also have a private room
2 for your own self-care.

3 Some of the things we share today may be
4 triggering and painful, so we want you to definitely
5 take care of yourself first. Simply go off into
6 this room. We have an advocate counselor there if
7 you need someone to speak with. I think that's
8 about it.

9 Oh, the speaking time for public comments
10 is five minutes. Some of the things we would
11 definitely love to hear from you all about is the
12 legislative lays out a number of goals that the task
13 force needs to focus on. I will put those up in a
14 second. You all can give your feedback and input on
15 the goals. They are broad. That is what the task
16 force spent time this morning hashing out and
17 refining what the goals look like and mean in the
18 final report. If you have input on those goals,
19 feel free to speak about that.

20 We also want to know what potential
21 partnerships the task force can make. If you
22 represent an agency, or you feel you want to partner
23 or support the task force in any way, share that as
24 well.

25 We want to -- in trying to further

1 understand the scope of this problem and what has
2 happened when we talk about missing and murdered
3 indigenous women, we want to hear how this impacts
4 yourself, your family, and also share your
5 experiences if you feel like that's necessary.

6 Okay?

7 Just as a point of clarification, we do
8 have 11 members on the task force. Some of them
9 were not available today, but the task force
10 consists of Secretary Trujillo, who is the chair of
11 the task force. We have Secretary Mark Shea, who is
12 being represented by Captain Velasquez from the
13 Department of Public Safety.

14 Captain Velasquez, do you want to let us
15 know who you are?

16 And we have Kathy from the -- she's the
17 advocate victim assistance program supervisor from
18 BIA.

19 And Brenda and Becky Johnson representing
20 the Navajo Nation. She's not here today.

21 We also have First Lady Phefelia Nez who
22 is here, and then we have also have Beata, who's
23 representing the Pueblo of Santa Clara, and Matthew
24 Strand who's representing DNA People's Legal
25 Services.

1 And who's not here today is Elizabeth
2 Gonzales, Linda Stone, and Bernalyn Via, who
3 represents the Mescalero Apache Tribe. So those
4 folks are not here, but they have submitted comments
5 and will be at the future meetings.

6 Okay. Let's -- secretary wants to make an
7 announcement real quick, and I think we can start.

8 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Thank you. And
9 that's Samantha Wauls who the program has contracted
10 with to help facilitate the task force meetings.

11 I want to thank you for your patience in
12 showing up. I want to explain why we had a closed
13 session this morning. We want to be open and
14 transparent in anything that we do. We had some
15 organizational matters that we had to -- that we
16 weren't able to get to during our first meeting.

17 This is our second meeting of the task
18 force. We have a very short timeframe to make
19 recommendations and findings to the legislature and
20 the governor, so in order to facilitate that this
21 morning, we really actually looked at the objectives
22 and the goals of the legislation, had discussions
23 around developing work plans, and that's what this
24 morning was devoted to.

25 I want to thank many of you who were

1 patient with us to have that working session so we
2 could have the public session.

3 I also want you all to know the Indian
4 Affairs Department is currently revising our
5 website, which has been long overdue, and we hope to
6 go live in the next couple of weeks. As part of
7 that, one of the areas on our website is going to be
8 around the policy areas that the Indian Affairs
9 Department is working on of which MMIW will be on
10 the website, and we'll be building out resources as
11 well as the meeting agendas and minutes will be
12 available there, so that will be forthcoming so that
13 we can make sure that we're sharing information with
14 all of the public.

15 And I just wanted to let you know that,
16 and I want to thank you for being here. We look
17 forward to hearing from you, and please know that
18 we're here with open minds and hearts and ears to
19 learn from you and hear from you as a task force,
20 and I just want to say thank you very much for your
21 commitment in guiding the work of the task force.

22 MS. WAULS: Thank you, Secretary. Because
23 we do not have a handless mic, we are going to ask
24 that you to come up to come where I'm standing right
25 now to share your comments and input.

1 Again, you do have five minutes. We will
2 let you know when your time has run out. So,
3 please, I promise I'm not trying to be rude if I
4 interrupt you. We do just want to be able to give
5 everyone a chance to speak who wants to speak.

6 Right now we have a total of five names,
7 so if someone wants to speak again after they talk,
8 or someone has not signed up, please signal me, and
9 I'll come and write you down and put you on the
10 list. Again, this structure is to help our
11 transcriptionist be able to record what is being
12 shared today.

13 So the first person that I'm going to
14 invite up to speak is Reverend Adrienne Coleman.

15 REVEREND COLEMAN: I just want to take a
16 chance to welcome you all here to First United
17 Methodist Church. We in the faith community around
18 our area and in New Mexico are very aware of the
19 trauma and the events that happen in the lives of
20 everyone whether they are Native, whether they are
21 Caucasian, whether they are Christian or of any kind
22 of faith, and an opportunity to come and share our
23 hearts, share our thoughts so that those who have
24 suffered trauma can begin to receive the healing
25 that they need and our communities can be

1 operational in working together to create an
2 environment of safety and an environment where
3 people feel honored and welcomed. I welcome you.

4 I'll ask to present a prayer as we gather
5 together this afternoon, as your faith orientation
6 allows you to. Would you join me.

7 (Prayer off the record.)

8 MS. WAULS: The next person I want to
9 invite up to speak is Etta. I don't want to
10 pronounce your last name wrong. I'll let you
11 introduce yourself. Etta, if you can come up.
12 Arviso.

13 MS. ARVISO: Hey. I'm from Eastern Navajo
14 (foreign language spoken), where our Dine story
15 originated. So we're way over by the Jicarilla
16 Apache Tribes, so thank you for coming out here, and
17 we'd like to also have you out in our area, in San
18 Juan County, New Mexico.

