

**Minutes for Red Cloud Truth and Healing Community Advisory Gathering
Wednesday August 31, 2022 - Eben Hall**

Present: Eileen Iron Cloud, Mary Irving, Red Dog, Cecilia Fire Thunder, Justin Poirier, Maka Black Elk, Billy Critchley-Menor, Tashina Banks Rama

The meeting began late due to members being present at the OST Tribal Council Meeting.

Mary Irving, Eileen Iron Cloud, Red Dog and Billy Critchley-Menor began with a conversation about a general overview of the work of Truth and Healing over the last year.

Mary Irving gave an overview of the plan for collecting testimony from boarders.

- Mary Irving, Cecilia Fire Thunder, and Red Dog will lead the effort to collect testimony from boarders. The plan is to contact and record testimony of at least 30 boarders in the next six months.
- Eileen asked about the outreach to boarders from OLL and underscored the importance of including this group.
- The group stressed the importance of the interviewers going through training before conducting interviews with boarders.
- Each person who is interviewed will have the option to do a video interview or just audio
- Each boarder will be compensated for their time at \$250 for a session.
- Red Cloud will also create a care package for the boarders that Mary, Cecilia, and Red Dog will deliver when they complete the interview.
- Maka will finalize details regarding offering aftercare for those who provide testimony. This could be contracting with a mental health professional or a spiritual advisor too
- Cecilia Fire Thunder asked Eileen Iron Cloud to consider hosting a gathering in Porcupine of former boarders at OLL to talk about their experiences and hear about the process of testimony collection to decide whether they would like to participate.

Discussion on 8/31/22 OST Tribal Council Meeting:

- The International Indigenous Youth Council presented to the Tribal Council about their concerns with Red Cloud's Truth and Healing process, especially the GPR process.
- Discussion was had about how Red Cloud decided to scan in the two places they did.
- Maka Black Elk explained that the protocol was to scan wherever there had been eyewitness testimony to ensure the most accurate results.
- Mary Irving spoke about the potential problems with scanning on the entire property. Up until the 60s and 70s, much of the property was different and use for a variety of purposes. Behind the creek and elsewhere, there were farms, outhouses, and places where

families lived. Because of this, trash was buried, outhouse plots were moved around, and dead animals were buried regularly. All of this ground disturbance would show up in a scan of the entire property, thus making a GPR scan very inconclusive.

- The group decided it would be important to obtain old maps or aerial footage of the property from the 40s, 50s, and 60s to have former boarders detail where things were.
- Red Cloud was encouraged to respond in writing to any accusations, conflicts, or concerns brought by community members about the Truth and Healing project and process

Discussion on Upcoming Research:

- Justin Pourier suggested that an important research priority would be to go through the archives to try and make a comprehensive list of everyone who was ever in attendance at Holy Rosary boarding school. This way a list can be placed against lists of burials or other lists to see who might not be accounted for.
- It was also decided that research into the relationship between Our Lady of Lourdes and Red Cloud should be further researched.
- We should also determine when federal funding of Holy Rosary Mission began and ended.

Discussion on the OST Tribal Council's establishment of a "Task Force to investigate and pursue truth, healing, reconciliation, and justice for the wakanyaja that attended Native American Boarding Schools."

- Discussion was had on the Tribe's recent decision to create this task force. With 5th Member Justin Pourier present it was made clear that this task force would work under his office and the President's office.
- There was agreement that the Red Cloud Truth and Healing Community Advisory Council could work in collaboration with the new task force and welcomes its creation.
- There was discussion on how the groups could work together, including how Red Cloud's Truth and Healing Community Advisory Board could support the effort to identify and make communication with former boarders at OCS and Our Lady of Lourdes.

Discussion on Future Meetings:

- Red Dog raised the question about attendance at future meetings and who would be invited. Discussion was had about inviting other community members or also making the meetings open and public.
- The next meeting will be in October and the date will be set at a later date.