



Kwey Relatives...

October Was Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The 5 Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Month by organizing several activities throughout each community. One of the annual events was the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Due to Covid-19 and the need to protect the safety of community members, each center decided to hold its annual event virtually. On October 1, 2020, each Center went Live on Facebook as staff members welcomed attendees virtually. This event was an opportunity to reflect on the history of DVAM and its purpose to mourn those we have lost to domestic violence, recognize and honor survivors, promote education and awareness of the issue of domestic violence, and pledge to end domestic violence in our communities.

For most of the Centers' staff members, it was their first time "going live" on Facebook to share

their events. Along with each Center's staff members providing welcoming messages of hope and healing, each Center included a drummer from each community to sing an Honor Song. Prayers and smudging were also included (whether on camera or prior to the event being broadcasted). We thank each of the 5 Wabanaki Advocacy Centers, their participants, attendees, and Tribal Leaders for standing in solidarity to end violence in our communities. To view a recording of the Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremonies, please visit each Center's Facebook page for the recording.

Maliset Advocacy Center's DVAM Event

(Left to Right):
Tawoma Martinez,
Allison Sabattis,
Tanya Raymond,
Chief Clarissa
Sabattis



Domestic Violence Awareness Events

Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center Participates in the Maliseet Tribe's Annual Recognition Day Celebration

On October 10, 2020, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians held its annual Recognition Day Celebration by practicing physical distancing guidelines and other safety precautions. Live events were streamed on Facebook to encourage participation and provide a platform for virtual events. The Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center participated in their Health Fair by distributing t-shirts, information and resources, as well as care packages consisting of PPE supplies.



Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center Holds its 8th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk

Due to Covid-19, the Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center's annual event looked a little different this year. Instead of having a community walk and dinner, the Advocates organized a Drive Thru event where they provided free t-shirts, educational materials and a family take-home, cook at home meal.



Serving Our Partners



Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-532-3000
24 Hour Hotline:
207-532-6401



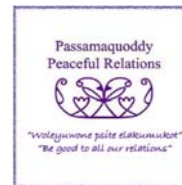
Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-796-6106
24 Hour Hotline:
207-214-1917



Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-817-7446
24 Hour Hotline:
207-631-4886



Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-853-0092/0093
24 Hour Toll Free Hotline:
1-877-853-2613



Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-760-0570
24 Hour Hotline:
207-551-3639

Domestic Violence Awareness Events

Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center Collaborates with the Penobscot Nation Child Support Enforcement Agency to Raise Awareness

The Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center and PNCSEA staff offered giveaways to their 58 participants of this event. The programs were able to raise awareness about their services, provide educational and promotional materials, as well as a few treats.

In September, the Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center also participated and installed the “Clothesline Project” at the community boat landing. Participants were given art supplies to decorate pieces of clothing with messages of hope and awareness regarding the issue of domestic violence.



Indian Township Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center Holds Drive-Thru Event

On October 19, 2020, the Indian Township Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center held its DVAM Awareness Event. Staff members provided an educational table and distributed purple electric candlesticks to participants to put in their windows in support of survivors of domestic violence, remember those we have lost to domestic violence and to unite in the mission to end domestic violence in the community.



Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Advocacy Center's “Purple Light in the Window” Project

Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Advocacy Center observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month with its annual "Purple Light In The Window" project. Throughout the nights of October 1st through the 31st you may see a purple lit candle in the windows of some of our homes and public buildings at Pleasant Point. This light symbolizes that we have made a personal commitment to fostering respectful relationships, that we have created a united stance that domestic violence is not acceptable in our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces, and that we hope that together we are "Lighting the Way to Peace in Our Hearts, Our Homes, and the World."

WWC and Wabanaki Advocacy Center Group Photos



Annual OVW Government to Government Tribal Consultation

The Annual OVW Government to Government Tribal Consultation was held October 27-30, 2020. Due to Covid-19, the event was held virtually and attended by WWC staff members. Jane Root, Executive Director, was authorized by all five (5) Wabanaki Chiefs to provide written and oral testimony on behalf of the Tribes. Below is a portion of the testimony.

Testimony of the Wabanaki Tribes of Maine

Jane Root, Executive Director

Wabanaki Women's Coalition, Tribal Designee

TESTIMONY OF THE WABANAKI TRIBES OF MAINE

Aroostook Band of Micmac - Edward Peter Paul, Tribal Chief

Houlton Band of Maliseet – Clarissa Sabattis, Tribal Chief

Passamaquoddy at Indian Township – William J. Nicholas, Sr, Tribal Chief

Passamaquoddy at Pleasant Point – Marla Dana, Tribal Chief

Penobscot Indian Nation – Kirk Francis, Tribal Chief

Good Day, OVW Acting Deputy Director Laura L. Rogers, Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs Sherriann Moore, Distinguished Tribal Leaders and representatives from across Indian Country and Alaska, Distinguished Federal Partners, my Coalition sisters and brothers. I am Jane Root, Executive Director of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition the Tribal Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition in Maine. I come before you today as the Designee for the five Wabanaki Tribal Governments.

