



Tribal STAR Drumbeats

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Creating Connection for Tribal Youth

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INDIAN SPECIALTY UNIT &
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*"Inspiring Innovative Solutions
in Human Services"*

In the field of social work, more often than not, the challenges that are addressed every day often seem endless. It is an honor to share the following story with you...one that we feel represents the IMPACT that ONE person can have-



After attending the Tribal STAR *Gathering* in May of 2006, Dolores Keeling, a Placement Specialist with San Diego County HHSA, recognized the importance of foster parents, social workers and service providers being trained together. In a letter to Tribal STAR, Dolores shared, "I was

most impressed by the video and discussion around the Indian children being separated from their families and being forced into boarding schools or adopted by people who did not understand their culture. Non-Native American foster families and social workers would benefit from understanding the devastating effects of separating Native American children from their tribes." As a coordinator for North County Cares, Dolores sought to have Tribal STAR provide training to a large group of social workers, foster parents and other service providers in Northern San Diego. Dolores had established a relationship with a church in the area that agreed to donate the training space, arranged for childcare to be provided for the foster parents, and gathered County resources in

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**Tribal STAR is a program of the Academy for Professional Excellence at
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EXPERT SAYS PAST GENOCIDE LINKED TO HIGH SUICIDE

11/15/2006 - SPOKANE WA

By Kevin Graman -- The Spokesman-Review

Any discussion of the high rate of suicide among young American Indians must begin with an acknowledgement of genocide, a nationally recognized expert in social work among Indian people said Oct. 24 in Airway Heights.

So far, there has been no such official acknowledgement from the U.S. government, said Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, a professor at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work.

"So much happened to our people, we didn't have time to recover from one trauma before another occurred," said Brave Heart, a Hunkpapa/Oglala Lakota who developed the theory of "historical trauma" among American Indians.

She spoke Oct. 24 at the Native American Suicide and Violence Prevention Conference at Northern Quest Casino. About 100 first responders and behavioral health professionals attended the two days of workshops that ended Oct. 25.

The conference was sponsored by the Camus Institute of the Kalispel Tribe, the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, Eastern Washington University and the QPR Institute at a time when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes the suicide rate of young American Indians is four times higher than the national average.

The discussion may be relevant to the Inland Northwest, where federal officials are currently responding to an increased number of suicides on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

According to the IHS, the peak annual suicide rate for the American Indians in Washington state over a 10-year period ending in 1996 was 23 per 100,000 people. The Colvilles' rate is 5 percent higher than that. Seven officers and civil servants from IHS, the CDC,

the Health Resources Service Administration and the Bureau of Prisons have responded to the Colville tribal leaders' call for assistance in dealing with the suicide rate.

Colville social workers were among those attending the conference, said Sara Sexton-Johnson, director of the EWU Office of Professional Development and External Programs.

Kalispel elder Francis Cullooyah said his tribe was concerned for the welfare of all the tribes in the region, particularly the children.

"It is really important for Indian people to remember who they are and where they came from," Cullooyah said.

He and others at the conference stressed the importance of instilling a sense of tradition, culture and Native spirituality in young people. Without it, they said, there is a void that can lead to isolation, drug abuse or even suicide, the second-leading cause of death for Natives between the ages of 15 and 24.

Historical trauma is the intergenerational post-traumatic stress that is the result of the genocide perpetrated on American Indians, Brave Heart said. The resulting "cumulative group trauma" was aggravated by the boarding school system imposed on Indian children by both the United States and Canada, robbing them of their traditions, language and families, she said.

The children of the massacre survivors, the boarding school survivors, passed on this trauma to their descendants, Brave Heart said. Hope for American Indian children lies, Brave Heart said, in recognizing that this historical trauma exists and reclaiming traditional culture and spirituality through the power of the tribal community and "grass-roots healing."

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Santa Ysabel Honors Vets 2006

Santa Ysabel Veterans Day 2006

By Roy Cook, AIWA President

Each year we look forward with anticipation and respectful responsibility when we participate in the Veterans Day activity at the Santa Ysabel ceremony at the Tribal cemetery. American Indian Warriors Association Honor Guard posted all our flags for an outstanding showing! Tribal Chairperson John Hernandez and event organizer Bonnie Salgado welcomed all to the event and recognized Herman Osuna, USMC Korean conflict Veteran. Herman continues to serve his people as teacher, role model and seen in the image below, bringing in the Santa Ysabel Tribal Flag with the American Indian Warriors Honor Color Guard.



Many Santa Ysabel members attending knew the boys I grew up with from Santa Ysabel. Most of us,

of my generation, had served in some branch of the military.

This Veterans Day as we drove through the turns and valleys of the mist and mountains to Santa Ysabel I am reminded of the historical significance of the location.

