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Public Affairs  
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## **FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP SEEKS PROTECTION FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN**

### *Technical Assistance Encourages Multi-Disciplinary Approach to DEC in Indian Country*

PHOENIX – The Yavapai-Apache Nation hosted a training workshop in Camp Verde, Ariz., during the first week of May to explore ways to better shelter and protect children in drug endangered environments. Tribal leaders joined social services, health care, substance abuse, recreation, school and law enforcement personnel to attend the workshop, which aims to strengthen coordination among the many people and agencies who are responsible for helping children discovered in drug endangered environments.

Based on a model developed in Wisconsin, the partnership, which includes the U.S. Attorney's Office; the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families-Division for Substance Abuse Policy; the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Southwest Meth Program and the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, delivers technical assistance and workshops to individual tribes to help strengthen a multi-disciplinary protocol encompassing child welfare specialists, substance abuse counselors, police, prosecutors, educators, and judges, among others.

"As a federal prosecutor, I have seen first hand the devastating effects that substance abuse can have on an individual, and on the family living around that individual," said U.S. Attorney Diane J. Humetewa. "Children are exposed to multiple risks: ingesting drugs, physical and sexual abuse, acts of violence against them and their loved ones, and outright neglect. There are few more delicate, difficult, or urgent tasks than providing the right shelter, care and protection for that child. In short, it requires a committed team from every relevant discipline."

"This was a program that needed to be brought to the Yavapai-Apache Nation with the main goal for the first responders (law enforcement, CPS, and social workers) to receive the training together so that they would understand the concept of a multi-discipline team," stated Marlene Joshua, Family Health Court Coordinator of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in Camp Verde. "The Yavapai-Apache Nation decided that the training should include all departments that have daily contact with our children through the various tribal programs. We are really grateful that this assistance is available for Indian Country."

All tribal nations in Arizona are invited to host a Drug Endangered Child (DEC) Workshop, which is provided at no charge. Each community is encouraged to assemble a multi-disciplinary team of individuals to participate in the Workshop, thereby building the capacity of individuals in these disciplines to respond as a team. Teams should include representatives from among the following: law enforcement, tribal prosecutors, child protective services, health care, and education. Teams should be multi-disciplinary and be composed of carefully selected individuals who provide services directly to tribal members.

To request technical assistance or a DEC Workshop or to get more information about DEC, send a request to the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families-Division for Substance Abuse Policy by email to [tribalDEC@az.gov](mailto:tribalDEC@az.gov) or by fax at 602-542-3643.

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