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
PULLING TOGETHER FOR WELLNESS

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

Leadership

Public Health
AIHC Mission: Improve the Overall Health of Indian People of WA State
Strategy: Advocacy, Policy and Programs to Advance Best Practices

Engagement

DATA

Tribally and Urban Indian Driven

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

Leadership

Maternal Infant Health

Commercial Tobacco and Vaping

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

Engagement

Maternal Infant Health

Home Visiting

Home Visiting

Culturally Appropriate and Community Specific
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 though 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
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 all aspects of health to maintain balance and to ensure long-term sustainability of social change
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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