

Native Elder Abuse Innovation Awards



National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative Innovation Grant

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Executive Summary

The National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI) is a national resource center for indigenous elder abuse prevention. There are 573 federally recognized tribes and Alaskan Villages in the United States, only about 100 of them currently have elder abuse codes. This Innovation Grant provided 16 sub-awards to American Indian Tribes and Alaskan Villages (AI/AN) to carry out activities to prevent, identify, and address elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Each community differed in capabilities to report, investigate, and intervene in elder abuse cases. These awards provided AI/AN/NH communities build infrastructure and capacity to develop comprehensive elder programs in their communities. The five areas of intervention included: 1) Innovative approaches to preventing or addressing elder abuse; 2) Create awareness of elder abuse and its signs and impact; 3) Development of a tribal resolution code, and laws to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; 4) Development of the infrastructure, policies and procedures for reporting investigating, and intervening in elder abuse cases; 5) Development of cross-jurisdictional processes for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases. All of the funded communities had more than one area of intervention.

Additionally, five tribal communities fielded the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey (NEMS) to understand better the prevalence of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in their respective communities using the tribally participatory research model (TPR). Each participating tribe received their tribal data to use for obtaining additional funding, tribal planning, policy development or community education. There is very little data about elder abuse in Indian Country. The tribes that participated in the survey provided NIEJI permission, through tribal resolutions, to use the aggregate data to build the literature and better understand elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation to advocate for resources, develop culturally appropriate interventions, and identify areas that may need more investigation.

The funding resulted in increased tribal capacity to report, investigate, and intervene in elder abuse cases, including the understanding of prevalence of elder maltreatment in five tribal communities. Also, NIEJI produced sub-award application and funding documents, elder maltreatment survey and protocol, training module, and individual tribal data reports. In addition, each funded tribal site also produced culturally specific resolutions, training, educational materials, and articles. To see more of the products you can find them on our website at www.nieji.org/.

Thank you to the tribes, elders and others who worked on these projects.

NIEJI is committed to continually supporting American Indian tribes, Alaskan villages and Hawaiian homesteads to *restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders*.

Respectfully,

Jacque Gray, PhD
Principal Investigator, NIEJI Innovation Grant

Tribal Sub-Award Grantees Table

Cycle I Grantees	Amount	Project Title
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	\$17,148	Elder's Justice Initiative
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	\$ 19,704	EBCI Elder Justice Project
Maniilaq Association	\$20,000	Challenging Elder Abuse in the Northwest Arctic
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	\$20,000	Elder Abuse Community Empowerment
Ponca Tribe	\$17,148	Elder Abuse Prevention Project
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe	\$18,000	Multidisciplinary Team Implementation in the Territory of Akwesasne
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	\$18,000	Elderly Protection Improvement Project
Spirit Lake Nation	\$20,000	Dakota Elders Preserving Traditional Project
Cycle II Grantees	Amount	Project Title
Knik Tribe	\$19,000	Knik Tribe Elder Abuse Project
Little Travers By Band of Odawa Indians	\$20,000	Elder Abuse Prevention and Education
Oneida Nation	\$19,000	Preventing Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Oneida Elders
Pasqua Yaqui Tribe	\$18,000	Elder Abuse Education & Outreach Project
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	\$19,998	Standing Rock Elderly Protection Services
White Earth Band of Chippewa	\$19,000	White Earth Elder Wellness Program
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes	\$15, 002	Elder Justice Strategic Planning Initiative
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	\$20,000	Family Group Decision Making: A Ho-Chunk Model

Tribal Grantee Projects Cycle 1

1. Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Project Title

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Elders Justice Project



Project Abstract

The Flathead Indian Reservation is home to three tribes, the Bitterroot Salish, Upper Pend d'Oreille, and the Kootenai. The Flathead Reservation lies within four counties in rural northwestern Montana. The Department of Human Resource Development project staff contracted with an attorney/policy expert to review innovative approaches that are being implemented by other tribes and recommended best practices. The project staff also gathered input from tribal council, tribal culture committees, subject matter experts, and elders on current codes. The Department of Human Resource Development headed coordination of the project. Project staff entered Adult Protective Services (APS) case data into the LEAPS software system. Another funding source purchased the LEAPS software. This system will help manage cases of abuse and assist with collecting data.

Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention area: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 1.1. Objective: The APS Social Worker will conduct three community outreach activities.
2. Intervention area: Develop tribal resolutions, codes, and laws to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
 - 2.1. Objective: The Project will contract with an attorney or policy expert to develop new APS codes and policies.
 - 2.2. Objective: Enter Adult Protective Services case information into the LEAPS database to support program development efforts of the APS.

Challenges

A significant challenge during the grant period was the change of staff. Staffing challenges impacted the completion of community education activities. The majority of the funds were utilized for staff time to enter data into the LEAPS data system.

Outcomes

The Department of Human Resources evaluated present Adult Protective Services (APS) tribal codes. CKST elder protection codes, compared to other tribal systems, indicated that ours did not need updating. The program also established an APS case management team that meets quarterly. The community programs will continue to input the data into the LEAPS software system to manage elderly abuse and neglect cases.

Lessons learned

Projects need to have consistency, and staff available to implement the activities. However, the CSKT tribes will continue to strive to improve service and protect vulnerable and elderly adults.

2. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Project Title

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Elder Justice Project

Project Abstract

This project aimed to develop a comprehensive tribal policy on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation to protect the tribe's growing elderly population from harm. The need for a comprehensive policy is pressing because of the high incidence of elder abuse in Cherokee. Existing tribal policies prevent tribal agencies from collaborating effectively to combat elder abuse. Legal Assistance Office developed a legislative agenda to combat elder abuse, produced and distributed educational materials, offered classes for elders and their caregivers on elder abuse.

Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention Area: Development of the infrastructure, policies, and procedures for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 1.1. Objective: Enhance collaborations among tribal agencies serving elders.
2. Intervention Area: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 2.1. Objective: Educate and empower elders and caregivers about elder abuse, existing tribal law, and services.

Challenges

Challenges implementing this project included a lack of awareness about elder abuse among community members and tribal agencies. A survey of tribal employees indicated that some people were better informed about abuse than others. Elder participants did not respond to the term abuse or exploitation; however, if asked if they experienced disrespect, they would respond with a yes and go into details. The community started addressing elder abuse in terms of respect for elders.

Outcomes

Interdepartmental agreement on combatting elder abuse, neglect, and formal exploitation agreement was not signed, but there was significant stakeholder participation. The project staff presented the completed plan for the comprehensive "Elder Justice Code" to all stakeholder agencies. Additionally, the project team and the Adult Protective Services developed and implemented a caregiver class and support group. Lastly, the project team produced an easy-to-read booklet about recognizing and combatting elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Dissemination of the booklet went out to interested community members.

Sustainability Plan

This project was meant as the beginning of long-term policy and legislative overhaul to protect our elders. The EBCI received a three-year grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence against Women to develop agency policies and the creation of forms to support the plan developed in this project.

Lessons Learned

Using measures of participation of stakeholders in the process of developing the policy and legislative plan would have been a better measure than a formal signed agreement. Every agency participated in each stage of planning. This project has created better communication between APS and the Cherokee Indian Police Department, and other agencies regarding reports of elder abuse.

Educational Materials and Products

This project developed a brochure and PowerPoint presentation to for the community titled "EBCI Elder Justice Project. This project obtained approval of a tribal resolution on "Elder Justice." The project team developed two surveys, "Elder Justice Cohort, and the Elder Abuse Program Questionnaire."



EBCI Elder Justice Project

Long-term Goal

End Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation within the Territory of the EBCI

Project Objectives

- (1) Community Education about Elder Abuse and Available Resources &
- (2) Detailed Legislative and Policy Plan for Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

To become involved, please come to the next monthly stakeholder meeting. Contact the Legal Assistance Office for more information.



