States Working with Tribes: Challenges and Successes

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INTERNAL CHALLENGES

• Hiring project director.
• Realizing the original grant had to be re-focused.
• Holding stakeholder focus group.
• Re-writing grant.

Successes

• State has had a long term relationship with the Nine Oregon Federal recognized Tribes and Native Americans Rehabilitation NW Inc. (NARA).
• State Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) Tribal Liaison was included in the design of grant and stakeholder focus group and consulted with throughout the project.
• SB 770, State and Tribes Government to Government agreement.

Lessons Learned

• Allow more time for start-up.
• Patience.
• Working with government.
• Collaborating is a must.

• Working with 9 Tribal plans.
• Contracting with 8 sovereign nations.
• Funds being released.
• Sharing data agreement.
• Dealing with carry-over funds.
• Communicating between the Tribes, NARA, SAMHSA working within constraints with funds.
• Building trusting relationships.

• John Spence PhD, had a history working with AMH, State of Oregon and Tribes. NARA contracted with him to work on plans, contract issues and building relationships with Tribes.
• Jason Yarmer hired as Director of NARA Prevention Suicide Grant, stabilizing project.
• NARA Prevention Suicide Grant included in Tribal Quarterly Prevention Summits with AMH.
• AMH Liaison works in partnership with NARA Elders Gatherings.