19 I do hear a lot about the meetings, and
20 sometimes it's far to just carpool together and also
21 (foreign language spoken). Indian affair department
22 secretary, cabinet secretary, and I want to be able
23 to -- the way you had -- I've heard of the state of
24 New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. I did have a
25 family member that went missing in St. George, Utah,

1 several years back, and he was a male. There was no
2 closure, no help from the Navajo Nation, to the
3 state, all over.

4 And when something like that happens
5 within our area -- now, we have to remember that
6 jurisdiction is always an issue, and I always say
7 jurisdiction is an excuse word, and also when people
8 use sovereignty, that's supposed to protect the
9 people, but somehow when you start looking into
10 things -- I'm a tribal member of the Navajo Nation,
11 and where -- the area I live, we have 31
12 communities, and I would like to suggest to you,
13 committee, that from each chapter or either
14 representation, we want to make sure that we get the
15 word and our words and our voices are heard, because
16 we live in the area where -- where Checkerboard is,
17 and there are different lands. And we don't get no
18 help from the Navajo Nation, and we can't even get
19 our president of the Navajo Nation to come even by
20 resolution. He's never come out on the issues which
21 is very important on health, policing, and again, I
22 will repeat it over and over until something is
23 done.

24 You can Google my name. I hand-carry
25 resolutions and even before the

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1 foreign-language-spoken committee, and I always say
2 I'm an oversight, because we're the people that
3 voted everybody in office, and under the interior,
4 they need to hear it, and they didn't really know
5 the unfinished business.

6 And where missing and murdered indigenous
7 women, and it should be men. All. And I've also
8 want to say that we do like to be able to have, you
9 know, representation from our communities and this
10 information to be sent to the chapters because we're
11 31 community, and northern agency is another big
12 community in New Mexico, and I want to be able to
13 have a representation from New Mexico, and that's
14 what I want to address, because there's a lot of
15 nonprofit groups that are really probably dishing
16 money out of their own pockets, and I'm one of them,
17 and I'm not on a nonprofit group, but I'm voicing
18 because I want changes for the sake of our younger
19 people, my grandkids and my children, the generation
20 to be, and we -- I have been asking to put somebody
21 in the -- in the subdivision in the area, and it's
22 just now barely happening.

23 But I don't know the agreement that was
24 made. It never came to our community, so how do we
25 know? And these are the very, very important facts,

1 how to work -- the only service we have is the
2 county, San Juan County, New Mexico, police
3 department, and the state of New Mexico State
4 Police, and they have to wait and wait and wait when
5 the police officers of the Navajo Nation has to come
6 and meet them. Hours.

7 And this is what you all need to know,
8 because in the rural area, sometimes in these
9 chapters, maybe you need to meet in those areas,
10 because we did have missing, and then later two
11 relatives were murdered, and that happened a few
12 years back, but I think all this really involves
13 also what we're trying to highlight that 110
14 chapters approve from the community, and not even
15 one leader had stepped forward to track that
16 legislation, to take it seriously and hear me out,
17 because I will keep talking.

18 I was a quiet person, and I'm a victim of
19 domestic violence myself. My abuser never went to
20 jail over 20 years ago, so that's the reason why
21 I'll do whatever I can to help fix this problem.
22 And the Checkerboard, good luck. Thank you.

23 MS. WAULS: Thank you so much. And I
24 appreciate your comments, and this is the type of
25 feedback and input we want to hear from you all, so

1 again if you haven't signed up to speak and --
2 because you don't know what to say, honestly say
3 what's on your heart that you feel like needs to be
4 addressed within this task force group.

5 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Ms. Arviso, thank you
6 so much for providing your comments, and I just
7 wanted you to know that I thank you for sharing what
8 you did, and I -- we definitely -- I want you to
9 know that I heard you and that we have had
10 discussions to have the task force or have other
11 meetings in different areas and to get into
12 different communities, so I really appreciate that.

13 And I wanted you to know that, that it's
14 important to us that we travel and go out into
15 different communities, and I appreciate and know
16 that at the chapter level there's involvement and
17 information that needs to get out, so I just
18 personally want to thank you for your words.

19 MS. WAULS: The next person I want to
20 invite up to speak is Christine Benally.

21 MS. CHRISTINE BENALLY: Good afternoon.
22 My name is Christine Benally, and I just wanted to
23 thank the committee for coming out to Gallup. And I
24 also, again, wanted to stress that we have one
25 representative from Navajo Nation, but we have, as

1 Etta said, many chapters, so I think we're really
2 underrepresented, and I wish that all these
3 different governments would stop playing your
4 sovereignty jurisdiction cards that gets in the way.
5 And how many jurisdictions do we have here?
6 Counties, cities, tribe, and the state, that's four.

7 I worked in D.C., and for any event, we
8 would probably work with at least 14 jurisdictions,
9 and we got things done. We weren't pointing
10 fingers. We got things done. I think that just
11 needs to be put aside.

12 And when a child is a victim, it falls
13 under the tribal and US DOJ jurisdiction, and if the
14 family wants some sort of protection or some sort of
15 restitution, they can't take it to the state, but
16 yet the stacks of cases pile up on the tribe's side.
17 They never do anything with it. By the time they
18 hear from the US DOJ, the statute of limitations has
19 run.

20 I've been trying to get somebody within
21 the council to introduce legislation to get rid of
22 the statute of limitations for the victims and for
23 families of victims to take their case to the state
24 or some other jurisdiction if the tribe can't do
25 anything about it. So it's really -- that's where

1 it starts. It's the children.

2 And these children grow up, and they may
3 drop out of school. They may end up on the streets.
4 They may end up running away. They may become
5 missing. So it really needs to be addressed when
6 they're kids. Instead of blaming the kids or
7 telling them that they're lying or where's the fault
8 with that, maybe it's the communication or lack of
9 communication abilities on the part of the parents
10 so that they need to at least talk to their kids to
11 teach their kids on -- the proper way instead of
12 whipping them.

