



CULTURE AS PREVENTION: WEBINAR SERIES

Oregon Youth Authority's Notification Processes, Protocols and prevention of recidivism

Presenters

- Leslie Riggs- Tribal Liaison/Native American Programs Coordinator- Oregon Youth Authority
- Jacob Reid- Mental Health Case Manager- Confederated Tribes of Siletz

OYA's Vision and Values

- Vision
- The Oregon Youth Authority's vision is that youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.
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- Values
- OYA's core values provide the foundation for the decisions, actions and practices that make up the agency's daily work. These core values guide and inform all that agency staff do to protect public safety, reduce crime, hold youth accountable, aid in their reformation, and keep them safe.

Legislation

- Executive Order 96-30 - As sovereigns the tribes and the State of Oregon must work together to develop mutual respect for the sovereign interests of both parties. The relationships between our governmental structures can only be built through trust and mutual respect. The purpose of formalizing the government-to-government relationship that exists between Oregon's Indian tribes and the State is to establish a process which can assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater good of all of Oregon's citizens, whether tribal members or not.

Legislation continued

Senate Bill 770- SECTION 2.

(1) A state agency shall develop and implement a policy that:

Identifies individuals in the state agency who are responsible for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

Establishes a process to identify the programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

Promotes communication between the state agency and tribes.

Promotes positive government-to-government relations between the state and tribes.

Establishes a method for notifying employees of the state agency of the provisions of sections 1 to 4 of this 2001 Act and the policy the state agency adopts under this section.

(2) In the process of identifying and developing the programs of the state agency that affect tribes, a state agency shall include representatives designated by the tribes.

(3) A state agency shall make a reasonable effort to cooperate with tribes in the development and implementation of programs of the state agency that affect tribes, including the use of agreements authorized by ORS 190.110.

OYA Policies

- II E 1.3- Tribal Notification Facility– OYA identifies American Indian/Alaska Native youth and works with tribal governments to provide effective, culturally-relevant services to those youth in order to reduce recidivism and protect public safety.
- The Oregon Legislature has determined that state agencies must develop and formalize government-to-government relationships with Oregon's federally recognized tribes. In addition, Oregon state law requires that state agencies develop and implement tribal relations policies.
- III B 1.0- Tribal Notification Community – The Tribal Liaison/Native American Program coordinator will make the initial notification to the appropriate tribal representative upon determination of a youth's affiliation. This notification will be made as soon as reasonably practicable but not more than 30 days from the determination.
- II F 3.7- Religious Practices – This policy dictates that youth have the right to access religious services. In the case of Native American youth, this covers things like sweatlodge, smudging and medicine bags, among other activities that could be deemed to fall under this category.

Notification Process

JPPOs and Case Coordinators are responsible for notifying the Tribal Liaison and Native American Services Coordinator at intake.

The Tribal Liaison and Native American Services Coordinator contact tribal representatives as soon as possible, not to exceed 30 days.

The Tribal Liaison and Native American Services Coordinator maintain a list of tribal contacts who work regularly with youth in custody. These tribal representatives include tribal council members behavioral health, prevention, and cultural resources staff. My co-presenter Jacob Reid is one such contact. We have representatives from all 9 Oregon tribes.

We have also taken this a step further to provide the same courtesy, although not by legislation or mandate, to youth who are enrolled in other national tribes. Our efforts have proven to be successful.

When We Do It

- The Tribal Liaison and Native American Services Coordinator contact tribal representatives to let them know we have one of their citizens in our care. We then alert them of any changes on the status of youth. For instance, if they change units, move to another facility, or to a step down program.
- We also alert tribal representatives of anything pertinent to the youth's condition while in our custody, such as self harm, suicide attempts, YIRs and other behavioral issues with which the representative may be able to assist the youth.
- We contact tribes before a youth is transitioning back into their communities. This does a couple things. It allows the tribe time to explore what kinds of opportunities are available to the youth.
- It also provides the community time to prepare for the youth's return. We are not always aware of the kind of impact the youth had on the community. If it was a major crime, the community will want to know the youth is returning.

