

Child Abduction Response Teams (CART): A Resource for Tribal Communities

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Derek VanLuchene | Project Coordinator – NCJTC

Jennifer Murphy | Tribal SME Associate – NCJTC



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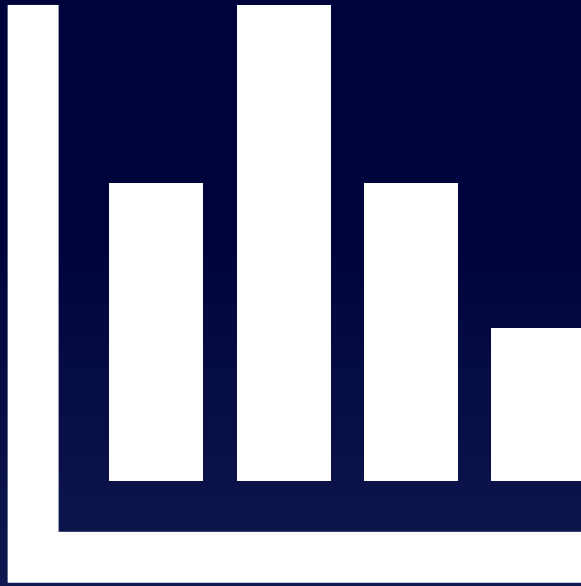
AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIIC) Initiative

Mission

The mission of the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program, AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIIC) Initiative, is to assist Tribal communities in developing programs to safely recover endangered missing or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of the tribes and their local, state and federal partners by using training and technology to enhance response capacities, capabilities and increase public participation in protecting children.



Poll Question



Which of the following best describes your role?

- A. Tribal law enforcement
- B. Tribal emergency management
- C. Tribal Council
- D. Non-tribal law enforcement
- E. Other

Today's Presenters



Derek VanLuchene

Derek.vanluchene5383@fvtc.edu



Jennifer Murphy

Jennifer.Murphy7376@fvtc.edu

Objectives - What you will be able to do!

- Recognize the elements of a Child Abduction Response Team (CART).
- Identify considerations and challenges for implementing a CART in a Tribal Community.
- Explore ways to engage your Tribal Community in the overall CART concept.

What is CART?

- CART is a multi-disciplinary team that responds to incidents of missing, abducted, or endangered children.
 - Teams train and respond together.
 - Each team has specialized areas of response (Search, Canvass, Investigations, leads management, command post coordination, volunteer coordination).

What is CART? (cont.)

- Some tribal communities may have an Emergency Manager with an Emergency Operations Plan in place.
- Consider using this as a framework for agency assistance or other agreements for non-tribal assistance while respecting tribal sovereignty.

Types of CART

- **Single agency** - operations, coordination, and response includes one agency
 - Usually a larger agency.
- **Regional** - operations, coordination, and response involves several jurisdictions.
 - Includes city/county jurisdictions

Types of CART (cont.)

- **Statewide** - operations, coordination includes a statewide agency managing the team (State Police, DCI).
- **Tribal agency** - operations and coordination is specific to Tribal Lands (may include non-tribal agencies with written agreements).

CART Structure

- Each team has a CART Coordinator. The job of the CART Coordinator is to oversee the operations of the CART, as well as ensure that the CART is sustained.
- Consider more than one coordinator to provide redundancy.

CART Structure (cont.)

- Develops and implements evidenced-based standards of excellence.
- Builds, executes and continuously improves capacities, competencies, skills, and abilities to safely recover missing children.
- Enhances community/tribal response.

Case Study

Case Study Fact Base

- Victim - Maci Lilley
 - 4 Years old.
 - Lives with grandmother and other cousins.
 - Developmentally delayed; somewhat non-verbal.



12 Components of CART

1. Response Criteria

- Basis for CART activation, mobilization, or call-out.
 - Includes processes
 - Includes area of service
- Well-defined and acknowledged by all agencies.



2. Team Composition



- Personnel selection
 - Criteria
 - Process
- Various stakeholders
- Level of expertise
 - Swift/Accurate response

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3. Notification Protocol

- Codified method of executing team deployment
- Proven and effective process
- Authority

3. Notification Protocol (cont.)

- Is there a vetting process or is it automatic upon request?
- Redundancy/Back-up
- Notification content