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Legal Assistance Office

Ginger Lynn Welch Building
PO Box 2280
Cherokee, NC 28719
828-359-7400
legalhelp@nc-chokeee.com

EBCI Elder Justice Project



Funded through National
Indigenous Elders Justice
Initiative (NIEJI) Elder
Innovation Grant



3. Maniilaq Association

Project Title

Challenging Elder Abuse in the Northwest Arctic

Project Abstract

Maniilaq Association provides health and social services to residents of Northwest Alaska. A non-profit corporation, Maniilaq Association, represents twelve federally recognized tribes located in Northwest Alaska. The Association manages social and health services for about 8,000 people within the Northwest Arctic Borough and the village of Point Hope. This project focused on creating awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and its impacts in the Maniilaq service region. Educational materials and products directed elders to existing services and reaffirmed the tradition of respect for elders. This increased elders' safety, enabled Maniilaq to serve elders better, and provided data to understand elder abuse in our communities better.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention area: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 1.1. Objective: Create & distribute outreach materials to the 11 Native Villages of Maniilaq Service Area.
 - 1.2. Objective: Increase use of available Maniilaq resources for victims of elder abuse.
 - 1.3. Objective: Collect data from available sources to better understand elder abuse in region.

Challenges

The most significant challenge was the arctic weather. The only transportation to the villages is by air. The staff planned out for 15-day trips, and could only complete five due to weather.

Outcomes

The project reached 6 of the 11 villages to do outreach and education. The clinic staff, Northwest Arctic Borough School District principal and counselor, Social Services Family Crisis Center, Social Services Elder Services, and Family Services staff partnered to provide community education. The public service announcements on elder advocate services and awareness, and financial fraud aired on the local radio station KOTZ. Information was disseminated at village clinics and schools. As a result of efforts there had been an increase in calls about elder services.

Educational Materials and Products

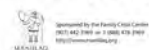
The project reached 6 of the 11 villages for outreach and education. The clinic staff, Northwest Arctic Borough School District principal and counselor, Social Services Family Crisis Center, Social Services Elder Services, and Family Services team members, partnered to provide community education. Public service announcements on elder advocate services, abuse awareness, and financial fraud aired on the local radio station KOTZ. Information was disseminated at village clinics and schools. As a result of these efforts, calls increased about elder services.



Responsibility to Tribe
Iñuniatqatiunik Pitriñialiq



Respect for Elders
Kamakrsiuraaliq Utuqqanaanik



4. Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Project Title

Elder Abuse Community Empowerment

Project Abstract

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (MIT), located in rural Washington, is a federally recognized tribe composed of descendants from the area's original Coast Salish peoples. MIT has 2,888 total enrolled members and 420 elders that live on the reservation or within the 30 mile service area. The project surveyed community members determine a baseline of needs at MIT regarding protecting elders. The data informed the scope and content for developing the culturally appropriate curriculum to support attorneys-in-fact in a Power Of Attorney (POA) document, informal supports, and legal guardians. The project addressed elder abuse issues of legal service affordability, navigation of the court system, and awareness of available services in the community. All tribal members benefited from the outcomes of the project.

Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention area: Development of the infrastructure, policies, and procedures for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 1.1. Objective: Develop infrastructure to address Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
 - 1.2. Objective: Increase service access and knowledge;
 - 1.3. Objective: Increase support to family members designated as attorneys-in-fact, informal supports, and legal guardians.

Challenges

The project team included the program manager from Muckleshoot Mental Health and the manger of the Health and Wellness Clinic. They assisted us with the needs assessment and course outlines. Unfortunately, we were not able to use speakers for training from their respective agencies. We had to delay the training.

Outcomes

The project established a committee made up of community members, subject matter experts, and a project consultant. The committee and consultant outlined the goals of this project, which included drafting a needs assessment, fielding the survey, and establishing a timeline. Two separate surveys were designed, one for elders exclusively, and the second one for anyone who might be a caretaker of an elder or vulnerable adult. The committee and consultant developed training on Adult Protective Services, introduction to adult guardianship, financial management guardianship, clinical services, and mental health services. The facilitators provided training in four two-hour segments and one all-day training. Approximately 20-30 people attended each training. The tribal court system will provide a training manual and a file organizer to each lay guardian appointed.

Educational Materials and Products

This project developed two surveys, the Guardianship Needs Assessment and Elders Needs Assessment; Training manual to accompany the training, "Legal Resources and Remedies Manual for Tribal Elder Protection"; Training evaluation survey; File organizer for adult guardians; And four informational sheets on managing someone's finances, mental services, behavioral programs, and getting help.

Mental Health Services Available

Muckleshoot Behavioral Health Program
(206) 338-1926 / 800-452-7269
Tacoma, Washington 98402
(253) 864-9742

Ask your counselor for more information about any of these

Mental Health training for Guardians:
BECAUSE ELDERS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR TRIBE

Counseling Services
Therapy services begin with a mental health intake during which individuals identify their goals, strengths and needs. Ongoing service options are trauma informed and include individual, couples, family, and group counseling, crisis intervention, in-home therapy, and case management. Goals are individualized to each client, and services are confidential. Contact your assigned therapist to discuss which therapy options would be the best fit for you.

Outreach and Transportation Services
Outreach services include crisis response, checking in on community members, in-home therapy, and case management. Transportation is available to and from your counseling services and groups. Contact the front desk or your therapist to request outreach or transportation.

Medication Management
Psychiatric services, including assessment and ongoing medication management, are available to clients participating in mental health therapy. Psychiatric providers work as a team with the client and their therapist to tailor services to each client's unique treatment and medication needs. Contact your individual therapist to discuss how medication services may work for you.

Domestic Violence Survivor Advocacy Services
Service include:
*Safety Planning *Filing for Protection Orders *Ongoing Support Group for Women *Therapy Services for Victims and Their Families *Support in Navigating the Social and Legal Systems *Emergency Housing *Legal Referrals *Basic Needs
Contact Christine Mandy or your therapist for information.

Equine Assisted Therapy
Equine Assisted Therapy, the use of horses within the therapy setting, is an effective and fun therapy model provided in a safe environment. This approach can be used to address emotional roadblocks, address past trauma, and provide emotional healing, and increase self-esteem. Contact Karyn Cross Sarabis or your therapist for information.

Native Community Helpers
We are recruiting Community Members who are interested in becoming Native Community Helpers. You will receive training in suicide prevention and drug and alcohol addiction. Learn the warning signs of suicide and how to respond to help save a life and receive ongoing support from Behavioral Health Program.

5. Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Project Title

Elder Abuse Prevention Project

Project Abstract

Specific data on Native American victimization in the Ponca service area is limited. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska defines an elder as someone 50 years old or older. The Tribe operates two health clinics, located in Omaha and Norfolk, Nebraska. The medical clinic staff screen patients for intimate partner violence during each visit and have seen an increase in elders reporting abuse. The purpose of this project was to address elder abuse throughout the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. The Tribe coordinated ways to improve elder abuse prevention and outreach methods by engaging internal and external healthcare practitioners and organizations who work with Native American populations. Prevention and awareness efforts occurred monthly, providing information and resources to service providers and the Native American community on elder abuse. A Tribal Elder Code was established to protect elders within the jurisdiction of the Ponca Tribe from abuse, exploitation, and neglect. This code provides for identification and appropriate resolution of abuse and neglect cases; reporting abuse and neglect; receiving reports of and investigating suspected abuse and neglect; and, delivering elder protection services.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention area: Develop tribal resolutions, codes, and laws to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
 - 1.1. Objective: Develop a tribal elder abuse code.
2. Intervention area: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 2.1. Objective: Raise awareness of elder abuse.
3. Intervention area: Development of the infrastructure, policies, and procedures for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 3.1. Objective: Develop a tribal elder abuse community response team.

