EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN INDIANS & ALASKA NATIVES IN CALIFORNIA

CHAMPIONS for CHANGE™

INLAND DESERT TRAINING & RESOURCE CENTER
UC SAN DIEGO

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE
WELCOME!

PANEL:
REBECCA GARROW
JACOB DUNLAP
CALVIN HEDRICK

FACILITATOR:
ELLE MARI
OBJECTIVE

Learn how to effectively outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native audiences and build cultural awareness in partnering with tribal organizations.
OVERVIEW

• Background of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) in California
  • Cultural strengths
  • Existing community assets

• Importance of Partnerships

• Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask

• Collective Wisdom: Group Discussion
NEOPB AIAN CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

- Established FFY 2014
- Public Health Institute staff @ NEOP
- Culturally competent materials
- Focus groups, pilot testing
- 3 Subcontractors
  - 5th Direction
  - Sacramento Native American Health Center
  - United Indian Health Services
CALIFORNIA INDIANS
CALIFORNIA

- 723,225 AIAN (1.9%)
- 109 Federally Recognized Tribes
- 45 Tribes seeking reinstatement or recognition
- Tribal population: ranges from 5 to over 4,000

http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/ca_tribe.html
CALIFORNIA AIAN HISTORY

• ??? – 1769 (Pre-Contact)
• 1769-1950’s (Genocide, Assimilation, Relocation)
• 1950’s – Present
CALIFORNIA AIAN HEALTH STATUS

• ??? – 1769 (Pre-Contact): Indigenous foods & healthy lifestyles
• 1769-1950’s: Food Insecurity & Malnutrition
• 1950’s – Present: Food commodities, diabetes, revitalization
WHAT’S UP WITH AIAN?

- Aren’t we supposed to say Native American?
- Hey, Alaska Natives – aren’t they Indians, too?
- How about Indigenous groups from Mexico? Canada?
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: AMERICAN INDIANS & ALASKA NATIVES (AIAN)
Available at: www.samhsa.gov
“Some spiritual principles are universal across all tribes in California: Being honest. Having courage and integrity. Forgiving self and others. Loving.”

Albert Titman Sr. (Miwok)
Behavioral Health Manager
Sacramento Native American Health Center
MYTH: AIAN ARE SPIRITUAL AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

- Broad generalization
- Romantic stereotype
MYTH: YOU CAN IDENTIFY AIAN BY HOW THEY LOOK
MYTH: AIAN HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF ALCOHOLISM

• Control for socioeconomic status = no difference in rates
• AIAN have highest rate of complete abstinence from alcohol
MYTH: AIAN PEOPLE ALL GET “INDIAN MONEY” AND DON’T PAY TAXES.

- AIAN pay income and sales tax – just like the rest of us!
MYTH: THANKS TO CASINOS, AIAN ARE RICH!

- Of 560 Tribes across the nation, less than half operate gaming facilities
  - 75% reinvest $ directly into community
- Only 73 tribes distributed direct payments ("per capita") to tribal members
STRENGTHS OF AIAN COMMUNITY

• Role of elders; family, community
• Indigenous and generational knowledge/wisdom
• Survival skills and resiliency in the face of multiple challenges
STRENGTHS OF AIAN COMMUNITY

• Community pride
• Retention & reclamation of traditional language and cultural practices
• Ability to “walk in two worlds” (mainstream & AIAN culture)
WORKING WITH TRIBES AND AIAN ETIQUETTE DO’S

• Learn how the tribe refers to itself/its people
• Be honest, clear, respectful
• Establish rapport with casual conversation, self-disclosure, allow humor
• Allow storytelling and sharing
• Admit limited knowledge of AIAN culture
• Accept food/beverages
• Respect confidentiality
• Avoid jargon
WORKING WITH TRIBES AND AIAN ETIQUETTE DON’TS

- Stereotype
- Interrupt; Ask intrusive questions
- Impose your personal values/beliefs
- Touch people/objects without permission
- Take pictures without permission
- Use any information or pictures gained by working with the community for presentations/research/etc. without express written consent.
- Tell stories of distant AIAN relatives in your genealogy as an attempt to establish rapport unless you have maintained a connection with that community
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: WHERE TO START?

• Call, email, face-to-face
• Start with the Tribal Secretary
• Home field advantage
• Attend the meeting
• Tribal Health Councils
  • Board of Director Meetings
  • Health Program Councils
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: CLEAR INTENTIONS

Be CLEAR in Your Intentions

- History of distrust
- Give honest answers; admit when you don’t know
- Be familiar with eligibility requirements.
- When tailoring resources: know your audience
  - North America – California – Region – Tribal specific
SNAP VS. FDPIR PROGRAM

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

- Food packages for low-income households on Indian reservations
- Administered locally by Indian Tribal Organizations or State government
- Many households participate because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores
- Households **may not** participate in FDPIR and SNAP in the same month.

http://www.fns.usda.gov/
PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES FROM OUR PANEL

FOOD AND CULTURE

JACOB DUNLAP
MINNESOTA OJIBWE
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REBECCA GARROW
PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE
AIAN CAMPAIGN MANAGER
Everything you want to know (but might be afraid to ask!) about AIAN in California

- Please submit questions via chat function or raise hand (both on side panel).
COLLECTIVE WISDOM: GROUP DISCUSSION

We want to hear from you!

- Best Practices; Lessons Learned; Success Stories
- Take-away thoughts/inspirations?

{ 5 Minutes }
THANK YOU!
GET IN TOUCH:

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