Creating Connections for Youth through Culture, Court, and Club

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Gnoozhekaaning “Place of Pike”

- Bay Mills Indian Community
  - Treaties of 1820, 1836, and 1855
- Indian Reorganization Act
  - Government formed in 1836.
  - Constitution enacted in 1936

- Origin Story
  - Acknowledging beginnings to move forward in the future.
- Walking two roads.
Government Structure

- Government Structure
  - General Tribal Council
    - The governing body of Bay Mills Indian Community. The GTC is made up of enrolled voting age Bay Mills citizens, ages 18 years and older.
  - Executive Council
    - Five members of the GTC serve on the Executive Council and are officers of the Tribe who exercise powers delegated to them by the GTC.
      - Tribal Departments
        - Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills is a separate department of the Bay Mills Tribe.
  - Bay Mills Tribal Court
    - A separate branch of tribal government, underneath the GTC and Executive Council, but treated as an independent branch.
Hierarchy Diagram

Bay Mills Indian Community Organizational Hierarchy

Updated: July 2017
Bay Mills Tribal Court

- Jurisdiction Limits of Tribal Court
- What programs do we have that are set up only for youth?
  - Informal Adjustment Conference
    - Bay Mills Law and Order Code Chapter VII
- Then and Now
  - Transforming the Informal Adjustment Conference
  - Using already existing programs to enhance Tribal Court programs.
Restorative Justice

• General Definition

• Definition for your Community
  • Using general restorative justice concepts and integrating it into already established procedures and systems.

• What did this mean for Bay Mills Tribal Court?
  • Key Questions Addressed
    • What does restorative justice mean for our community?
    • What procedures do we already have in place?
    • How can we integrate this concept into these procedures?
    • Working towards healing and rehabilitation.
Implementing Culture into Court

• Complexities of what is spirituality and culture?
  • How to bridge the gaps.
  • Knowing limitations.
  • Respecting boundaries.

• Reaching out to key leaders.
  • Defining what this program will look like inside and outside of Court.
  • Setting up MOUs.
  • Creating policies and procedures. (Informal or Formal)
Establishing Relationships

- Bay Mills Cultural Center
- Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills
  - Teen Night
  - Tribal Youth Council
  - Daily Programming
- Teen Empowerment Program
  - Behavioral Health Services
- Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermedia School District
- Community at Large
Overcoming Barriers

Youth Focused
• Transparency
• Turn Over
• Public Trust
• Parent / Caregiver Engagement
• Commitment
• Community Buy In
• Team Training to Support Effective Processes within Youth Programs
Prevention and Healing: Court

- Prevention after already in Tribal Court?
  - Recidivism of Youth and Others

- Healing inside and outside.
  - Individual, Victim, Community
  - Mental, Spiritual, Emotional, Physical

- Youth Leading as an Example for Other Youth

- Strengthening community and public trust.
Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills

• “Enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, caring citizens.”
• Opened in 2001 and officially chartered in September 2002
• Tribal Department of the Tribe
• Operating 3 sites
  • 1 Stand-Alone Club House
  • 2 School-based Sites
• 275 Registered members
  • ADA: 106 Youth
  • 58 Teens
Youth Development Strategy

Our Formula for Impact

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED US MOST

OUTCOME-DRIVEN CLUB EXPERIENCE

- Five Key Elements for positive youth development
- High-Yield Activities
- Targeted Programs
- Regular Attendance

PRIORITY OUTCOMES

 Academic Success
 Graduate from high school, ready for college, trade school, military or employment

 Good Character & Citizenship
 Be an engaged citizen involved in the community, register to vote and model strong character

 Healthy Lifestyles
 Adopt a healthy diet, practice healthy lifestyle choices and make a lifelong commitment to fitness

[Image of people engaging in activities]
Youth Programming

• Education
• Character & Leadership Development
• The Arts
• Ojibwe Culture
• Career Development
• Healthy Lifestyles

• On the Spot Programming
• High Yielding Activities
  • “Program with a Purpose”
• Targeted Programming
  • Curriculum Based
  • Grant Funded
Teen Specific Programming

