Aiy-ye-kwee’!

Healing to Wellness Courts:
Holistic Justice

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Healing to Wellness Court
Key Components

- Sustained Team, Community, & Nation Building
- Enduring Knowledge & Experience
- Keeping & Telling Stories
- Respectful Communication
- Discipline & Encouragement
- Support & Supervision
- Healing and Treatment
- Eligibility
- Entry
The Best Practices

- The Tribal Key Components
- The Drug Court Standards
Brings together

- alcohol and drug treatment
- community healing resources
- the tribal justice process

by using a **team approach**

- to achieve the physical and spiritual healing of the individual participant, and
- to promote Native nation building and the well-being of the community.
Standard 8 Multidisciplinary Team
A dedicated multidisciplinary team of professionals manages the day-to-day operations, including
- reviewing participant progress during pre-court staffing meetings and status hearings,
- contributing observations and recommendations within team members’ respective areas of expertise, and
- delivering or overseeing the delivery of legal, treatment and supervision services.
Tribal Healing to Wellness Court provides access to holistic, structured, and phased alcohol and drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation services that incorporate culture and tradition.
Standard 6 Complementary Treatment and Social Services

Participants receive complementary treatment and social services for conditions that co-occur with substance abuse and are likely to interfere with their compliance, increase criminal recidivism, or diminish treatment gains.
Complimentary Services

- Housing Assistance
- Mental Health Treatment
- Trauma-Informed Services
- Criminal Thinking Interventions
- Family and Interpersonal Counseling
- Vocational and Educational Services
- Medical and Dental Treatment
- Prevention of Health-Risk Factors
- Overdose Prevention and Reversal
Family issues are one of the most commonly identified criminogenic factors.

Family interventions are one of the most effective methods to reduce offender recidivism.

Inadequate family support, family problems, and family disruption contribute to offending.

Attachment to children reduces violations.
Serving the Family

Addiction as a Family Disease

- Developmental Impact
- Generational Impact
- Psycho-social Impact
- Impact on Parenting
Children of Parents with Substance Use Disorders

- Severe, inconsistent, or inappropriate discipline
- Neglect of basic needs
- Situations that jeopardize child’s safety and health
- Trauma
- Disruption of parent/child relationship
- Disproportionately in foster care and less likely to return home; in juvenile justice caseloads; in residential treatment programs
Challenges for the Parents

- Parent lacks understanding of and ability to cope with child’s medical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs
- Child’s physical and development needs were not assessed and/or treated
- Parent and child did not receive trauma or relationship services
Parenting in Wellness Court

- Drug Courts that provide parenting class had **65% greater reductions** in criminal recidivism.
Consider Asking…

- About other family relationships?
- If children are screened for services?
- If children receive appropriate assessment, and intervention and treatment services?
- If child and family status are asked at intake?
- How are your kids doing?
Key #10: Team Interaction

The development and maintenance of ongoing commitments, communication, coordination, and cooperation among Tribal Healing to Wellness Court team members, service providers and payers, the community and relevant organizations, including the use of formal written procedures and agreements, are critical for Tribal Wellness Court success.
Yurok Tribe was formally organized in 1993.

Largest tribe in California with 6,112 enrolled members.

Over 3000 members live in service area.

Yurok Reservation consists of 55,890 acres with two distinct areas: Lower and Upper Reservation.

Yurok Reservation unemployment and poverty rates are double those of the local counties.

State of Emergency declared following unprecedented number of youth suicides in the Upper Reservation.
Yurok Justice Center: Yurok Tradition

Yurok Tradition

Building Capacity

Healthy Communities
World Renewal People

- Yuroks are heavily dependent on salmon for culture, subsistence, economy
- In support of Yurok culture and sovereignty, the Yurok Constitution mandates that the Tribe “[u]phold and protection our tribal sovereignty” and “[p]reserve and promote our culture, language, and religious beliefs and practices and pass them on to our children, our grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren on, forever.”
- Strong traditions and knowledge of culture
Yurok Justice Center: Building Capacity

Yurok Tradition → Healthy Communities

Building Capacity
Types of Cases

- Family Law
- Guardianship and Dependency
- Child Support
- Civil
- Fisheries
- Protective Orders
- Probate
- Wellness
Innovative Programs

- Adult Wellness Court
- Youth Wellness Court
- Civil Legal Access Center
- Yurok Truancy Program
- Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Program
- Yurok Batterers’ Intervention Program
- Tribal Child Support Enforcement
Video of Yurok Wellness Program

https://vimeo.com/110609883
Password: justice10
Yurok Adult Wellness Court

Goals

- To reduce substance abuse
- To reduce recidivism rates
- To rehabilitate Yurok Tribal Member offenders

Activities

- Multidisciplinary approach to case staffing
- Ongoing judicial interaction
- Random & frequent drug testing
- Appropriate sanctions & incentives
- Standardized regime of substance abuse treatment & recovery support services
Yurok Youth Wellness Court
Yurok Family Education Advocacy

- Development of Yurok Truancy Code, known as the “Stay in School” Ordinance
- MOU with Del Norte School District and others to include access to student records
- Established a protocol to share enforcement responsibilities of truant Yurok students
- Assign a family advocate to K-5 schools to track attendance & work with families to address truancy
Hey-wech-ek’
Yurok Tribe Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Prevention

- First developed in 2009 in Yurok Social Services
- Transferred to Tribal Court in 2014
- Two staff victim advocates/crisis workers and one victim services coordinator
- One full-time public safety officer to assist in family violence cases
Batterers Intervention Program (BIP) Classes

- 52 week State certified program
- For Yurok Tribal members as well as non-native community members
- Court ordered by state or tribal courts
- Referrals from Yurok Social Services and TANF
- Peer driven group healing
- Classes led by trained professionals
- Weekly sessions in Hoopa, Crescent City in Eureka
Since 2014, 97 people have signed up (intake)

First graduating class in 2016 a total of 7 graduates

Evaluating Success and Problems
OVC Indian Nations Conference
Save the Date: 15th National Indian Nations Conference on December 8-10, 2016
More

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