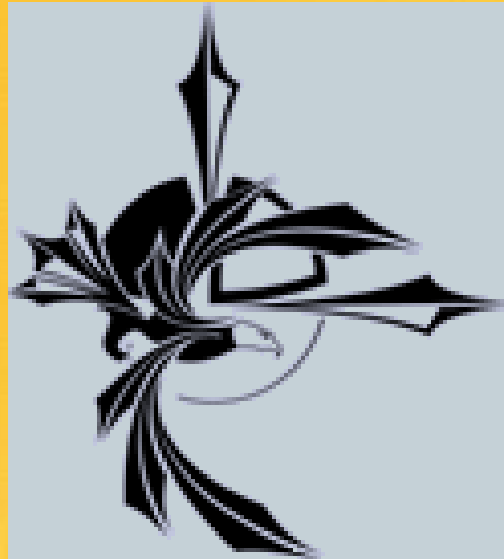


Working with Tribal Populations in State Drug Courts and Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts



Presented by: The Tribal Law and Policy Institute

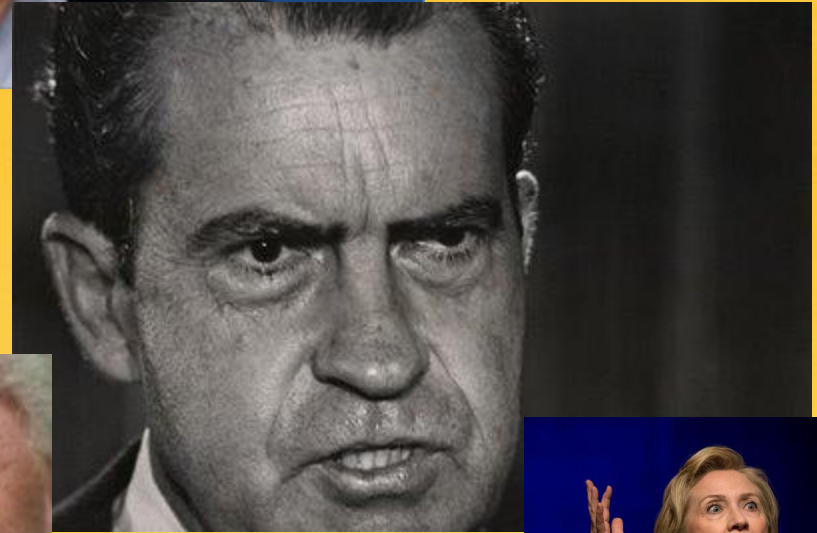
Tribal Politics

Rivalries, family or clan conflicts are common occurrences when working within tribal communities.



At first this would make it appear that working within tribal politics are a nightmare.

UNTIL YOUR REALIZE



Cultural Customs and Awareness

- Specific cultural customs among AI/AN groups significantly, even within a single community.
- Deeply held values, general world view, patterns of communication, and interaction are often the differences that affect the helping relationship.
- Respectful questions about cultural customs are generally welcomed, yet not always answered directly.
- Sharing food is a way to welcoming visitors, similar to offering a handshake.

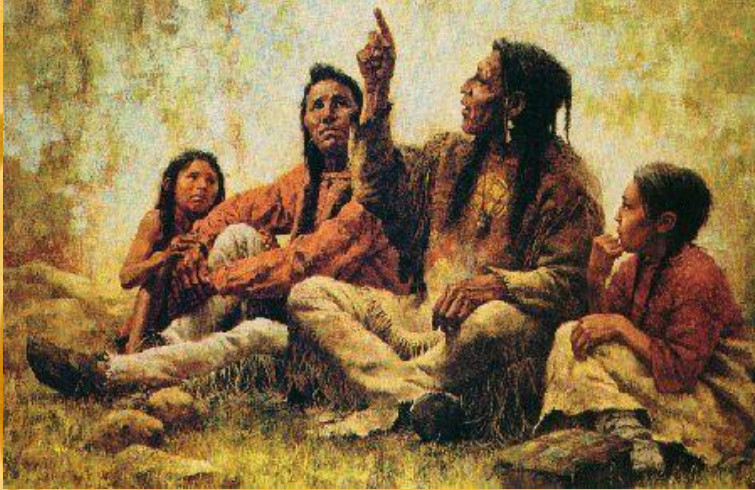
Spirituality

Many AI/AN communities have strong church community and organized religion that is integrated with their culture



Specific practices such as ceremonies, prayers, and religious protocols will vary among AI/AN communities

Communication



I'm glad we share a sense of humor and an understanding that I'm slightly funnier.



someecards



Humor

Story telling

Will not criticize another directly

MUST PAY ATTENTION TO NON VERBALS

Cultural Identity

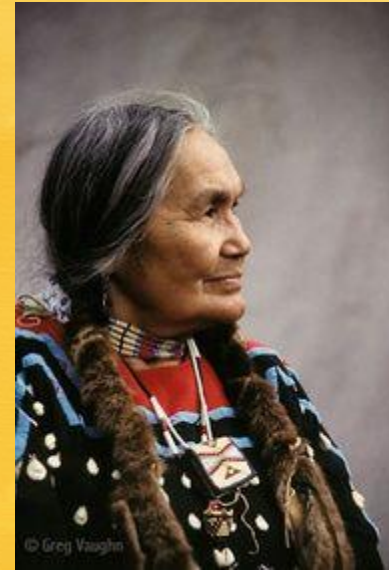
Do not assume

Each individual experiences their cultural connection in a unique way.

