

Wellness and Healing for Native Youth through Traditional Practice within Tribal Youth Peer Court



TRIBAL
YOUTH COURT

Reclaiming Wellness



Tribal Youth Resource Center
www.TribalYouth.org



Presenters



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► Objectives

Create an understanding of:

- Impact of historical trauma
- Tribal restorative justice ideals
- Critical importance of strategic planning on approach and community partner involvement
- Holistic philosophy in the context of the juvenile justice system in Indian Country



▶ Tribal Youth Peer Court

Tribal Youth Court ("TYC") is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California. TYC serves San Diego and Riverside County Tribes challenged with justice-involved youth.

Our Tribal Youth Court is a model program that utilizes tribal restorative justice ideals and tribal community values to work with Native juvenile offenders to restore and heal.



INTERTRIBALCOURT.ORG

The Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC) was formed in 2002. The ICSC serves a consortium of tribes from across southern California.

The ICSC provides its member tribes with an independent and culturally-sensitive forum in which to present and resolve disputes.

Located on the Rincon Reservation, the ICSC serves as the main courthouse to conduct hearings for the Member Tribes. ICSC also functions as a circuit court, with judges traveling to each reservation to resolve cases based on each tribe's laws, customs, and traditions.

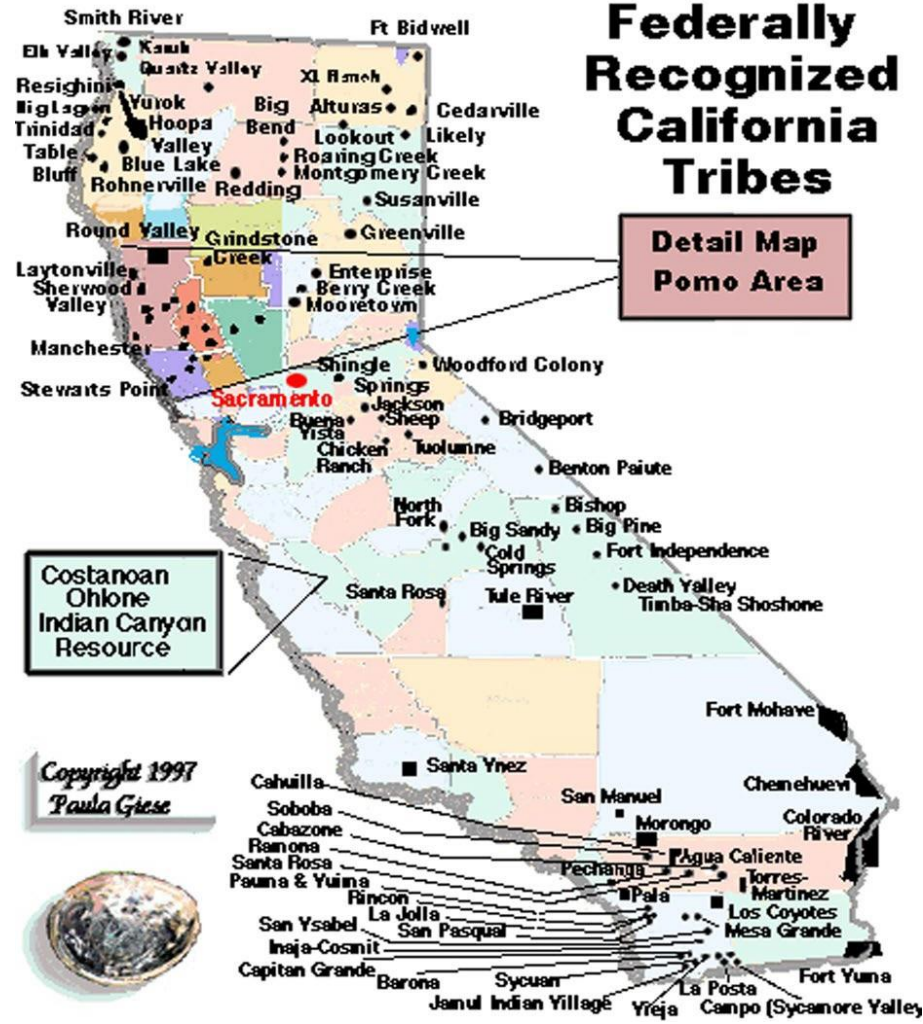


California Indian Pre-Contact Tribal Territories

to Present Day

Federally Recognized California Tribes

Detail Map Pomo Area



California Indian Pre-contact Tribal Territories



California Indian Library Collections

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▶ Historical Trauma

- The intergenerational and unconscious grief from the historical trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples is passed from generation to generation due to forced relocation, land dispossession, and loss of spiritual practices, language and culture.
- The symptoms of generational trauma include hypervigilance, fears of death or no hope for the future, mistrust of outsiders, anxiety, depression, panic attacks, PTSD, low self-esteem, issues of addiction, domestic violence, and sexual abuse.



