Witnessing Our Future

Tribal Resolution to Support Project

Grant Lee Smith Meeting - May 3, 2016

• Stacy Rasmus, PhD, Program Director
• Tahnee Kawakone, Community Prevention Coordinator
• Vincent Feliciano, Community Prevention Coordinator
• William Connor, PhD, Project Director
• William L. Freeman, MD, MPH, Lead Evaluator
• Colleen Berg, Project Coordinator
White Mountain Apache Project
“Celebrating Life” - 1

• **Surveillance System** to track # of people who:
  – attempted suicide, died by suicide, or counseled regarding suicide thoughts etc.

• **Surveillance system** to track:
  – characteristics of those people, services provided and when, outcomes, etc.

• Multiple presentations on Jan 27-29, 2015, to
  – our Project
  – Lummi Nation
  – Northwest Indian College
White Mountain Apache Project
“Celebrating Life” - 2

• Significant step early in their project -

• White mountain Apache Tribal Government passed a Tribal Resolution:
  – Support the Project; and
  – Mandated full cooperation with the Project by all sectors of the White Mountain Apache people, institutions, agencies, etc.
    • agencies not part of the Tribal Government
“Witnessing Our Future”

- Partnership of
  - Northwest Indian College
  - Lummi Nation, Division of Behavioral Health

Public-Private Coalition (“WOF Coalition”)
- Lummi Community Members & agencies
  - Elders, youth, etc.
  - Police, Lummi Victims of Crime, Behavioral Health, etc.
- Northwest Indian College
  - Students, Counselors, etc.
Response to Presentation

• Unanimous recommendation of the WOF Coalition
• A formal Tribal Resolution of support for WOF Project to prevent suicide
• Explanatory note:
  – “Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC)” of the Lummi Nation
    • Name of Tribal Council
    • Name of Government Administration
Purposes of Resolution

• Declare the need to prevent suicide in Lummi Nation

• Achieve full cooperation & collaboration
  – LIBC administrative agencies, schools, etc.
  – NWIC
  – Lummi Nation (youth, Elders, etc.)
  – WOF Project

• Collect data to track performance & outcomes

• Focus on Prevention

• Rely on Lummi strengths & resilience
Process of achieving Resolution

• Develop and establish a “receptive framework”

• Each component:
  – discussed with WOF its contribution to cooperation & collaboration
  – helped write specifics of plan to implement Resolution

• Resolution mandating cooperation and collaboration expressed what already had largely been achieved.

• Developed a self-sustainable data collection system

• DOWNSIDE: taking a long time (>1 year)

• UPSIDE: wide acceptance of need and solution
For more Information

- **STACY RASMUS, Program Director:**
  - smrasmus@alaska.edu
  - (907) 474-7352

- **ABOUT TRIBAL RESOLUTION:**
  - William L. Freeman
  - wfreeman@nsic.edu
  - 360-392-4284

- **ABOUT WOF PROJECT IN GENERAL:**
  - Colleen Berg
  - cberg@nwic.edu
  - 360-392-4224