

Tribal Youth Wellness Courts: Responses to Underage Drinking

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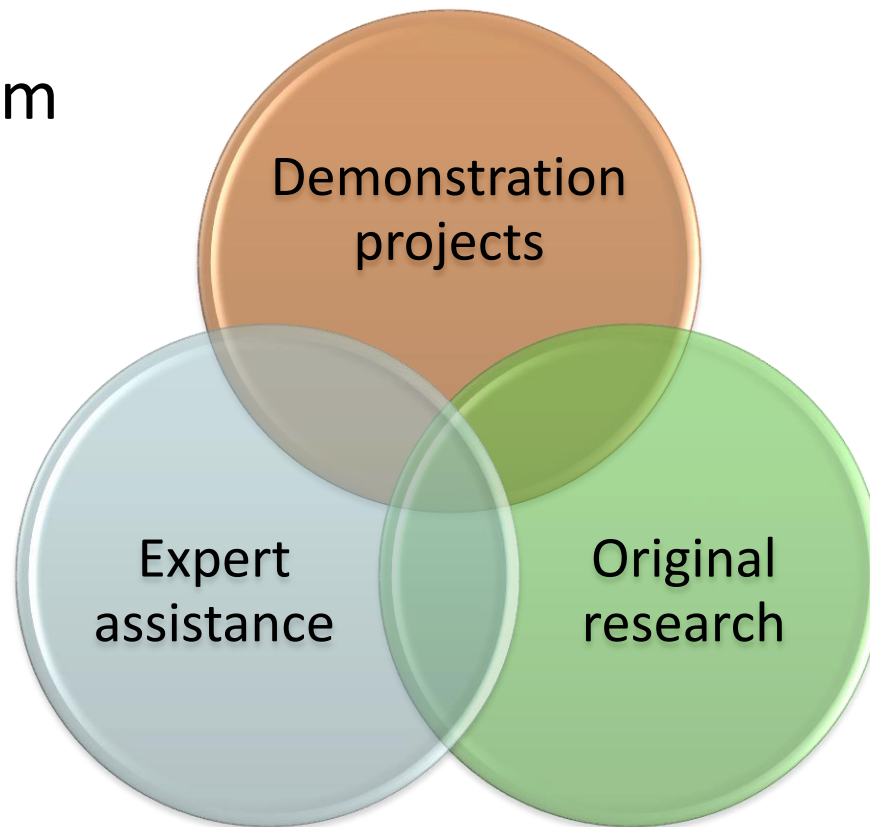
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Who We Are



Center for Court Innovation

Justice reform
through:



Demonstration Projects

RED HOOK
COMMUNITY
JUSTICE
CENTER



Center for Court Innovation

Original Research

Planning a Problem-Solving Justice Initiative

A Toolkit for
Tribal Communities

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Strategies for Bridging the Divide

Expert Assistance



Tribal Justice Exchange T/TA

Tribal Training and Technical Assistance

Tribal
strategic
planning

Needs
assessments

Problem-
solving
strategies

Peacemaking
Technical
Assistance

Tribal
Access to
Justice
Innovation
website

Red Hook
and Syracuse
Peacemaking
Programs

Project Sites

- ▶ White Earth Ojibwe
 - White Earth, Minnesota
- ▶ Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
 - Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin
- ▶ Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
 - Winnebago, Nebraska
- ▶ Southern Ute Tribe
 - Ignacio, Colorado
- ▶ Yurok Tribe
 - Klamath, California



Alcohol Use Among Native Youth

- ▶ American Indian and Alaska Native youth are more likely to:
 - Drink younger
 - Drink more heavily
 - Use alcohol with drugs
 - Suffer related consequences

- ▶ Youth who use before 15 are five times more likely to become alcohol dependent

Youth Development

- ▶ Adolescents are different
 - ▶ Self-Regulation
 - ▶ External Influences
 - ▶ Present Oriented
- ▶ Risk taking behavior is normal
 - ▶ Some never offend
 - ▶ Most Stop
 - ▶ Few Persist



Adolescents are Different

- ▶ Self-Regulation
 - ▶ Brain development
 - ▶ Self control vs. emotional reactions
 - ▶ Young Men
- ▶ Proximal External Influences
 - ▶ Immediate rewards
 - ▶ Peer Groups
- ▶ Present Oriented
 - ▶ Future Orientation and Reasoning



Responding to Youth

Youth risk taking behavior is normal



Cognitive differences suggest need for differential treatment

Healthy Development

- ▶ Three Important Conditions for Healthy Development:
 - ▶ Parental figure
 - ▶ Peer groups
 - ▶ Activities and critical thinking



Healthy Development (cont.)

- ▶ Parental figure
 - ▶ Problem parents
 - ▶ Mentors
- ▶ Peer groups
 - ▶ Model peer groups
 - ▶ Structured vs unstructured
- ▶ Critical Thinking
 - ▶ Improve decision making



Goals

- ▶ Enhance the capacity of the HTWCs
- ▶ Provide services that are:
 - Comprehensive
 - Developmentally appropriate
 - Community-based
 - Culturally appropriate



Common Themes

- ▶ Clarifying process
- ▶ Continuum of care
 - ▶ Trauma-informed services
 - ▶ Parenting skills
 - ▶ Tailored clinical interventions



Common Themes (cont.)

- ▶ Youth-centered, pro-social activities
 - ▶ Traditional and ceremonial practices
 - ▶ Parent/Family involvement
- ▶ Collaborations
- ▶ Data collection and evaluation



Strengths

- ▶ Current capacity
- ▶ Cultural foundation
- ▶ Community volunteers
- ▶ Multiagency advisory boards
- ▶ Flexibility of tribal justice systems



Challenges

- ▶ Screening and assessment
- ▶ Access to services
 - ▶ Resource availability
 - ▶ Staffing limitations
 - ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Family engagement
- ▶ Collaborations



Strategies

▶ Improved collaboration (MOU/MOA's)

- Within tribe
- With county justice system

▶ Formalizing process

- Revision of Tribal Code
- Clear policies, procedures, and roles

▶ Online-based trainings

- National Online Learning System
- TLPI-webinars, HTWC website



Strategies

- ▶ Community participation

- Elder consultation
- Tribal Council buy-in

- ▶ Family engagement in planning process

- ▶ Positive adult mentors and parenting classes



Looking ahead

- ▶ Use training and technical assistance services (there's no cost!!)
 - Needs assessment
 - Strategic planning
 - Evidence-based practices
 - Code development



Funding

- ▶ Apply for funding if needed
 - BJA
 - OJJDP
 - SAMHSA
 - Private foundations



Resources

- ▶ Center for Court Innovation
 - www.courtinnovation.org
- ▶ National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - www.ncjfcj.org
- ▶ Tribal Law and Policy Institute
 - www.tribal-institute.org
- ▶ Tribal Judicial Institute (Univ. of North Dakota Law School)
 - <http://law.und.edu/tji/>
- ▶ National Tribal Judicial Center (National Judicial College)
 - <http://www.judges.org/ntjc/>

Questions?

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