Challenges

The challenge that staff faced was a lack of county attorneys and law enforcement attending the Elder Abuse Community Response Team meetings. Project staff made appointments with law enforcement agencies and county attorneys in the Tribe's service area to provide them with the brochures and discuss issues unique to Elder Abuse Indian Country.

Outcomes

The Elder Abuse Code passed into tribal law at a Ponca Tribal Council meeting held in Niobrara, NE. The project developed and disseminated culturally-appropriate education materials on elder abuse prevention. A brochure was created and distributed on indicators of elder abuse and services available. Eight presentations on elder abuse were given once a month at the Ponca Circle of Elders. The Community Response Team on Elder Abuse meets regularly to discuss barriers facing elderly victims of abuse. A staff member will continue to facilitate Community Response Team meetings. The goal of the groups is to develop and maintain a collaborative, seamless network of supportive services for Native American victims of elder abuse.

Sustainability Plan

Due to the successful passing of the Tribal Elder Abuse Code and establishing the Elder Abuse Community Response Team, the Ponca Tribe pursued a new grant from the Nebraska Crime Commission. The tribe hired two elder abuse advocates in mid-August 2018. They will be able to continue the Elder Abuse Community Response Team and presentations on elder abuse.

Lessons Learned

The project enhanced relationships between the domestic violence program and the Indian Health Service staff. The community elders and caregivers needed to learn more about abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Ponca Tribe greatly needs a community health representative to continue to provide education.

Educational Materials and Products

Project staff with input from the Ponca Tribal Cultural Department, the Elder Abuse Community Response Team members, and tribal elders created two brochures on elder abuse. The brochure dissemination occurred at health fairs, powwows, and tribal district events, and on social media accounts. The Tribal Elder Abuse Code was also posted to social media and available at two public hearings for public comment and review.

Recognizing and Preventing Elder Abuse, brochure

What to do if you suspect elder abuse:

If you suspect that someone you know may be a victim of elder abuse call 911.

You may also contact:

Nebraska

- In long-term care facilities or in the home: 800-652-1999
- Nebraska Adult Protective Services website -http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/nea_aps_apsindex.aspx

Iowa

- In long-term care facilities: 800-686-0027
- In the home: 800-362-2178
- Iowa Department of Human Services website - http://dhs.iowa.gov/dependent_adult_abuse

Services available through the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence Program are:

- Victim/survivor advocacy
- Medical advocacy
- Legal and court advocacy
- Safety planning
- Transportation
- Counseling referrals
- Community resource referral
- Shelter referral
- Limited financial services
- Toiletries
- Information
- Presentations

**Services are available to individuals enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, those who have children enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, or have been abused by a member of a federally recognized tribe.*

Recognizing and Preventing Elder Abuse

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Definition:

Elder Abuse is an intentional act or failure to act, by a caregiver that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult (someone the age of 55 and older).

Elder abuse is happening all around us. It not only happens in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, it happens in their own homes as well.

Our elders can sometimes be an easy target when it comes to abuse. They rely on younger generations to help them with daily activities such as personal hygiene, housekeeping, medical issues, paying bills and more. We need to work together to spread awareness and help stop the abuse of our elders.

Possible indicators of elder abuse

Physical Abuse:

- Fractures, bruises, cuts, burns, etc.
- Hitting, scratching, biting, etc.
- Old/new injuries
- Injury that doesn't make sense with explanation that was given

Sexual Abuse:

- Any unwanted sexual contact such as touching of genital areas other than for personal hygiene purposes
- Torn or stained underwear
- Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- Bruises around breasts or genital area
- Genital or anal pain, irritation or bleeding

Emotional Abuse:

- Calling names or insults
- Threats
- Isolation

Neglect/Self-Neglect:

- Lack of food, clothing, medicine or edible food
- Untreated medical attention
- Poor personal hygiene: untrimmed nails, matted hair, soiled clothing and odors
- Lack of proper supervision
- Human or animal feces on floors/furniture
- Rotting floors/ceilings

Financial Exploitation:

- Cashing checks without permission/authority
- ATM withdrawals inconsistent with the victim's use/ability
- Bank accounts overdrawn with adequate income
- Unpaid bills with adequate income
- Misuse of guardianship or power of attorney

6. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office of Aging



Project Title

Multidisciplinary Team Implementation in the Territory of Akwesasne

Project Abstract

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging is located on the Akwesasne Mohawk territory situated in Upstate NY. It provides services to tribal elders residing on territory and elders from the surrounding area. The goal of this project was to develop an Elder Abuse Case Review Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). There are three issues addressed with this project: 1) Remove barriers to reporting elder abuse by building rapport among agencies in Akwesasne, and agree on a standardized definition of Elder abuse for use on territory; 2) Improve how community programs respond to victims of elder abuse by creating a centralized reporting system; 3) Increase education on Elder abuse, as the aging population increases, so will the number of elder abuse victims.

Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention area: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 1.1. Objective: Increase education on elder abuse.
2. Intervention area: Development of the infrastructure, policies, and procedures for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 2.1. Objective: Create a standard definition of elder abuse.
 - 2.2. Objective: Develop a reporting a reporting and referral system.
3. Intervention area: Development of cross-jurisdictional processes for reporting, investigating in elder abuse cases.
 - 3.1. Objective: Establish a multidisciplinary team using the toolkit.
 - 3.2. Objective: Complete cooperative agreements for reporting and referrals.

Challenges

Lack of participation in the elder maltreatment survey created barriers in collecting data. Many elders rejected completing the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey due to the subject area. Other challenges included participation in the MDT meetings and reviewing case scenarios. The project staff changed the meetings from monthly to quarterly to get more involvement.

Outcomes

The project hired a program coordinator to conduct outreach and data collection for the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey. The results of the data indicated elder abuse prevalence on the Territory, signifying the need for the multidisciplinary team (MDT). The community outreach included talking to various elders, chiefs, community members, and program employees to gauge the level of awareness on elder abuse in the Territory of Akwesasne. The discussions indicated the community lacked knowledge of elder abuse. The MDT, established with members from different agencies across the Territory, created a standard definition of an elder being fifty-five years of age or older. The educational campaign in the community increased awareness significantly on signs of elder abuse.

Sustainability Plan

The project team applied to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe General Fund to sustain our current activities. The MDT Coordinator's salary is being supplemented by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

Lessons Learned

Awakening people through education is empowering, not only to individuals, but to elderly relations and the community. It will also take more time to develop a centralized referral and reporting system, and to develop a tribal code.

Educational Materials and Products

Products and communications activities included articles, issue briefs, fact sheets, presentations for conferences and workshops, website updates. The PowerPoint Presentation titled, "Akwasasne Elder Abuse Case Review Multidisciplinary Team," sample of the scenario review, and the blank Native Elder Maltreatment Survey are samples submitted as examples. Ways to Love Our Elders billboard was posted from May to October 2018 in between a popular bar and the Akwasasne Mohawk Casino Resort.

Akwasasne Elder Abuse Case Review Multidisciplinary Team presentation



Akwasasne Elder Abuse Case Review Multidisciplinary Team

February 1st, 2018

~Honor, Dignity, & Respect~

Elders are essential as guardians of our tribal history, culture, and traditions

- ⚡ Elder Abuse is a topic that is rarely talked about
- ⚡ Elders Won't Report Abuse Due To:
 - ⚡ Fear/Love of Abuser
 - ⚡ Lack of Resources
 - ⚡ Distrust of Government
 - ⚡ Historical Trauma
 - ⚡ Appearing Vulnerable

7. Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Idaho

Project Title

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Elder Abuse Prevention and Protection



Project Abstract

The Shoshone-Bannock Adult Protection Program provides services to the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Southeastern Idaho. Six thousand forty-one individuals reside on the Fort Hall Reservation. Of the total population, 781 (nearly 13%) are elderly (over the age of 70).

