Tribal Youth Wellness Courts: Responses to Underage Drinking

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Justice reform through:

- Demonstration projects
- Original research
- Expert assistance
Demonstration Projects

RED HOOK
COMMUNITY
JUSTICE
CENTER

Center for Court Innovation
Planning a Problem-Solving Justice Initiative
A Toolkit for Tribal Communities
Expert Assistance
# Tribal Justice Exchange T/TA

## Tribal Training and Technical Assistance

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Center for Court Innovation
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
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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