13 And I know some tribal leaders will go
14 around saying that, saying we need to get back to
15 the old ways. This is how I was raised. I was
16 scolded. I was told to go running. I was whipped.
17 And is that what we want to go back to? To me, that
18 doesn't make sense. That's why we're in this
19 situation right now. We're in the public health
20 crisis. We're in a humanitarian situation where the
21 tribe gets money, and services don't get to the
22 people. We're not protected. Request for
23 restraining orders, and yet the perpetrator will
24 say, well, no, I'm the one being harassed. What did
25 the judge do? Put a restraining order against the

1 victim.

2 This is how tax dollars are being used,
3 that those are our tax dollars, and where -- where
4 is the protection? Where is the justice?

5 And when I talked to -- not state
6 legislators, US legislators, I told them, that's
7 where the change needs to happen. Those laws cover
8 all of us as well.

9 So I was just looking at your goals and
10 objectives. I see those as goals, but usually
11 objectives are measurable, so recommending or --
12 what are you really recommending? I think that it
13 needs to have more meat and measurable outcomes to
14 it.

15 The other thing, too, is -- the other
16 thing I think that really needs to be addressed is
17 interracial marriages, because I have victims that
18 will come up to me and say that, oh, yeah, I married
19 over to Isleta, I married over to Acoma, I married
20 over to Jicarilla, and the kids are being stolen off
21 Navajo Nation when there was a restraining order in
22 place, and nothing happens, and the kids are being
23 abused over there, abandoned, sexually assaulted.
24 Those kids need to be protected. There needs to be
25 something that happens as well. It's not just

1 between tribes. It's out of state as well.

2 The LGBTQ, a lot of them are disowned by
3 their family. They may physically know where
4 they're at. Maybe they're not welcome at home
5 anymore but they're in Albuquerque, but because of
6 the families not accepting them anymore, they're
7 missing. So those certain things need to be
8 addressed as well and as well as -- as Etta had
9 mentioned. Thank you.

10 MS. WAULS: Thank you so much, Christine.
11 A lot of what you spoke to were some of the things
12 that we were trying to address, especially in terms
13 of the objectives, the task force is really trying
14 to refine what these objectives mean, what are the
15 outcomes and how they're going to look in the final
16 report that we're drafting.

17 This definitely gives great input that the
18 task force can take into consideration, and I think
19 you're also right in terms of the system changes
20 that need to be happening in order to really talk
21 about how do we end and prevent the violence that
22 our communities are experiencing.

23 So there's a lot -- there's a lot that the
24 task force has to cover, or this issue covers a lot
25 of areas, and the task force is really trying to

1 think through the best strategy in the short amount
2 of time that we have that's impactful and help move
3 all key players forward in trying to address this
4 issue.

5 The next person I want to invite to come
6 speak is Shynaia.

7 MS. SHYNAIA BENALLY: My name is Shynaia
8 Benally. This is my partner Kaitlyn Johnson and
9 Jocelyn Martinez, and we are seniors at Volcano
10 Vista High School in Albuquerque. We are part of an
11 organization called DECA, which is a business and
12 finance competitive group. We do compete. This
13 year we're competing in the community awareness
14 category, and the basis of our project is missing
15 and murdered indigenous women. Kate and I, being a
16 part of Native American tribes, we are very
17 passionate about this issue, and we do think that
18 this should be brought to attention, because there's
19 a lot of women that do not get justice, and that
20 change needs to happen now.

21 And we want to be the youth part of the
22 task force, so, like, the suggestions that we have
23 is get the youth involved and the students, Native
24 American students involved, because we do care too,
25 and we -- we'll do anything that needs to help for

1 the change.

2 At our school, we started a Native
3 American Student Union, the very first Native
4 American Student Union at Volcano Vista, because we
5 are an unrepresented group, we noticed as students
6 and as a community.

7 On the 17th of January we are going to
8 have a missing and murdered indigenous women day
9 where our Native American students will be able to
10 wear the red face paint and red hand paint across
11 their mouth that represent the stolen sisters and
12 those who need to be remembered. The rest of our
13 students can wear red.

14 We'd like to invite you guys to come to
15 our school if you want to join us and participate
16 with us. We ask if you have any connections with
17 the media, not only do we want our students to be
18 more aware of the issue, we want Albuquerque as a
19 whole to be more aware of this issue. If you have
20 any connections with the media, please let us know.

21 And we want to thank the task force for
22 starting this, because it was very important, and we
23 appreciate it, being young Native American women, so
24 if you guys would like to become a part of our
25 project, if we can get you the contact information

1 after the meeting or during the meeting, let us
2 know. We're open to any ideas and help with our
3 project.

4 There's a lot of statistics that we don't
5 know and reports that have been given out that we
6 are unaware of. Thank you for having us. Thank you
7 for all the information you shared with us last
8 meeting and you will share with us this meeting.

9 MS. WAULS: Shynaia, thank you for
10 correcting me. I appreciate your comments, and I
11 can appreciate the courage that you, as a young
12 person, has to really stand up and vocalize this
13 issue that our communities are facing.

14 To you and your partners, I support you,
15 and I'm sure the task force definitely is behind the
16 efforts you guys are creating. We'll try to follow
17 up with you to find out how we can support you the
18 best way possible.

19 That's all of the speakers we have on the
20 list so far. I'm going to give some folks some time
21 to consider coming up. We have some volunteers.

22 MS. WAULS: What's your name again?

23 MS. FOSTER: Matty.

24 MS. WAULS: Matty, come on up, then. And
25 I want to remind folks, too, again, we have a

1 private room if you need to step away and listen to
2 yourselves, and then water is available as well.

