



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Task Force hears a report on the Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act**



**Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty addresses the critical need for training for the Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On April 24, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force reviewed key updates and information on a training presentation by representatives from Amber Alert system in Indian Country.

“We cannot address the crisis of missing and murdered Diné relatives without equipping our communities with the right tools, training, and partnerships. This presentation is not just a resource — it’s a commitment to action, to justice, and to protecting our children and families,” said Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Chair of the MMDR Task Force.

David Chadwick and Amy Hood Schwent of the National Criminal Justice Training Center led the presentation on the Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act.

The presentation highlighted the advantages to recovering missing and endangered children through coordinated efforts across law enforcement, media, and transportation networks. Chadwick and Schwent emphasized the importance of strengthening tribal community response plans, offering training resources, and ensuring effective collaboration with state and federal partners.

Schwent discussed the Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise (CATE), which helps tribal communities simulate and assess their response to child abductions. She outlined the importance of localizing Amber Alert implementation, building relationships between tribal and state coordinators, and providing community-specific prevention education.

Schwent emphasized the need to educate children and families about online threats, especially for juveniles who are targeted on social media platforms.

The MMDR Task Force is actively coordinating with Amber Alert in Indian Country to schedule a series of training sessions for the Navajo Nation. These training sessions will equip law enforcement, educators, community members, and advocates with critical skills for preventing and responding to cases of missing Indigenous children. Chair Crotty stressed the need for regular engagement and technical assistance to build a sustainable, long-term response.

“Our people deserve a system that protects every child, honors every missing relative, and utilizes every available resource without hesitation,” said Chair Crotty. “The information shared today strengthens our efforts to ensure that no family stands alone when a loved one goes missing. We are committed to expanding our training, bridging gaps in coordination, and supporting our communities with the tools they need to prevent these tragedies.”

Task Force member Laurelle Sheppard reiterated the importance of accurate data collection, inter-agency collaboration, and culturally responsive training initiatives. The Task Force plans to continue its partnership with Amber Alert in Indian Country by integrating their training programs into its regular meetings.

The next MMDR Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2025, and will continue addressing prevention strategies, community engagement, and the expansion of tribal resources to combat the crisis of missing and murdered Diné relatives.

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