- **T-PREP**
- **Weekly Teen Nights**
  - Volunteer/Service Hours
- **Native Youth Leadership Curriculum**
  - Native Wellness Institute
- **Power Hour – Making Minutes Count**
  - Boys & Girls Club of America
- **Botvin Life Skills Training**
  - National Health Promotion Associates
- **UNITY**
- **Annual Native Teen Wellness Summit**
  - Native Wellness Institute
  - Community Leaders
  - The 1491’s
Bringing Culture into Programming
Overcoming Barriers

- Transparency
- Establishing Partnerships
- Data Collection
  - Surveys – NYOI, Polls, Evaluations
  - “Pulse Checks”
  - Weekly Team Meetings
  - Monthly Staff Development
- Family Engagement
  - Establishing relationships beyond members
- Adaptability
Prevention and Healing: Club

- How does Boys & Girls Club plan for prevention?
  - Look at creating supportive structures for before & after trauma.
    - Before Trauma
      - Teaching expectations for supportive environments.
      - Truth, Love, Humility, Respect, Wisdom, Honesty, Bravery
    - After Trauma
      - Creating and teaching coping mechanisms.
      - Supportive environments in action.

- Ultimate Goals:
  - Help youth achieve a complete sense of self.
  - Direct and guide youth towards a “mino bimaadiziwin” way of life.
Mino-Bimaadiziwin “Good-Life/Living”

- Understanding and Creating Balance – *not perfection*
- The “Good” Life Teachings
  - 7 Grandfather Teachings
  - 4 Sacred Medicines
  - Medicine Wheel
- The Antithetical Teachings
  - 7 Rascal Teachings
  - Windigo Spirits & Victimization
- Balance *isn’t achieved, but it’s sought after.*

“Balance is not a passive resting place—it takes work, balancing the giving and the taking, the raking out and the putting in.”
— Robin Wall Kimmerer
*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*
Establishing Relationships

• Medicines as conduits for connection
• Finding and working with non-traditional partners
• Focus on shared and related goals – not differences
Prevention and Healing: Culture

- Culture is:
  - Prevention
  - Treatment

- Care of/for Self and Community

- Addressing unresolved grief

“Children, language, lands: almost everything was stripped away, stolen when you weren’t looking because you were trying to stay alive.”
— Robin Wall Kimmerer (Potawatomi)

_Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants_
Culture in a Modern Era

• Monolithic Culture
• 7 Grandfather Teachings as guideposts
• Intentionally incorporating (inter)connection; an important part of a whole

“...in the constellation of teachings we call the Original Instructions....[they’re] not “instructions” like commandments...they are like a compass: they provide an orientation but not a map. The work of living is creating that map for yourself”

— Robin Wall Kimmerer

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants
Complexities of Culture and Programming

• Applying cultural knowledge, teachings, and perspectives daily: personally and professionally

• Understanding how historical, current, and on-going colonialism affects our minds, then counteracting appropriately

• Historical trauma has far-reaching effects.
  • Lateral oppression/violence
  • Example: Tobacco coalition struggles
Overcoming Barriers

• Culture as a priority: for whom?
• Who’s going to pay for it?
• “Humble pie“
Moving Forward: Next Steps

• Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between Tribal Court and the Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills

• Creating a standard that is accepted moving forward, and setting up policies and procedures that guarantee the program’s longevity.

• Assisting with training and development of staff at outside programs and Tribal Court – so they are aware of the standards of the program and hold other individuals accountable in participation and sustainability.

• Facilitating the awareness and connectedness of cultural programming by the Cultural Center with the rest of the community.
Building a Supportive Foundation

• Transparency of Programs
• Creating “ON” Ramps to Culture
• Community and Tribal Department Buy In
• Establishing Support from Tribal Council
• Fostering Connections between Departments
Sustainability

- Having programing and restorative justice work reach the “inside” of the home.
  - This includes engaging more than just Youth.
    - Mom, Dad, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Etc.
    - Complete engagement of family.

- Supportive Structures
  - Inside & Outside of Club or Court
  - Community Wide Buy-In
  - MOUs with multiple departments
Questions?