



THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF SUCCESSFULLY WORKING WITH TRIBES AND TRIBAL ENTITIES

Washington State Department of Health

Historical Background

- Tried to work directly with tribes
- Cultural sensitivity training
- Contract with AIHC





PUBLIC HEALTH

AIHC Mission: Improve the Overall Health of Indian People of WA State

Strategy: Advocacy, Policy and Programs to Advance Best Practices

Leadership

Engagement

PULLING TOGETHER FOR WELLNESS

Tribally and Urban Indian Driven

Commercial Tobacco and Vaping

Maternal Infant Health

Home Visiting

Women, Infant, Children (WIC)

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

Immunizations

Healthy Eating/Active Living

Youth Marijuana (and Substance Abuse) Prevention

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response

Youth Suicide Prevention

Culturally Appropriate and Community Specific

Maternal Infant Health Strategic Plan

In Partnership with WA State Departments of Health, Early Learning and the Health Care Authority, and Department of Social and Health Services

DATA

Health Risk Factors
Health Disparities and Lateral Violence
Adverse Childhood Experiences
Historical and Intergenerational Trauma

DATA

Current work with the Tribes/Tribal entity



- Respect their Tribal sovereignty
- Respect their culture
- Sit back and listen

Current work with the Tribes/Tribal entity



- Be willing to learn
- Be open-minded
- They have the wisdom to find their own solutions



Native Epistemology

- ❖ Seven Generations Vision
- ❖ Embrace a life-long learning perspective with the Experience and Wisdom of the Elders as fundamental
- ❖ Looking back through the “Eyes of our Ancestors” and then moving forward; a traditional practice
- ❖ Seasonal Way of Life is Traditional and Ecological
- ❖ Knowledge Gathering and Giving Back

Seven Generations

Current work with Tribes/Tribal entities



- Importance of food at gatherings
- Importance of building face-to-face relationships
- Enjoy and cherish the differences

How can states replicate what we are doing?

- Take cultural sensitivity training
- Respect their sovereignty and culture
- Listen and learn





Principles and Competencies

- ❖ Understand and know the history of the Tribe(s) and Indian communities in the region
- ❖ Understand Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination
- ❖ Terminology and concepts must resonate with Tribal and Urban Indian Communities
- ❖ Use the medicine wheel model to depict a holistic approach including: physical, social, emotional and spiritual health
- ❖ Position culture as a core component; interwoven in of all aspects of health to maintain balance and to ensure long-term sustainability of social change

Seven Generations

How can states replicate what we are doing?

- Be aware of the different epistemology
- Be aware of historical trauma
- Understand that culture is prevention



How can states replicate what we are doing?

Enjoy!

Sigrid Reinert, MPH
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