

What is Contributing to the Effective Operations of Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts?



2022 Wellness Enhancement Training
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Tribal Youth Resource Center
www.TribalYouth.org

▶ BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

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► Our Discussion

- Implementation of program services- what does “operational” mean?
- What steps have programs taken to start services for their youth?
- Discussion regarding principles that have carried the work forward.

Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court

Supports tribal youth with access to appropriate treatment. Promotes safety, accountability, and often engages restorative approaches to promote individual healing and increased resilience.



JUVENILE HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT

PHASED PROGRESSION



Orientation

Youth participates in intake and assessment. Team supports youth stabilization and orientation.



Engagement

Youth engages in goal-oriented plans and treatment. Team engages in intensive supervision and support.



Enrichment

Youth participates in expanded development opportunities. Team supports community connection.



Transition

Youth builds upon the natural supports developed as part of the program. Team supports program graduation.



Continuity

Youth remains engaged in youth-serving programs. Team supports identification of after-care resources.

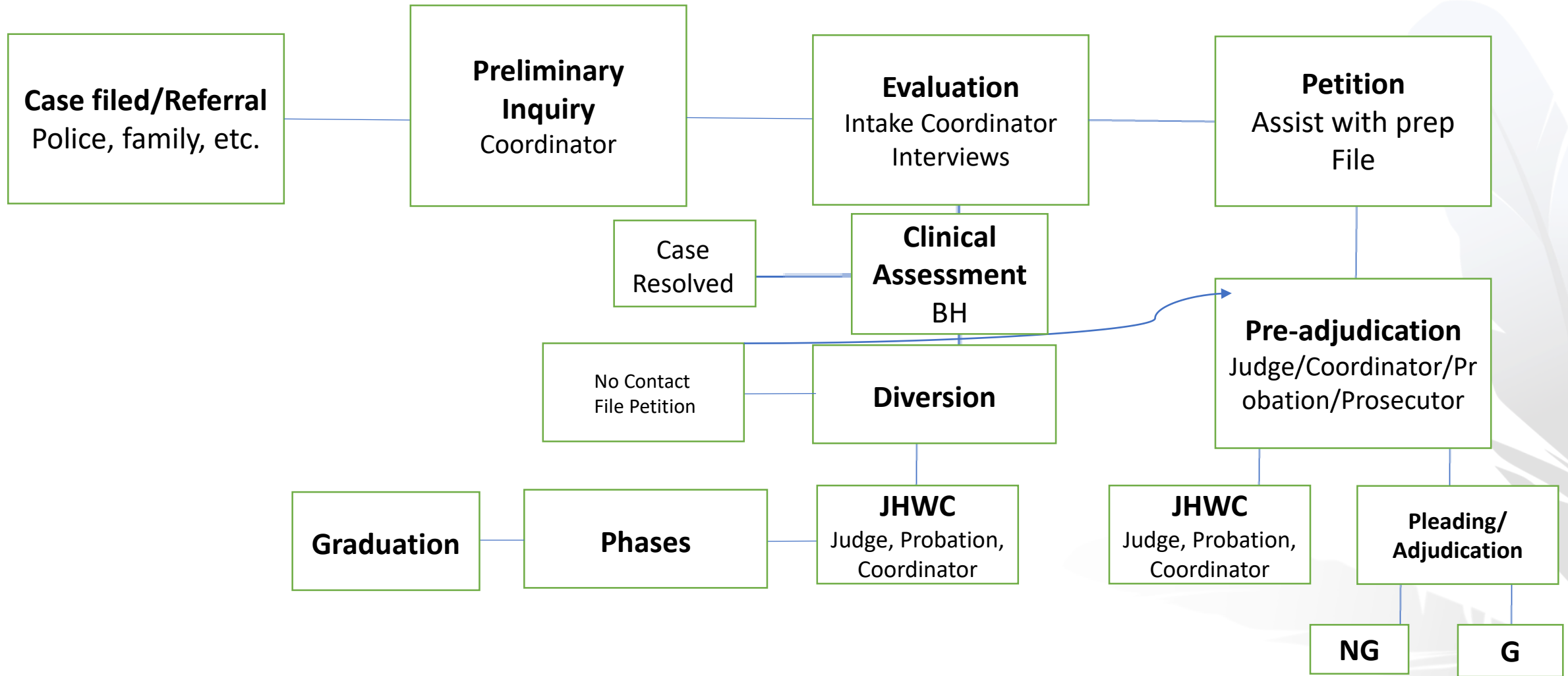
Developed by Anna Cough, Tribal Youth Resource Center, October 2020
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▶ COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES



- Resources
- Geography
- Population
- Court Docket
- Staffing
- Behavioral Health
- Intergovernmental Relationships
- Community Support
- Law

▶ INTAKE SERVICES PROCESS



BISHOP PAIUTE JUVENILE HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT

- Staffed the coordinator position.
- Implemented a **working group** that included local county partners and agencies. Inclusion of staff with **prior drug court experience**.
- Began the process of **identifying referral processes** with county probation and juvenile prosecution office.
- Engaged **local legal counsel** in the formal development of program policies and juvenile code.
- **Met ongoing** (monthly to bi-monthly) with county agencies and partners.



