

Grants Performance Review Progress Report
Reporting Period: January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009
Any Tribe
Futures – Tribal Youth Program
Circle Peacemaking for Youth Offenders
Grant Number: 2009-TY-1234

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

67 youth served through the Prime for Life alcohol education program
32 youth served through Peace Making Circles

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This reporting period we have began to see the results of our work with youth beginning to bear fruit. There are several factors to support this statement. Let's start with the statistics or numbers.

During the period of April 14th, 2005 and March 14th, 2008 the Police Department recorded data shows the number of Minor Consuming Alcohol citations for the month of April varied from a low of 6, and to a high of 21 citations. The low of 6 actually stands out alone as the next lowest recorded number for April is 12.

The Tribal Youth Program Futures one year anniversary arrived on April 14th, 2009. There are two arraignments held for Minor Consuming Alcohol cases in the State of Alaska Court each month. For the month of April there were no arraignments on the calendar for new cases of Minor Consuming Alcohol!

There may be many factors that contribute to this such as fewer Police Officers on the street due to training, the TYP and the combined work of all the community organizations, partners and parents to provide support, activities and positive alternatives for our youth. Whatever the reason it was a very positive boost to everyone's moral.

However a review of the data one year prior to the first year of operation does show an increase in the total number of MCA tickets issued. We attribute this to Police Officers being more aggressive in identifying and citing intoxicated youth as they now know a program exist that is showing positive results for young offenders. The second year data will likely show a decrease in the number of citations, this will be a positive indicator of our effectiveness.

Program staff and volunteers are reporting positive contact with program youth when out in the community. This is a direct result of the trust relationships that develops with youth during the time they spend with adults in program activities. Youth who are called upon even after graduation from TYP continue to respond positively and help out when needed or asked by others.

One of our program youth volunteered to share her story live on air through a KOTZ Radio talk show sponsored by the Tribe. She accurately conveyed our program, philosophies, values and activities, we could not have been prouder.

During this reporting period we were approached by:

Lisa Wexler
Assistant Professor
Community Health Education
Department of Public Health
School of Public Health and Health Sciences University of Massachusetts

Mrs. Wexler is working on the 'Circumpolar Pathways to Adulthood' project. This research project hopes to gain knowledge and insight into the development and practice of coping skills of youth in the arctic regions of the world. This project may bring helpful information to the TYP for future planning and program services.

Asst. Professor Lisa Wexler has agreed to be the program evaluator for the TYP Futures. She has reviewed the program goals, objectives, and outcome/process evaluations and has made recommendations for additional evaluations measures. We will discuss her recommendations at the next Tribal Advisory Board meeting in August.

Four Tribal youth high school students were recruited and encouraged to register and apply for travel scholarships for the annual National Associations of Women Judges "Color of Justice" program held in Anchorage, Alaska. This three day program encourages minority youth and women to pursue careers in the legal field to become lawyers and eventually judges. All four youth were approved for the travel scholarships. They held a fundraiser to get spending money and received per diem from the Nana's Aqqaluk Memorial Trust, a corporate organization that funds higher education for Nana shareholders. Two of the youth were former graduates of the TYP.

A large conference named the 2009 Youth & Elders Spring Gathering was planned, developed and executed by members of the Tribal Advisory Board. This regional gathering brought together 240 elders, adults and youth for three days of traditional and subsistence education, sharing and healthy positive activities. The event was funded by the Maniilaq Associations Project Life Program. Early review of the program evaluations shows a very positive response from all participants.

3. STATUS OF PROJECT GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

Please list individually each goal and related objective(s) cited in your proposal. For each objective, identify the following information: progress accomplished, activities conducted, barriers faced and corrective action, if required.

Goal 1: Reduce the use of alcohol by Minors in our Community

Project Objective A:

(40) youth will receive the Prime for Life alcohol and drug education course by 2/22/2009.

Status: Completed and On-going

Indicate Number of Youth Served: 67

Activity: Partner with Maniilaq to teach PFL to youth.

Progress: As of 2/22/2009 (89) youth under the age of 21 years of age have started the Prime for Life course. (67) of these youth completed the entire course.

Barriers to Obtaining Objectives:

22 youth were unable to complete the entire course. This was due primarily to transportation issues and kids involved in other programs after school.

Corrective Action:

We are working to provide transportation for youth for the Prime for Life alcohol and drug education course and working with other programs to identify best times to hold the course.

