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CHEROKEE NATION[®]
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
918-453-5100 • www.cherokee.org

Office of the Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief

EXECUTIVE ORDER EXTENDING AND REALIGNING THE TASK FORCE TO PROTECT WOMEN AND FAMILIES

2022-01-CTH

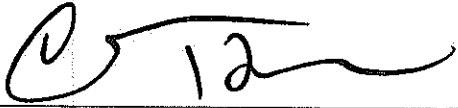
1. **AUTHORITY:** The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation.
2. **POLICY:** By Executive Order 2021-08-CTH this office set reaffirmed and strengthened Cherokee Nation's high interest in addressing domestic violence. The Order directed, among other things, the creation of a Task Force to Protect Women and Families, which concluded its work by issuance of a report to this office dated December 1, 2021. A copy of that report is attached to this Order as Exhibit A. In order to monitor Cherokee Nation's progress on recommendations made by the aforementioned task force, empaneling of a second task force is warranted.
3. **Dissemination of Task Force to Protect Women and Families (Task Force I) Report:** A copy of the December 1, 2021, report of Task Force I is attached as Exhibit A and shall be disseminated to the Council of the Cherokee Nation, the cabinet and Executive Directors from this office and shall be made available to the public via publishing of this Order.
4. **CREATION OF SECOND TASK FORCE TO PROTECT WOMEN AND FAMILIES (Task Force II); SCOPE AND GOALS:**
 - A. **The Task Force shall consist of:**
 - i. Christy Shero Neuhoff, J.D. (Task Force Leader)
 - ii. Cherokee Nation First Lady January Hoskin
 - iii. Cherokee Nation Attorney General Sara Hill or her Designee (other than the OneFire program)
 - iv. Shawna Duch, One Fire Executive Director
 - v. Cherokee Nation Marshal Shannon Buhl or his Designee
 - vi. Kim Teehee, Cherokee Nation Delegate to Congress

- vii. Dawni Squirrel, Special Advisor on Community and Cultural Outreach
- viii. Debra Proctor, BSN, RN, CPXP
- ix. Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice, Shawna Baker
- x. Cherokee Nation Council appointment by Speaker Shambaugh. Speaker Shambaugh has designated Councilor Candessa Tehee, who served on Task Force I, to serve on Task Force II.

B. The Scope of Review and Goals of Task Force II:

- i. Meet on no less than a monthly basis, beginning no earlier than February 2022 through the end of fiscal year 2022 (September 30, 2022), or more frequently within that time period as directed by the task force leader.
 - ii. Review and monitor implementation of the recommendations made by Task Force I. Such monitoring and review shall include interviews with, and requests for reports, from Cherokee Nation department representatives as to implementation.
 - iii. Gather other information in order to otherwise assess that Cherokee Nation is meeting the goals established by Executive Order 2021-08-CTH and the Task Force I report.
 - iv. Assess the efficacy of existing Cherokee Nation programs in the Attorney General's office, Marshal's office, One Fire, Cherokee Nation Health Services and Human Resources.
 - v. Make any further recommendations to the Principal Chief to enhance the Nation's response to domestic and family violence.
 - vi. Issue a report to the Principal Chief no later than October 31, 2022.
 - vii. Although the task force is not a "public body" within the meaning of Cherokee Nation law, its final report shall be made publicly available by this office.
5. **ORDER:** The task force established by Executive Order 2021-08-CTH (Task Force I) is hereby extended and realigned pursuant to this order as The Second Task Force to Protect Women and Families (Task Force II), a final report shall be delivered to the Principal Chief no later than October 31, 2022.

6. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Order is effective on **January 14, 2022.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH 12', written over a horizontal line.

