
Office of the Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Community Volunteer Advisory Board: 2024 Report

Pursuant to § 24-33.5-2605 C.R.S.

DECEMBER 2024

Prepared by :

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SB 22-150 Report requirement ([Link to SB 22-150](#))

C.R.S 24-33.5-2605(2)(a) On or before December 31, 2023, and on or before December 31 of each year thereafter, the department shall submit a report on missing or murdered indigenous relatives to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, or their successor Committees, and the Governor's Office. The department shall make the report available to the public on its website. The report must include an update about missing or murdered indigenous relatives in Colorado, including the information included in the dashboard described in subsection (1) of this section; the recommendations for legislative and governmental agency actions described in section 24-33.5-2602 and any other recommendations to address injustice in the criminal justice system's response to the cases of missing or murdered indigenous relatives; and a summary of the office's work during the year

Data related to Colorado MMIR - 24-33.5-2605. Informational dashboard

On November 1, 2023 the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), within the Colorado Department of Public Safety, officially launched the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives dashboard established by SB 22-150. This publicly available dashboard is updated automatically whenever new cases are reported or there are updates to individuals already reflected in the data.

Missing Persons - 9

Unidentified Persons - 4 (Included in the Cold Case Homicide count on the Dashboard)

Cold Case Homicides - 23

Jurisdiction

Denver Police Department - 15
Colorado Springs Police Department - 5
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office - 1
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office - 1
Aurora Police Department - 2
Jicarilla Apache Police Department - 1

Colorado Bureau of Investigation - 1
Thornton Police Department - 1
Federal Bureau of Investigation - 3
Cortez Police Department - 1
Southern Ute Police Department - 2

Tribal Affiliation

White Mountain Apache -1
Unknown - 4
Not Recorded - 4
Northern Arapahoe - 1
Blackfoot - 1
Navajo - 2
Hunkpapa Sioux - 1
Lakota - 2
Hopi - 2
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe - 4
Ojibwe and Navajo - 1
Muscogee Creek - 1
Southern Ute - 1

Swan Lake First Nation Ojibway - 1
Oglala Lakota - 2
Choctaw - 1
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota - 1
Leech Lake Ojibwe - 1
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe - 1
Weenuche Band of the Ute Nation of Indians - 1
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe - 1
Laguna Pueblo - 1
Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs - 1
Jicarilla Apache - 1

**data and information presented is current as of December 03, 2024 CBI*

Summary of the Office's work during 2024

The Office of the Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (OMMIR) within the [Colorado Division of Criminal Justice](#) (DCJ) are working collaboratively with the Indigenous communities and other Tribal, local, state and federal government agencies to enact legislative mandates and improve outcomes for those impacted by MMIR. This is a summary of pivotal highlights of some of the work completed during the 2024 calendar year:

- The OMMIR received a new Director, Melody Delmar, in April this year. A national search was conducted after extensive engagement with community members, stakeholders, and state entities. A shared vision was established between the office and community, resulting in the selection of Melody Delmar. Ms. Delmar leads the office with a wealth of experience in MMIR work.
- The OMMIR met with Colorado Peace Officers Standards & Training (POST) trainer about the mandated MMIR Training (C.R.S. 24-31-315) in April, and is working collaboratively to currently review and update along with subject matter experts in law enforcement who work in Native American communities that are experienced with MMIR.
 - This training has been implemented and incorporated into the curriculum within Colorado POST certified academies for new certified peace officers and at in-service training for veteran certified peace officers.
- The office continues to grow with the addition of our Community Support Coordinator, Shay Arcella-Bohman, who is of the Shawnee Tribe and Cherokee Nation. Her role within OMMIR is to engage with families, community members, stakeholders, and public safety entities. Her role will focus on continuing to build networks, partnerships, education and awareness of MMIR in Colorado.
- Established National partnerships with the United States Attorney General's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and emerging Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons initiatives.
- Initiated and hosted the first interstate convening of MMIR law enforcement response including Tribal and state law enforcement, state Tribal liaisons, and Attorney General's offices. Various groups represented were:
 - Navajo Nation Public Safety: Law Enforcement collaboration overview
 - FBI New Mexico and Colorado: MMIP Interstate Collaboration