Ron Christman and Stan Rodriguez, both combat military veterans, sang Honoring Tucuk Bird songs. Stan called the roll of the present Santa Ysabel Veterans and then Santa Ysabel fallen warriors were remembered and a ship's bell was rung for each by, Jerry Reed, retired boatswain's mate as Stan read their names. To complete this tribute Taps were blown for all Veterans who have fallen.

Later I have a similar feeling, standing in the flag row of the Honor Guard, you need only to look across the tribal members' faces assembled at the Santa Ysabel Veterans Day ceremony to see the true richness of the state reflected. I am referring to the true value inherited and not extracted from the natu-

ral resources. Tribal Songs, stories, family, culture and language are indeed the true richness of the golden state.

Many of us, in my generation, came through the experience of the Southeast Asia era. In that time, over there and over here: we each represented each other in our military roles. In that time, national attitudes coming back into the civilian world were not at all nice to returning Veterans. It is still taking a goodly amount of time for many of us to see our way clear to accept the fact that we are alive and it is OK to be so.

Amazingly, there is a cathartic experience that occurs each and every time we get together. Thank you for allowing me this day, to experience this AIWA band of brothers, a little bent, a little bruised but still willing to help each other out. These experiences are much as those we recall in active service with our military buddy on the line and at our side.

This is a day of respect for our fallen warriors everywhere and it is tied together with traditional tribal hospitality and generosity. Indian events on Indian land for and by Indian people are the best times. We extend our appreciation to those AIWA members and family who represented the organization in respectful attendance and service to our Indian Tribal community. It does not get better than that. There is a perceived spiritual quality to the day that exceeds:



Pow wows, parades, films fairs or the beach. Fallen Warriors of many conflicts are not forgotten in the hearts of their Tribal relatives. We must always remember

that our Indian Warriors who gave so much so that our people may enjoy the freedom to be ourselves. Our Indian land is forever Indian land. It matters little what others say or what paper labels nor what legalism defines or fences separate. It is all Indian land. The Grandfathers said so.

—Reprinted by permission from Roy Cook—



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order to provide for the food and materials.

On January 24th, Tribal STAR provided training to 31 foster parents, social workers and Tribal service providers at North Coast Church in Vista. June Herzog, Manager for the HHS North Coastal region, joined the Tribal STAR team in the welcome and was able to participate in the day of training. When asked to provide examples of how the information learned during training would be applied to their work, participants replied: "Use humility when addressing others. Observe protocols-address elders first.", "I will sit and chat with the potential caregiver before I start the home evaluation process", "Learning traditional native culture- to allow implementation in my home for the Native youth I foster."

Tribal STAR was able to provide training to a group of 30 foster parents, social workers and Tribal service providers at Indian Health Council on the Rincon reservation on January 25th. Ruth Sipranovich, Manager from the HHS North Inland region, Robert White from the Indian Specialty Unit, as well as Romelle Majel-McCauley and Karan Kolb from Indian Health Council joined the Tribal STAR team in the welcome. A 17 year-old Tribal foster youth joined the training and shared of her experience in the system. This opportunity to view the system from the inside out was eye-opening for all. As

shared by one participant, "the day was eye opening for me on so many levels, and I had no idea how much I needed it."

Dolores Keeling had a vision to bring much-needed training to a group of foster parents, social workers and service providers in Northern San Diego. Because of her creativity, coordination and dedication, Tribal STAR was able to provide this training to a group nearing 60. The vision of ONE created an IMPACT that will improve many outcomes.

Contributed by Dana Allen

TRIBAL STAR REACHES A NEW LEVEL!

With your help, Tribal STAR is establishing new higher standards for program evaluation. To this end, we developed the "Tribal STAR Follow-Up Survey".

We started with the basic desire to know how our trainings impacted participants' practice. Prior to this effort, we heard from our participants on a regular albeit more casual level. We learned a lot, but recognized a need to structure this information for true evaluative purposes. Our goal is to strive for a training experience that will ultimately allow participants to better meet the needs of tribal foster youth.

We sent out an informational training refresher sheet and our latest Survey, a SASE via standard post and provided several ways to send it back. We

created an electronic survey that can easily be filled out online and submitted via email or printed out and faxed to our offices. We posted it on our website, <http://theacademy.sdsu.edu/TribalSTAR>, and emailed it to everyone who had attended trainings. Our internal evaluators are able to use your responses: anecdotal, qualitative and quantitative to pull out themes that can either support our efforts or help improve our format. Letting us know your honest impressions of training is an integral part of our providing a reputable program.

We hope to use all your responses following our efforts to maintain best practices. With your continued support, we'll have even more information to draw upon. We've come very near to our goal for responses needed to satisfy evaluation standards. But we still need your help.

Please fill out your Tribal STAR Follow-Up Survey. If we missed you in our outreach please go to our website and click on the link to the survey to complete it. It will only take a few minutes of your time and will go a long way to help us support tribal foster youth. Thank you to all of our participants who responded so promptly. We encourage you to share your enthusiasm with friends, co-workers and peers

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Tribal STAR Training News

Tribal STAR announces a Training for Trainers Series. Beginning April 2007, Tribal STAR will provide training for Trainers on a regional basis throughout California.