Date Signed: 1/14/22

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Cherokee Nation, Principal Chief

EXHIBIT A

INITIAL REPORT TO PRINCIPAL CHIEF CHUCK HOSKIN, JR.
FROM THE TASK FORCE TO PROTECT WOMEN AND FAMILIES

December 1, 2021

The Task Force to Protect Women and Families provides this Report to Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr, as directed by Executive Order 2021-08-CTH. This Report presents the recommendations of the Task Force, which include creation and/or expansion of programs in the areas of education, awareness, training, investigation, prosecution, health care, behavioral health, batterers' intervention programs, and victims' services throughout the Cherokee Nation. Success will require coordination among agencies within the Cherokee Nation Reservation, including non-Cherokee entities.

Summary

The Task Force believes Cherokee Nation has the foundation, the motivation, and the ability to mobilize the necessary resources to establish an effective and comprehensive program. The Task Force has identified recommendations to meet each of the goals set forth in the Executive Order, several of which will require further evaluation to provide a more comprehensive strategy to address domestic violence and child abuse within the Cherokee Nation Reservation.

To that end, we recommend that the Principal Chief extend the Task Force through the end of the current Fiscal Year 2022 (9/30/22) to evaluate progress and issue a final report by October 1, 2022.

The Task Force recommends the Principal Chief consider the following immediate steps:

1. Train all Cherokee Nation departments on staff level identification of potential domestic violence and steps to take in response, with training to be conducted on a periodic basis by ONE FIRE.
2. Encourage and support Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach Department to engage on domestic violence at the grass roots and cultural level with community organizations.
3. Hire 10-12 domestic violence advocates to cover the 14 counties and implement a program of accompanying Cherokee Nation Marshal Service on all domestic violence response calls.
4. Establish funding source for these additional staff and for other items and services needed by victims/survivors, but not covered by existing grant funding.
5. Hire, or train an existing staff member to be a Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.
6. Hold a Summit with comprehensive training for law enforcement, prosecutors, court staff, Emergency Medical Services, health care providers, advocates, and other Cherokee Nation employees who encounter domestic violence, including strangulation and drowning cases.
7. Re-establish a batterers' intervention program.
8. Encourage and support Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach Department to engage on domestic violence at the grass roots and cultural level with community organizations.

EXHIBIT A

9. Provide funding and resources to implement recommendations by the Office of the Attorney General detailed in III.A below.

If extended, the Task Force would meet at least monthly and would present the Principal Chief with further recommendations and interim reports to address domestic violence more comprehensively within the Cherokee Nation Reservation and would provide a report on the progress of existing programs, including implementation of the immediate needs identified in this Report. Interim reports will be provided over the course of the year.

I. Background

On October 25, 2021, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr. issued Executive Order 2021-08-CTH, which established the Task Force to Protect Women and Families. This Task Force has formally met weekly since its establishment to discuss and evaluate the topics within the scope of the Task Force.

The Executive Order provided the following Scope of Review:

1. Review the Cherokee Nation's protocol and practices related to domestic violence and child abuse.
2. Assess the efficacy of existing Cherokee Nation programs in the Attorney General's office, Marshal's office, Cherokee Nation Health Services and Human Resources.
3. Make recommendations to the Principal Chief to enhance the Nation's response to domestic and family violence to better protect women, girls, and families.
4. Make recommendations to the Principal Chief as to appropriate engagement by Cherokee Nation with victims' services, law enforcement, health care entities and public schools to enhance safety across the Cherokee Nation reservation.

II. Review of Cherokee Nation's protocol and practices related to domestic violence and child abuse

The Task Force has reviewed the Cherokee Nation's written protocols and practices relating to domestic violence and child abuse, including those found in the Attorney General's Office, the Marshal Service, Cherokee Nation Health, ONE FIRE, Human Resources, and Tribal Code.

