Native Suicide Prevention Project

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Considerations in suicide prevention

• Historical Trauma
  – US Government made efforts to eliminate Native Americans
  – Broken Treaties
  – Trail of Tears, sent to reservations
  – Assimilation, language, culture, spirituality

• Tribes are Sovereign

• Tribes are very interconnected

• Native Americans believe in 4 major aspects of health; (1) Emotional, (2) Physical, (3) Spiritual and (4) Mental.
Partners that receive funding

• 9 Oregon Tribes:
  – Burns Paiute Tribe
  – Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
  – Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
  – Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
  – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
  – Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
  – Coquille Indian Tribe
  – Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
  – Klamath Tribes

• Portland State University, “Healing Feathers” project
Staff

- John Spence, MSW, Ph.D. Tribal Consultant
- Lee-Ann Foster, Project Assistant
- Justin T. White, Graphic Artist
- Tamara Perkins, Ph.D., Juliette Mackin, Ph.D., and Anna Rockhill M.P.P., Evaluators
How did we start?

• Community Assessments by evaluators and project staff were completed

• Community Specific Action plans were developed by each partner.

• Contracts were signed, activities and training started
Activities

- Traditional Talking Circles
- Creation of Community Calendars
- Outreach products; Community specific resource cards, QPR and ASIST information put in a sandwich baggy with lifesavers.
- AFSP Walk, Just Move It Walk
- Outreach at many Powwows, (Tribal and Urban)
- Creation of Crisis response policies
- Canoe crew, Canoe journey
- Working with Tribal School, developed curriculum.
- Poster Contests including risk factor awareness, (2 communities)
- Native Youth Wellness Day and Round dance
- Community Presentations
- Youth Mentoring trips
Activities, continued

• 150 square foot billboard on reservation hwy
• Formation of project poster and brochure
• Project MySpace page to reach youth, (70-80% use this social media)
• Starting Survivors of Suicide Group
• Stress Management Workshop
• Viewing of the Canary Effect
• Participation in conferences
• Quarterly 9 Tribes Prevention Meetings
• Presentation at Hillcrest Youth facility
• Presentation at Tribal Culture Committee
• Tribal Best Practices meeting presentation

Annual Report: I can send to the group if interested
Elders Council/Staff Gatherings

- Elder involvement. They are helping provide wisdom and direction of project
- Have held 4 gatherings since June 2008, most recent was held Grand Ronde this last Wednesday.
  - Project update
  - Concerns/Direction
  - Facilitate Elder Involvement
    - Christiecare
  - MySpace introduction
Trainings since February 2008

- Adolescent Development training for school staff and community members
- Trauma Training
- ASIST Workshops (4)
- ASIST Trainers Sponsored (2)
- QPR: Tribal and Urban locations (9)
- QPR T4T: Sponsored two T4T events in Oregon
  - Total of 19 trainers trained
  - Another one within the next year possible if needed
Personal Stories

• ASIST Skills at work:
  – At school
  – On phone
Data collected

- Training Exit Surveys
- Products and Services, (Quarterly)
- Early Identified as suicidal, by age
Enhanced Evaluation

• Funded by the CDC for 3 years
  – 3 sites funded, NARA, Tennessee and Maine

• Native Youth Survey, over 100 questions including culture

• Hoping to implement at 6 Tribal locations
  – 2 Completed
  – More planned, including one administration this month

• Important risk and protective factor information
  – Will help us learn more about the effectiveness of cultural protective factors
Collaboration

- Mr. Bears Children Foundation
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center
- SAMHSA, (Grantor)
- State of Oregon, through Donna Noonan and Caroline Cruz.
- Oregon Indian Education
- NPC Research
- Wemble House, Klamath Falls
- Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Indian Health Service, Ann Arnett
- Clayton Small, Contractor
- Oregon Health Sciences University
- Christiecare
- Vickie LaFromboise, Contractor
- Chemawa Indian Boarding School
Hearing from Tribal Prevention Coordinators

- Carolyne Knolle, Klamath Tribes
- Laura Angulo, Coquille Indian Tribe
- Phyllis Miller, Burns-Paiute Tribe
- Julie Johnson, Burns-Paiute Tribe
Questions?

• Thank you Gary and everyone for allowing us to do this presentation!