Building Sustainable Partnerships With Tribal & Indigenous Communities

Dennis F Mohatt
Vice President for Behavioral Health
WICHE’s Mission

- Expanding educational access and excellence for all citizens in the West.
- Promote innovation, cooperation, resource sharing and sound public policy.
- Support public mental health system improvement and the preparation of a skilled workforce.
Food for Thought

- There are 574 Recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Entities
- The majority of AIAN people do not live on Reservations
- Just like the majority of Veterans do not receive their healthcare from the VA, the majority of AIAN people do not get their care exclusively from the IHS
- Indigenous/Tribal people and communities are diverse, if you’ve worked with one Tribal community...you’ve worked with one Tribal Community
Three Main Paths to Success

Humility

Equity of Voice

Shared Decision Making
Some WICHE Examples of Partnership

► **Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium**
  - Began development in 2009
  - Accepted first intern cohort in 2011
  - To date has graduated over 125 doctoral psychology interns
  - 60% of graduates have remain in practice in Alaska

► **Consortium includes both Tribal Health Systems and Non-Tribal Health System Partners**
  - Norton Sound Health Corporation
  - Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
  - Alaska Psychiatric Institute
  - Providence Health Systems – Alaska Family Practice Residency Program
Suicide Prevention Training for Tribal Health Systems in Montana

- Tribes in Montana reached out to State BH Division to Support Training for Tribal Health Providers/Clinics
  - WICHE met with local Tribal representatives about using Toolkit developed for Primary Care
  - Based on local input, WICHE developed addendum to existing toolkit to enhance fit with Tribal settings
    - Informed by local voice and approved for use prior to doing training
    - Funded by State of Montana, Delivered by WICHE, Informed/enhanced through input from local Tribal community providers and leadership
Mountain Plains MHTTC – HHS Region 8

- 32 Recognized Tribes
- 3 IHS Areas (Great Plains, Billings, Albuquerque)
- MP-MHTTC is a partnership between Univ. of North Dakota and WICHE
- Early on the needs of Tribal Communities became paramount area of focus
  - Multiple suicide clusters emerged in region
  - Engagement with community leaders on Rosebud, Pine Ridge, and Rocky Boy illuminated desire to focus training with schools to enhance local capacity to create trauma informed classrooms and build resiliency
Building Capacity of School Personnel to Promote Positive Mental Health in Indigenous Children and Youth

- Community of Practice with 3-6 interdisciplinary team members; 3-4 schools per cohort.
- 2 cohorts per year (Year 2-5) – 28 Schools total in Region 8

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<td>Dunseith Day School</td>
<td>Box Elder</td>
<td>Pineridge Girls School</td>
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<td>Turtle Mountain Community School</td>
<td>Harlem Public Schools District #12</td>
<td>Todd County- Spring Creek</td>
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<td>Parshall School District</td>
<td>Boulder Elementary</td>
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Partnership: It’s a Journey

Leadership & Governance

Employment

Service Delivery

Funding

Policy & Procedures

Planning & Goal Setting

Information
Thank You!

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