A. Assessment of the efficacy of existing Cherokee Nation programs in the Attorney General's office, Marshal's office, Cherokee Nation Health Services and Human Resources and Findings

1. Office of the Attorney General

As of the date of this report, the Office of the Attorney General, which was created by the Cherokee Nation Constitution, has 55 employees: 36 employees at the Attorney General's Office, 9 employees in Juvenile Justice, 9 in ONE FIRE, and 1 Independent Information Officer. Every part of the Attorney General's Office works with domestic violence victims and domestic violence perpetrators. Each area of the Attorney General's Office is experiencing intense change and incredible expansion as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, 140 S. Ct. 2452, 2459 (2020), and the

EXHIBIT A

subsequent Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals decision in *Hogner v. State*, 2021 OK CR 4, which applied *McGirt* to the Cherokee Nation.

The executive order requires the Task Force to review protocols and practices related to domestic violence and child abuse and assess the efficacy of existing Cherokee Nation's programs in the Attorney General's office. The extreme growth of the Attorney General's office makes it difficult to do some of the year-to-year analysis that would be valuable in reviewing efficacy. The Office of the Attorney General has prosecuted more cases since March of 2021 than it has prosecuted in the previous decade combined. Since March of 2021, there have been over 2500 criminal cases filed, approximately 20 percent of which involve domestic violence/intimate partner violence, with approximately 25 percent of that total being prosecuted against non-Indians under the special domestic violence jurisdiction authorized by federal and tribal law. In 2019, there were 17 total employees in the Office of the Attorney General, with 62 criminal cases filed for the year, none of which were filed under the Nation's special domestic violence jurisdiction.

There will not be one full year of post-*Hogner* data until March of 2022. Looking at longer term trends is going to be challenging for the foreseeable future due to the rate of change the entire justice system is experiencing. It is reasonable to expect that, with the ongoing application of the *McGirt* decision and its progeny, increasing experience at navigating the tribal/state/federal justice system on the Cherokee Nation Reservation will mean that the number of cases continues to climb over the next few years, even without any increase in crime, as state and tribal law enforcement become better accustomed to working together to obtain tribal convictions.

If particular focus is put on improving the likelihood that domestic violence will be reported to law enforcement, and if reports are aggressively prosecuted when sufficient evidence exists to file the charge, then the amount of domestic violence reported and cases filed would likely increase, reflecting victims increased confidence in the justice system. It is therefore important to improve data collection and maintain a state of constant evaluation within the Attorney General's Office to ensure that we are rising to the challenges presented and improving in response to the data we collect.

In short, reviewing the current efficacy of the Attorney General's Office for this Report is difficult due to the factors noted above. The Attorney General's Office is working to improve its data collection policies and implement a scheduled, internal efficacy evaluation that can be shared with the Task Force, assuming it is authorized to continue this work. Although the current information provides an incomplete picture, it still can provide some foundation for understanding how the Attorney General's office is generally dealing with cases.

2. Cherokee Nation Marshal Service

Cherokee Nation Marshal Service (CNMS) responds to domestic violence calls across the Reservation. All CNMS Deputies receive domestic violence training during basic officer training and ongoing domestic violence training is available to all CNMS Deputies. CNMS also holds specific trainings immediately when there are changes in the law.

CNMS provides Deputies with domestic violence packets that contain ONE FIRE information and a lethality assessment to be used while on patrol and should a domestic violence response be warranted. CNMS also partners with ONE FIRE for resources, case management, referrals, and on scene advocates.

EXHIBIT A

In addition, some CNMS administrative staff have received training in domestic violence advocacy. For outside agencies, the Cross Deputation Agreement provides an avenue for training about Indian Country law upon request.

CNMS currently has policies to address:

- a. Initial Marshal Response
- b. Arrest Decision/Making the Arrest
- c. Procedure when arrest is not authorized or, if authorized, an arrest is not made
- d. On-scene and immediate assistance to victims and dependents
- e. Processing the accused
- f. Written report and data collection
- g. Confidentiality of child abuse investigations and proceedings
- h. Sexual assault investigations
- i. Dispatcher responsibilities
- j. Patrol responsibilities
- k. Officer responsibilities (Initial contact)
- l. Follow-up investigations
- m. Evidence collection – sexual assault
- n. Interviewing
- o. Encouraging follow-through by domestic violence victims
- p. Hostage negotiations
- q. Shift briefing

The Task Force made these initial findings relating to CNMS:

Security: The Security manager is trained in domestic violence response. Security policy currently does not have specific domestic violence training or handling those situations for the security officers. This will be an area for discussion, updating policy and training for security officers using ONE FIRE recommendations, tribal, state, and federal laws.