4. Communications

- Hotline
- Staffing
- Leads management
- Equipment
- Operational plan



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5. Command and Control

- Multiple agencies
- Multiple jurisdictions
- Planned strategy

5. Command and Control (cont.)

- Roles
 - Internal
 - External
- Understood and agreed upon

6. Search, Canvass, and Rescue



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7. Training

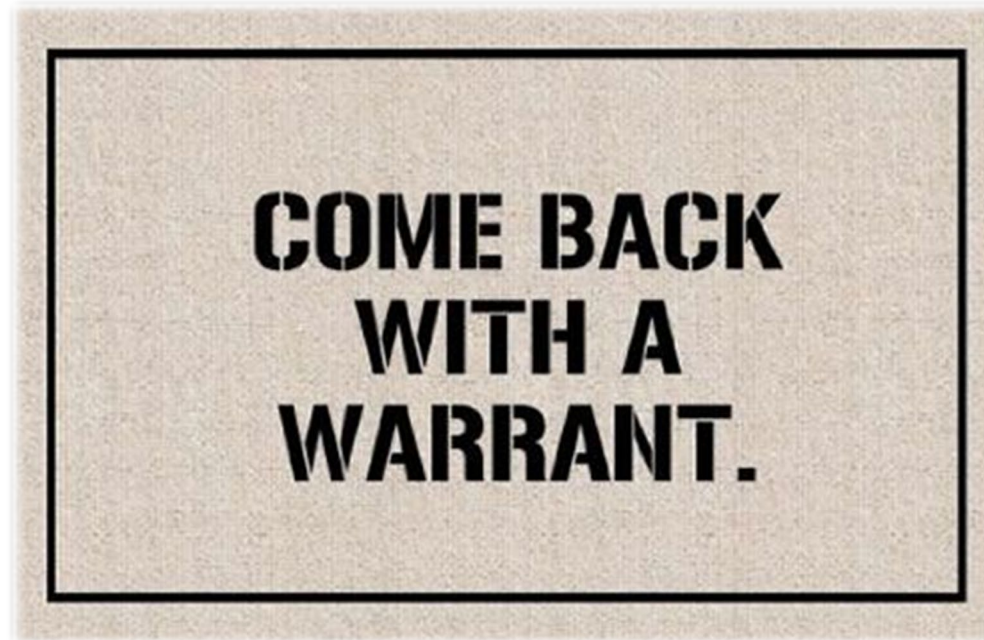


- Minimum standards
- Training Coordinator
- Frequency
- Type
- Specialized
- Records

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8. Legal Issues

- Goals
- Legal issues
- Jurisdiction
- Liability
- Prosecutor



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9. Equipment Inventory

- Physical assets/resources
- Team owned
- Team member issued

9. Equipment Inventory (cont.)

- Availability
- Maintenance/Testing
- Response necessities

10. CART Protocols



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11. Victim Assistance and Reunification

- Impact on family
- Impact on community
- Medical

11. Victim Assistance and Reunification (cont.)

- Counseling
- Reunification
- Long-term care

12. Community



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Considerations/Challenges for CART in Indian Country

Jurisdictional Considerations

- Will there be Memorandums of Understanding with non-tribal agencies?
- If there are non-tribal agencies involved, do they respect the sovereignty of the tribal community?
- Who does have jurisdiction?

Landscape and Environmental Considerations

- Most Tribal communities are rural
- Some roads are unnamed or unmarked
- Weather can change quickly

Landscape and Environmental Considerations (cont.)

- Cell phone reception may be poor
- Some Tribal agencies have Tribal Rangers who are trained in tracking and are aware of the tribal land boundaries.

Cultural Considerations

- Searching in a sacred area (burial ground)
- Ceremonial significant land
- Language barrier

Cultural Considerations(cont.)

- Family considerations
- Ceremonial/Community events (Pow-Wow's, Tribal Fairs, etc.)
- High-risk factors of Native American Children

Implementing CART

Implementing CART

- Get “buy in”. Get a sense of who would be committed to the CART (Local Law Enforcement, Tribal Council or Leadership, Community).
- Attend in-person CART Training.
- Review the CART Program Implementation Guide:
www.amberadvocate.org/CARTResources

Implementing CART (cont.)

- Discuss team structure.
- Build a resource list (get stakeholders involved).
- Begin to develop CART protocols.
- Utilize NCJTC for support (meetings with tribal leaders, key stakeholders).

Key Takeaways

- Implementing the CART model in your tribal community will assist in the response to missing children and persons.
- The implementation challenges can be overcome.
- It is important to engage the entire Tribal Community we exploring the opportunity to implement CART.

Contact Information & Final Q&A



NCJTC General Inquiries

info@ncjtc.org
www.ncjtc.org
(855) 866-2582



Derek VanLuchene
Derek.vanluchene5383@fvtc.edu



Jennifer Murphy
Jennifer.Murphy7376@fvtc.edu

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