- Mesa Arizona: DNA Innovation in MMIP Investigations- Center of Human Investigation
- Colorado Bureau of Investigation: MMIR Colorado Training & Analytics
- Colorado Division of Criminal Justice: Human Trafficking
- Arizona Attorney General's Office: Law Enforcement collaboration
- United Assistant States Attorney General (AUSA) Missing and Murdered Persons (MMIP) Tribal Liaison
- Albuquerque Police Department Tribal/Metro Collaborative: Real Time Crime Center Partnerships
- Montana, Oklahoma, Utah: Tribal Law Enforcement

Advisory Board Members

Indigenous-Led Organizations

Providing Advocacy Or Counseling For Indigenous Victims Of Violence

- Roselyn Small
 - Previously held by Nancy Rae Medina (2023)

Providing Legal Services For Indigenous Victims Of Violence

- Riley Josh Player

Providing Health Services To Indigenous Victims Of Violence

- Brandy Shahin
 - Previously held by Carla Respects Nothing (2023)

Community-Based Organizations

Providing Services To An Urban Indigenous Community

- Rick Waters, Denver Indian Center

Providing Services To A Rural Indigenous Community

- Daisy Bluestar, Executive Director Native Love

Victim Advocate Organization Serving Colorado's Indigenous Population

- Christinia Eala, TiyoSPA Winyan Maka

Tribal Members

● Councilman Conrad Jacket - Appointed by Ute Mountain Tribal Council
The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

● Vanessa Torres - Appointed by Southern Ute Tribal Council
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

- Korlene Tapoof - Appointed by Northern Ute Tribal Council
The Ute Indian Tribe Of The Uintah And Ouray Reservation

MMIR Family Members

- Lydia Lerma
- Debra Jones
- Rowena Thompson Reed
- Meskee Tsotaddle-Yatsayte

Enrolled Tribal Members

These Community Volunteer Advisory Board members are enrolled members of Tribes with historical ties to Colorado as identified on the [Colorado Tribal Contacts List](#) developed by [History Colorado](#) with the support of the [Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs](#) staff.

- LaRenda Morgan - Cheyenne Arapahoe
- Amy Barcenas - Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Raven Morgan - Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Ronee K Wopsock Pawwinnee - Ute Indian Tribe of Uintah and Ouray

National and State Organizations

A National Organization That Provides Education And Awareness Of Missing And Murdered Indigenous Relatives

- Lynnette GreyBull, Executive Director, Not Our Native Daughters

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

This Community Volunteer Advisory Board member represents peace officers who work or reside on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's Reservation in Colorado.

- Chief Michael Barrow
 - Previously held by Director Chris Mimmack (2023)

The Colorado State Patrol

This Community Volunteer Advisory Board member serves with the approval of the Chief of the Colorado State Patrol.

- Brett Williams

The Colorado Bureau Of Investigation (CBI)

This Community Volunteer Advisory Board member serves with the approval of the Director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

- Kirby Lewis

The Colorado Commission Of Indian Affairs

This Community Volunteer Advisory Board member serves with the approval of the Executive Director of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs.

- Jenifer Lewis

The State Department Of Human Services

This Community Volunteer Advisory Board member serves with the approval of the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services.

- Phillip Gover

The Attorney General's Office

This Community Volunteer Advisory Board member serves with the approval of the Attorney General

- Daniel Steuer

Scheduled Community Volunteer Advisory Board 2024 Meetings

The office organized and hosted board meetings on the following dates - meeting summaries and associated links to follow:

- February 2024
- May 2024
- July 2024
- October 2024

*All meetings are recorded and can be found on the OMMIR [Community Volunteer Advisory Board webpage](#).

Synopsis of the Topics Covered During Community Volunteer Advisory Board 2024 Meetings

As required by Colorado General Assembly Bill SB23-054 the Community Advisory Board for the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives has created a general report of the meetings that have occurred for this year. In this effort, the following is a synopsis of the meetings.

Community Volunteer Advisory Board meetings strategically included guest speakers and experts covering topics related to Indigenous communities, closing the gap between law enforcement agencies and Indigenous people, raising awareness, how to

report a missing person and additional subjects related to OMMIR.