Emergency Management: Current policy does not include domestic violence policy or handling those situations. These topics will be reviewed for updates and training. Emergency Operations Plan is updated each year and will be reviewed for domestic violence updates and training.

Follow up: CNMS policy is being updated to ensure domestic violence awareness and training is meeting the needs of all persons residing in the Cherokee Nation reservation. As needed training will meet or exceed ONE FIRE recommendations, state, tribal and federal laws. Assessments will be conducted to update current deputies, dispatchers, and office personnel in domestic violence response. CNMS will participate in Coordinated Community Response Teams (CCRTs) or other case management teams for domestic violence and handling violent situations.

3. Cherokee Nation Health Services

Task Force members reviewed policies and procedures for Cherokee Nation Health Services (CNHS), including those governing credentials and privileges for Medical Staff. A comprehensive evaluation of the efficacy of the processes at CNHS will require additional time and will be a priority during the proposed extension of the Task Force. Initial findings and recommendations are provided below:

EXHIBIT A

- a. CNHS provides services specifically tailored to victims of sexual assault through its Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) staff. Currently, CNHS has only one SANE Nurse for adults and none for children. The SANE staff should be expanded and should include pediatrics.
- b. With the infusion of funds from the Cherokee Nation Public Health and Wellness Fund, the Task Force recommends that certain Behavioral Health resources be allocated and prioritized to address the expanding needs of domestic violence victims.
- c. Anyone accessing care at CNHS is asked a standardized set of screening questions. However, current policies and procedures document minimal guidance as to recognition of domestic violence, services available to support survivors, or required education/training. If the Task Force is extended, a subgroup would work with Performance Improvement Department/Nursing/etc. to make recommendations to improve the response to victims of domestic violence.
- d. Although domestic violence education is listed on a few new employee onboarding/orientation checklists, there are currently no standardized policies or practices to include domestic violence training in onboarding/orientation or annual education for general staff or specific disciplines. CNHS does have systemwide policies and procedures for handling violent situations that may arise in the workplace.

4. Human Resources

The Executive Order addressed several Human Resource initiatives that are being implemented for all Cherokee Nation employees. The Human Resources Department is preparing to launch a training program to ensure Cherokee Nation employees recognize the signs of potential domestic violence among co-workers, and promote healthy relationships for employees and their families. The training provides information on preventing and reporting domestic violence to include the appropriate resources for victims, offenders, and their families. Preparation of personal safety plans to protect individuals from violence will also be covered in the training. Human Resources has also identified a need to develop an organizational safety plan for all departments addressing workplace violence. Live training sessions will include subject matter experts who can answer questions during the training. The Task Force recommends including a Native perspective in the program, with Native-specific and Cherokee-specific statistics and stories. The Task Force further recommends that training be implemented to ensure Cherokee Nation employees recognize the signs of domestic violence in their interactions with people coming to Cherokee Nation for services or otherwise interact with staff. The goal of the training is to ensure staff learn and retain the information; simply ensuring attendance will not be sufficient.

III. Recommendations to the Principal Chief

A. Improving the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Response Prosecution Team

[Goals supported by this recommendation: a) improves response once abuse comes to the attention of the Cherokee Nation; b) increases collaboration to improve prosecutorial success; c) relieves the burden from victims for holding their abuser accountable and place that onus on the criminal justice system.]