The Tribes wish to establish a formal Adult Protection Task Force (APTF) and a Tribal Board of Guardians. This Elderly Protection Improvement Project will address elder abuse by creating cross-jurisdictional processes and by developing infrastructure, policies, and procedures for reporting, investigating, and intervening in Fort Hall elder abuse cases. Once these proactive processes are in place, the current elder and adult protection code will be revised to ensure project sustainability. This program is innovative for the Tribes as it is looking toward cultural solutions and “taking care of our own.” The purpose of the Elderly Protection Improvement Project is to improve infrastructure and processes to provide a safer, more caring, and protective environment for Fort Hall elders. The two objectives are (1) to establish a formal Adult Protection Task Force, and (2) to create a tribal Adult Protection Board of Guardians.

Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention area: Development of cross-jurisdictional processes for reporting, investigating in elder abuse cases.
 - 1.1. Objective: Formalize an Adult Protection Task Force.
2. Intervention area: Development of the infrastructure, policies, and procedures for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 2.1. Objective: Establish a board of guardians

Challenges

Challenges experienced in completing the project included obtaining a legal review and moving through the Fort Hall Business Council processes for approval. The project team was determined and got both projects to pass with resolution approval. One of the significant hurdles when attempting to create the APTF was deciding who to invite to the table. Initially, the thought was only to include medical and law enforcement personnel; however, the referrals Adult Protection Services received were severe cases and needed other representatives from other agencies on the APTF.

Outcomes

The project team created the APTF with a formal charter, a regular meeting schedule, and meeting minutes. Tribal resolution LWOR-2018-0643 established the APTF giving them the authority to coordinate efforts to promote physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellness. The policies, procedures, and bylaws were reviewed and approved by the Fort Hall Business Council. Tribal resolution LWOR-2018-0644 created the Community Board of Guardians to serve as court-appointed guardians and /or conservators for those persons who may not have some to serve in that capacity. Before the Community Board of Guardians could be created, the Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Code need modifications to recognize the authority of this body. The APTF is strengthening community relationships, promoting teamwork, cooperation, and assisting with cases referred for guardianship. Inviting members of the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments Area on Aging Adult Protective Services to on the Task Force provided additional services that the tribal programs cannot offer.

Sustainability Plan

The APTF and the volunteers on the Community Board of Guardians will sustain activities and their commitments to protect elders of the community. The Adult Protection Services Program is currently 100% funded by the Shoshone-Bannocks Tribes' general funds generated by the Fort Hall Casino. The program is looking for other funding sources with the tribal grant writer.

Educational Materials and Products

As this was the first grant received by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Adult Protection Services the news was publicized not only in our Sho-Ban News, but also in the Idaho State Journal edition for September 2017.

Telephone: (208) 236-1073
 Office: (208) 220-1007
 Mobile: (208) 236-4000

Help Stop Elder Abuse
 If you suspect or know an older person is being abused and documenting the harm continues

Signs to watch for include:

- acting fearfully or withdrawn
- signs of stress, anxiety or depression
- bruising or other physical injuries
- an inability to pay normal bills or having unpaid bills
- marked weight loss
- changes in sleeping patterns

Signs that someone might be abusing an older person include:

- seeing the person verbally or physically abuse the person
- a person speaking on behalf of the older person without consent
- announcing stories about injuries

If you suspect you may be abusing an older person that you care for it is important you recognize this and stop the harm with yourself or seek out how you can change before others become involved to make you change. If you are having difficulty

managing the care of an older person by yourself, get help. You might need financial support, respite or transport services to and from appointments. There are a range of supports available for those who are looking after family members. Maintaining your own health and wellbeing makes it easier for you to look after someone you love without resorting to inappropriate or harmful behaviour.

Emergency Response Numbers


Fort Hall PD	(208) 236-4000
Chubbuck PD	(208) 233-7772
Bannock Sheriff	(208) 236-7143
Blackfoot PD	(208) 739-4034
Bojwanan City Sheriff	(208) 739-4440
Brundage PD	(208) 234-4000
Timber Canyon PD	(208) 228-2220
Idaho Falls PD	(208) 223-4200

Southeast Idaho Adult Protection Services
 Counties: Blaine, Blaine Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Owyhee and Power
 (208) 233-4032 or 1-800-326-8249

Eastern Idaho Adult Protection Services
 Counties: Blaine, Blaine Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Owyhee and Power
 (208) 233-4032 or 1-800-326-8249

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
 Tribal Court

**Elder & Adult
 Protection Services**



Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
 Tribal Court-Adult Protection Services
 P.O. Box 306 / Fort Hall, ID 83203
 (208) 236-1073 Office
 (208) 236-1093 Fax
 (208) 220-1007 24-Hr. Crisis

What is Elder Abuse?
 Elder Abuse is defined as "Any act which causes harm to an older person and occurs within an informal relationship of trust, such as family or friends". Abuse can take many forms and includes:

- **Physical or material** such as using a senior's money or property without their permission.
- **Emotional or psychological** such as verbal or physical threats, threats of abandonment and intimidation, threats to harm someone or pets, withdrawal of love and support.
- **Sexual** such as molesting the older person's sexual freedom and isolating her or him from family and friends.
- **Neglect** or providing life's necessities such as adequate food, shelter, care and emotional support.
- **Physical** any deliberate act resulting in physical pain or injury, including physical restraint and physical restraint.
- **Sexual** sexually abusive or exploitative behavior, including sexual assault, such as making obscene phone calls, or watching someone (17)10736 the person is of an older adult.

Respecting the rights of older people
 Older people should be treated with respect. This means when older people have the capacity to make their own choices others should: NOT:

- make decisions for them
- coerce or bully them into making decisions not their own best interest
- ignore their decisions.

It also means that when an older person loses the capacity to make an informed decision, the responsibility is on others to make decisions in the older person's best interests (and not their own self-interest). Adult Protection Services can provide more information and advice to assist where older people have reduced decision-making capacity.

Elder Abuse in Indian Country
 Although elder abuse is under-reported, it is estimated that between two and five percent of older people experience abuse.

- Women are more likely to experience elder abuse.
- Elder abuse is most likely to happen to people aged 75 years or more.
- People with reduced decision-making capacity or physical disability are more likely to be at risk of elder abuse.
- The most common risk factors are

depending on isolation.

- Physical/financial abuse is most common and usually causes harmful psychological abuse.
- Victims can experience multiple types of abuse simultaneously.
- Perpetrators are most likely to be adult children. Others include spouse, life partner, grandchild or step-child or, niece or nephews.

Elder Abuse
 Elder Adult Protection Services (EAPS) supports people to assert their rights as the look after their own best interests, in order to secure their safety and wellbeing. EAPS is also a power imbalance. EAPS works with the older adult to participate in the decision-making process after being given relevant information and advice for them about what it might be like to take to address the abuse when senior is to do you, such as setting up:

- Guardianship Orders
- Protection Orders
- Practices in Planned Giving
- 24-Hour Crisis Intervention
- Community Referrals
- Advocacy to work with Law Enforcement
- Referrals: Counseling, Medical Needs & Legal Aid Services

8. Spirit Lake Nation

Project Title

Dakota Elders Preserving Traditions Projects

Project Abstract

The Spirit Lake Nation (SLN) developed the Dakota Elders Preserving Traditions Project to lead a community initiative in reviewing, adapting, and planning for improved implementation of the existing SLN Elder Abuse Prevention/Protection Code. The purpose was to harness the wisdom, commitment, and concerns of Spirit Lake Elders and the community stakeholders in leading a sustained effort to prevent elder abuse. The long-term goal of the project is to empower SLN elders, family members, and stakeholders to effectively prevent elder abuse in ways that are agreed upon for implementation within SLN communities.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention Area: Development of tribal resolutions, codes, and laws to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
 - 1.1. Objective: To create an SLN Elder Abuse Prevention Plan (EAPP) (based on directives gathered from elders and SLN community stakeholders), on how best to interpret & implement the SLN Elder Abuse Tribal Code.
 - 1.2. Objective: To have the resulting EAPP reviewed, approved and adopted by Tribal Leadership
 - 1.3. Objective: To disseminate the EAPP in the 4 SLN District communities for review.
 - 1.4. Objective: To promote engagement in continuing the PTP & EAPP at SLN.