BISHOP PAIUTE JUVENILE HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT



- What contributed to implementation?
 - **Persistence by the local coordinator** to establish partnerships. Engagement within the local community.
 - **Buy-in with local partners** at the start of the program.
 - County partners assisted and engaged with the tribe to support **youth referral and intake mechanisms** that adhered to both state and tribal statute.



BLACKFEET HEALING TO WELLNESS COURTS

- Staffed the coordinator position.
- Built in coordination with existing Adult Healing to Wellness Court services.
- Engaged a working group/advisory committee.
- Engaged community through a Community Readiness Assessment.
- Allowed community to engage and provide feedback on what issues were most important to them.
- Responded to community feedback by creating cultural learning modules for teaching.



BLACKFEET HEALING TO WELLNESS COURTS

- Established policies, procedures, and clear entry criteria.
- Celebrate youth success through incentives and established responsive action for negative behaviors.
- Engages with local partners to provide services and opportunities for participants.

CHOCTAW NATION JUVENILE HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT

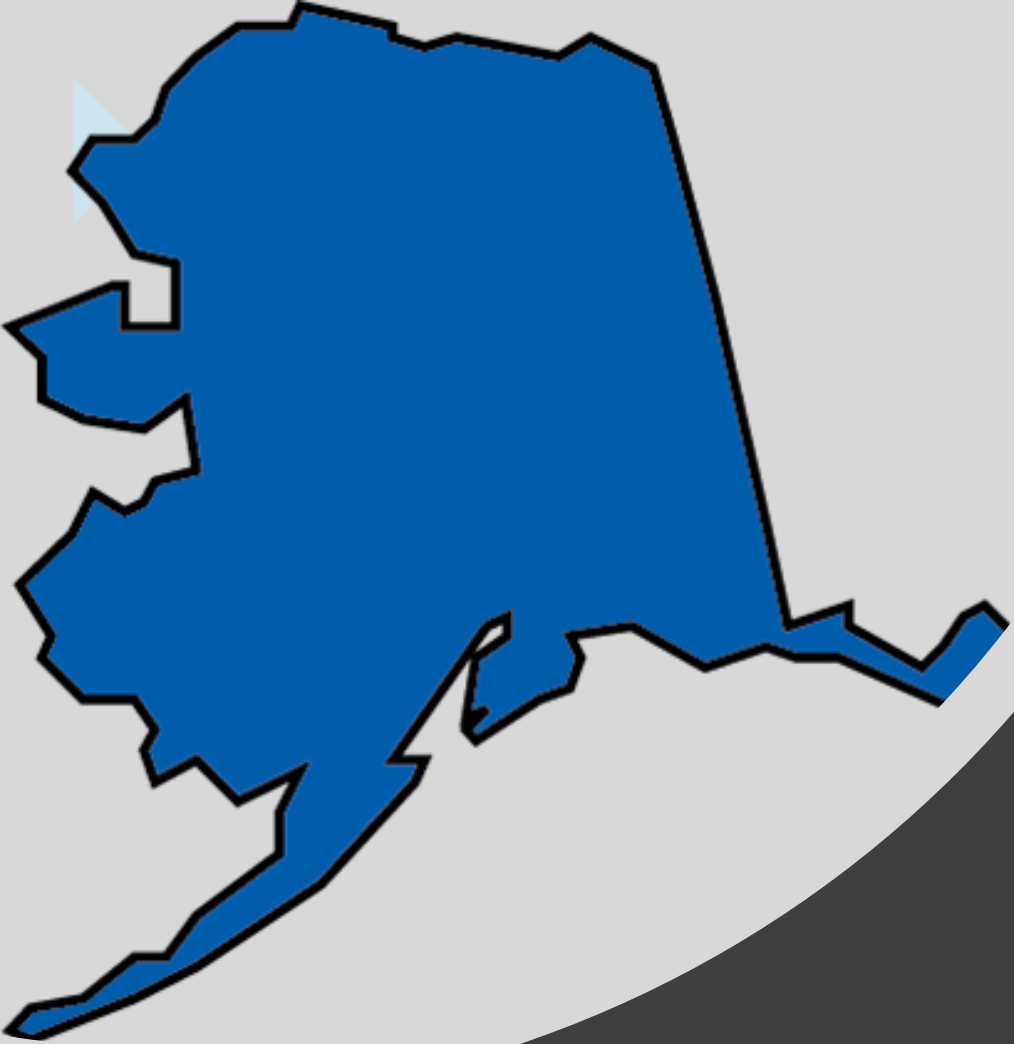
- Initial development began with a working agreement for **referral with the local county** Office of Juvenile Affairs.
- The tribe **Staffed positions and engaged in strategic planning** for the project.
- **Established intake and orientation** processes for youth. Including assessment.
- **Linked youth to existing services** within the community.
- Began in two communities with plans for expansion.