3 MS. FOSTER: Thank you. My name is Matty
4 Foster, and my clan is (foreign language spoken). I
5 retired from -- since it's being recorded, I just
6 wanted to not mention the school, but I'm retired
7 working at BIA -- BIE and BIA school for 48 years
8 and eight months, and now I do volunteer work with
9 my husband.

10 And then working with the students for
11 that long, I have a lot of -- I encounter a lot of
12 what has happened at the school like there was a
13 girl, and she was missing years back, and an
14 Hispanic male came on the campus and snatch her and
15 took her, and we don't know how long she was gone,
16 and she was gone for a long time, and then they just
17 found her remains somewhere on the reservation.

18 So missing woman, murdered women has been
19 going on for a long, long time. Somehow, you know,
20 it was somebody just now thought of it.

21 You know, and then there was another
22 student, gay, that, you know, he was working the
23 truck stop, and then he was from south of Gallup,
24 and they just found his remains in California. So
25 those are some of the -- some of the things that

1 happen that -- with the student.

2 And then also, you know, I have grandkids
3 that this summer where we live, west of Gallup, they
4 came running in, and they said, there's a white van
5 chasing us. So what white van? So I ran out, and I
6 called 911 right away, and nobody came. So I don't
7 know what happened to that white van, so it was
8 driving around west of Gallup.

9 Those are, like -- then I notice that when
10 I was sitting in my vehicle in Walmart, and there
11 was a young girl, she had all her backpack, and
12 there was a guy in that van, and she just got in,
13 then I thought, I wonder where she's going, but, you
14 know, she just left.

15 So those are -- like somebody was
16 mentioning that, you know, the young girls, we have
17 to be really careful with them, keep an eye on them,
18 our grandkids or whatever. It doesn't have to be
19 your grandchildren that make sure and make the right
20 decision.

21 And even at the school, at Gallup High,
22 too, you know, I have a granddaughter that's over
23 there, and she's only 14 years old, and I went to
24 the counselor, and I told the counselor that my
25 daughter -- my granddaughter's only 14, why is this

1 person, he's about 18 years old, seeing her, trying
2 to go with my granddaughter, and he just laughed it
3 off, you know, and he told the principal.

4 And every time when I go over there, and
5 they're together again, I talk to that person. I
6 told him that my granddaughter's only about 14, and,
7 I know you're about 18, and things like that.

8 You know, I'm a grandma, and I'm a mom,
9 and I'm an auntie, so those are the things that we
10 have to really be careful about, so I'm happy that
11 the task force was formed by Michelle and our first
12 lady. She was involved. We need to go out to the
13 chapter houses and explain, maybe put up a form and
14 explain to the elderlies and the moms and the
15 aunties out there in the native language and tell
16 them we have to really be careful out there on the
17 reservation, especially in town, in Gallup area, and
18 look out for all our young girls -- well, the boys,
19 too, so I just wanted to share that at this time.
20 Thank you.

21 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: Thank you.

22 MS. WAULS: Thank you, Matty. So I'm
23 going to invite the next speaker up. State your
24 name so we can record that.

25 MR. FOSTER: Good afternoon. Yatahey.

1 (Foreign language spoken.) I want to thank the
2 secretary to come over here to western New Mexico,
3 but all of you, welcome to the treaty of 1868 Navajo
4 land. This is our land, and people that colonize
5 us, they're here, and we know that. (Foreign
6 language spoken.)

7 I want to recognize our leader over there.
8 Stand up. Our -- she's my councilwoman from Sheep
9 Springs, New Mexico. That's right up the road.
10 (Foreign language spoken.)

11 I'm from the Naadaa Corn People Clan, and
12 that's where I'm going to speak from. (Foreign
13 language spoken.)

14 There's a number of things that you're
15 doing, you're talking about, with your mind and your
16 thinking. I want to -- since we're in the church of
17 God here, I want to mention something here, and this
18 is written in Genesis 6 and Isaiah 34. It says
19 violence is a daily reality in our broken society.
20 People steal, they rob, they murder each other.

21 Then the other part says our government
22 society is corrupt and filled with hate and
23 violence. I think that's border towns, that's
24 around the reservations are like that. Gallup is
25 like that.

1 Liquor is an outlet of that violence, and
2 like some of the testimonies, the police has lost --
3 we heard a discussion the other day from one of the
4 grandmothers. She goes to City of Gallup
5 detectives, and they tell her, why are you here? We
6 heard enough from you. Now go about your business.

7 That's written from that Isaiah. That's
8 what it says. So that's (foreign language spoken.)

9 My recommendation here, I had a number of
10 them. Right now we have -- we have 13 cases that I
11 know of that are -- are missing and murdered,
12 possibly murder, so 13 cases from Gallup. Now, how
13 much investigations have sheriffs done, the police
14 department? Now our -- our honorable leader has
15 stepped up and developed the missing and murdered
16 Dine'e relatives. So you got a task force over
17 here, and there's one over here, and I don't know
18 why, you know, that doesn't come together, but I
19 come from the grassroots. I'm an activist from the
20 local, so I don't have to answer to no government,
21 because we don't get government money.

22 We're out there. So we -- we march, we
23 protest. People just drive by. You know, we see
24 the government police drive by. You know, we see
25 that. So that shows as an indication of that --

1 there's Proverbs from that scripture I read.

2 Background. McKinley County
3 Commissioners, where are they? City mayor? I don't
4 know if you invited those folks, but we're in
5 western New Mexico, and you are selected by the
6 governor, so I think those people need to be
7 involved over here.