February 2024 Community Advisory Board Meeting

Video Recording: [February Meeting Recording](#)

Transcript: [February Meeting Transcript](#)

Summary: This meeting covered the hiring process of the new Director for the office. Director Matt Lunn introduced the new Community Advisory Board Member Lynnette Greybull. Maria Trujillo, Human Trafficking Manager within the Office of Victims Programs, gave a presentation on the Colorado Human Trafficking Council and Q&A. CClA introduced a calendar. Report preparation was discussed and a subcommittee was recommended. Requests for law enforcement training, specific to native communities, and updates on upcoming meetings.

May 2024 Community Advisory Board meeting

Video Recording: [May Meeting Recording](#)

Transcript: [May Meeting Transcript](#)

Summary: The new OMMIR Director Melody Delmar was both introduced and welcomed by Director Matt Lunn. Community members gave their own introductions to the new Director. Adrienne Perkins, OMMIR Program Assistant, announced her departure from the office. Director Delmar gave a brief overview of an outline of focusing on community partnerships and getting to know the Tribes, communities across the state.

July 2024 Community Advisory Board meeting

Video Recording: [July Meeting Recording](#)

Transcript: [July Meeting Transcript](#)

Summary: Director Delmar gave updates on her first few months in OMMIR, highlighting travels across the state to build relationships, partnerships and collaborations and identify strategic community stakeholders. An update on the ongoing work with the CVAB report subcommittee was established and met with Director Delmar. The meeting opened up to the community for updates within their organizations, and community engagement with MMIR efforts.

October 2024 Community Advisory Board Meeting

Video Recording: [October Meeting Recording](#)

Transcript: [October Meeting Transcript](#)

Summary: DCJ Director Matt Lunn gave updates on the ongoing DCJ strategic planning pillars to build out objectives and measurables that fit with the work of the Community Advisory Board and the work of OMMIR. Newly appointed DCJ Deputy Director Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky introduced himself to the meeting and future engagement with the OMMIR and community advisory board. Director Delmar highlighted updates on continued work on building partnerships and collaborations across the state and building staffing capacity within OMMIR. Community partners, advisory board members, and attendees were able to engage with open networking and discussion on trainings, resources, and working with diverse tribal community populations across the state.

2024 OMMIR Interactive Dashboard

The [OMMIR Interactive Dashboard](#) is in collaboration with Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI). The multifunctional dashboard contributes to raising awareness by reaching a universal audience and providing additional resources to support families, community members of missing relatives. The dashboard went live on November 1, 2023.

2024 OMMIR Resource Line

The resource line, established by SB 23-054, and partnership with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management resource line launched November 1, 2023, in conjunction with the dashboard.

The resource line, established by [SB 23-054](#), was developed and is staffed by the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The team is trained to receive and refer calls from the public. The dedicated phone line for missing or murdered Indigenous relatives, operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and connects callers with the appropriate local law enforcement contact or the Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. The phone line includes:

- [MMIR Phone Line Information](#)
- Phone Number: 833-900-6647
- Hours of Operation: 24/7 availability

2024 OMMIR Media Requests

- **April**
[Denver Urban Spectrum](#)
Request for information on OMMIR creation through state legislation, key components of the office in developing stakeholder partnerships, connection to resources, increasing awareness and building foundational partnerships.

- **May**

- [Southern Ute Drum](#)

- Request from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) Council affairs to announce the new OMMIR Director Melody Delmar and her visit to present to Tribal Council and community public safety leaders.

- **September**

- [Colorado House Democrats](#)

- Joint Release from the bipartisan American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee on

- a presentation of updates of the OMMIR from Director Melody Delmar and the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice Matt Lunn.

- **October**

- [National Criminal Justice Association](#) (NCJA)

- The NCJA Podcast Series requested a two-part episode discussing building meaningful relationships with Tribes, community stakeholders and law enforcement, and how to leverage those connections to influence change in MMIR. Matt Lunn, Director of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, and Melody Delmar, OMMIR shared their vision for these relationships, the importance of the role of the SAA in MMIR work, and how the unique role of Colorado's co-located SAA and OMMIR act as a force multiplier for change.

**2024 Office of the Liaison for Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Relatives Report Concluded**