Challenges

The project encountered a lack of elder abuse statistics, specifically a lack of statistics on elder abuse, data sharing between agencies on SLN, and misclassification of Elder Abuse. Most cases of elder abuse offenders are arrested under domestic violence codes. During the project, the tribal council changed the definition of an elder from 55 years of age to 60, and some elders decided not to participate as a result of this change.

Outcomes

This project included a purposeful sample of participants from the four districts within the Spirit Lake Nation. This project included a purposeful sample of participants from the four districts within the Spirit Lake Nation. The participants generated and ranked their statements from 1 (weakest) to 5 (strongest). The elders rated the following five areas as most important: elder safety, elder support, elder reporting, elder abuse, and honoring the family. Strategies for each subject provide opportunities for improving education among tribal elders, family members, community members, and service providers around elder abuse and reporting.

A team of community members worked on updating and revision the codes moving procedural processes into the SLN Elder Abuse Protection Program Handbook. The handbook and the Elder Abuse Prevention Plan will continue to be worked on and finalized. The Cankdeska Cikana Community College developed three educational posters and brochures on elder abuse, physical abuse, and financial abuse. Elder abuse meetings will include elders that participated in the initial data collection.

Sustainability Plan

The program applied for funding from the Bush Foundation, and Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. Until additional funding is awarded project activities will continue and are supported by the elders, community and the tribal council.

Lessons Learned

Elders reported a lack of public awareness and understanding of elder abuse and aging processes. Elders requested education for elders, family members, and law enforcement on these topics. Lastly, protection protocols against retaliation need to be in place for Senior Service staff who protect or advocate for elders against abuse.

Educational Materials and Products

Four presentations were provided in the community and at the Title VI National Training and Technical Assistance Conference. The project developed three posters, brochures, and two surveys.

Tribal Grantee Projects Cycle 2

9. Knik Tribe

Project Title

Knik Tribe Elders Abuse Project

Project Abstract

Most of rural Alaska is very remote, with 229 federally recognized tribes, most are small villages with populations ranging from 50 to 800. The people living in remote Alaska are predominately Native Alaskans, with strong traditions and culture. Knik Tribe Elder Abuse Project state-wide project developed a model framework or compact for tribal elder abuse prevention and raised awareness of elder abuse in Indian Country. This grassroots project started because most residents in the tribal villages are not aware of elder abuse, its existence, what it means, what it looks like, or how it affects elders.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 1.1. Objective: Develop an educational campaign.
2. Intervention: Innovative approaches to preventing or addressing elder abuse, its signs and impact.
 - 2.1. Objective: Develop and share Knik Code with Native corporations-model the development for all villages.

Challenges

Alaska is a large state with remote access. It was challenging to start conversations through phone calls, or to find someone in the village to talk to that had any awareness of elder abuse. After a conversation warmed up, and a few survey questions, responses turned from what elder abuse is, to how our project is going to help people be aware of its existence. Additional challenges included a later than expected start on the project, due to finalizing paperwork and approval pushing some of the activities past the 4-month expectation for completion. Project team members live in migrant families, and they leave their homes much of the summer to carry out subsistence activities or work seasonal jobs. This also pushed the timeline for completion back.

Outcomes

The project team consisted of five youth and two adults. The team successfully delivered education material and posters to 194 of the 229 tribal villages and placed in city offices and other locations frequented by village residents. The project team collaborated with KTUU television to create a television public service announcement (PSA) on elder abuse. This infomercial was aired 63 times at different prime times of the day. It was aired on both KTUU and KYES. KTUU also utilized its social media to share our infomercial digitally. Another outcome of the campaign included sharing the elder abuse prevention framework or compact with all 229 villages in Alaska. This educational framework provided general guidance in addressing elder abuse. Most of the villages do not have a justice system, and codes were not enforced or non-existent. Instead of a statement code placed in a folder and forgotten, we utilized a visual educational chart that could be displayed.

Sustainability Plan

Knik Tribe continues to address elder abuse awareness in our community by interviewing and discussions with members of our elders group. We will continue to send educational material and compact templates to the villages across the state through email and digital social media.

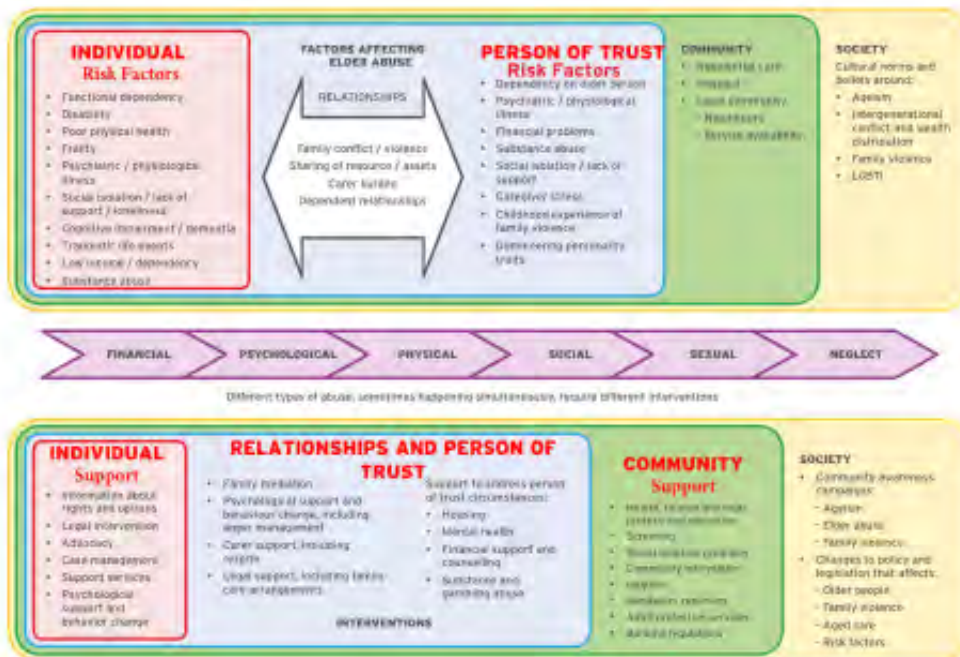
Lessons Learned

The project team learned much about elder abuse, but the most powerful lesson we learned is, it takes a village to stop elder abuse. We also learned that most villages do not have a justice department, codes, or enforcement of codes. Email seems to be the most successful communication into remote Alaska. We dedicated numerous hours on the telephone trying to connect with tribal representatives, but little success compared to email. One reason, there are just too many communities to try and call more than once.

Educational Materials and Products

This project produced three different educational materials, including an educational poster, a compact/framework template, and a PSA.

“Your Community” Elder Abuse Compact



10. Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians

Project Title

Elder Abuse Prevention and Education

Project Abstract

The goal of the Little Traverse Bay Band (LTBB) Elder Abuse Prevention and Education grant was to create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact, and to develop a referral policy and procedures for reporting elder abuse cases in the LTBB community. The target population for this grant was tribal elders, their families, and the LTBB community living within the tri-county (Emmet, Charlevoix, and Cheboygan) service area. LTBB will focus on educating the community and policy development through innovative use of both Elder-targeted and community-at-large outreach efforts. Directing education efforts toward Elders, family members, and the community helps de-normalizing elder abuse.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention: Intervention area: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 1.1. Objective: To create awareness of Elder abuse, its signs and impact, and to develop a referral policy and procedures for reporting Elder abuse cases in the LTBB Community.
4. Intervention: Intervention area: Development of the infrastructure, policies, and procedures for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 1.2. Develop at least one referral policy between the LTBB Department of Human Services and Elders Department to address reports of abuse and services needed by the end of the project period's third quarter

Challenges

While completing presentations at the elder's luncheons, we received feedback that the topic was emotionally heavy, and difficult to sit through to actively listen to presentations. LTBB DHS overcame these challenges by offering a more interactive approach by creating games where staff could interact with the community and provide prizes to increase participation.