Evidence of an At-Risk Community

It is evident that Native Youth are being incorporated into the Hispanic/Latino classification and we can surmise that juvenile arrests among Native Youth is high.

Drugs and Alcohol

Riverside County: 23.1% (of all youth) (2nd among all races)
San Diego County: 25.5% (of all youth) (1st among all races)
California (Overall): No data provided

Foster Care

Riverside County: 17.9 per 1000 (1st among all races)
San Diego County: 21.4 per 1000 (1st among all races)
California (Overall): 23.7% of all youth

Gang Membership

Riverside County –8.2% (self-ID) (1st among all races)
San Diego County: 10.4% (self-ID) (1st among all races)
California (Overall): 8.0% (self-ID)

Suicide

Riverside County: 12.3% (lowest among all races)
San Diego County: 22.4% (2nd among all races)
California (Overall): 26.6% (among all youth)

Community Input

A Community Advisory Circle is considered a best practice for strategic planning, implementation, and sustainability. The purpose of the Advisory Circle is to contribute to the development of the overarching framework and program design from planning to sustainability.

Community Advisory Circles are comprised of key stakeholders representing all facets of the community from elders, program staff, direct service providers, tribal agency partners, justice system partners, and leaders of the community. Our initial Advisory Circle consisted of ten key stakeholders that helped frame the foundation of the Tribal Youth Court.



▶ Community Outreach

Community collaboration helps bridge the gaps between the Tribal communities we work with and the resources, services, and support they may need.

Many Tribal communities face unique challenges and have specific cultural, social, and economic considerations that require tailored outreach efforts.



TYC Community Outreach ideals

- promotes education and awareness about important issues such as healthcare, education, and cultural preservation
- fosters collaboration and partnerships between Tribal communities and external organizations
- leads to the sharing of knowledge, skills, resources and sustainable initiatives that address specific needs and aspirations of Tribal communities

TYC Program Community partners:

- Regional Universities: SDSU, Palomar College, and UCSD
- Health and Social Services: Indian Health Council
- Tribes: La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
- Education: AIR Program, Tribal Education Centers
- Legal: Intertribal Court of Southern California, San Diego District Attorney's Office, Tribal Police Departments

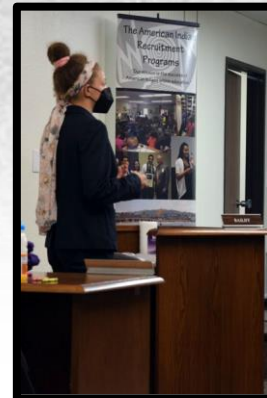
▶ Tribal Youth Peer Court

Vision

Ensure that local Native youth are provided opportunities to create brighter futures by promoting healthy lifestyles and creating healthy habits, while decreasing negative behavior. Utilizing community ideals and input for overall wellness is a great practice for our Native youth.

Mission

Create a Native American youth peer court aimed at providing local Native youth with opportunities to create healthy habits, learn the concepts of tribal, restorative justice, and foster personal responsibility through restorative practices, cultural engagement, and learning activities throughout their communities.



Helping Our Community: Reducing Juvenile Justice Delinquency With Restorative Justice Through Prevention, Education, and Leadership Development



Prevention Through Community

- Train youth on restorative justice ideals
- Collaboration with local universities
- Youth are active members at hearings, serving as Peer Decision Makers
- Mentoring
- Collaborative Wellness

Intervention with Juvenile Offenders

- Diversion into the Intertribal Court of Southern CA Youth Court
- Entry through Tribal Law Enforcement, County, Schools, Tribes, Parents, San Diego District Attorney
- Restorative justice ideals
- Wellness plans through community collaboration

▶ Collaboration and Wellness



- Collaboration with community organizations that will support the wellness of juvenile offenders
- Peer Jury model that allows peers to play active roles in hearings and development of wellness plans
- Community involved wellness plans with supervision and support
- Wellness plans will benefit Tribal community as a whole



Wellness Plans

Wellness plans are the foundation of the Tribal Youth Court program. Each plan is customized for each participant.

Wellness plans integrate prevention-centered activities.

The components of each plan are community service hours, participation in cultural activities, and life skills assignments. Behavioral health and substance abuse services will be integrated when appropriate.



