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* In 2009, the U. S. Department of Justice released a study with alarming statistics about the safety and well- being of our nation’s children. It concluded that “60 percent of children are exposed to some form of violence, crime, or abuse, ranging from brief encounters as witnesses to serious violent episodes.” (Children’s Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey)
* In response to this report and to address this national crisis, the Attorney General launched the Defending Childhood Initiative in 2010.
* The Initiative included the following activities:
	+ DOJ awarded grants to eight sites in cities and tribal communities around the country to develop strategic plans for comprehensive community-based efforts to address and reduce children’s exposure to violence.
	+ The Attorney General created a National Task Force on Children’s Exposure to Violence.
	+ Additional resources have been dedicated to research, evaluation, public awareness and training for professional members and affiliates of national organizations.
* The National Task Force submitted their final report to the Attorney General in 2012 with 56 recommendations. The report is located at [www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf).
* During their public hearings, the Task Force heard that American Indian/Alaska Native children have exceptional unmet needs for services and support to prevent and respond to violence they experience. In response, the second recommendation in their report called for the creation of a separate Task Force to focus on AI/AN Children exposed to violence.
* This new Task Force is anchored by an Advisory Committee consisting of non-federal experts in the area of AI/AN children exposed to violence and a Federal Working Group consisting of federal experts working in areas related to AI/AN children exposed to violence
* Similar to the original Task Force, this Advisory Committee was charged with investigating the issues of AI/AN children exposed to violence and making policy recommendations to Attorney General Holder on ways to address it. The Advisory Committee convened four public hearings and focused on issues of AI/AN children exposed to violence in their homes, schools and communities.

Hearing 1: Violence in the Home (Bismarck, ND --- December 9, 2013)

Hearing 2: Juvenile Justice System Response (Scottsdale, AZ --- February 11, 2014)

Hearing 3: Violence in the Community (Fort Lauderdale, FL -- April 16-17, 2014)

Hearing 4: Alaska: Special Issues (Anchorage, AK – June 11-12, 2014)

Additional Materials are located at **www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood**



**Members of the Advisory Committee on**

**American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence**

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| **Dolores Subia Bigfoot***Caddo Nation of Oklahoma,* Director, Indian ChildTrauma Center, University of Oklahoma | **Rear Admiral Eric Broderick**Former Deputy Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration |
| **Eddie Brown***Pasqua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O’odham Nation*, Executive Director of the American Indian Policy Institute and Professor of American Indian Studies, Arizona State University | **Valerie Davidson***(Yup’ik),* Senior Director, Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium |
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| **Joanne Shenandoah (Committee Co-Chair)***Iroquois*, composer and musical artist | **Chaske Spencer***Lakota*, actor |
| **Ron Whitener***Squaxin Island Tribe*, Executive Director, Native American Law Center, University of Washington School of Law | **Marilyn J. Bruguier Zimmerman***Assiniboine-Sioux/Fort Peck Reservation*, Director, National Native Children’s Trauma Center, University of Montana |
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