8 Public safety and criminal justice, I
9 don't know if anybody's -- district attorney's here.

10 We're talking about a task force, so
11 that's why I'm bringing this up, and this is
12 serious, people. Very serious. Some of us -- this
13 has been happening since our people were
14 incarcerated in Ft. Sumner. The calvary used to
15 steal the Navajo women. On the trail they murdered
16 the kids, they murdered the Navajo women. So this
17 is 100 years. So it took 100 years for you to come
18 here. Welcome.

19 Like I said, the treaty of -- what it says
20 in the treaty, this land (foreign language spoken.)

21 Some of the activists are journalists and
22 activists themselves. They're the ones that's
23 bringing this to the forefront. I want to thank the
24 journalists that do that, taking the pictures, see
25 what it says up there, and I think that's important

1 to work with.

2 With that, the other recommendation I want
3 to say -- present here is we need to get data from
4 the criminal justice system and then the FBIs,
5 sheriffs department. Let's see how much assault on
6 people are in there. You can start with that. A
7 lot of times they won't reveal that. You'll see a
8 city violence report every now and again in Gallup
9 Independent. It has people's names, their age,
10 their community, their offense, what they were cited
11 with, it's written in there. There's more than that
12 than just what the newspapers and journalists are
13 saying.

14 So cooperation is very -- very important,
15 I think, like some of the people are saying that
16 going out of their chapter (foreign language
17 spoken.) So I want to say that. I want to close up
18 with (foreign language spoken.) The protection way
19 of man, that's a blessing to what the holy people
20 brought. The man's role is protection, protect the
21 society, to protect the structure, and then the
22 women, the blessed way. Their role is to care and
23 love the family people, the member. (Foreign
24 language spoken.) That comes from my teaching of my
25 elders.

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1 So where they originated from -- where did
2 this clan group originate? They originated from
3 (foreign language spoken.) So that that's where it
4 came from. My people, and they are -- roam the
5 Chuska, the band of Navajos, and the leader there,
6 Narbona. I'm sure you heard of Narbona from the
7 1800s. I'm descended from that.

8 Those are my recommendations. Thank you.
9 My name is Larry Foster.

10 MS. WAULS: I appreciate those
11 recommendations. Thank you, Larry. That gives the
12 task force things to consider. Some of those we've
13 already been discussing. It's good to see that
14 there's agreement between what the task force is
15 looking at and what the community is saying we need
16 to be looking at.

17 I want to go ahead -- those that would
18 like those to come and speak; otherwise, I would
19 like to speak to the recommendation around
20 supporting other efforts and also looking at the
21 missing and murdered indigenous women's crisis along
22 with the task force. We are fostering our
23 relationship. You mentioned the Dine'e. We have
24 spoken at the forums. We attended the forums and we
25 were invited to collaborate with this so we can

1 address this issue collectively.

2 And some of them were happy that we're
3 continuing with our partnership with them, so we
4 hear you, and we are definitely taking heed to what
5 you're saying.

6 Any other comments? Prudence Jones.

7 MS. JONES: I'm Prudence Jones, and I'm
8 hearing a lot of stories about the missing, but my
9 daughter was missing, and one of the stories I
10 haven't heard is what happens when you come home.
11 I'm sorry.

12 My daughter came home -- my daughter came
13 home, and we didn't bury her. That's all you pray
14 for. You're not ready for how they were when they
15 come home. The one thing I found since she's been
16 home, there's no support. It was a struggle to find
17 her, and what we went through to bring her home, it
18 never came up. You never hear anything about what
19 happens after.

20 As a family, we're doing the best we can
21 to heal, but I don't hear any programs about where
22 to get help. I know they're still being developed,
23 because when my daughter was missing, I didn't even
24 know what MMIWGD was. I didn't hear about it until
25 I was in Washington, and I heard about it from

1 Washington State members. That was the first time.
2 So we were there. We stood on stage and called my
3 daughter's name and not knowing within the same year
4 she would be home. It's like a miracle to have her
5 home. But afterwards, what happens? How do you
6 heal? How do you bring your family together?
7 That's a hard question. I don't know if there's any
8 right way.

9 The only thing I can do for my family is
10 use my heart to show how to do it right and to love
11 them. If there's ways, there's programs out there
12 to help families heal after, I think it would be
13 wise to invest in that. You have to have hope that
14 these ones that are missing come home, and when they
15 do, then what? You're going to need help then too.
16 Just like when you're missing, you need support.
17 They're developing now programs that provide support
18 for the mothers, the families. We went through that
19 before the programs were there. We don't have
20 support. I don't have family. I just have my
21 daughters.

22 But when I went through that, and my
23 daughter came home, there's more. It's still a long
24 road. And that's one aspect I want to ask about is
25 after. That's where we're at, and I haven't found

1 any other families in the same position, because
2 theirs are still missing, and my heart breaks for
3 them. As grateful as we are, it's still a long,
4 hard road, and every day is a challenge. I'm still
5 recovering from a challenge I went through yesterday
6 with her, and then just this morning, but I'm here
7 to find more answers so one day she can get answers
8 for herself too. Thank you.

9 MS. WAULS: Thank you, Prudence. We
10 appreciate your honesty and you opening your heart
11 to us here today. If everyone could carry Prudence
12 with us and pray for her and her family.

13 This is a serious issue, and there are
14 gaps in many areas that the task force is trying to
15 uncover, investigate, and there's a law enforcement
16 side, and there's also the healing and support side
17 that we also need to be addressing. What we've
18 heard at our first meeting and even today is that
19 families need to heal, and there's no sense of
20 direction of where to go to start that healing
21 process.

22 All right. We have our next speaker.

23 MR. TSOSIE: Good afternoon. My name is
24 John Tsosie. I'm a founder of an organization of
25 Walking the Healing Path. First, I just want to

1 thank you guys for coming out to Gallup.

