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ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

**STUDY COMMITTEE ON MISSING AND MURDERED
INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Minutes of the Meeting
August 28, 2019
11:00 a.m., House Hearing Room 1**

Members Present:

Senator Sally Ann Gonzales
Senator Jamescita Peshlakai
Senator Frank Pratt
Senator Victoria Steele
Monica Antone
Paula Flores
Blaine Gadow
Dimitri Whelan Gonzalez
LeAnn Guy
Patti Hibbeler

Representative Walter Blackman
Representative Jennifer Jermaine
Representative Arlando Teller
Jon Huey
April Ignacio
Debbie Nez-Manuel
Kim Russell
Blaze Baggs, Director of the Department of
Public Safety's designee

Members Excused:

Representative Myron Tsosie
Elton Begay
Timothy Chavez
Barbara LaWall
Alfred Urbina

Staff:

Anthony Casselman, House Research Staff
Jake Agron, Senate Research Staff

Representative Jermaine called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. and attendance was noted.

BLESSING - ROYCE MANUEL, SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Royce Manuel, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, gave a blessing for the Committee.

CEDAR BURNING "SMUDGING" CEREMONY

Diane Uquala, Havasupai Tribe of the Grand Canyon, performed a traditional smudging ceremony.

WELCOME & PURPOSE

Representative Jermaine made opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Representative Jermaine opened the floor for nominations to Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee.

Representative Teller moved, without objection, that Representative Jermaine be selected as Chair. Representative Jermaine stated that with no objection, Representative Jermaine is the Chair of this Committee.

Senator Steele moved, without objection, that Senator Peshlakai be selected as Vice Chair by acclamation. Representative Jermaine stated that without any objections, Senator Peshlakai is Vice Chair of this Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Representative Jermaine requested that the members of the Committee introduce themselves.

Representative Jermaine requested that staff introduce themselves.

PRESENTATIONS:

Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya (Honwungsi Consulting) and Paula Flores (Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Family Advocacy Center) - Victim Services

Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, Hopi Tribe, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Victim Services in Indian Country and Metropolitan Areas" (Attachment A). Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya explained the current system and difficulties in trying to take care of victims and their families. Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya answered questions posed by the Committee.

Alfred Urbina - Pascua Yaqui Associate Justice - Investigation and Prosecution Challenges

Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya, in the Honorable Alfred Urbina's absence, testified on excerpts from Mr. Urbina's written testimony (Corrected Attachment B). Some of the topics Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya spoke of were jurisdiction, information sharing and lack of technology in some areas. Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya answered questions posed by the Committee.

DISCUSSION ON COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS & DATA SHARING WITH TRIBAL NATIONS

Jon Huey, Chief of Police, Yavapai-Apache Police Department, testified regarding tribal access to information systems, the Tribal Access Program and differing tribal council rules. Mr. Huey answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Jermaine named Representative Teller and Ms. Russell to work with the State Victim's Compensation Board to attempt to solve any issues with compensating victims that use traditional healing.

DISCUSSIONS ON METHODS OF GATHERING DATA & COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Committee discussed collaborative agreements between agencies and tribes.

Representative Jermaine asked for volunteers for a workgroup to study the various collaborative agreements and what needs to be in the agreements. Ms. Nez-Manuel, Ms. Guy, Ms. Flores, Mr. Whelan Gonzalez, Mr. Gadow, Ms. Ignacio and Ms. Hibbeler agreed to be members of the workgroup.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY / COMMENTS

Representative Jermaine asked if anyone from the public would like to speak, to which no one came forward.

The Committee discussed companies using a derogatory term.

Representative Jermaine mentioned that the Committee would possibly meet next on September 25th.

As requested, on the date of this meeting, Debbie Manuel will be noted as Debbie Nez-Manuel.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)