Outcomes

At the onset of this grant, LTBB set the following outcomes: to develop culturally appropriate resources on elder abuse prevention and implement a referral policy for elder abuse. Through our objectives, we were able to reach hundreds of community members and help raise awareness and educate them about the signs, prevention strategies, and what to do if they suspect abuse or neglect.

Sustainability Plan

While funding is limited, LTBB DHS will be able to continue printing and distributing brochures and household items (until they are exhausted). LTBB DHS continues to have a close working relationship with the Elder's Department and keep lines of communication open.

Lessons Learned

DHS learned that with a topic as sensitive as elder abuse and neglect, it is easier to educate the community with interactive activities to break down stereotypes. When community members start to see you as a human, and not an APS worker, information is exchanged more openly.

Educational Materials and Products

Throughout the project period LTBB DHS completed the following activities: 1 media campaign, 10 articles in the Odawa Trails newsletter, 10 elders' luncheons presentations, 2 mailings to tribal households, 1 resource brochure and 1 referral policy.

Elder Abuse Prevention and Education Grant brochure

About the Elder Abuse Prevention and Education Grant

The Department received a grant through the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NEJII). The purpose of these funds is to create awareness of elder abuse and its signs and impact in the LTBB community. With these funds LTBB DHS is able to educate the community about the types of abuse/neglect, the warning signs, how to report suspected abuse or neglect and how citizens can help prevent abuse, neglect or exploitation from happening.

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Department of Human Services

Physical Address:
Top Floor of 911 Spring Street
Potoskey, MI 49770

Mailing Address:
7500 Odawa Circle
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Find us under Citizens Services at:
www.ltbbodawa-rnsn.gov



The Elder Abuse Prevention and Education grant is supported by funding from the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NEJII) Innovation Grant and administered by the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Funding is provided through the Administration for Community Living.

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Department of Human Services



Elder Abuse Prevention and Education Grant

"Restore Respect and Dignity by honoring our Elders"

Warning Signs

- Withdrawal from family activities
- Unexplained changes in behavior
- Broken, scratched or unexplained bruises
- Sudden changes in emotions or attitudes
- Unusual bank withdrawals
- Checks written on loans or gifts
- Using an elder's property or possessions without permission
- Lack of medical care
- Malnutrition and/or dehydration
- Pressure ulcers
- Unhygienic appearance
- Unusual weight loss
- Strained or tense relationships
- Frequent arguments between the caregiver and elder

Types of Abuse

- Physical Abuse:** may include physical pain or injury
- Emotional Abuse:** may include verbal attacks or threats, harassment or intimidation
- Sexual Abuse:** any sexual contact that is forced, threatened or coerced, including to those who are unable to give consent
- Financial Exploitation:** may include theft, misuse or withholding of an elder's resources or assets
- Neglect:** caregiver's neglect or omission may include failure, refusal or dereliction of a caregiver's duty to care for their assigned elder
- Self-harm:** causing harm to an elder's spiritual well-being

How to Help

- Learn the signs of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Share the signs with those in your life
- Promote resolution by writing and talking with elders in your life
- Support caregivers by providing funds and/or respite
- Speak up if you think something is wrong

How to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation

Call Central Intake anonymously at **1-877-448-2911**. For general questions call LTBB DHS at 231-242-1620 to speak with a social worker.

11. Oneida Nation

Project Title

Preventing the Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Oneida Elders



Project Abstract

Like the rest of Indian country, the Oneida Nation has an aging population. Of those Oneidas living on/or adjacent to the Oneida reservation, 1,683 are elders. Of that group 620 are over the age of 70 and in the group, most often exploited, abused and/or neglected. Our project focused on education and protection of Oneida elders and their families by increasing awareness about issues related to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders. Our project sought to contact elders directly through the use of various means including, publication of information in the Elder Services newsletter, the Tribal newspaper, local newspapers, and staff during in-home visits.

Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Intervention: Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.

1.1. Objective: Create an awareness and education campaign on elder abuse, its signs and impact.

Challenges

Speaker cancellations right before our event, we had to find alternate speakers in time for our 6th Annual Elder Expo.

Outcomes

Through this project, elders are more willing to learn about the various types of elder abuse. Many did not know about elder abuse; they thought some things were natural for caregivers/family members to do. This project made a significant amount of progress in making the Oneida Elders and our community more aware of elder abuse, and they are more apt to report abuse. Printed brochures, flyers, and fact sheets to give to elders, so they are aware of elder abuse. This project partnered with the community to host the 6th Annual Oneida Elder Expo - an elder event with a speakers on elder abuse.

Sustainability Plan

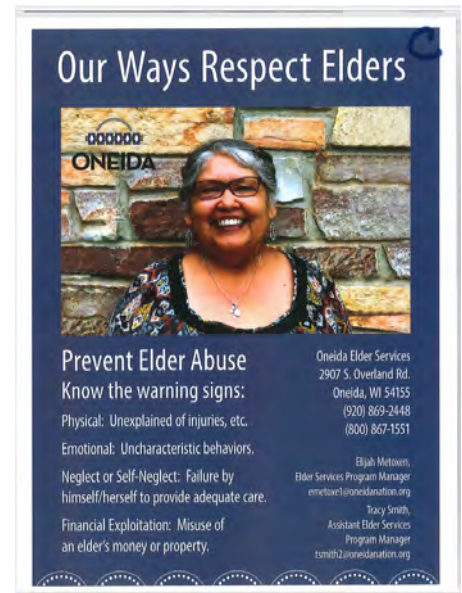
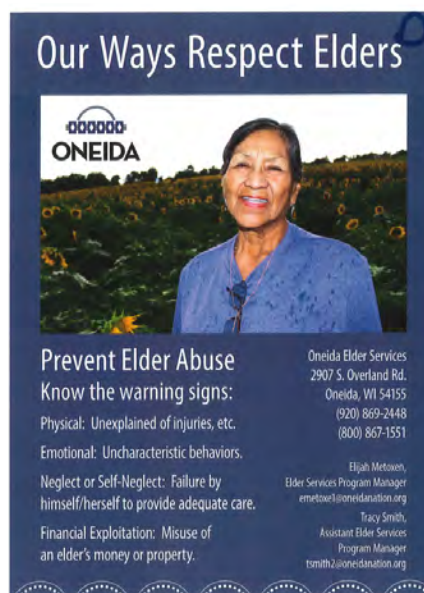
We will utilize the brochures, flyers, and fact sheets that we had printed with the grant funding to provide elders, so they are aware of the Elder Abuse signs. The project plans to offer periodic speakers at our meal site to educate about financial exploitation. The Elder Abuse Prevention Supervisor will always be available to talk to elders within the community to speak.

Lessons Learned

Education efforts made a significant impact on our community elders. Many were unaware of the signs of elder abuse and taking a better look into financial exploitation.

Educational Materials and Products

Educational products included three flyers: Elder Abuse: Not the Oneida Way and Our Ways Respect our Elders (versions).



12. Pascua Yaqui Tribe Liogue Senior Center

Project Title

Elder Abuse Education & Outreach Project

Project Abstract

According to the most recent demographic information from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe enrollment department, of the enrolled 20,000 members, the number of tribal members between the ages of 53-72 years old is steadily rising. The purpose of the Pascua Yaqui Community Elder Abuse Education & Outreach Project provided training to the Liogue Senior Center staff as well as other tribal support staff (police, fire, social services)

regarding elder abuse. The Senior Center contracted with an expert from the National Institute of Crime Prevention, NICP, for a two-day staff training on the subject of Elder Abuse. Additionally, a portion of the requested funding was utilized to certify four staff members as Lay Advocates in the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court system.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Innovative approaches to preventing or addressing elder abuse in Indian Country.
 - 1.1. Certification of lay advocates for Senior Center staff
2. Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 2.1. Develop tribal elder abuse awareness of elder abuse within the Pascua Yaqui Communities.
 - 2.2. Training and education on elder abuse for tribal staff, community and Senior Center staff.

