Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.

- Hellen Keller

A goal without a plan is just a wish.

- Antoine de Saint Exupery

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela
BUILDING A YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM

Johanna Farmer & Annette Leyva
National Tribal Youth Conference 2018
Assessing the Situation
System, Family, and Youth
Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.

—DAVID OGDEN STIERS
WHY TRUANCY?
Truancy causes students to fall behind and often leads to their being held back in school.

95% of juvenile offenders started out as truants.

Truant females have a higher probability of getting pregnant in their teen years.
Why It Matters

If children don’t show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.
BENEFITS OF SERVICE-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- Addresses issues that brought the youth into the justice system
- Promotes the use of services rather than detention
- Provides coordination for each youth
- Ensures compliance with the Juvenile Code
- Designed as a cost-effective alternative
Formation & Structure
ATTENDANCE ACHIEVEMENT PHILOSOPHY
How does AAP work?

1. Restorative
2. Solution Based Approach
3. Active Engagement
4. Partnership with Family
5. Accountability
STRUCTURE

- Built in collaboration with partners

- School
  - Referral to Tribe

- Law Enforcement
  - Create Citation Form

- Prosecutor’s Office
  - Referral to AAP

- Attendance Achievement Program
  - Assessment and diversion

- Court
  - Formal intervention
Successes and Challenges
Successes

- Learned language of families and departments
- Connection to the family
- Understanding of culture
- Multidisciplinary
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Challenges

- Leadership
- Silos
- Roles
Discussion
Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children

—Sitting Bull
THANK YOU