FY 2018 Cohort Strategic Planning Meeting

Supporting Indigenous Youth and Their Families Through Culture-Based Approaches

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Considerations for Defining Culture-Based Approaches

Indigenous Ways of Knowing as Foundation

• Mind, Spirit, Body, Emotion – focus on holistic
• Place-based, e.g. land, water
• Use of respective Tribal/Indigenous Language
• Inclusive of kinship and extended family network
• Access to Cultural practices
• Seeing/relating to youth as relatives, not “clients” or “students
Culture-Based Justice Systems

Juvenile and Adult Healing to Wellness Courts

• Planning should include Elders, Traditional Healers, Community, Parents, youth, criminal justice system, service providers
• Healing is the focus (spiritual, physical, community)
• Based on cultural values – helping one another, collaboration, inclusive
• Case plans are holistic
Culture-Based Justice Systems Cont.’

Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts

Incorporation of traditional lifeways and healing interventions

• Example 1: Spirit purification ceremony from exposure to trauma or experiences of trauma

• Example 2: Service learning projects incorporated into case plan, e.g., working with Elders or traditional leaders on a community project

• Example 3: Indigenous Model of Restorative Practices, e.g., Talking Circles for case management and peer groups & Family Group Decision Making Conferencing
Examples of Culture-Base Programs

• **National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP):** Project Venture the only science based Native American adventure training curriculum.  
  www.projectventure.org

• **Gathering Of Native Americans (GONA)** – focus on Prevention, intervention, youth leadership, family relationships

• **American Indian Life Skills (AILS)** – strengthening life skills and reducing suicidal thoughts and behavior among American Indian youth
Examples of Culture-Based Programs cont.'

- **Family Spirit** – evidence-based home visiting designed to address intergenerational behavioral health, [http://caih.jhu.edu/programs/family-spirit](http://caih.jhu.edu/programs/family-spirit)

- **Brave Heart Society** – for Nakota, Dakota and Lakota Sioux women and girls, program designed to revive their cultural traditions.

- **Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project** – Selpulpa, OK

- **White Bison** - Sons and Daughters of Tradition, prevention education program for youth (ages 8-17) to create healthy identities [http://whitebison.org/](http://whitebison.org/)
Bring Youth Voice to the Front
Considerations for Culture-based Approaches with Youth

- Gender Equality
- LGBTQ inclusion
- Peer Youth Mentor
- Focus on Healthy Relationship
- Cultural Relevance
- Peace Building Skills
Use SMART Planning

- **SPECIFIC**: Well-defined and specific
- **MEASURABLE**: Quantiﬁed or measured descriptively
- **ACHIEVABLE**: Realistic
- **RELEVANT**: Based on community strengths and needs
- **TIME BOUND**: Specific timeline

Culture – Based Strategies

Based on community strengths and needs.
What are Some Culture-Based Strategies for the Youth you will be working with?
Guidance for Team Discussion

a) Discuss strategies for culturally-based approaches in community programs and juvenile justice system

b) Focus on holistic – mind, body, spirit, emotions, place-based

c) Write strategies on index cards, include your Tribe and team names
Pilamayaye, Nigh
Thank you