



COLORADO
Division of Criminal Justice
Department of Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice
700 Kipling Street, Suite 1000
Lakewood, CO 80215

Office of the Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (OMMIR) Meeting Notes

Community Volunteer Advisory Board (CVAB) Quarterly Meeting
Friday, January 10th, 2025 10:00am - 12:00pm

CVAB Members in attendance:

Jenifer Lewis
Daisy Bluestar
Chief Mike Barrow
Brandy Shahin

Community members in attendance:

Isaac Bojorquez
Monycka Snowbird
Raven Payment
Jae Dee Wood
Reycita Billie
Gina Begay-Roanhorse

Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) Staff in attendance:

Melody Delmar, OMMIR Director
Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky, DCJ Deputy Director

Meeting Convened: 10:00 am

Invocation | *Isaac Bojorquez*

Isaac Bojorquez (KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria) began the meeting with an opening prayer and invocation.

Welcome & Announcements from DCJ | *Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky*

DCJ Deputy Director Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky welcomed the group and gave updates from DCJ:

- The Legislative Session began on January 8th, and the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) presented before the joint judiciary committee, sharing accomplishments, goals for the future, and budget requests. The work of the OMMIR and the Board was shared at this presentation.
- Potential grants have been identified for tribal communities. Anyone interested in information about the grants should contact OMMIR Director Melody Delmar.
- DCJ is developing a new strategic plan, and details of the plan will be shared as they are finalized.

- The ODVSOM (Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management) within DCJ has a new manager, Jesse Hansen.
- Deputy Director Lobanov-Rostovsky introduced two new Board members: Brandy Shahin (Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes), who has been appointed to represent an Indigenous-Led Organization that Provides Health Services to Indigenous Victims of Violence; and Chief Michael Barrow of the Southern Ute Police Department, appointed to represent Peace Officers Working on a Federally Recognized Tribe's Reservation.
- OMMIR Community Support Coordinator Shay Arcella-Bohman was introduced as a new OMMIR staff member. Shay is currently on leave recovering from a ski accident and will return to work as soon as she is able.
- There was a tragic incident on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation in which 7-year-old Zamias Lang was shot and killed. Deputy Director Lobanov-Rostovsky shared condolences with the group and recognized the efforts of the responding law enforcement offices.

OMMIR Office Updates | *Melody Delmar*

OMMIR Director Melody Delmar (Diné) gave a brief overview of the previous meeting, then provided updates and news from the OMMIR office:

- With the addition of Brandy Shahin and Chief Mike Barrow, the CVAB is full.
- With the permission of the family, Director Delmar shared about the OMMIR's response to the tragic shooting of Zamias Lang.
 - Director Delmar went immediately to the Ute Mountain Ute community in person and remains in contact with them by phone daily, connecting them with resources and advocates as needed.
 - The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) helped support the family as well, and MMIR Task Force of Colorado member Daisy Bluestar was also instrumental in assisting with community coordination.
- Director Delmar gave an introduction of Shay Arcella-Bohman, who could not be present at the meeting due to recovering from a serious accident.
 - Shay has a background in advocating with Indigenous women and promoting crossborder reconciliation, including experience working with first nations tribes in Canada. Shay is from the Cherokee and Shawnee Tribes in Oklahoma, and holds a bachelor's degree in cognitive science from Swarthmore College.
- The End of Year Report for the offices has faced some delays but is on track to be completed

MMIR Task Force of Colorado Presentation | *Monycka Snowbird & Raven Payment*

MMIR Task Force of Colorado members Monycka Snowbird (Ojibwe) and Raven Payment (Ojibwe/Kanien'keha:ka) introduced the Task Force, and presented updates about the Task Force's recent projects and activities.

- The Task Force is volunteer-run non-profit, and the members do not accept wages, payments, reimbursements, or honorariums for the work they do.
- The Task Force worked to create the OMMIR office and advocated to get its legislation passed.
- The Task Force has been focusing on advocating for automation in the response of the MIPA (Missing Indigenous Person Alert) within Colorado

- Monycka shared that the Task Force has some funding available to help families of victims, and has a drone that is used to assist in searches
- Data compiled by the Task Force was detailed regarding MMIR cases in Colorado. This data is available on the [MMIR Task Force of Colorado's website](#).
- Recent focus areas of the Task Force have been attention to cold cases, advocating for news coverage of active cases, working with the Denver Medical Examiner's Office to update language used to talk about cases, and collaborating with partners during [Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#).

Community Announcements & Updates

Director Delmar opened the conversation to the group for any updates from the community.

- Gina Begay-Roanhorse (Diné), Regional MMIP Coordinator with the US Attorney General's Office, shared about the work being done in her Flagstaff, AZ office.
 - Although based there, the office serves the region to include AZ, NM, CO, UT, and OK - and collaborates with state offices across the country as well.
 - Gina detailed work that has gone into supporting the coordination of the forthcoming MEP (Missing Endangered Persons) alert code
- Reycita Billie (Diné), MMIP Liaison with the Navajo Police Department, shared the upcoming Missing Persons Day event which will be hosted in Gallup, NM on March 15, 2025.
- Jae Dee Wood, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist for the Office of School Safety, announced a child sexual abuse prevention symposium on April 3, 2025 which will feature Dr. Delores Subia Bigfoot.
- Director Delmar shared that she'll be attending a few events coming up on behalf of the OMMIR office, including the First Peoples' Festival and Friendship Powwow in Estes Park. Additionally, the OMMIR office is partnering with CU Denver to host an MMIR awareness event in March.
- Jenifer Lewis (Seneca and Mohawk from the Six Nations), Interagency Tribal Liaison for the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, thanked those that attended the Native American Heritage Month event in November, and updated the group about legislative proceedings and participation from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in address to the general assembly.

With no further questions or updates, Director Delmar closed the meeting with gratitude.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:24 am