

IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA AND INTER-GENERATIONAL ISSUES ON FAMILY DYNAMICS



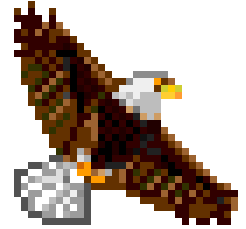
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**NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.
(NACS), BUFFALO / NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**





Session Overview



- ⊕ Socio-Cultural Model of HIV Prevention
- ⊕ Native American Experience & Consequences
- ⊕ “Healing in Volumes” Approach to Health & Wellness

Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties, Inc. (NACS)

1975-2010: 35 Years in a Tradition of Caring



Family Services
Economic Self-Sufficiency
Youth Services
Health & Wellness
Community Support Services



***Serving the Off-Reservation
Native American Community & Friends***

In providing services for Native Americans,
the NACS Health and Wellness Component
utilizes the

Socio-Cultural Model of
HIV Prevention*

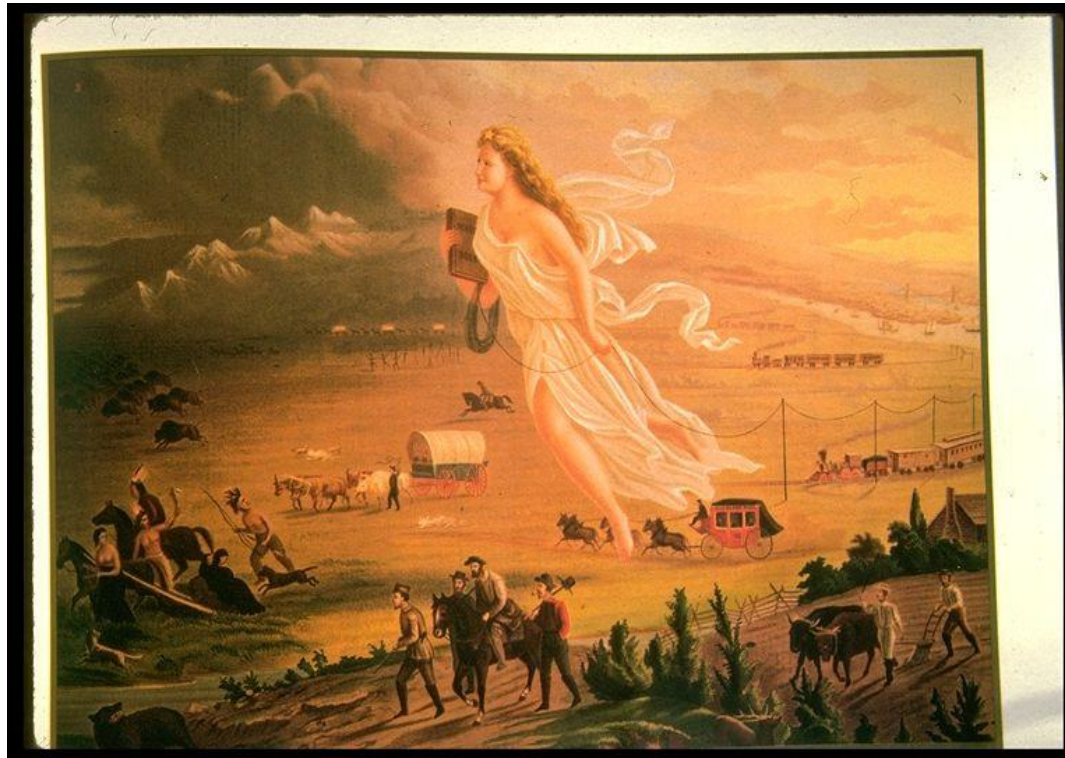
**As developed by the
New York State HIV Prevention Planning Group
(PPG), c. 1999*

SOCIO-CULTURAL MODEL OF HIV PREVENTION

- ⊕ **Historical Underpinnings** = events that happened previously & that continue to impact the community in some way(s)
- ⊕ **External Factors** = dynamics, influences, or effects on the community that are outside of the control and/or origin of the community
- ⊕ **Cultural Norms** = how the community members treat each other & non-members

And, these issues must be identified & interpreted by members of the community

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY



RESIDENTIAL BOARDING SCHOOLS & NATIVE AMERICANS

"Getting to the Root of It" --
November 9, 2009



"Getting to the Root of It" --
November 9, 2009



"Getting to the Root of It" --
November 9, 2009



PHOTOGRAPH BY U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS,
COURTESY OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

"Getting to the Root of It" --
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"Getting to the Root of It" --
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Impact of Residential Boarding Schools within Native American Families & Communities

+++++

→ Language

→ Culture

→ Alcohol & Health Problems

→ Family Dynamics & Parenting Skills

→ Sexual, Physical, Emotional Abuse

→ Pride, Self-Esteem, Self-Worth

ALCOHOL ABUSE, FOSTER CARE, ADDICTIONS,
DIABETES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OBESITY, ASTHMA,
CANCER, STDS, SUICIDE, DEATHS FROM DRUNK
DRIVING ACCIDENTS, HIV, ELDER ABUSE, CHILD
ABUSE, GANG INVOLVEMENT, INCARCERATION,
HOMELESSNESS, TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, INHALANTS,
POVERTY, SIDS, NEGATIVE SELF-IMAGES, STEREOTYPES,
HEART DISEASE, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES...