Why Do We Do It

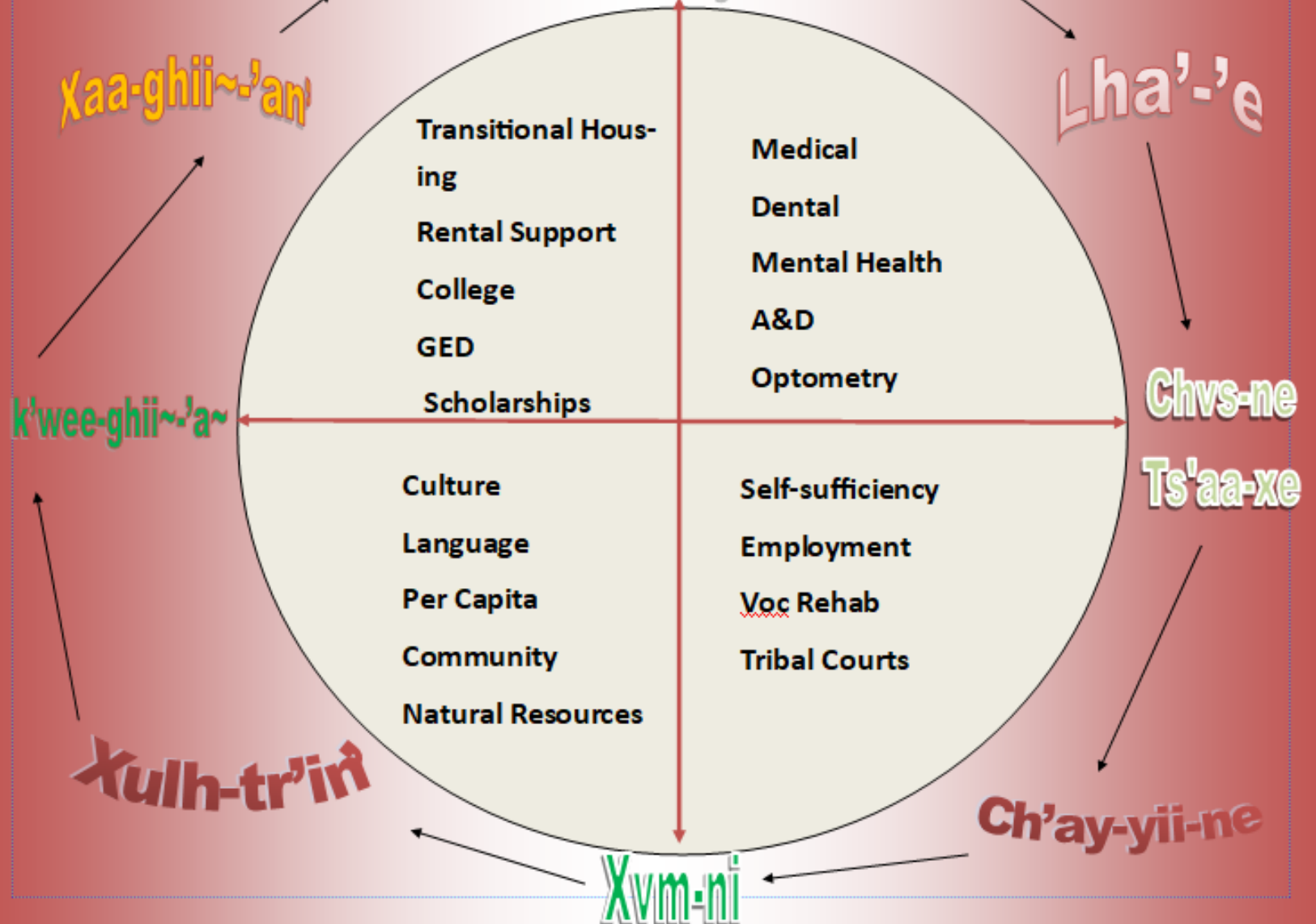
- Tribes often have resources available to their citizens that are only for enrolled tribal members. At times, youth can access these even while in a closed facility.
- Often times youth are eligible to utilize these resources while on probation and parole.
- Creating and maintaining a connection with a youth's tribe provides them a positive outlet and has an impact on identity and self-esteem. It can provide an alternative to other identities a youth may belong to, such as gang affiliation.
- At this point it is mostly anecdotal, but we do see a positive impact on the youth who attend our programs and events and connect with their tribes. We are working on finding a way to track data associated with youth involvement.

Examples of Tribal Resources

Www.CTSI.NSN.US



Tribal Community Resources



Example: Siletz Tribal Youth

- Youth involved with Aztec drumming and dancing group.
- Assisted youth in getting involved with Siletz Tribe, as a result tribal representatives began attending MDT meetings and staying in contact with youth.
- Began exploring programs and services months before his release.
- Youth is released from custody and returns to his community.
- Youth is doing well and hopefully will continue to do so with the help of his community.

Conclusion

- Notifying tribes when we have their citizens in our care is the right thing to do.
- Partnering with tribes increases the likelihood of success and reduces recidivism rates.

Any Questions?

Thank you!

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