Honoring Children, Mending the Circle

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Indian Country Child Trauma Center

Presenters

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Indian Country Child Trauma Center (ICCTC)

- Established at the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) in 2003
- The mission of the ICCTC is to improve and adapt evidence-based treatments for Native children and adolescents in Indian Country who have experienced traumatic events
- A member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- The ICCTC is a Category II Intervention, Development and Evaluation Center funded by SAMHSA

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American Indian/Alaskan Native
National Statistics

- Approximately 3.3 million self-identified AI/ AN
- 38% of the AI/AN pop. is under the age of 18; 9% of the population is under the age of 5
- Of single-mother homes, 50% live below poverty level

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Incidence of CAN in AI/AN Communities

AI/AN children =

- 1.2% of child population
- 2.5% of all confirmed maltreatment cases nationally (highest incidence ratio of any racial group on available data nationwide- DHHS, 1999)

Neglect endangers AI/AN children 4 times more often than physical abuse and results in numerous child fatalities (NICWA, 1999)

Suicide in Indian Country

- American Indians and Alaska Natives ages 15-24 have highest rates than other age range or ethnic group
- Males age 15-24 account for 64% of all AI/AN suicides (CDC, 2004)
- American Indian youth, 12 and over have higher risk of committing suicide than being murdered (Mental Health: A Report to the Surgeon General)
- AI/AN males are 4 times more likely to commit suicide than women or other racial groups, but AI/AN females are 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than males or any other racial group (CDC, 2004)

Incarcerated American Indian Youth

- AI Youth comprise 0.9% of the national youth population (Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2004)
- In 1994, 60% of incarcerated young offenders under federal jurisdiction were AI (Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2004)

Evidence-Based Interventions

- Honoring Children, Making Relative (Parent-Child Interaction Therapy)
- Honoring Children, Mending the Circle (Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy)
- Honoring Children, Respectful Ways (Treatment of Children with Sexual Behavior Problems)
- Honoring Children, Honoring the Future (American Indian Skills Development Curriculum)

Process of EBT Adaptation for Indian Country

Native Concepts of Learning

- Watch
- Listen
- Told what to do
- Ask questions
- Practice
- Teach

Process of EBT Adaptation for Indian Country

- Identification of core concepts of EBT
- Identification of experts or developers on adaptation process
  - Discussion with experts/developers on adaptation process
  - Ongoing and open dialogue on modifications

Process of EBT Adaptation for Indian Country

- Identification of Native traditional teachings and concepts
  - Identification of traditional parenting/nurturing/therapeutic practices
  - Identification of ways of teaching and learning
  - Identification of Native cultural worldviews to explain behavior

Process of EBT Adaptation for Indian Country

- Cultural/traditional consultant involvement
  - Consultant meetings
  - Review training format
  - Review training material
  - Continuous feedback
  - View meeting sessions as community building
  - Use traditional elements within the meeting sessions themselves

Process of EBT Adaptation for Indian Country

- Flexibility with training agenda and week
  - Understand the agenda needs to evolve as the training progresses
  - Ability to provide structure and flexibility

Utilization of Native Ways as the foundation for teachings

- Willingness to explore Native spiritual connection to therapeutic activities
  - Belief system
  - Traditional symbols
- Willingness to explore strengths of Native communities and families

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Cultural Strengths

Strengths may include traditional values, beliefs, customs, ceremonies and language.

Spirituality	Well-being
Humor	Holistic view of health
Music	Prayer
Dance	Clanship
Art	Storytelling
Silence	Respectability

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Utilization of Native Ways as the foundation for teachings

- Use of concepts that are more meaningful
  - Circle
  - Respect
  - Honoring
  - Wisdom
  - Harmony
- Use of language
  - Native words that families recognize as powerful or respectful

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Utilization of Native Ways as the foundation for teachings

- Recognize different meaning for time
  - Comfort with time ambiguity
  - Assumption that things occur when they are supposed to
- Use of interpretations
  - Animal stories
  - Meaning of songs

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Mending the Circle

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	NATIVE	TF-CBT
Theoretical Orientation	• Circle • Well-Being Orientation • Spiritual Teachings • Healing Ways •Ways of Learning	• Cognitive • Behavioral • Developmental • Humanistic • Attachment/Family • Empowerment
Values	•Connectedness • Extended Family • Balance • Harmony • Respect • Wellness • Honoring •Self-Discipline	• Cultural Identity • Family • Self-Efficacy Model-Specific Values: • Components-Based • Adaptability and Flexibility • Importance of Therapeutic Relationship

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	NATIVE	TF-CBT
Practices/ Techniques	• Honoring children • Repetition •Teachings/Directions • Mentoring • Storytelling • Modeling • Humor • Respect • Ceremonies • Smudging • Lodge • Cleansing	PRACTICE: • Psychoeducation & Parenting Skills • Relaxation • Affective Modulation • Cognitive Processing • Trauma Narrative • In Vivo Desensitization • Conjoint Parent-Child Sessions • Enhancing Safety and Social Skills
Outcomes	• Healing • Restoration of Harmony • Reconciliation • Renewed Journey	• Reported Symptom Improvement –Parent reports – Child Reports – Teacher reports • Direct Observation

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Treatment Components

Honoring Children – Mending the Circle	Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy
Spiritual	
Mental	Psychoeducation, Cognitive Coping, In Vivo Desensitization
Physical	Relaxation
Emotional	Affect Regulation
Relational	Psychoeducation, Parenting Skills, Safety Skills, Social Skills
Mending the Circle	Trauma Narrative, Cognitive Processing, Conjoint Parent-Child Sessions

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Prevention Strategies

- Focus on primary prevention
- Institute programs in schools and homes
- Evaluate program's effectiveness
- Incorporate Native traditions

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Making Relatives

Parent Child Interaction Therapy Training

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Respectful Ways

Treatment of Children with Sexual Behavior Problems Training

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Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training

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Honoring the Future

Suicide Prevention and Intervention