EXHIBIT A

The Cherokee Nation has been working hard to ensure continued public safety since the *Hogner* decision. The tribe has added more programs for mental health and substance abuse, expanded victim services, increased law enforcement presence, created new mechanisms to increase cooperation with local agencies, and increased prosecution capacity by hiring additional prosecutors, investigators, and other support personnel.

The Office of the Attorney General has already designated a particularly experienced Assistant Attorney General to handle the prosecution of these cases. However, the AG's office needs to increase the size of the domestic violence prosecution unit by hiring an additional prosecutor and investigator. These new staff members will also need the tools to successfully combat domestic violence, including training, supplies and equipment.

Additional training around evidence-based prosecution of domestic violence should be shared with prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, child welfare workers and law enforcement within our reservation who are responsible for dealing with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. It is important to note that most domestic violence cases are initiated by state law enforcement officers pursuant to their cross-deputization agreements, so they are most often the first responders to victims in crisis. Due to the size and area of our reservation, initial training would be provided at two areas on two different dates and would include special domestic violence jurisdiction training, evidence collection, cultural awareness, resources, trauma informed approaches, training of domestic and dating/intimate partner violence. It would also provide information regarding ways in which those working together across the reservation can meet the needs of underserved and marginalized survivors, improve access to justice and thereby enhance survivor safety and hold offenders accountable. The Office of the Attorney General would also on a continual basis coordinate domestic violence and sexual assault training with our federal, state, and local partners.

1. Strategies for coordination of cases, action, investigations, prosecutions

- a. All cases submitted to referral for prosecution to the Cherokee Nation Attorney General's Office will be reviewed by the lead domestic violence prosecutor (with over 27 years of experience on the bench as a judge and as a prosecutor), who is responsible for all Cherokee Nation case assignments.
- b. After case assignments, the investigator and prosecutor, specifically trained and equipped in prosecuting domestic violence and knowledgeable about Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (SDVCJ), will communicate with local law enforcement officers, provide investigative services, review criteria and jurisdiction, coordinate with Cherokee Nation ONE FIRE victim services and talk with victims.
- c. The domestic violence investigator and prosecutor will assess each case to determine that the criminal conduct falls into one of the three categories as defined by federal statute if it involves a non-Indian perpetrator: Domestic violence, dating violence and violations of certain protection orders.
- d. Upon receipt of offense reports, information will be entered and tracked through disposition into CNOAG's criminal case management designed for prosecutors: *Prosecutor by Karpel* (PBK).

- e. Continue participation in the Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) on SDVCI and participate in on-site and other training and technical assistance opportunities.
- f. CNOAG plans open, ongoing communication and coordination with ONE FIRE, Tribal Court staff and judges, Cherokee Nation Marshal Service, representatives from over 90 law enforcements agencies who've entered into cross-deputization agreements.

2. Domestic violence perpetrators/batterers intervention course

[Goals supported by this recommendation: a) develop strategies to improve the response by Cherokee Nation to reduce violence and support victims and their families; b) make recommendations to reduce the occurrence of domestic violence in our communities and reduce the likelihood that convicted abusers will reoffend.]

One important aspect of dealing with domestic violence is what to do with the offender after the conviction. After the jail sentence is complete, these individuals may quickly be back in the community repeating this behavior – sometimes with a previous partner, and sometimes with a new one. Finding a way to break the cycle of violence and prevent a former batterer from offending again and creating another domestic violence victim is an essential part of actually working to solve the underlying problems facing our communities.

The State of Oklahoma requires that all batterer's intervention courses be 52 weeks. The offender is required to attend each week, and if the offender accrues three unexcused absences in succession or seven unexcused absences over the term, he or she must start over. Currently, batterer's intervention programs are difficult to access across the Cherokee Nation Reservation. Since many offenders continue to work and may support families, traveling long distances to attend a batterer's intervention program every week is often difficult to sustain. This may be due to the distances involved, the cost of fuel or the cost of the class itself, or other barriers such as poverty or lack of transportation. Often these offenders simply do not finish the program, and the cycle of violence begins again.