2 I guess one of the things when we're
3 talking about healing, just a brief history of what
4 my father and I do, we do awareness walks throughout
5 the Southwest. We walked to Santa Fe, Phoenix,
6 Denver, Colorado, to raise awareness of these
7 issues.

8 And when we talk about missing and
9 murdered indigenous women, I didn't learn about this
10 issue until 2015. I was it a film festival in
11 Los Angeles. I watched a film called Highway of
12 Tears, which is filmed in Canada, and I learned a
13 lot just in that film, and when we talk about
14 mission, murdered indigenous women and girls, we to
15 talk about domestic violence, we have to talk about
16 sexual assault. That was the core issue. That is
17 the root, and so for me, my focus has always been
18 domestic violence. That's what my father and I --
19 that's our whole mission, is to end violence against
20 women and children.

21 So it wasn't until years later, 2018, last
22 year, where we dedicated our walk to a young girl,
23 and all of you know Ashlynn Mike. Her father walked
24 with us from Window Rock to Shiprock, and I'm going
25 to say right now it was the most emotional journey

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1 I've ever been on. It was also one that brought a
2 tremendous amount of healing.

3 And, you know, from the lady in back, her
4 daughter, I'm sorry for what she went through. I'm
5 sorry for what you're enduring now. And I can't say
6 enough about that.

7 You know, this issue has been going on,
8 like Mr. Foster said, for years, decades. You know,
9 our relatives in South Dakota, North Dakota,
10 Montana, they've endured this issue during what they
11 call the hunting season. You know, our young women
12 and our babies are literally being targeted.
13 They're being targeted, and that's what we have to
14 get to. We have to talk about prevention. We have
15 to talk about awareness. What are we doing to
16 prevent this from happening further?

17 So for me and my father, now our goal is
18 getting out to the schools. We have been going to
19 schools, but now the emphasis is on this topic,
20 educate our young girls about sexual assault, about
21 domestic violence so they are aware of the issue,
22 and that is the most important thing we can do right
23 now is educate our youth, our kids.

24 And so for me and my dad, we're just two
25 guys, two men wanting to make a difference, wanting

1 to make change, so I applaud what you guys are
2 doing. I -- Amber Crowley, Misty, I applaud what
3 they do, and we just need to all work together. We
4 need to collaborate more.

5 Like I said, my dad and I have been in
6 this movement for 16 years now. In these 16 years,
7 it's just barely last year and this year that this
8 issue has become forefront, so we're thankful for
9 that. We appreciate that. So now we really need to
10 hit the ground running. We really need to go to our
11 schools.

12 Now, I'm getting ready to -- for a big
13 push in 2020. We're kicking off 2020 with a school
14 tour and an assembly tour. These young ladies, I'd
15 like to invite you to our conference in April where
16 we will be tackling this issue. It's a youth
17 conference. These are things we're doing. I'd like
18 you to be involved in that as well. We are all
19 about healing, and -- but we also are really a lot
20 about trying to prevent it from happening further.

21 With that, I just thank you guys. Thank
22 you for your efforts. Everybody who's spoken before
23 me, thank you so much for sharing your stories.
24 Again, I can't emphasize enough that we need to work
25 together. Thank you. Appreciate it.

1 MS. WAULS: Thank you. I didn't catch
2 your name in the beginning.

3 MR. TSOSIE: John Tsosie.

4 MS. WAULS: Thank you, John. Thank you
5 for your comments. A lot of the discussion we had
6 today, earlier in the task force, is about
7 collaboration. I think that's the first step in
8 really trying to address some of these key issues,
9 and this crisis is the collaboration that's not
10 happening that's allowing for the gaps that exist
11 and the barriers to be there.

12 We're almost coming to a close. I do want
13 to -- so we'll have council delegate to speak, and
14 we'll give Cheyenne an opportunity to speak as well.

15 MS. CROTTY: Yatahey. (Foreign language
16 spoken.) Amber Crotty. I come from Sheep Springs.
17 I'm on the Navajo Nation Council representing seven
18 communities, and six of those are in the New Mexico
19 portion of the map, but we still claim our
20 territory.

21 What I want to say is I appreciate all of
22 the comments, and especially from the families. I
23 think it's their stories and their willingness to be
24 vulnerable and to have a conversation, really, with
25 a group of strangers is commendable, and so we

1 always want them to know that those stories we hold
2 in reference and for the future healing, and that's
3 actually something that I wanted to bring up as we
4 wrap down, some areas that I looked at in terms of
5 the task force and the work that we've done with the
6 missing and murdered Dine'e relatives has been
7 spearheaded by the families and volunteers, and I
8 first want to acknowledge those stories, how we got
9 to this place.

10 Please keep that in mind that although in
11 a public setting and under the constraints of state
12 laws to find a space where you can create that
13 environment for them to share their experience and
14 their tears and have opportunity, then, to heal from
15 this exchange of knowledge.

16 So when I'm looking at the task force, and
17 it appears you all have experience in this, my hope
18 is then as you come together and convene that you're
19 creating that atmosphere for them, and sometimes
20 that's as far as going beyond your role as a task
21 force member and maybe talking to families, going to
22 their communities and to their homes and then
23 seeing -- either relay this information or encourage
24 them to speak, and it may not be in a public
25 setting, but how we can collect that stories and

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1 knowledge in a way where we can find valuable
2 information, and then we're on the right path.

3 I want to see for your scope of the final
4 report, for number two, I know that you mention
5 collaborate with tribal law enforcement. This
6 spreads out beyond just tribal law enforcement. I'm
7 looking at this report. And so we work with our --
8 with our local law enforcement, tribal law
9 enforcement, to the other pueblos, and so I think
10 that needs to be addressed.

