

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT WITH DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

VALARIE BLUE BIRD JERNIGAN, DRPH, MPH

CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH RESEARCH AND POLICY

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

BLUEBIRD.JERNIGAN@OKSTATE.EDU



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE UNITED STATES: AN OVERVIEW

- There are 574 federally recognized Indian Nations in the United States
- Additionally, there are state recognized tribes located throughout the United States
- Native peoples and governments have inherent rights and a **political relationship** with the U.S. government **that does not derive from race or ethnicity**
- Tribal members are citizens of three sovereigns: their tribe, the United States, and the state in which they reside



NATIVE HEALTHCARE IN THE US

- The US govt has treaty obligations to provide American Indians and Alaska Natives with healthcare
- The healthcare system is comprised of the following:
 - Federal – Indian Health Services
 - Tribal- compacted and contracted from federal funds
 - Urban- 1% of the Indian Health Service budget





DIVERSITY

- Urban diversity: patients, providers, staff
- Indian Health Services: regional diversity
- Tribal diversity: limited, primarily patients and staff

Hope and action
can **restore balance**
and **save lives.**

If you or someone you know is struggling
with an emotional or mental health crisis,
contact any of these organizations for help.

Each group
provides **free, 24/7**
confidential hotlines.

Suicide and Crisis

Call, chat or text 988
Reach out to this national
network of crisis call
centers to speak to a
local crisis counselor.

Crisis Text Line

Text **NATIVE** to 747474
Connect with crisis counselors
working with Native youth
and communities.

Trevor Project

Call 1-866-486-7386 or
text **START** to 878678
Talk with crisis counselors
who understand LGBTQ+
needs.

Trans Lifeline

Call 877-565-0860
Speak with specialists
offering support for
the trans community.



For longer term support, make an appointment with a mental or behavioral health provider above.

OKLAHOMA ʒŊŊA



GO HEALTHY

Gathering of Native Americans & Alaska Natives (*GONA/GOAN*)



GONA/GOAN is a journey of healing and transformation where the community can share
culture-based interventions. It is a safe place to share, heal, and plan for action for the future.

The four guiding principles of GONA/GOAN are
Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence, and Generosity.
Join us as we gather to bring communities together.

2-DAY EVENT: SATURDAY OCT. 7th & 14th 2023

TIME: 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

WHERE: BAIHP – 501 40th Street BAKERSFIELD, CA

- ◆ EAGLE HEART DRUM & DANCE CEREMONY
- ◆ SMUDGING & CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS
- ◆ FREE FOOD & DRINKS (while supplies last)
- ◆ RAFFLES & RESOURCES

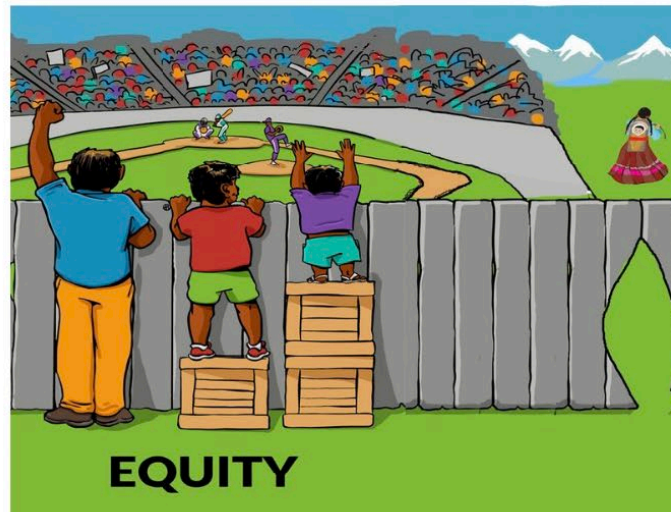


Bakersfield American
B·A·I·H·P
Indian Health Project
661.327.4030 | BAKERSFIELDAIHP.ORG



EQUITY

- The state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health (CDC)
- “We don't want equity. I don't want what the rest of the Americans have. That's not what I want. I want to have what we call in Anishinaabe, mino bimaadiziwin [living the good life; having good health].”
 - Native focus group participant



- Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director of Urban Indian Health

INCLUSION

- **Indigenous Inclusion** is about building and fostering relationships with Indigenous people with other cultures. It is about creating a respectful environment to explore, learn, and communicate with a community that has been underrepresented for a long time in history. It is also about educating future generations about truth and reconciliation. – Diversity for Social Impact, April 2022
- “Reconciliation can be an act of performance, or it can be the product of reflecting on the past, healing and making right. We cannot have reconciliation without truth.” -Sol Mamakwa, September 2022
- “All my relations” – Lakota phrase



WISE PRACTICES

- Two-Eyed Seeing by saying it refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing ... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all. – Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall
- Cultural humility¹- A personal lifelong commitment to self-evaluation and self-critique whereby the individual not only learns about another's culture, but one starts with an examination of her/his own beliefs and cultural identities



¹Tervalon, M., & Murray-Garcia, J. (1998). Cultural humility versus cultural competence: A critical distinction in defining physician training outcomes in multicultural education. *Journal of health care for the poor and underserved*, 9(2), 117-125.