...AND MANY OF THESE ISSUES ARE

INTER-GENERATIONAL

YET MOST APPROACHES ARE

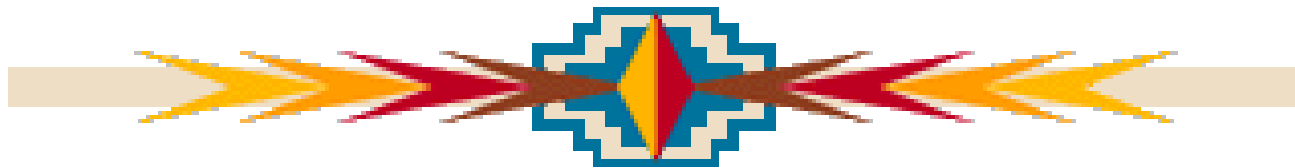
SHORT-TERM,

FOCUSED ON ONLY ONE PROBLEM AREA,

AND/OR

*DO NOT RECOGNIZE HOW PEOPLE ARE
IMPACTED BY COMMUNITY HISTORY*

*...new, culturally appropriate
approaches are needed*



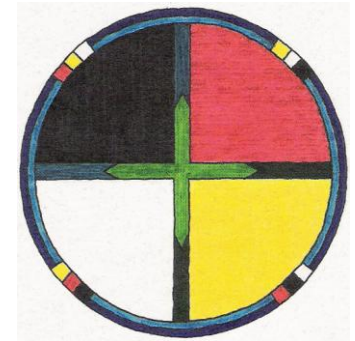
“Healing In Volumes”

A Shift In Our Thinking & Approach

***from only focusing on HIV, foster care,
or any singular issue in physical health***

***to include emotional, mental, &
spiritual health,***

and...



“Healing In Volumes”

A Shift In Our Thinking & Approach..

***to also include an understanding
of the community’s dynamics, history,
assets, needs, & culture(s)***

and

***how individuals are impacted emotionally,
mentally, & spiritually as well as physically***

The “Healing In Volumes” approach means

→to empower people to learn, understand, & process how all these factors have influenced the health & wellness of themselves, their family and/or their community(-ies)

→to offer & support a process of healing in comprehensive, culturally appropriate manner for community members & friends as desired

Outcome of "Healing In Volumes"

People will be empowered to make
healthier decisions for themselves,
their families, and their
communities

The “**Healing In Volumes**” Approach

Step 1 → Know (Identify) community

Step 2 → Apply S-C Model

Step 3 → Assess Readiness

Step 4 → Share, Care, & Plan

Step 5 → Offer Healing Efforts

Step 6 → Maintain & Enhance

Focus of healing efforts

- help people to understand their own personal, family's, & community's history and dynamics
- in order to help stop the cycles of inter-generational dysfunction
- healing efforts can manifest in many ways, as determined by a community

--- Important ---

USE CAUTION



The need for “healing” may not be readily accepted by the community and/or outside entities



There may be fear, defensiveness, denial, rage, resistance, and/or outright hostility

Some people may not be aware of
the full impact of history



Many people have been seriously
wounded yet may never have
recognized or considered it

Some people have developed strong coping skills to live in their reality, many of which may not be “healthy” but may be fully entrenched in a family or community



Some people may feel that they have already dealt with these issues

“Healing” may be an
intensely personal activity



“Healing” could also generate
some resurfacing of deep,
long-standing wounds

If staff are peers and/or from the community, dynamics of the community need to be understood (on personal, family, & community levels)



We cannot promote the health & wellness of others if we're not healthy & well

As staff, we may have same or similar issues as the people we're trying to help

Healing in Volumes—The Approach



- step 1 → know community
- step 2 → apply S-C Model
- step 3 → assess community readiness
- step 4 → share, care, & plan
- step 5 → offer healing efforts
- step 6 → maintain & enhance

Recent NACS' Efforts

“Healing Our People through Empowerment” (HOPE Project)

“Impact of the Residential Boarding Schools in the Native Community”

Celebration of Wellbriety & AA meetings

Healing in Volumes
Approach to
HIV Prevention



Greater
Movement
toward
Health &
Wellness



Recommendations



- ⊕ Understand each person is an individual, some aspects of this discussion may or may not relate
- ⊕ Allow for exploration of deeper issues, not just symptoms of dysfunction or superficial approaches
- ⊕ Tap into community resources & assets
- ⊕ Address historical underpinnings in service plans as much as possible

Recommendations



- ⊕ **Explore Socio-Cultural Model for a given community**
 - ⊕ **Get more information on the “Healing In Volumes” approach**
- ⊕ **Native American Cultural Competency training, November 19, 2009**
- ⊕ **Channel 09 Stories of the Niagara Frontier, December 6, 2009**

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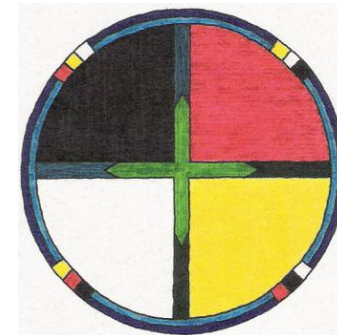
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NYAH-WEH!

