Welcome!

Adapting Models of Peer Involvement to Tribal Nations

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Things to consider...

- Sovereign Nations
- Urban Vs. Reservations
- Traditional, Pan-Traditional, Non-Traditional
“Natural Helpers”...

- Clans, Totems, Societies
- Traditional Healers
- Extended Family – Aunties and Uncles, Grandmothers and Grandfathers
“Peers”, Peer Support

- Medical View:
  - A person with lived experience trained to guide and support someone in the experience

- Traditional View:
  - Medicine Societies
  - Warrior Societies
  - Extended Family
  - Etc

All based on lived experience
Role of Peers/Natural Helpers

- Support through lived experience (similar to Veterans)
- Advocates: medical, legal, policy
- Additional Assessment: help providers better understand individual
- Testimony (as with NGRI)
Cultural Peer Role

- Can represent cultural perspectives on mental health (gift vs. sickness; imbalance vs. witchcraft) as opposed to Medical model
- Cultural Liaison to Medical/Legal System
- Can perform limited duties of prayer
Some Examples of Intercept

• 911 / Crisis Calls
• On-Site at Mobile Crisis/Correctional Facility
Intercept 2

- Present at Screening to provide cultural mediation if necessary
- Advocate for Medical treatment and supervision
- Contact family if requested
- Ensure individual understands circumstances/determine competency
Intercept 3

- Help individual navigate Legal System
- Advocate for maximum representation
- Create plan of Wellness to present to the Court
- Testify (NGRI)
Intercept 4

- Work with Elders/Community Leaders in Wellness activities
- Restoration of Injured Persons
- Advocate for Ceremonial Involvement
- Ongoing and unlimited counseling
Intercept 5

- Re-entry Ceremony advocate
- WRAP (or community equivalent) Training
- Advocate / Peer Support Training
- Ensure employment, education, housing, counseling opportunities
YOUR TURN

• Identify Service Gaps (where Peers, Spiritual Leaders, Extended Family can be of service)

• Think Creatively: Your community may use Peer Support in specific ways

• Others may benefit from your ideas
Some random thoughts

• Believe the experience of people with mental health challenges

• Include Gang-leaders in picture of “youth leaders”: Suicide Prevention Training, MH/SA, etc.

• Restoration is the Goal: Reward with Praise, Opportunity, & Responsibility
So You Want To Use Peers...Now What?

- State PSS Training
- Developing Community / Cultural-Based Training
- National Standards: A Dialogue
- Technical Assistance – I.H.S., BRSS TACS, FNBHA
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