SAGE TRACK

- Low Level Offenses
- Duration: 6 Weeks

Core Components:

Community Service: 8-12 hours
Cultural Participation: 10-15 hours
Life Skills Assignments: 5-10 tasks

WILLOW TRACK

- Low Level Offenses
- Duration: 8 Weeks



Core Components:

Community Service: 10-15 hours
Cultural Participation: 10-15 hours
Life Skills Assignments: 5-10 tasks



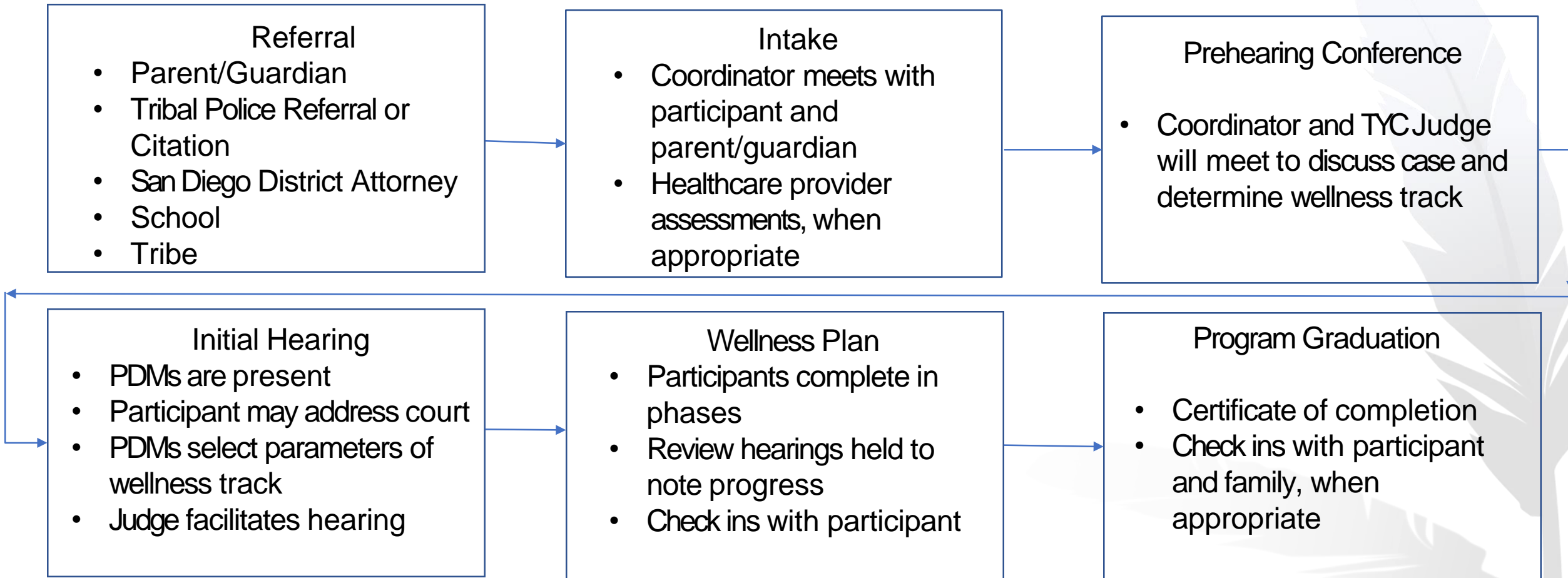
OAK TRACK

- Low Level Offenses
- Duration: 10 Weeks

Core Components:

Community Service: 10-15 hours
Cultural Participation: 10-15 hours
Life Skills Assignments: 8-12 tasks

▶ Tribal Youth Court Procedure



▶ Restorative Justice training for peer decision makers

TYC Prevention plan provides access to Tribal Law related education

Tribal Youth Court utilizes its local partnerships to provide education that:

- helps youth understand restorative justice and how it differs from the US legal system
- focuses on customs and traditions of tribes and how they differ from Tribal nation to Tribal nation
- empowers Native youth by providing practical information on Tribal law and governance
- promotes informed, law-abiding Tribal citizens by promoting civic responsibility and civic engagement

