Participatory Research In an Urban American Indian Community
Tulsa Circles of Care Community

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Components of the Evaluation

- Assess Community Needs
- Define Serious Emotional/Behavioral Disturbance
- Describe System of Services

Design/Modify the Service System Model

Assess Planning Effort (Process Evaluation)

Develop Outcome Measures

Assess Feasibility
Oklahoma Tribes

- 38 Federally Recognized Tribes
- Over 200,000 American Indians
  - 7.4% of Oklahoma population
  - Largest ethnic minority group in the state
- 2nd largest tribal population of all U.S. states
  (California is first)
- Tulsa metro is the 3rd largest urban Indian population in the country ~86,000
- Over 150 different tribes representing Tulsa

First Steps- Year 1

- Consulting with Elders
- Hiring Community Coordinators
- Start conversations about behavioral health
- Presentations to the Community
  - Elder backing
  - Always an exchange
  - Initial resistance
- Creating an Advisory Board
  - FOOD
  - Relating to real life issues

Collecting Data- Year 2

- Developing Evaluation Measures
- Negotiating with University about data ownership
- Training Community Researchers
  - Research Ethics
  - History of Research ON American Indians
  - Participatory Research Models
  - Research Design and Methodology
- Recruiting Participants and Collecting Data
  - Indian Education Mail-outs
  - Pow-wow’s, Stomp Dances, Community meals/gatherings
  - Newspapers
  - Valuing people’s time
  - Spiritual and ceremonial leaders

Service System Model- Year 3

- Analyzing Data using community researchers
- Interpreting Data with Advisory Board
- Disseminating information into community
  - Joint presentations
  - Community using the data
  - Getting ideas about how to meet needs and build on strengths
- Drafting Service System Model and getting feedback.
- Assessing Feasibility
- Move from “raising awareness” to community “embracing the vision” of a better community for youth

Data Use

- Service System Model
- Advocating for Substance Abuse services for youth at the state level
- Partnering with local university on NIMH grant application to focus on identifying strengths and resiliency/proteic factors
- Research project examining relation between substance use and cultural connections
- Partnering with Oklahoma DMHSA on Anti-Stigma Campaign focused on American Indian
- Institutionalizing research at the clinic with Applied Research Center and Community Research Advisory Board

Native Ideas Into Action
Topics for Discussion
Strengths and Challenges
- Research Fidelity
- Dual Relationships
- Data Relevance and Use
- Cultural Competence
- Objectivity
- Spectrum of Biases
- Reliability/Validity
- Confidentiality