Relational Worldview
A Tribal and Cultural Framework for Improving Child Well-Being

Terry Cross, MSW, National Indian Child Welfare Association
Minneapolis, Minnesota
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Linear Worldview
Social Work/Medical Model

Cause → Effect → New Cause → New Effect

Social History → Presenting Problem → Assessment → Treatment → Outcome

Relational Worldview
Native and Tribal Thought

Fluid, cyclical view of time.
Each aspect of life is related.
Services aim to restore balance.
Interventions may not be directed at "symptoms."
Underlying question is "how?"

Context
Mind
Spirit
Body
BALANCE

Relational Worldview
Individual and Family Level

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
Maslow: Through Indigenous Eyes

Relational Worldview
Child Development

For Colonialism to Succeed

Historical Background

Boarding Schools
Symptoms of Post-Colonialism

- Intergenerational Trauma
- Lateral Oppression and Violence
- Internalized Racism—Self-Blame
- Identity Politics
- Dismembered Social Norms
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Blaming the Victim

Post-Colonial Reality

- Disparities—Racial inequity in economic security, health, education, social conditions
- Disproportionate representation in systems (over and under)
- Poor outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children in state services
- Barriers to self-determination—funding
- ICWA not fully implemented


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>American Indian and Alaska Native</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>White (Non-Hispanic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen birth rate</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen death rate</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of births 15–17 in school</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of children in poverty</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suicide Rates by Race/Gender

Age 10–18, 2006

- White
- Af. Am./Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian Am./Pac. Is.
- AI/AN

RISK FACTORS

What Is an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)?

The experience of “significant abuse or household dysfunction during childhood”

Specific Indicators:

- Recurrent physical abuse
- Recurrent emotional abuse
- Contact sexual abuse
- An alcohol and/or drug abuser in the household
- An incarcerated household member
- Someone who is chronically depressed, mentally ill, institutionalized, or suicidal in the household
- Mother is treated violently
- One or no parents
- Emotional or physical neglect

The ACE Study

- The ACE Score is a count of the total number of ACE indicators for an individual.
- The score ranges from 1 (low trauma) to 9 (high trauma).
- In the mainstream population, as an ACE score increases, the risk for numerous health problems increases.
American Indian Youth Victimization and Delinquency Outcomes Study (AIYVDOS)

- Used a participatory research model:
  - Culturally sensitive and scientifically sound
  - Involving community members as partners and owners throughout the research process

Final Sample

- 110 Young Adults, Aged 18–25
- 82% Enrolled Tribal Members
- 58% Female, 42% Male
- Grew up:
  - On the Reservation: 46%
  - Rural: 5%
  - Small Town: 21%
  - Suburbs: 10%
  - Urban: 18%

AIYVDOS and ACEs

The percent of youth in our study with four or more ACEs is almost TWICE the rate in the mainstream population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of ACEs</th>
<th>% of AIYVDOS Participants</th>
<th>% ACEs study (CDC, 2010)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The good news...

What is a Protective Childhood Experience (PCE)?

Positive relationships and experiences while growing up that protect young people from negative influences and behaviors.

Specific Indicators:
- Supportive Adults
- Positive Peer Groups
- School Activities
- Family Resources
- Spiritual/Religious Connection
- Connection with Tribal Elders, Learning a Tribal Language
- Safe and Strong Community
ACE Scores, PCE Scores, and Juvenile Delinquency

We examined how ACEs and PCEs relate to delinquency by grouping people according to both ACEs and PCEs:

- The group with low ACEs and high PCEs had the lowest delinquency (14%).
- The group with high ACEs and low PCEs had the highest delinquency (67%).
- Even when ACEs were high, the group with high PCEs had lower delinquency (39%) than the group with low ACEs and low PCEs (46%).

ACE scores, PCE scores and Depression

We also examined how ACEs and PCEs relate to depression. Depression was related to the following:

- Gender (female)
- Higher Sexual Abuse (ACE)
- Lower Safe and Strong Community (PCE)
- Lower Spirituality (PCE)

How do we understand this research?

Relationship of NAYA-identified outcomes to existing evidence

Outcomes in red are NAYA-identified outcomes; all items in right column are outcomes from the research literature.

Community-Defined Success: Youth

Connecting with Resources
Healthy Relationships
Service
Safety
Balance
Connections to Native Ancestry
Spiritual Understanding and Practices
Knowledge/Skills in Traditional Cultural Practices

Coping Capacities/Emotional Health
Focus and Determination
Personal Capacities
Personal Qualities
Education
Employment
Cultural Knowledge
Identity
Finances
Fitness
Health Care
Healthy Lifestyle
Housing