11 All New Mexico law enforcement, all -- any
12 law enforcement that steps down and interacts,
13 whether that's FBI or other federal agencies,
14 because of the numbers that we're seeing out of
15 Albuquerque, the numbers that we have not heard from
16 those relatives, and also in terms of working with
17 tribal government, please add BIE community schools.

18 And so my brother, Mr. Tsosie, talked
19 about prevention, and a lot of the work that we're
20 doing is having conversations, so I appreciate the
21 young leadership being in the room today and trying
22 to really wrap their brain around what's happening,
23 and so as my uncle mentioned, this is not a new
24 phenomenon. This does not have a starting point.
25 This has been a collective history and experience of

1 most, if not all, Navajo families, and as we begin
2 to talk about this, and as we begin to remember,
3 those are the most painful memories to know how
4 grandma came back through the river or we had to go
5 up to Santa Fe to get her, as she was captured, and
6 then now what does that look in our community.

7 So there's a lot of conversation that
8 needs to talk. We need to talk about
9 intergenerational trauma, historical trauma, lateral
10 violence, and how we normalize violence in our
11 community. How did this happen? This happened
12 because we normalized violence. This happened
13 because when someone was plucked from us, it was
14 somehow normalized. When the families, maybe in
15 their desperation, called for help, that call for
16 help was ignored, or nobody was held accountable.

17 I would also like to see from the task
18 force, as you gather data, what are the real numbers
19 from the city of Farmington, from the counties, how
20 many have been reported, and who's analyzing what
21 happened to them and -- because families remember.
22 The families know that that loved one is not there
23 in their home, and they don't know what happened to
24 them.

25 And so as we move on to some of the

1 federal executive orders, since New Mexico was
2 identified as an area that would get additional
3 funding to look at this issue, what is going to be
4 the federal response, because for Navajo Nation in
5 particular, it's working with the New Mexico
6 department of attorney general, working with Arizona
7 department of attorney general, working with Utah,
8 and lo and behold, they all have different metrics
9 of how they collect their data, how they present
10 their data, and most importantly who is accountable.

11 And so I think those are major issues that
12 we wanted to bring up. I think something that
13 happens came at the tail end. Ms. Arviso is the
14 impact of natural resource extraction in our
15 communities. I know a lot of times we could rally
16 around the environment, the impact to the land, the
17 water, and also the impact to the people. That's
18 why my little sister is awesome, coming from that
19 area, speaking truth, because these corporations,
20 although they challenge, and they're saying where is
21 the police reports, where is the data, well, if
22 nobody's collecting that, nobody's following up,
23 there's nothing in writing that we could give them.
24 We can give them the story of the family.

25 I want to pass the mic to her. Again, for

1 all my relatives here, there are efforts on Navajo
2 Nation working with the missing and murdered Dine'e
3 relatives or working with the work of Christine
4 Benally and Ms. Arviso with victims rights, rights
5 to the system. We're working with prevention work
6 and this awareness, because now as we talk to
7 people, they're now telling us stories of their
8 cousin, and that was at the last forum that we
9 hosted here in Gallup. We had some of the men folk
10 said, I've had a cousin missing 30, 40 years, and
11 there's no record of him.

12 What we need and demand is that data, that
13 accountability, because our communities are now --
14 while we talk about our communities are now in a
15 state of terror, literally, and so when Dr. Benally
16 talks about a public health crisis, that now our
17 children are facing knowing not only what they can
18 see and feel, but sometimes our community members
19 are worried now is someone going to take me, what's
20 going to happen, or track me so I know, and so what
21 is that doing to our community that they feel that
22 the authorities are not taking an initiative and
23 really not discounting their experience.

24 So if you're over the age of 18, it's not
25 just that you don't want to be found, it's not that

1 you're a lovestruck spouse that wants to be with a
2 lover, most times out of not, it's some type of
3 violence has been perpetuated, and that individual's
4 gone out of their will.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you,
6 sister. (Foreign language spoken.) What my auntie
7 earlier said, I come from the Checkerboard region of
8 the Navajo Nation, and it's crazy that there's 31
9 different communities within the area.

10 But how I got into this work, it seemed
11 like we're all just growing up with this kind of
12 violence, right? Like, it's normalized. So in 2014
13 my grandma and my auntie, who was only about 13
14 years old, were brutally murdered in Ojo Encino, and
15 if you don't know where that is, it's between
16 federal land, state lands, tribal lands, and private
17 lands. So the response took forever, and the
18 perpetrator was a family member, and I would like to
19 make that as a fact, that oftentimes when these
20 violent crimes happen, we know exactly who did it,
21 and we know they live in our communities. We know
22 they prey on our kids, and we know them, and they're
23 still out there, and I would just like to bring that
24 to surface, because we lost a 13-year-old, and it
25 was right before her 8th grade promotion, and so

1 with that, it broke apart -- it broke my family
2 apart. We no longer really come together. There's
3 really no grieving process, because we're told we
4 only grieve for four days. And if someone so close
5 to you is taken so brutally, four days isn't enough.

6 But I also like to mention, like -- so I'm
7 also the sex trafficking project coordinator for the
8 coalition, and I'd like to also just recognize that
9 the young people that are here, but also how young
10 people are also a target, whether it's through
11 dating, family members who molest children and
12 target children, the most vulnerable. That's all
13 out there still. The violence against all of us
14 really is so -- it's so normalized, and I just hope
15 that in these collaborative efforts with the
16 agencies, like it's the whole system, and when we
17 try to find justice for my grandma and my auntie, we
18 had to go to Santa Fe, we had to go to Gallup, we
19 had to go to Crownpoint, we had to go all these
20 certain places, death certificates, all these
21 different things. And, like, I didn't -- I was
22 only, like, what, 20 years old, trying to figure
23 this all out and advocate for my family.

