Providing the Context for Data Collection with Indigenous Communities in New Mexico

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Our Motivations

• Mental health disparities
• Our histories as Native peoples
• Our vision: intact, healthy, thriving Indigenous communities
• So how do we get there?
Prioritization Process

**TRIBAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WORKGROUP (TEW)** narrowed hundreds of priorities down to 10.

**TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (TAC)** reviewed the 10 priorities, completed score sheets to determine which 4 areas to look at?

**TRIBAL COMMUNITIES** will examine the 4 priority areas identified by TAC with local data as (much as possible). Community will select the priority to work with and will work to improve this priority for the next 4 years.
Historical Resilience and Decolonization

• Advancing into the present & future
• Adapting for distinct tribes
• Systemic Bias and Science of the Positive
• Healing and Thriving Generations
Our Framework

• Native-centered
• Strength-Based
• Self-Determination/Decolonization
• Transformation
Community Timeline
Challenges

• Patterns of behavior are hard to break
  – Ex. Strength-based approach ≠ ignoring problems
  – Ex. Dependence on outside knowledge/finances

• Lack of trust, readiness level to address colonization/internalized colonization

• Diversity of community histories, acculturation/enculturation, and interpretation of historical experiences

• What we convey in our words: “historical trauma” vs. “historical resilience”, “decolonization” vs. “self-determination”

• We are all impacted by historical trauma, colonization, and systemic bias, but how do we heal?
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Purpose of the Tribal Data Workgroup:

• “Normalize” the conversation about data
• OSAP and other agencies specify using data-driven planning processes
• Address tribal concerns about “research” and “evaluation”
• Build capacity in tribal communities
• Develop a Native-driven approach
• Teach non-Native agencies how it should be done
Why is Tribal Data hard to collect?

- History of misuse of tribal data
- Lack of trust
- Tribal communities have opened their doors to share stories of their people and culture and the information was published without the tribe’s consent.
- **Main question is:** Why do you want to collect tribal data? How is it going to benefit my community?
Feedback from Tribes

• Need training and technical assistance on:
  – How to collect data
  – To do evaluation
  – How can we use data for grants and reports
  – Need “language” on how to retain ownership of data and any outside dissemination of “our” data
  – How can we do needs assessments and focus groups in our community

• Where can we get “other” tribal data for grants?
Exploring the Benefits of Data: Tribal Data Workgroup
Building Evaluation on a Foundation of Values

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGING IN RESEARCH WITH NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES
• Vision: “to advance research towards more conscientious and socially just implementation and impact that will contribute to the realization of healthy, thriving Native American communities.”

• Intended Use: suggested principles to guide researchers, both non-Native and Native, working with Native American peoples and their respective communities.
Objectives

1) provide written guidance when encountering challenges in research relationships and processes

2) elicit thoughtful discussion among researchers

3) increase awareness of our responsibilities as investigators not only to the individuals participating in research but also to the communities
Content

• 11 Principles to guide research collaborations with Native American communities

• Illustrative vignette or real-world example for each principle

• Questions to elicit discussion and application of principles to research
Guiding Principles for Engaging in Research with Native American Communities

1. Build Community Partnerships/Relationship
2. Identify a Project & Tribal Approval
3. Accountable & Transparent
4. Continual Dialogue
5. Build on Strengths
6. Co-Learning & Ownership
7. Self Reflection & Cultural Humility
8. Native Centered
9. Integrity
10. Community Relevance
11. Honor Community Time Frames
12. Authentic Relationships
13. Final Reports and Dissemination
14. Study Implementation
15. Data Analysis and Findings
17. Feedback, Presentations, Sustainability Plans
18. Apply for a Grant, MOUs, Contract, IRB, Approval
Suggested Applications

• Train researchers who plan to work with Native Americans

• Facilitate periodic and ongoing discussions on research process and next steps with research team members to enhance conscientiousness, cultural awareness and humility, and professional growth

• Share with Native American community partners to build capacity and generate discussion of research collaboration

• Use in co-development of project guidelines and expectations of each party

• Share with funders and sponsoring universities to provide a rationale for community based and community informed research
Resources

• **Telling Our Story & Whose Data Is It?**

• **Guiding Principles for Engaging in Research with Native American Communities**
  – http://psychiatry.unm.edu/centers/crcbh/naprogram/guidingprinciples.html

• **New Mexico Tribal Prevention Project**
  – http://www.tribalspf.org
THANK YOU!

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