The Cherokee Nation needs to establish batterers' intervention programs spread out in accessible locations across the reservation. Ideally, classes would be low to no cost and would be accessible to individuals regardless of his or her status as an Indian. Some classes should be during the workday, but a concerted effort should be made to provide evening and weekend times as well. This is not to make it more convenient for the abuser, but to increase the likelihood the abuser will finish the class and obtain the tools needed to break the cycle of violence.

Even perfect attendance at a certified batterers' intervention program is no guarantee that an abuser will not reoffend. There is no magic in the class, and it requires the abuser to identify his or her role in the cycle of violence and use the tools the classes teach. Prosecutors should not mislead victims or promote outcomes that may not contribute to safety – no victim should be assured that a person who attends this class is less dangerous.

However, batterers' intervention classes are a critical tool. For them to be as useful as possible in preventing future violence, everyone involved in the prosecution of domestic violence cases must understand the issues surrounding the success or failure of batterer's treatment programs and be able to provide informed responses to issues that arise. A one-size-fits-all program may not be best suited for a particular defendant, and every defendant and victim have different needs and lives with different

risks. The Nation's courts, law enforcement and prosecutors would benefit from collaborating with existing local treatment providers and connecting with the probation departments who certify such treatment programs to see how to create an integrated network that improves access to batterers' intervention classes. This may include contracting with local entities to expand existing programs, or it may include creation of batterers' intervention programs by the Cherokee Nation itself.

3. Building trauma-informed tribal domestic violence prosecutions¹

[Goals supported by this recommendation: a) increase early reporting by victims; b) improve response once abuse comes to the attention of the Cherokee Nation; c) develop strategies to improve the response by Cherokee Nation to reduce violence and support victims and their families.]

Every day, Cherokee Nation prosecutors, law enforcement and ONE FIRE staff work directly with survivors of abuse and violence. Victims experience trauma as a result of domestic violence, whether the experiences are directly or indirectly violent. According to the American Psychological Association, trauma is as an emotional response to a terrible event. Survivors are at risk of short- and long-term responses to trauma such as numbness, flashbacks of the traumatic event, unpredictable emotions, difficulty concentrating, significant anxiety, depression, and difficulty sleeping. For survivors of domestic violence, the risk of trauma responses is heightened by the dynamics of the abusive relationship. Children who witness domestic violence between their parents or caregivers may also experience lasting effects on their sense of safety, relationships, and brain development.

There is a professional duty as prosecutors to become well versed in trauma. Survivors are more likely to engage throughout the investigation and court process if trauma-informed practices are implemented.

Trauma-informed practices within the criminal justice system should include:

- Respect; treat each client with respect, empathy, and validation
- Safety; throughout the organization, develop a safe and welcoming environment, both physically and psychologically
- Transparency and trustworthiness; be genuine, explain the process, and partner with the client in a working relationship towards mutual outcomes
- Dignity; recognize that the client may have a history of being mistreated and underrepresented and that it takes courage to seek help
- Non-judgmentalism; hold judgment and meet clients where they are at emotionally and cognitively, recognizing that everyone's experiences are different
- Integrity; follow the ethical and moral standards of your profession and your organization's practices and policies
- Empowerment and choice; recognize your client's strengths, validate his or her choices, and connect him or her with resources and advocacy services that improve understanding of safety and options

¹ Adapted for the Cherokee Nation's use from the National District Attorney Associations National Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practices Guide, Revised January 2021, https://ndaa.org/wp-content/uploads/WPS-Best-Practice-Guide_Domestic-Violence-Jan.-2021-REVISED.pdf

EXHIBIT A

▪ Respect for diversity and the embrace of culture; be mindful of language and cultural considerations in providing support, utilize traditional cultural and peer support systems whenever possible, recognize historical trauma, and understand the diverse nature of each client and the unique needs of each person.