Project Objective B:

The number of citations issued for Minor Consuming Alcohol decreases by 2/22/2009.

Status: Not Met At All

Indicate Number of Youth Served: N/A

Activity: Partner with Maniilaq to teach PFL to youth.

Progress: A review of the data for the first calendar year and the year prior to the implementation of the TYP shows an increase in the number of MCA citations issued by the Police Department for this reporting period by (29) citations. As discussed in the executive summary we believe there has been an increased effort by the Police Officers in enforcement of underage drinking laws. This was confirmed by Lt. Swisher of the Police Department who reports that they are aggressively enforcing underage drinking laws now that a program exists to address this community issue.

Barriers to Obtaining Objectives:

Because of the increased efforts by Police Officers, we are seeing an increase in citations issued for Minors Consuming Alcohol.

Corrective Action:

We are setting a new baseline for citations of Minors Consuming Alcohol so that we can more accurately measure change in this indicator.

Project Objective C:

(120) Youth will receive the Prime for Life alcohol and drug education course by 2/22/2011.

Status: Partially Met

Indicate Number of Youth Served: 67

Activity: Partner with Maniilaq to teach PFL to youth.

Progress: As of 2/22/2009 (89) youth under the age of 21 years of age have started the Prime for Life course. (67) of these youth completed the entire course.

Barriers to Obtaining Objectives:

None to report

Corrective Action:

N/A

Goal 2: To develop a community peacemaking circle to address delinquent behavior in our community

Project Objective A:

Establish a Peace Making Circle

Status: Completed

Indicate Number of Youth Served: 32

Activity: Provide training to community partners and volunteers that is necessary to start the Peacemaking Circle.

Progress:

1. During this reporting period the second Circle Facilitator training was held at the TYP classroom. There were seven participants in the training bringing the total to 18 of those whose have been trained in the circle process.
2. This reporting period 16 circles were held and facilitated by program staff or trained volunteers. 32 youth, 21 adults, and 16 elders spent a total of 25.5 hours in talking circles. This represents 324 cumulative youth, adults, and elders total talking circle participants with an average of 20 participants per talking circle.
3. A total of 53 youth, 32 adults and 21 elders, representing over 600 cumulative youth, adult, and elder participants with an average of 19 participants per circle, have spent 52.5 hours in 31 talking circles since we started tracking them in the TYP.

Barriers to Obtaining Objectives:
None to report

Corrective Action:
N/A

Project Objective B:

Talking Circle is formed and has community buy-in.

Status: Completed

Indicate Number of Youth Served: N/A

Activity: Hold community meetings to share the purpose of the Talking Circles and how it will benefit the community. Meet with Tribal Leadership to share information about the program and how it will reduce delinquency in the community.

Progress: We held one community meeting in March that was attended by 56 adults and 21 elders. Community members were encouraged to attend these talking circles and spread the word about them. The meeting was well received. We also met with Tribal Leadership in April who agreed to support talking circles through the Tribal newsletter and place them on the Tribal events calendar.

Barriers to Obtaining Objectives:

Although the community is very excited about the program and continue to participate, we have not received many referrals from the Police Department.

Corrective Action:

We will meet with the Chief of Police to talk about the benefits and cost effectiveness of the program and draft up an MOA that outlines the referral process.

Project Objective C:

Community takes ownership of the talking circle and continues to be involved.

Status: Completed

Indicate Number of Youth Served: N/A

Activity: Provide training to community partners and volunteers that is necessary to start the Peacemaking Circle.

Progress: Locally our circle has been practiced and replicated in several other programs that support healthy youth activities such as the Northwest Arctic Borough School Districts Youth Leadership Program and the Tribes youth culture camp held annually at a remote summer camp called Sisualik. Sisuakik has been continually occupied by our people for ten thousand years.

Barriers to Obtaining Objectives:

None to report

Corrective Action:

N/A

4. MODIFICATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT STRATEGY:

In the original proposal, we proposed to train 10 youth in peer mediation. However, based on identified youth needs, staffing, and resources available, we decided to focus resources on the Peacemaking Circles. We spoke with our OJJDP Program Manager who agreed with our proposed changes and approved our change in scope of services.

5. PROBLEMS, IF ANY, YOUR PROJECT HAS FACED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE TO ADDRESS EACH PROBLEM.

Because of the costs associated with the Peacemaking Circles, the issue of sustaining them was raised. We would like some assistance in developing a sustainability plan to make sure that Peacemaking Circles continue in our community past the funding period.