



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF  
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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Sunday, February 12, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:

My name is Brian Dubray, and I am the Chief of Police for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Police Department. My testimony is regarding the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's budget. We receive grant funds from the Improving Peoples' Access to Community-Based Treatments, Supports and Services (IMPACTS) grant.

The funding provided by the CJC has allowed us to implement a Community Services Officer (CSO) within the Tribal Police Department. This position is focused on collaborating with both internal and external departments to help identify those in need and provide support services with a focus on drug and/or alcohol treatment.

The Community Services Officer is a unique approach towards a progression of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. The CSO does not wear a traditional law enforcement uniform in an effort to reduce barriers, especially when interacting with the Native American community who may have a historical mistrust of law enforcement. Referrals to the Community Service Officer come from a multitude of sources including law enforcement, social services and even medical providers.

As the Community Services Officer is a unique project with a data collection component, one of the unexpected measures that was identified was that a majority of the referrals involve Native Americans from other Tribes not local to the CTCLUSI five-county service area (Lincoln, Lane, Douglas, Coos and Curry). Even if their Tribe is not local, the CSO is able to proactively contact these individuals, identify their needs and respond appropriately.

Rather than explain the program, I want to introduce you to real-life person who has directly been supported by this program. Semery is 55+ years old, battles alcoholism and drug use, and he has been homeless for over 20 years. Semery is a Tribal member out of a Tribe in Canada and he holds dual citizenship. In addition, Semery is a Veteran and he was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps. The CTCLUSI CSO Robert Snyder was made aware of Semery by an outside (municipal) law enforcement agency.

CSO Snyder proactively looked for Semery, and he was able to locate him and make contact. The contact was positive, and eventually Semery was amenable to getting support and treatment for his addictions. CSO Snyder made contact with both the Department of Veteran's Affairs and also Semery's Tribe out of Canada. Semery's Tribe was excited to be contacted, and they requested that Emery contact them so that they could work with him to begin a relationship.

Thanks to the CJC funding, CSO Snyder was able to provide Semery with a prepaid cell phone so that both his Tribe and the VA's office could contact him. In addition, Semery's Tribe was also able to make an important connection with him, as Semery was actually adopted as a child and was raised without any connection to his heritage or Tribe. This forced colonization is the reality for many Native Americans.

CSO Snyder was contacted by the Veteran's Affairs office that they had located a residential treatment facility that would accept Semery and his dog Coda. Thanks to the positive relationship that CSO fostered, Semery only agreed to go into treatment if CSO Snyder took him. CSO Snyder was able to purchase new clothes for Semery and even provide him with a hotel room the night prior to transport into treatment.

CSO Snyder and I met with a member of the CTCLUSI Tribal Council who conducted a smudging ceremony with Semery (and Coda) to cleanse them of negativity. Following the ceremony, we transported Semery to the residential treatment facility. Semery's (and Coda's) future has hope as he overcomes twenty years of homelessness, alcoholism and the forced removal from his Tribal heritage as a child, which would likely not otherwise be realized without the IMPACTS program.

The Criminal Justice Commission and the IMPACTS program is having a significant impact on individuals who would otherwise fall through the cracks and have traditionally been underserved and marginalized. Semery's story is just one of many whose lives have been changed by merely taking the time to listen and respond in a culturally sensitive manner. I hope by sharing the success that CTCLUSI has been able to have with our IMPACTS program, that you will continue to support the Criminal Justice Commission and the amazing work that is possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Dubray". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian Dubray  
Chief of Police  
CTCLUSI PD