Challenges

Staff training The Liogue Senior Center encountered challenges in scheduling training dates, specifically finding time for trainers that worked with Senior Center staff availability. Due to difficulties with coordinating with two communities, forums remained unscheduled. Unfortunately, a social media platform was not developed due to lack of internet services in rural areas.

Outcomes

The Liogue Senior Center retained the services of the National Institute of Crime Prevention (NICP) to do a training on Elder Domestic & Sexual Violence for the Senior Center staff. The Liogue Senior Center also invited other tribal agencies to attend this training to ensure simultaneous education on the signs, symptoms, and reporting abuse. Community Forums were held in five of the seven communities, which resulted in community members increase their knowledge of elder abuse. To adequately assist the elderly population, five staff members were assigned to attend lay advocate training. After receiving this certification, staff increased capacity to understand: court systems, Elder Codes, legally advocate for vulnerable elders, provide clarification of the court proceedings, and support elder rights.

Sustainability Plan

The Pascua Yaqui Community Elder Abuse Education & Outreach Project will continue into the foreseeable future. Practice and application of the skills and knowledge improved the care, awareness, and willingness to report elder abuse. This knowledge will be practiced and applied daily as staff continues working with the elder community.

Educational Materials and Products

Yaqui community distributed brochures on elder abuse awareness, education on Alzheimer's, and dementia, community forums, flyers and announcements. The project utilized education products developed by other organizations such as the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, brochure Elder Abuse Awareness.

Elder Abuse Awareness Brochure

Elder Awareness Checklist

- ❑ **Listen and be respectful**—give them your full attention, address any worries or concerns, and ask about their day
- ❑ **Always offer to help**—Ask if they have food and water or ask if they need help cooking and cleaning
- ❑ **Maintain a happy home**—the environment and the company you keep affects their health and well-being
- ❑ **Make time for them**—make sure they are in good health, offer to take them to visit friends, family, or to attend ceremonies
- ❑ **Ask if you need help**—you should not feel overwhelmed—you can seek elder care assistance

It is an honor to gain an elder's trust and confidence—be their advocate.

CONTACT US

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
Area Agency on Aging, Region 8
2214 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Website
www.itcaonline.com/aaa

Call
(602) 258-4822

Fax
(602) 258-4825



This brochure is funded with assistance from the Older Americans Act, through a contract with the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Elder Abuse Awareness

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
Area Agency on Aging, Region 8



BULLYING IS ABUSE



What is bullying?

- Planned and repeated displays of mean actions, that gives the bully unfair power or control

Behaviors and actions include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal name calling, teasing, taunts, threats, and sarcasm
- Physical pushing, hitting, destroying property, or stealing
- Anti-social or relationship-centered actions including excluding others, spreading rumors, gossiping, mimicking, offensive gestures, or being territorial

What is elder abuse?

- It is the mistreatment of any person (over 55 years old) **unable to protect themselves** from harm by others.
- It is estimated that only **1** of every **10** cases of elder abuse is **reported**.
- By 2025, it is estimated that over 25% of Arizona will be aged 60 and over.

Emotional Abuse

- Anxious, fearful, or withdrawn

Physical Abuse

- Bruises, burns, cuts, or fractures

Sexual Abuse

- Sexual assault, trauma, or rape
- Presence of a sexually transmitted disease

Spiritual Abuse

- Kept from attending ceremonies
- Ceremonial items taken or sold

Financial Abuse

- Missing papers, credit cards, or belongings
- Numerous unpaid bills or loans

Neglect or Self-neglect

- Unsafe living conditions
- Little or no food or water

Structural or Institutional

- Staff-patient conflict
- Lack of respect, unfair treatment, or discrimination

How can I help prevent elder abuse?

- If you suspect elder abuse, report it! Arizona Adult Protective Services: **Call: 1-877-767-2385**
- If on Tribal Lands, contact the local:
 - Adult protective services
 - Elder services program
 - Tribal police department
 - Area Agency on Aging
- To find local contacts: **Call: 1-800-667-1116**
Website: www.eldercare.gov
- If someone is in immediate danger, contact the police.

13. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Project Title

Standing Rock Elderly Protection Services

Project Abstract

The Standing Rock Indian Reservation has a land base of 2.3 million acres and located in north-central South Dakota and south-central North Dakota. According to the Standing Rock Nutrition for the Elderly Program's 2015 statistics, Standing Rock has approximately 600 elderly Tribal members living in eight reservation districts/communities. The project administered the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey to our tribal elders. The elder data assisted in the development of protocols to respond to elder abuse, neglect cases, and develop policies and procedures manual for the Standing Rock Elderly Protection Services Program. Our goal is to make it easier for elders to feel comfortable reporting neglect or abuse and reducing fears of retaliation. This program also held the 2nd Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event on June 15, 2018, to increase community awareness on elder abuse.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Development of infrastructure policies and procedures for reporting, investigating elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 1.1.1. Develop written protocols, policies and procedures for responding to elder abuse and neglect cases on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.
 - 1.1.2. Conduct the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey.
 - 1.1.3. Develop and approve policies and procedures.
2. Create awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impact.
 - 2.1. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event.

Challenges

One of the challenges identified included elders declining to complete the Native Elders Survey. Some reasons stated were: "I don't want to get anyone in trouble." "It doesn't pertain to me." "I just don't want to do it."

Outcomes

The project staff collected Native Elders Maltreatment Surveys from three of the eight districts. The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day increased knowledge of elder abuse in the community and also increased visibility of the Elderly Protection Services program. The tribal council signed a proclamation to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The protocols, policies, and procedures for reporting elder abuse will take more time to be finalized and approved. The project will continue these efforts after this grant ends.

Educational Materials and Products

The project created a brochure on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Elderly Protection Program, and flyers for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and for the Elderly Protection Program

ELDERLY ABUSE CAN BE DEFINED AS:
Name Calling, Physical, Verbal, Mental, Sexual, Neglect, Harassment, Depriving of Meds, Food, Medical Services, Housing Needs, and Proper Rest. Exploitation is also a form of Elder Abuse.

Elders who have reached the age of 60 are eligible for services

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE ELDERLY PROTECTION SERVICES

Helping to Protect One Elder at a Time
The Elderly Protection Program was Created to help Protect the Rights of the Elderly from ANY type of Abuse. If you or another Elder is suffering from Abuse, Please Call Us.

SIRST E.P.T.
P.O. Box D
Ft. Yates, ND 58538
701-854-3752
We are Open Mon-Fri
8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

Restoring Respect And Dignity By Honoring Indigenous Elders

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Forum

SIRST Elderly Protection Services
Invites You

To Observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15th, 2018

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (CST)

Wear Purple and Join Us at the Prairie Knights Casino Pavilion

To learn more about how you can help Support Elders and your Community to prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Lunch will be provided.

14. White Earth Nation

Project Title

White Earth Elder Wellness Program

Project Abstract

White Earth is the largest Minnesota Reservation, by geography and population, and distinctly rural within 1300 square miles. Overall tribal enrollment is 18,432, with 9,815 within reservation boundaries. White Earth regards elders at age 55 years or older; and 65 years or older is a Census 2010 tract enumeration. Roughly 8.4% of White Earth's elder population is 65 years of age or over, according to Census 2010.



The White Earth Elder Wellness Program established an Elder Services Committee to create a multi-disciplinary, integrated service approach to provide seamless response and services for Elders experiencing neglect and abuse. This work involved the development of a Tribal Elder Abuse Code and the formation of a multi-disciplinary committee to build infrastructure, advance communication, and service collaboration, and provide training for community and service providers on elder abuse. The committee work plan includes creating awareness, support, and training on reporting, investigation, and intervention for elders experiencing abuse.

Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Innovative approaches to preventing or addressing elder abuse in Indian Country.
 - 1.1.1. Create an elder advisory committee.
 - 1.1.2. Create awareness of elder abuse signs and impact.
 - 1.1.3. Create an elder communication committee
2. Development of tribal resolutions, codes, and laws to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
 - 2.1.1. Develop a tribal elder abuse code and raise awareness of elder abuse.
3. Development of cross- jurisdictional processes for reporting, investigating, or intervening in elder abuse cases.
 - 3.1.1. Develop an adversity team to address elder abuse 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Challenges

The previous Elder Wellness Program Manager, who steered the committee in the direction of our visions, is no longer with the program. With the change of leadership within the Reservation, the Elder Communication Committee was put on hold. These changes in leadership hindered some of the work but didn't stop the efforts completely, such as getting the elder abuse resolution approved.

Outcomes

The Marketing Program met with the Elder Communication Committee to go over options for a communication system that would be Reservation wide. Many elders in the community do not use technology. The primary purposes for the system included: announcements, event information, important dates, and distribution of educational material about elder abuse and justice. Informational messages focused on general topics on elder abuse as well as resources for those dealing with the abuse. The REACH systems were put up and installed in all of the elder dining sites, as well as other high traffic areas on the Reservation. The community and tribal programs found this system to be successful in disseminating information. The Vulnerable Adult and Elder Protection Code was passed in Tribal Courts. A copy of the code can be found at <https://whiteearth.com/assets/files/judicial/codes/elder.protection.code.pdf>

15. Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Project Title

Elder Justice Strategic Planning Initiative

Project Abstract

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, located in Anadarko, Oklahoma, will provide awareness and preventive program design to the Wichita Tribal Elders. The service will include neighboring counties of Blaine, Canadian, Custer, Grady, and Washita, with the primary focus of Caddo County. According to Wichita tribal enrollment office, there are over 3,100 enrolled Wichita Tribal members of those 290 are Elders, 55 years and older. The project created awareness of elder abuse among Wichita Tribal Elders. The project addressed developing a strategic plan to address elder abuse and increasing awareness of elder abuse, its signs, and impacts among the Wichita Tribal Community. The tribes administered the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey, utilizing tribal college students.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Development of infrastructure, policies and procedures for reporting, investigating elder abuse cases in tribal communities.
 - 1.1. Conduct the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey.
 - 1.2. Strategic planning on preventing elder abuse.

Challenges

The project lacked personnel to manage this program effectively; however, the program made forward progress by developing a strategic plan on how to protect elders. Stakeholder buy-in was also difficult, but the work created discourse among the tribe around elder justice.

Outcomes

The project designed an in-service survey protocol training to teach students about the different types of elder abuse, how to speak with elders, and encourage them to complete the survey. We shared the elder abuse video resource that was given to us by the NIEJI staff. We assisted in filling out the necessary confidentiality and human subject protection paperwork associated with conducting the survey. The Wichita Tribal communications director worked with the students on interviewing techniques to give the students some necessary interviewing skills. The strategic planning process included having meetings with program employees, the community, and the tribal council on how to protect elders. The document needs to be finalized and approved by the tribal council.

16. Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Project Title

Family Group Decision Making: A Ho-Chunk Model

Project Abstract

This project focused on more than 230 Native American Elder residing on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebraska. The U.S. Census indicated our population at 1,702 Native Americans on the Winnebago Reservation in 2010. Elders are defined by the Winnebago Tribe as individuals 55 years and older and makeup 13.5% of the Native Americans residing on the Winnebago Reservation. The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska culturally adapted the Family Group Decision Making to prevent and/or respond to elder abuse in our community. The Winnebago Tribe has chosen the Maori model of family group conferences to address elder abuse within the tribe.



Intervention Areas and Objectives

1. Innovative approaches to preventing or addressing elder abuse in Indian Country.
 - 1.1. Culturally adapt the Family Group Decision Making model as a prevention intervention for elder abuse.

Challenges

The time commitment and staffing for this project were challenging. There were other projects the staff person worked on and this project required more time than expected. The interviews in the cultural adaptation stage were conducted as informal conversations. Many elders told stories and drifted away from the questions that it was challenging to record their responses. Many times, more than one person was talking or wanting to share. However, they provided a wealth of information.

Outcomes

Most of the Ho-Chunk cultural adaptations were developed with Ho-chunk Renaissance staff and elders. There was no cost or incentive associated for interview participants. Questions were related to family group decision making, and if the elder experienced participating in the Family Group Decision Making intervention. The intervention consists of four segments: 1) A referral is made by an agency; 2) Preparations of participants; 3) Family group conferencing a) Introductions; b) Information sharing; c) Private family time; d) Family plan presentation; and e) Closing; 4) Follow-up. These four stages have translations in the Winnebago language. The elders strongly felt the intervention should include as much culture as possible in the intervention.

Sustainability Plan

The Family Group Decision Making coordinator will be sustained through a state contract. There are very few reports of elder abuse.

Lessons Learned

Culture is important and needs to be included in all interventions.

Educational Materials and Products

A brochure was created to give to families that might want to participate in Family Group Decision Making to address Elder Abuse and Neglect.

Types of Elder Abuse

The family of the elder may decide on matters of guardianship & transportation to appointments and assistance in the home. These may include daily living activities such as bathing, dressing, eating and using a bathroom. Whether mothers that need to be addressed.

This service may help identify elder abuse in our community by identifying those that may be suffering from the following forms of elder abuse:

- 1) Physical Abuse
- 2) Sexual Abuse
- 3) Emotional or Psychological Abuse
- 4) Neglect of the Elderly
- 5) Abandonment of the Elderly
- 6) Financial Abuse
- 7) Self-neglect

By knowing what is elder abuse, the family can identify and address the needs of their loved ones. This service can help find ways to combat against Elder abuse in a healthy way.



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Family Group Decision Making

Wažokj Wošgq
Gicq Wo'upj

Child and Family Services



Family Group Decision Making

Traditional Family Group Decision Making is a service in which family members come together to make decisions about how to care for and develop a plan for the child (en). Winochka Child & Family Services—family group decision making—is a voluntary service and will be offered to families as an alternative response to engage each family in a traditional approach to child welfare practice.

Winochka human services would like to utilize this practice to service the elders in the community.

The Child & Family Services Staff and FGDm coordinators utilized the Ho-chunk Relationship Program for Ho-chunk Language Support and cultural supports. The FGDm process respects and honors the Winochka Ho-chunk traditional belief that we all belong to a elder family net.

The FGDm process has incorporated the Ho-chunk kinship system and Clan to help our families strengthen the bond to our families and community.



Family Group Conference

Different names are used for this type of intervention. The terms included are family team conferencing, family team meetings, and team decision-making. Winochka Child and Family worked with Ho-chunk Relationship to come up with the name: Wažokj Wošgq Gicq Wo'upj.



Family Group Decision Making process

There are 4 phases of the FGDm process leading to a family's group conference.

Phase 1: Referral/Intake

Phase 2: Participant preparation

Phase 3: Family Group Conference

FGC Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Sharing Information
3. Private Family time
4. Sharing family plan
5. Closing

Phase 4: Follow-up

FGDM COORDINATOR:

FGDM Coordinators are not decision makers for the family plan nor do they determine any outcomes in any plan or court order.

FGDM Coordinators will remain neutral throughout the FGDm family group conference and will help guide your family through each step of the way. Approaches differ in various aspects but the coordinators are trained to keep this service family driven.



Family Group Participants

Anyone you believe would be helpful in creating solutions for your family. Coordinators help participants plan for a successful meeting.

Potential participants could include immediate family members, extended family members, community members, and service providers.

This summary was produced by the NIEJI.

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