It is important to remember that most Alaska Natives do not refer to themselves as “Indians.”



ELDERS/Warriors



Historic Distrust/ Historical Trauma



DO's

- Be honest about your expectations. Be willing to adapt and be open to other ways of thinking.
- Examine your own belief system about AI/AN people related to social issues, such as poverty, mental health stigma, teen suicide, and drug or alcohol use.
- Learn how the community refers to itself as a group of people (ex. Tribal name)
- If you don't know admit your limited knowledge of AI/AN cultures. Show people your willing to be educated about specific cultural protocols in their community.

DON'TS

- Avoid stereotyping.
- Be careful about telling stories of distant AI/AN relatives in your genealogy unless you have maintained a connection with that AI/AN community.
- Do not touch sacred items such as medicine bags, other ceremonial items, hair, jewelry, and other personal or cultural things.
- NEVER use any information gained by working in the community for personal presentations, case studies, research, and so on, without the expressed written consent of the Tribal government or Alaska Native Corporation.

Native Participants in State Drug Courts

IS THERE A
DRUG COURT
IN YOUR TOWN?

Must BUILD TRUST



Must be AWARE OF

Native Pauses



Communication styles



Story Tellers



TIME

Right Place Right Time



Contrasting Values.

Native American

- Cooperate
- Be Patient
- Listen and you'll learn
- Give and share

Non-Native

- Compete
- Learn to be Aggressive
- Speak up and be heard
- Take and save

Contrasting Values cont.

Native American

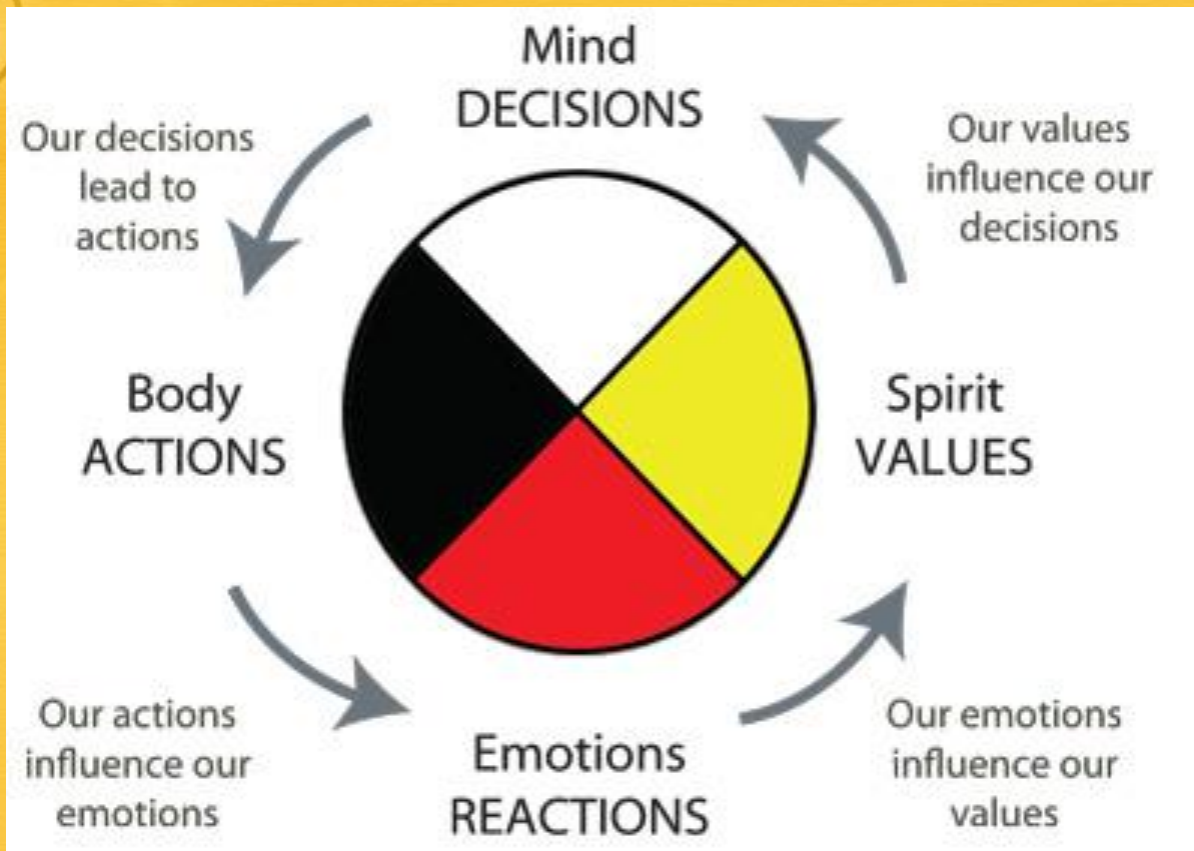
- Harmony (live in harmony with all things)
- Great Mystery/Intuitive
- Humility
- Spirituality (a way of life)

Non-Native

- Conquer (nature)
- Skeptical/Logical
- Self (ego/attention)
- Religion (a part of life)

REMEBER

Anyone that is exposed to conflicting values will become confused, angry, frustrated and unbalanced – physically, mentally and spiritually. Balance is vital to Native American Culture and Spirituality





Codependency runs very high