By seeking to become a trauma-informed organization, the Nation's prosecutors can work to be compassionate, supportive, and true advocates for justice. For many survivors, the abuse they recently experienced may be the most current incident in a long history of traumatic experiences. With an increased focus on ensuring that staff in the Office of the Attorney General have trauma-informed training and practices in place, we will be able to move forward without adding to the trauma of survivors.

B. Cherokee Nation Health Services

1. Enhance Training for Health Care Workers to identify and respond to domestic violence.
2. Hire, or train an existing staff member to be a Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.
3. Prioritize the expanding needs of domestic violence victims with Behavioral Health resources under the Cherokee Nation Public Health and Wellness Fund.

C. Expansion of ONE FIRE - Delivery of Services

1. Hire 10-12 domestic violence advocates who will be on call 24/7 to cover the 14 counties and implement a program of accompanying Cherokee Nation Marshal Service on all domestic violence response calls.
2. Establish funding source for these additional staff and for other items and services needed by victims/survivors, but not covered by existing grant funding.
3. Provide advanced training to all Victims Advocates and staff

D. Training of Cherokee Nation Departments

1. Train all Cherokee Nation departments on staff level identification of potential domestic violence and steps to take in response, with training to be conducted on a periodic basis.
2. Hold a Summit with comprehensive training for law enforcement, prosecutors, court staff, Emergency Medical Services, health care providers, advocates, and other Cherokee Nation employees who encounter domestic violence, including strangulation and drowning cases.

E. Community Outreach

1. Encourage and support Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach Department to engage on domestic violence at the grass roots and cultural level with community organizations.
2. Identify opportunities to increase awareness and reporting of domestic violence and child abuse throughout the Reservation

F. Prosecution

1. Provide funding and resources to implement recommendations by the Office of the Attorney General detailed in III.A above.

The above recommendations contribute to the goals set out in the Executive Order which are to: Increase early reporting by victims; Improve response once abuse comes to the attention of Cherokee Nation; Improve evidence collection to support prosecution; Increase collaboration to improve prosecutorial success; and relieve the burden for victims for holding abuser accountable and place onus on criminal justice system.

IV. Extension of Task Force and Future Work

If the Task Force is extended, among the issues we plan to evaluate are:

1. The need for additional shelters and transitional living spaces for survivors of domestic violence throughout the Reservation.
2. Equipping all law enforcement (state, county, municipal) within the reservation with resources to allow for Victims Advocates and specially trained investigators to respond to all domestic violence and child abuse calls and provide immediate services.
3. Evaluate other domestic violence service providers within the Reservation and determine if Cherokee Nation can coordinate response with those providers.
4. Enhancing evidence-based prosecution. This will require the development of strategies to identify and preserve evidence. To be successful there must be strong coordination and collaboration with non-Cherokee agencies across the reservation as well as training and coordination of personnel across various Cherokee departments and agencies.
5. Mandatory referrals to services/advocates. To support the determination of who should be referred for services, additional training is necessary for personnel throughout Cherokee Nation. This will improve response once abuse comes to the attention of Cherokee Nation.
6. Increase number of Victim-Witness Coordinators. [ONE FIRE has recently received a grant award that will support hiring three new Victim-Witness Coordinators].
7. Need to implement electronic access to court records. Currently there is no public access to court records, which is particularly important in domestic violence cases. All arrests and incarcerations must be subject to Vine notifications. The Task Force has been informed that firewalls within Cherokee Nation electronic systems are preventing this access.
8. Court personnel. In the absence of electronic access, the court clerk's office receives numerous phone calls to get information about cases. The Task Force recommends hiring additional staff to answer calls about court cases.
9. Implement creative ways to effectively get information about services in front of the people who may need them.
10. Train JOM offices at schools to recognize signs of abuse and to be a place where children can report concerns.
11. Consider a system wide survey of employees regarding domestic violence.