AUNTIES AND UNCLE'S PROJECT:
Healing California Native Communities through Meaningful and Collaborative Partnerships

CECILIA DAWSON
Project Coordinator

NAOMI ATCHLEY
Kashia Community Members Service Coordinator

NELSON JIM, LMFT
SCIHP Behavioral Health Director

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Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc
Learning Objectives

- Learn how to engage and develop an empowering and collaborative partnership with tribal communities and tribal councils which respectfully develop trust and engage community members.

- Increase your knowledge on how to develop culturally-responsive and resiliency-based suicide prevention in California Native communities, which integrates traditional healing practices and key tribal members.

- Learn the importance of working with tribal communities in selecting culturally appropriate and culturally relevant prevention interventions that have the most meaningful & positive health and wellness outcomes.
Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc. (SCIHP) & “Aunties and Uncles Project”

 SCIHP

- Established by California Native American leaders in 1971.
- Community-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- Comprehensive health care services: primary care, dental, nutrition, WIC, Diabetes, senior center, and behavioral health.
- Behavioral Health provides outpatient individual, family and child therapy services, psychological and psychiatric services, outpatient recovery support services (individual and group based in White Bison – Wellbriety principles and practices), prevention servicers & cultural and traditional services.
- “Aunties and Uncles Project” is an MHSA PEI program and a Community Defined Evidence-Based Practice
Sonoma County Indian Health, Inc.

144 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa CA
MHSA Prevention – Early Intervention Program

- Contract with Sonoma County Mental Health Department
- Focused Population:
- Strategies and Interventions
  - After-School Tutoring and Cultural Support Program
  - PHQ-9 Depression Screening
  - Community-based prevention and health education to 1) reduce stigma of mental illness and 2) provide suicide prevention
    - Local best practice – Annual Memorial Gathering
- Challenges
  - Access to services due to lack of transportation, remote isolation of tribal communities and issues of trust and fear in receiving health care services
Sonoma County Indian Health Project

Mendocino County

1. Cloverdale Rancheria
2. Dry Creek Rancheria
3. Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
4. Lytton Rancheria
5. Manchester Point Arena Rancheria
6. Stewarts Point Rancheria
7. Wappo Tribe

Sonoma County

Annual Budget: $16 million

Health Center
Clinic 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Santa Rosa 20 15
Point Arena 2 0
Cloverdale 0 4

User Population: 4,295

Total Staff: 160

Licensed by the State of California to operate a Community Clinic
Sonoma County Indian Health Clinic
144 Stony Point Road
Santa Rosa, California 95401
(707) 521-4545  Fax 526-1016

Marin County

Total Outpatient visits: 43,163

Licensed by California State Board of Pharmacy

22 Exam Rooms, 19 Dental Operatories
California Native Land – Pre-Genocide/Colonization
California Native Land – Post-Genocide/Colonization
Engaging and developing an empowering and collaborative partnership with tribal communities and tribal councils which respect fully develop trust and engage community members.

- "Culture is Prevention"
- Outreach and Engagement
  - Understanding and honoring cultural and community protocol in entering and approaching members
  - Inclusion and involvement of community members in all aspects of events – community members want ownership and empowerment – communities DO have resources.
  - Cultural Appropriateness
    - “Native - to – Native” has been a successful strategy
- “Good Intentions” is not good enough when working with Native communities – there has been too many broken treaties, unmet promises and short-term interventions.
Why is Memorial Gathering a Promising Practice?

- The Memorial Gathering includes traditional Pomo singing and dancing, prayer for those grieving and those loss to the spirit world. Participants came to participate and take their place in the healing circle through out the day.

- The Tribal members know their role in addressing grief and loss in a traditional manner, but they were never given space to do so.

- The Memorial Gathering is a “Ceremony.” This is NOT an intervention, a strategy or technique.
Memorial Gathering 2017
Ya-ka-Ama Ceremonial Grounds
Memorial Gathering 2017
Ya-ka-Ama Ceremonial Grounds
Developing Culturally-Responsive and Resiliency-Based Suicide Prevention in California Native communities

- Traditional Methods
  - Utilization of natural resources and structures
  - Reframing old world methods to new world principles and practices.
  - Use of cultural practices (gathering, dances/singing & ceremony) & ceremonial space for teaching sacredness, healthy relations (self & others) & seeking help.
  - Actively engaging community elders, leaders and gatekeepers strategically and responsively.
  - Provide mechanism to reestablish traditional role for community members and culture for capacity and community building/development
Developing Culturally-Responsive and Resiliency-Based Suicide Prevention in California Native Communities – Con’t

- Contemporary Methods
  - Data/Evidence Based Approaches
  - Interventions and Practices are not indigenous to communities and culture; thus, making the puzzles fit often is not culturally responsive
  - Presents a “clash” of worldviews – minimizes & invalidates the very basis of community foundation and cultural structures and protective factors
  - Presents a self-centered approach that has little regard for nature, natural elements, space and place.
SCIHP & Aunties and Uncles Project Approach

- Social Justice framework and principles in providing services and treatment – community development & empowerment thru advocacy, education and community involvement
- Developing and fostering Relationship ("the river that runs through it").
- Developing strategies and intervention with existing naturally available resources and culturally appropriate/strength-based community engagement
- Reestablishing & supporting cultural preservation ("aunties & uncles")
Stewarts Point Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
Stewarts Point Rancheria
Stewarts Point Rancheria on Sonoma Coast
Kashia Tribal Support Services

- Kashia Member Services
  - Coordinate and develop services for tribal members
    - Daily living needs such as PG&E, Transportation, Rental Assistance, System Navigation support for Social Service needs and Health Care Needs
  - Community Development with Tribal Administration
    - Respond to urgent and emergency situations/incidences
    - Partner and develop sustainable collaboration to increase community capacity, partnership to maximize resources and minimize duplication of services
    - Develop services community members can access (uncomplicated or user-friendly)
Kashia Tribal Support Services

- Develop and collaborate with SCIHP in getting access to services for tribal members
  - Primary Care (home visits), Pharmacy (medication delivery services), Nutrition (home visits) and Behavioral Health (needs assessment, community outreach and prevention services, and providing workshops on suicide prevention)
  - Currently going thru a community needs assessment process with SCIHP to provide prevention services at Stewarts Point Rancheria. Community members and tribal council have respectfully been engaged in the process.
Why Do We Collaborate?

- Lack of funding and resources
- Maximize and acquire additional resources
- Fill in the “gaps” in services
- Use the “best practices” approach
Best Practices of Kashia Member Services

- Provision of culturally relevant services
- Streamline referral process
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- “Consumer/Community” Driven approach
- Working with specific individuals/providers who treat and assist our community members respectfully
- Knowing our community members by name and not by numbers
- Developing family/community focused approached versus individual
Culturally Competent services and treatment are available to our community members that respects:

- History
- Culture, and
- Relationship
Kashia Coastal Reserve

https://youtu.be/QY3igidX-L8

https://youtu.be/hdfV-clnLpQ
Cecilia Dawson
Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.
cecilia.dawson@scihp.org

Naomi Atchley
Stewarts Point - Kashia Rancheria
naomi@stewartspoint.org

Nelson Jim, LMFT
Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.
nelson.jim@scihp.org