“Cultural and Traditional Considerations in the Helping Professions”

2013 Tribal Justice Policy Academy
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PRESENTED BY
Barbara Aragon & Donna Humetewa Kaye
Tribal People

Historical Trauma

- **1500-1750 Disease**
  - Small pox, Bubonic plague, Measles, Yellow fever, Cholera,

- **1800 Decimation**
  - Influenza - the great death
  - Wars & Assimilation
  - “If the savage resists, civilization, with the ten commandments in one hand and the sword in the other, demands his immediate extermination.” Andrew Jackson *The Indian Killer* 1867 to Congress

- **1900 Boarding School**
  - Punishment for speaking language
  - Dress

**ASSIMILATION.....**
• Alcohol/Drugs introduced by traders in Indian Country
• Cigarette Addiction 52% - highest among all other ethnic groups
• Childhood trauma increases smoking risks
• Daily smokers are 5 times more likely to abuse alcohol
• Alcoholism is at an all time high among native people
• Most violent crimes committed in Indian country involve alcohol/drugs on both the part of the offender and the victim
Impacts of Addiction

- Tends to mask the real source of the problem
- Enhanced Low Self-Esteem
- Loss of sense of belonging or connection to the tribal community or group
  - Possibly stemming from historical trauma
  - Negative boarding school experience
  - Relocation
  - Assimilation
Wellness Court process is not a new method

Crime and conflict were historically addressed through customary and traditional methods

Traditional native people focus on community

Modern ways are individualized

Community vision is what guides native people

Mental Health, Wellness and Healing is built in as part of native culture, rituals and traditions.....
Cultural competency is one of the critical principals of care

- Not all tribal customs and traditions are the same
- Not all methods of seeking traditional healing are the same
- Not all native people will be open to participating in cultural orientated activates
- Careful consideration on the team’s part to approach cultural teaching and customs in their programs
Culturally-informed Healing and Prevention

From hurting
To healing
To helping
A Brother’s Story

“Carlos Rivera”
A Digital Story
Indigenous Containers as a Planning Analogy
Stages of Recovery

Establish Safety

Remembrance and Mourning

Reconnection and Empowerment

Trauma and Recovery, Judith Herman, MD
Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

Establish Safety  Remembrance/Mourning  Reconnecting/Empowerment

Belonging  Mastery  Inter-dependence  Generosity

AOD Prevention Curriculum, CSAP Initiative
Native Hawaiian Model

Rediscovery and Recovery
Mourning
Dreaming
Commitment
Action

Establish Safety
Remembrance and Mourning
Reconnection and Empowerment

Poko Laenui (Hayden F. Burgess) 2000
“WARRIOR DOWN”
San Francisco, California

Designed to assist Native Americans already in recovery, those re-entering the community after treatment for alcohol or substance abuse, mental disorders or after incarceration. The Warrior Down program reaches out to community service, social and family service and law enforcement agencies who provide service to support Native Americans who are reconnecting with family and community after treatment or incarceration.
Half way houses, work release centers, and other community aftercare organizations are also included in the outreach. It is important to let Native Americans in recovery know that there is a culturally responsive recovery support system available for them in their community.

White Bison
Values

Traditional Story

&

Restorative Justice
Who are the stakeholders?

- Individuals
- Groups
- Families
- Organizations
- Curricula/Knowledge
- ?
Who’s Responsible?

- Courts
- Law Enforcement
- Treatment Services
- Elders
- Healers
- Behavior Health
- The Community Response
- Storytelling
- Restorative Justice
OPEN DISCUSSION
Thank You......