Reauthorization of VAWA

We once again come before this body of Distinguished Tribal Leaders and Federal Officials asking that it remain a priority to address the issue of the Maine and Alaskan Tribes not being included in the VAWA 2013 Tribal Provisions.

As we continue to work toward the next reauthorization of VAWA, we ask for the continued support of our Tribal brothers and sisters as well as our non-native allies whose support to date has help to get the inclusion of the Tribes in Maine and Alaska specifically named in the House passed version of the VAWA reauthorization. We must not think the fight for inclusion is over however as the battle to get inclusion in the Senate version is still very much on. It is notable that Maine Governor Janet Mills has submitted a letter of support for the specific language in the reauthorization of VAWA to include the Maine Tribes.

As stated before we need language in the reauthorization of VAWA to specifically state, **'The Tribal provisions of the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, all previous Tribal provisions and all subsequent Tribal provisions shall apply within the State of Maine and Alaska.'**

Testimony of the Tribes of Maine Continued

Expansion of VAWA 904 Jurisdiction

The House version of the reauthorization of VAWA also includes expansion of 904 provisions to broaden tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and child abuse. We ask that the House version receive continue full support from our allies and Tribal sisters and brothers.

FINAL THOUGHTS: These are my thoughts as I approach my retirement in 2021.

I started my work in victim services for domestic and sexual violence survivors 32+ years ago. My first nine years were in a non-Native Domestic Violence Response program where I got my grounding in community based advocacy. I served as a court advocate, support group facilitator, volunteer trainer, community educator and advocate for women and children. When I started in this work VAWA had not yet been written and domestic violence was brushed under the rug as a ‘family matter.’ We did not have any Tribal victim service programs in Maine. In 1994 then Senator Joe Biden wrote the Violence Against Women Act. Working across the aisle to get support for the Act it was passed in 1994. This forever changed the landscape for battered women. The Houlton Band of Maliseets were awarded a STOP Violence Against Indian Women Grant 1998 (this was the predecessor of the OVW Tribal Governments Grants). I then spent the next 16+ years building an Advocacy Center from a cubbyhole office in the Health Department to a standalone program that has been funded by OVW continuously for 23 years. The Center operates the first Tribal Shelter in New England which we opened in 2008. In 2013 the Wabanaki Women’s Coalition was established as a nonprofit Tribal Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition receiving the first OVW Grant to Tribal Coalitions in 2014 to serve the Wabanaki Tribes with training and TA. I’ve administered a Tribal OVW grant for 23 straight years so I’ve learned a few things. Most of what I would recommend are in the testimony of the Tribal Leaders that I just gave but I want to highlight again the importance of Tribal Coalitions and the need to increase their funding so they can hire and train adequate staff to meet the needs of the Tribal OVW Grantees. Again, we need more Tribal Coalitions but not at the detriment of the existing Coalitions. Funding must increase dramatically to allow for increased funding levels for current Coalitions as well as increase the number of Coalitions. Thankfully the Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence was awarded an OVW TA Grant to assist Tribal Coalitions in their development.

It has been my great honor to work with the Wabanaki Advocacy Centers and my sister/brother Tribal Coalitions. We have so many dedicated incredible Native women (and a sprinkling of Native men) doing this work all across Indian Country and Alaska. I will miss you all!

In closing we want to commend the staff of the Tribal Division of OVW under the excellent leadership of Sherriann Moore, Tribal Deputy Director for their steadfast commitment. We believe they want to help Tribes succeed in their efforts to provide safety for their women and children. However, they can only do so much on their own. They too need support in their efforts to help Tribes from the Department of Justice, the federal administration and Congress.

Welalin/Woliwon – Thank you

Maine Women's Fund Honors Chief Clarissa Sabattis

The Maine Women's Fund held their first all-digital Leadership Luncheon, Call to Action, on October 30, 2020. The goal for their celebration was to honor exceptional leaders who answered their own Call to Action. Honorees included Joan Fortin, Angela Okafor and Chief Clarissa Sabattis who is also a Member of the Board for the Wabanaki Women's Coalition. Congratulations Chief Sabattis for being recognized for all of the work that you do for our Wabanaki nations! The following website link can be used to view the entire luncheon:



<https://www.mainewomensfund.org/2020-leadership-luncheon>

Thank You To Our Sponsors and Donors!

Covid-19 has raised some new challenges with Advocacy Centers nationwide to meet the needs of survivors. Challenges have included learning to conduct more work over a digital/electronic platform, adapting workplace policies and practices to maintain the safety of staff and survivors, and providing the necessary technology and PPE supplies for offices and shelters.

With much thanks to the John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Women's Fund and individual donors, their generous donations have been beneficial to continue the work to advocate for the health and safety of survivors in our Wabanaki communities.

We say Woliwon to each organization and person who has made a contribution to the Wabanaki Women's Coalition and each of our five Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers.



Celebrating Our Native American Heritage



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