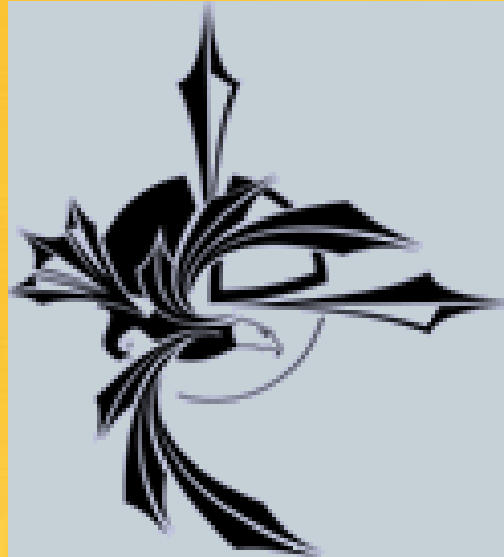


# **Working with Tribal Populations in State Drug Courts and Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts**



Presented by: The Tribal Law and Policy Institute

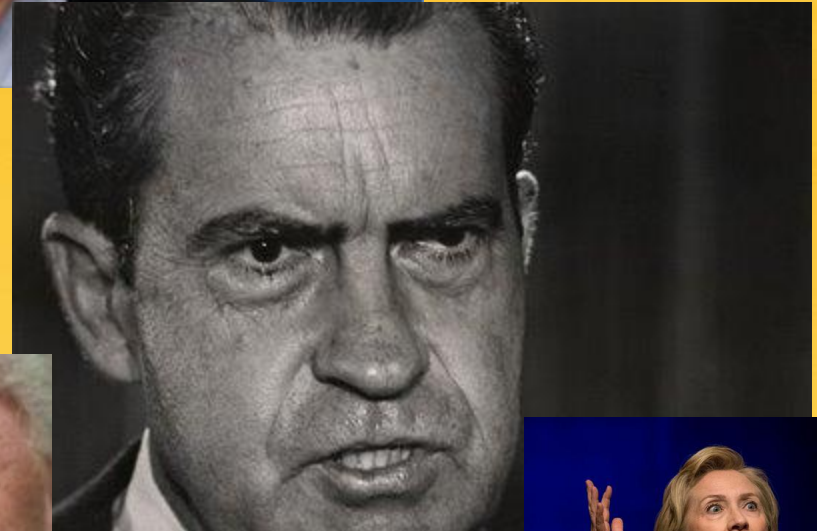
# Tribal Politics

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.

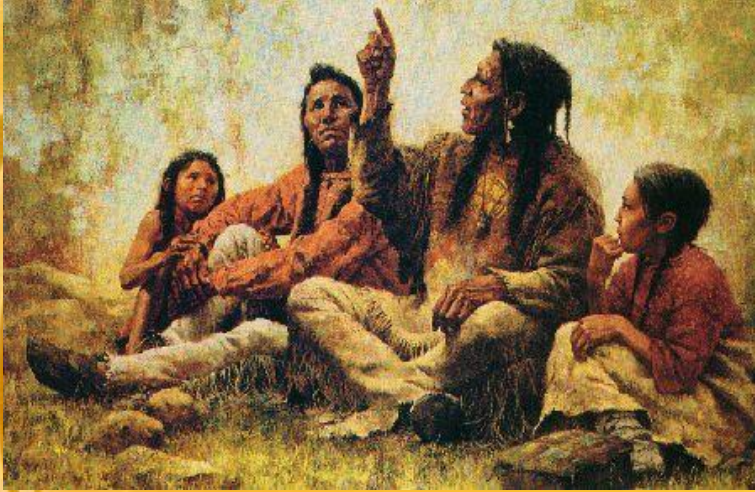
# Spirituality

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

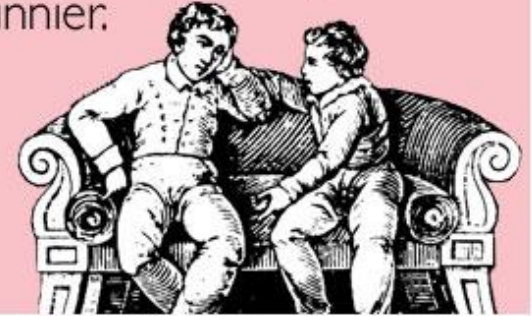


Specific practices such as ceremonies, prayers, and religious protocols will vary among AI/AN communities

