Tackling Methamphetamine with Healing to Wellness Courts

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Goals:
• Reduce Crime
• Aid Victims
• Strengthen Communities
• Improve Public Trust in Justice
### Types of Problem-Solving Courts

1) **Therapeutic Models**:  
   - Healing to Wellness courts  
   - Community courts  
   - Family Treatment courts  
   - Veterans courts  
   - Youth courts  

2) **Accountability Models**:  
   - Domestic Violence courts  
   - Sex Offense courts

### Why Problem-Solving Courts?

1. Collaboration  
2. Community engagement  
3. Individualized justice  
4. Enhanced information  
5. Accountability
Overview

Methamphetamine: a Game Changer in communities

- Effect on tribal communities?
- How are tribes addressing meth addiction?

Overview

- Meth presents special challenges to the justice system
- There ARE effective ways to address meth addiction
- Problem-solving courts can help you do it
Meth on Tribal Land

- Supply and Demand
- Public Safety: “The greatest threat to the community”
- 40% of violent crimes linked to meth
- Indian lands targeted by drug cartels

Meth on Tribal Land cont’d.

- Affecting quality of life for entire community
- Low recovery rate
- Tension over who should address the needs of meth users
- Young female users
How are Tribes Responding?

- Education
- AI/AN-Specific Treatment Programs
- Collaborations with other Tribes/ State/ Feds
- Cultural Responses
Model for Tackling Meth

Meth presents challenges to the justice system

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Effective practices

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Problem-solving courts

Challenges

Meth users pose unique challenges to the justice system

• Clients have sense of futility
• Meth use mirrors TBI
• Multiple medical issues
• Impulsive & dangerous behavior
• Danger to children & animals
• High relapse rate
• Withdrawal symptoms can be severe, painful and long-lasting
Effective Practices for Meth

- Highly intensive supervision by court, probation, and police
- Increased court appearances for first 90 days
- Evidence-based treatment services that are longer (18 + mos) and targeted to the meth-addicted population
Effective Practices cont’d.

- Behavior modification
- Case management must advocate and facilitate medical care
- Intensive case management services
  - 2 Case Manager Model
  - 24/7 availability to addict

Effective Practices cont’d.

Mental Health Specialists
- Include early in treatment process
- Distinguish between drug-induced and pre-drug abuse mental health issues
- Address psychotherapeutic needs and use medications as appropriate
Effective Practices cont’d.

Medical Concerns
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Basic health care
  - Malnutrition
- Dental care
- Prenatal care
- Increased risk of stroke, heart failure, collapsed blood vessels

Effective Practices cont’d.

Additional Strategies:
- Mentors or alumni supports
- Structured social activities
- Family wrap-around services
- Education/ employment
Effective Practices cont’d.

Additional Strategies:
• Continuing care services for after program participation
• Brain exercises & physical exercise
• UA’s must be frequent, random, comprehensive & observed

AI/AN, Meth & the Courts

How do you take these effective practices and tailor them to tribal community?

Find or develop programs that address:
 – Family/ Clan
 – Traditional Healing
 – Identity
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<th>Family/Clan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tailor your meth program to include:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Family participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Family treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Visitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reconnection with family</td>
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<td>• Elders</td>
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<table>
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<th>Traditional Healing</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Innovative court sanctions and incentives</td>
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<td>• Immersion in traditional healing practices</td>
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<td>• Collaboration between trad’l healers and Western medicine/mental health services</td>
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Identity

- PERCS Identifiers
  - Political – land & treaty rights
  - Ethnic – sense of shared heritage
  - Racial – blood quantum issues
  - Cultural – tribal values and language
  - Spiritual – sacred sites, religious freedom

- Enculturation

- Historical Trauma programs

Specific Challenges

- Community may be small/closed
- Criminal jurisdiction/ PL-280
- No collaboration or info-sharing
- Lack of services & resources
- Lack of culturally-specific interventions
- Political/ tribal council resistance
- Sustainability
Next Steps? Questions?

Thank you!

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