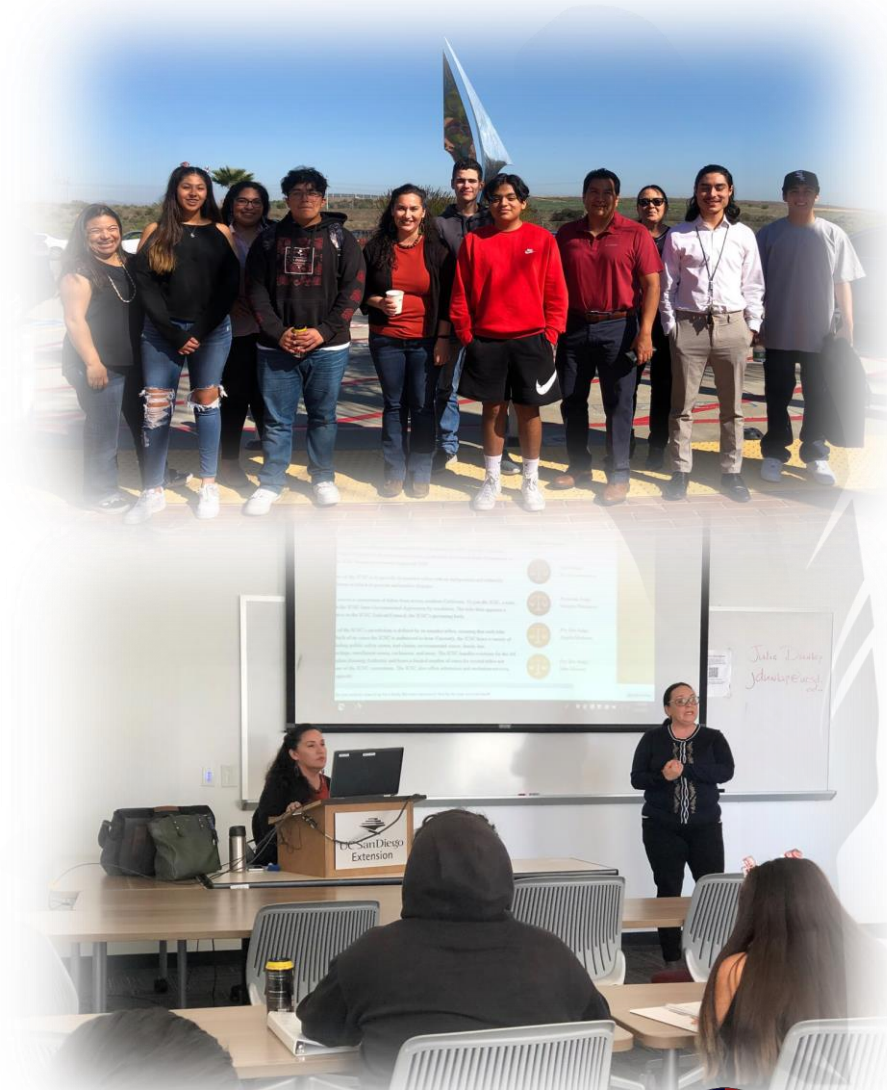


▶ Prevention Through Education

Peer Decision-Makers

Offering training for our Native youth, through local colleges, that will offer advanced training as they serve as peer jurors at our hearings, and will expose them to:

- early exposure to college registration, education expectations and campus culture
- potentially earn university level credit within Native content-based courses
- take on leadership roles within their communities



▶ Data Collection

Data collection will support program goals, quality improvement, and future sustainability planning. The team must decide what methods will be used to collect the data, how and where data will be stored, how often data will be collected, and who will be responsible for collecting and managing the data.

At Tribal Youth Court:

- Data will be collected based on amount of citations and referrals and the demographics of youth court participants.
- Coordinator will collect and store data within the program.
- Coordinator will follow ICSC policies on intake and storing/securing confidential data received by the court.
- Information will be stored digitally on ICSC Servers that follow our Court confidentiality procedures.
- Intake and data on clients will also be stored manually in locked files following court storage procedures.

▶ Challenges

Data

- If there is not enough accurate data, then it appears that no problem exists.

Lack of Children's (status offense) Codes:

- Tribal Police and Security codes are primarily enforced against people ages 18 and older. Younger people are seldom cited under those codes.

History of Mistrust in Legal System

- Tribal people have a history of mistrust in government and police; therefore, we must gain trust through participation in our communities.
- In turn, this takes time.

Diversion from County taking too long

- Diversion placement often takes too long. Youth may reoffend before the diversion and cannot participate.

School District implementing their version of Restorative Justice

- Everyone is veiling themselves in restorative justice; however, this is not restorative justice in the sense of Indian Country.

▶ Moving Forward

- Continue to make and build on partnerships with local agencies for referrals and services for TYC participants
- San Diego District Attorney
 - TYC recently signed MOA with the San Diego District Attorney's office
 - TYC is a pre-filing, alternative option
 - District Attorney will refer eligible youth to DA, and TYC will run its program, providing updates throughout wellness plan and notification of completion or withdrawal
- Community Outreach
- San Diego Probation
 - TYC is working on finalizing an MOA with San Diego Probation
 - TYC will work with probation as co-case managers and assist in offering cultural activities and life skills options for eligible Native youth



▶ Thank you!



Tribal Youth Court

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