24 Advocating for your family in these court
25 systems, how are we supposed to navigate the court

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1 systems when it's like, what about this and this.
2 We didn't have a victim advocate. Now that I know
3 what a victim advocate is and how important they
4 are, it's a privilege to have a victim advocate.
5 It's a privilege to have a policeman respond in less
6 than an hour. If you have those privileges, use
7 them. We're all mandated reporters, if a child
8 comes to you about sexual assault, please report it.
9 If it's a family member, please report it. You're
10 probably doing the best thing for that child.

11 So I just want to echo what was said here
12 and how normalized this is and how much we see it
13 from the Checkerboard region to metro areas like
14 Albuquerque, like the International District on the
15 streets of Albuquerque. They're filled with our
16 native people, our native people that can still
17 speak the language that have all these teachings,
18 and they're forgotten, oftentimes.

19 These services -- I feel like these
20 services and patterns already exist because DV,
21 domestic violence, and sexual assault is so
22 prevalent. Now we're losing mothers and children
23 and men in all this. It's difficult to decide where
24 to put it, like the stick. I just want to mention
25 all of it. It's hard working in this field. I'm

1 grateful to everyone here at this table in
2 organizing this.

3 I'm speaking as a community member also,
4 not as an employee, as a community member and a
5 member of the Navajo Nation. This hits very close
6 to home.

7 MS. CROTTY: And so we'll wrap up. So the
8 late Senator John Pinto really helped with this
9 initiative. I just want to say for the task force,
10 though you're probably being as candid, it's -- I
11 would say my first reaction was a little insensitive
12 when you said that task force members are busy. I
13 had to take a breath, and I had to say, all of us
14 are busy, but as a task force, again, that
15 compassionate note -- I don't know how you were
16 selected to the committee. I know the families and
17 the community were not involved with that process,
18 but there's a handful of us who made the time,
19 dedicate the time, and so keep that in mind as
20 you're in your official capacity, and if I could
21 lobby you to actually take that off and to maybe
22 make the commitment. Since you have such a precious
23 time, how are you going to prioritize this task
24 force, and how can we work together, that we know
25 it's a limited time, but we'll be meeting with the

1 families next Friday and develop what we need to ask
2 from New Mexico, because a year is not enough.

3 And this problem has its roots in
4 colonialism, and some of us, including me, are not
5 quite convinced that the tools of colonialism will
6 fix this but how much more autonomy can we give to
7 our tribal nations. Thank you.

8 MS. WAULS: Thank you so much,
9 Councilwoman. Thank you Cheyenne. This really
10 helps to inform how we move forward as a task force.
11 What you share is taken into account and
12 consideration.

13 I want to make sure that I encourage
14 everyone to really take care of themselves mentally,
15 because this is very heavy conversations that we are
16 having, and this is real, and we go home and have to
17 face it every day. First step in trying to do that
18 is I want to invite Reverend Adrienne up to give a
19 closing prayer so that we can leave here in a good
20 mind, good spirit, and then we'll have secretary
21 close out and wrap up the meeting.

22 REVEREND COLEMAN: Let's take a moment to
23 center ourselves in this time that we celebrate joy
24 and laughter and Christmas lights or festival
25 lights. So many of our families are dealing with

1 tragedy and trauma. Our sister passed around her
2 picture of her baby who is missing. So often we
3 forget in this joyous time that it's tough, and so
4 many of our families, so many of our community
5 members are suffering.

6 So let's take a moment of quietness, and
7 let's honor our stories, the stories that have been
8 shared, the stories that you carried in your hearts
9 of hurt and pain. Those of us who are victims and
10 survivors of a sexual assault and violence, that
11 stays with us forever regardless of gender,
12 regardless of orientation. It is a fact of life,
13 and I feel very strongly that you all are called
14 together as a task force, and you all are called
15 together -- we are called together as a community to
16 begin to address the need in a very stable and a
17 very internal way, not to develop boundaries of the
18 various organizations but to come together and to
19 work together so that all of our families, our
20 relations, can benefit. A lot of work needs to be
21 done.

22 Thank you, task force. Thank you,
23 visitors. And let's thank you our creator to whom
24 we give praise for life, to whom we give praise for
25 opportunities and possibilities to move this

1 conversation forward to answers, to resolutions, to
2 recover of those who are missing and remembrance of
3 those who have passed. As your creation, unite us
4 together, many voices into one. Amen.

5 MS. WAULS: Thank you, Reverend. I also
6 want to thank Strength of Nations and Patricia,
7 who's in the private room over here, ready to care
8 and support those of you today. She stepped up when
9 we had the missing and murdered Dine'e relatives of
10 forum number three and said, hey, we will support
11 you all in Gallup. We appreciate you, sister,
12 Strength of Nations. They asked her here.

13 Secretary, if you want to have some
14 closing remarks, we'll end there.

15 SECRETARY TRUJILLO: I want to close by
16 thanking everybody and everyone sharing their
17 stories and testimony, and also I just want to thank
18 you for sharing your words in helping guide us.
19 We're trying to do the best that we can, and so I'm
20 thankful to learn from you, and I just want you to
21 know that at least for the task force we
22 wholeheartedly take everything you have to say, and
23 I'm grateful to -- for your -- for your guidelines.

24 A lot of times, you know, when we're
25 trying to do our best with the noise, take the right

1 step, but it's a matter of what we do in terms of
2 being open to that.

3 I want to thank you and thank everybody
4 for coming here today and sharing with us. I want
5 to share with everybody safe travels home, and thank
6 you.

7 MS. WAULS: That concludes the second task
8 force meeting. Thank you all for coming. If you
9 want to get updates, come and sign the sign-up sheet
10 so we have your email address and we're able to
11 provide that to you all.

12 (Proceedings concluded at 3:04 p.m.)

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12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by
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