A Project to Protect Our Native Young (PONY)

Janis Jimmie, Project Director
Sam Valentine, Project Evaluator

© MBCI 2005
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

7 communities in MS
- 1 community in TN
- Demographics
- Population appr. 9500
- Females – appr. 5000
- Male – appr. 4,500
- 0 – 18 appr. 4,300
History of Program

- Adapted from Family Advocate Model - Initiated at the National Children’s Advocacy Center, Huntsville, AL
- Integrally linked with the multidisciplinary team in child abuse investigations
- Gap in services to families

Choctaw MDT
Mission Statement - Project PONY is designed to provide education and support to the non-offending caregiver in child abuse cases so they can protect and support the victimized child.
Program Parameters

- **Staff** – Program Director, PT Data Processor, IN-KIND case mgr
- **Duration** – 12 weeks
- **Caseload** – 16 per session
- **Target population** – non-offending caregivers
Program considerations

**Strengths**
- Vibrant culture
- Choctaw speaking providers
- Interested elders
- Written stories/legends
- Multi-disciplinary team support
- Extended families

**Challenges**
- Transportation
- Child care
- Communication
- NOC dynamics
- Length of sessions
- Group format
Overcoming Challenges

- Face to face contacts to solicit participation
- Incorporate into MDT case plans
- Planned fun activities
- Vary Delivery of educational topics
- Provide transportation
- Home visits for missed sessions
Program Outcomes

- Ensure safety of child and family
  - Safety plan
  - Identify 2 family & 1 community support systems
  - Completion of case plan with DSS

- Educate the non-offending caregiver
  - Attend 75% of participant will complete 8 sessions
  - Retrospective pre-post test
  - Understand role in investigative process

- Empower NOC to rebuild safe and stable home
  - Resource contact name and number of contact
  - Improved ability to navigate system