# 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

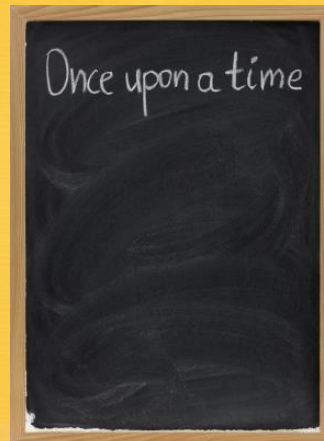
## Native Pauses



## 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

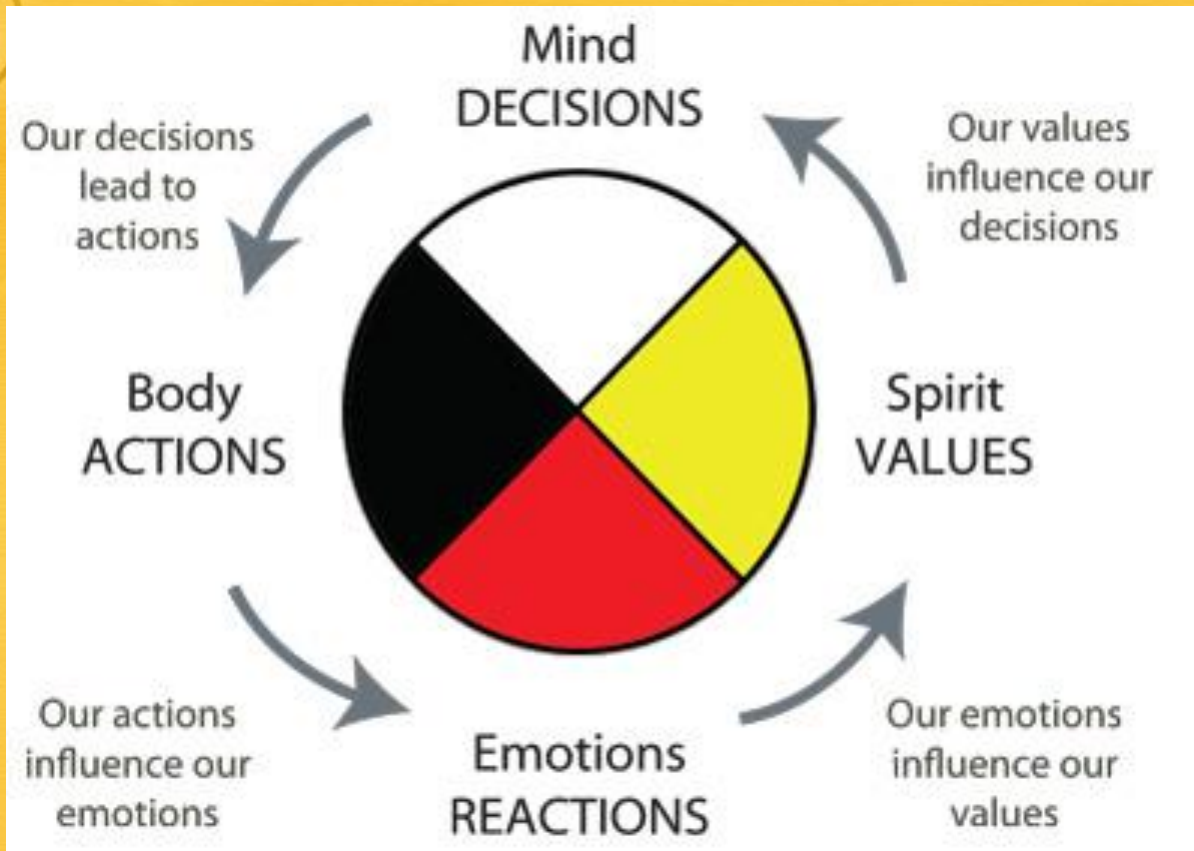
- Harmony (live in harmony with all things)
- Great Mystery/Intuitive
- Humility
- Spirituality (a way of life)

## 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