If you are interested in learning more about Tribal STAR training, materials and resources, and would like to be a training resource within your community, then please consider attending an upcoming T for T. Please contact Ana Friesema (afriesema@projects.sdsu.edu) to be placed on the mailing list for this training series. All sessions will have a limited number of training spaces available.

We recommend that those who are planning to attend the training, attend an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) training prior to participation in the Tribal STAR training. Scheduled ICWA training can be found on the Public Child Welfare Training Academy website: <http://theacademy.sdsu.edu>.

Laws of the Great Spirit

Treat the Earth and all that dwell thereon with respect.

Remain close to the Great Spirit.

Show great respect for your fellow beings.

Work together for the benefit of all mankind.

Give assistance and kindness wherever needed.

Do what you know to be right.

Look after the well being of mind and body.

Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good.

Be truthful and honest at all times.

Take full responsibility for your actions.

Great Spirit,

Give us hearts to understand;

never to take from creation's beauty more than we give;

never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;

never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty;

never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

that to destroy earth's music is to create confusion;

that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;

That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench;

That as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst, help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to resort our humanity.

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who have attended any of our trainings to fill out a survey.

Thank you to all of our participants who responded so promptly. We encourage you to share your enthusiasm with friends, co-workers and peers who have attended any of our *Summit* or *Gathering* trainings to fill out a survey as well.

Please visit us at <http://theacademy.sdsu.edu/TribalSTAR> or contact our Program Assistant, Ana Friesema, with questions or suggestions. She can be reached at 619-594-8511 or via email afriesema@projects.sdsu.edu.

Sun Steals Yellow Woman

Cochiti and Laguna Pueblo Traditional

The stories of the people—in this case, the Cochiti Pueblos—were inextricably connected to everyday life. Of course this implies that the sacred and the ordinary are perceived as a seamless whole.

Yellow Woman, like the tradition she lives in, goes on and on. She lives around Laguna and other Keresan pueblos. She is a Spirit, related to Grandmother Spider, the Woman Who Thinks Us As We Are Being. In the stories you'll find only the tiniest portion of her vast identity is revealed.

At old Cochiti (Tiputse) lived a man and his wife. His name was Stilina (dance shells). His wife went for water and Sun came and stole her. Her husband didn't know where she had gone. He mourned for her and tried to follow her tracks. He was lying in a muddy place and something crawled on his neck and spoke to him. It was Spider Woman. She said, "What are you doing here?" "I'm mourning for my wife who was stolen from me." "Don't think of her, my son, and keep wondering where your wife is. Your wife is where the sun comes up. There are two roads to that place, a new and an old. Don't follow the new road; take the old. On the new road a dangerous person will kill you. So go the old road.

He started on his journey. When he came to the two roads, he wondered why Spider Woman had said not to go by the good road, so he took the new road. He came to the house of Whirlwind Man. He was out hunting, only his mother was at home. She set out food for her guest. He was still eating, when he heard Whirlwind Man coming. He came in. They fought. The

mother tried to separate them, but Shell Man killed Whirlwind Man. His mother was frightened. She said, "Hurry, hurry, press his stomach. See if you can make him alive again." Then Shell Man pressed him, and he came to life. Then his mother said to her son, "Don't fight with this man any more, my son. It is because of Shell Man that you are alive again." She put food out again.

Whirlwind Man said to Shell Man, "I will take you where you wish to go." So he took him where Sun rises. Whirlwind Man picked him up and took him to the top of the high cliffs where his wife was. Whirlwind Man said to Shell Man, "Go over yonder, you will find her alone. Sun is out hunting." He went into Sun's house, and he found his wife grinding. She was frightened. "How did you get here, my husband? Nobody comes here, it is too dangerous." "I've come to get you. Before Sun comes home from hunting I will take you back." She got ready. They went out before Sun came home. When they got where Whirlwind was waiting, he started homeward with them.

Sun came home and the woman was gone. He shot an arrow after them but it fell to one side. They were safe, no man can harm a woman while she is carrying his child. They reached Whirlwind Man's house. "We have to go on to our home," they said. They came to their own house. While they were coming along the road, Sun shot another arrow. Shell Man cried, "Hurry up, we must go faster, the man who stole you is coming after us!" Sun was shooting. When they got to Tiputse, Sun was right behind them, but the woman was safe. Sun said to Yellow Woman, "You shall have a child and he shall be chief of this people."

Tribal STAR invites you to submit dates, times and locations of events your Reservation or Agency is sponsoring and we will include that information in our "Grapevine" section of the newsletter. Please send the announcements for your events to: marrantia@projects.sdsu.edu. The newsletter is published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. If you have questions call or e-mail the editor, Margaret Orrantia.



<http://pcwta.sdsu.edu/TribalSTAR>

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