▶ CHOCTAW NATION JUVENILE HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT

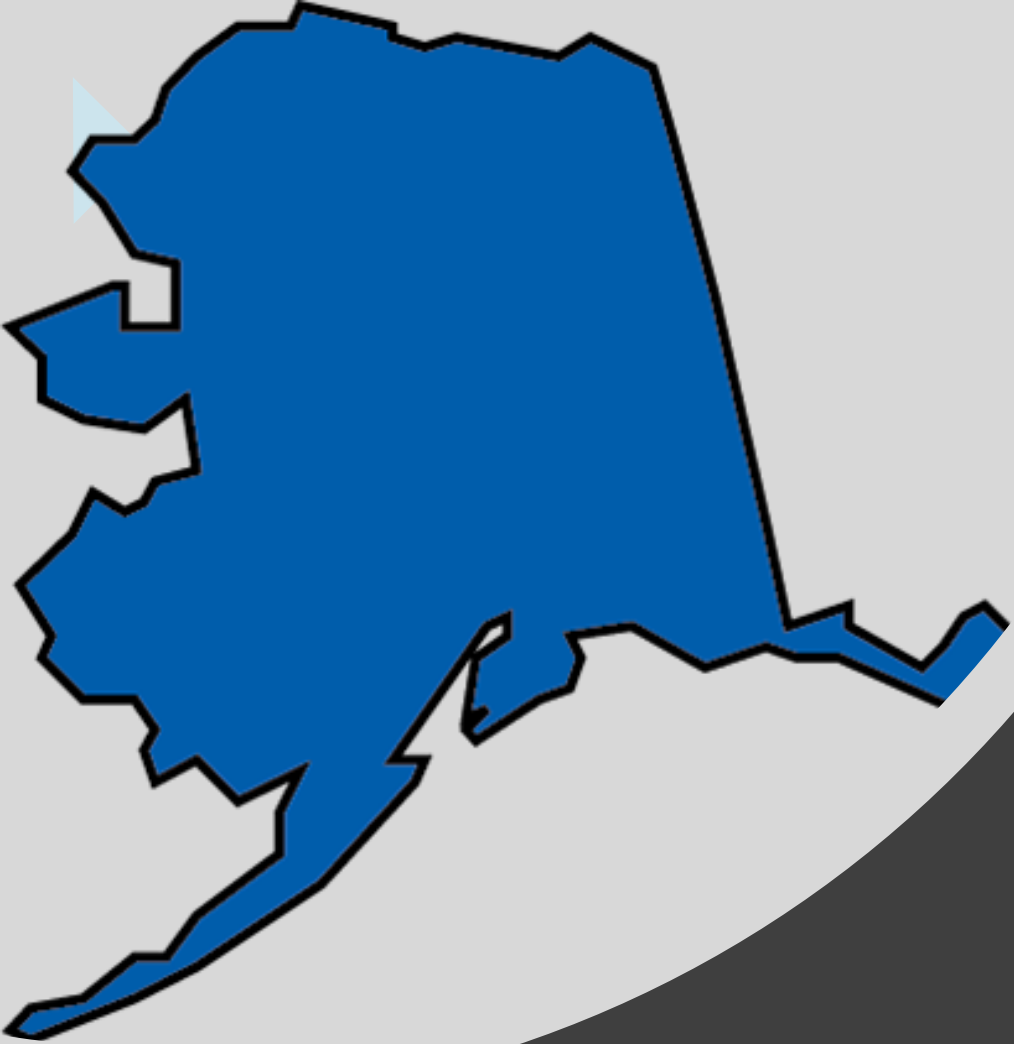


- Oklahoma is a non-PL 280 state, however, the Choctaw Nation Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court was designed with a “programmatic” framework, meaning the program was not housed within the Juvenile Court system. Rather the team engages as part of the broader social and youth services programs.



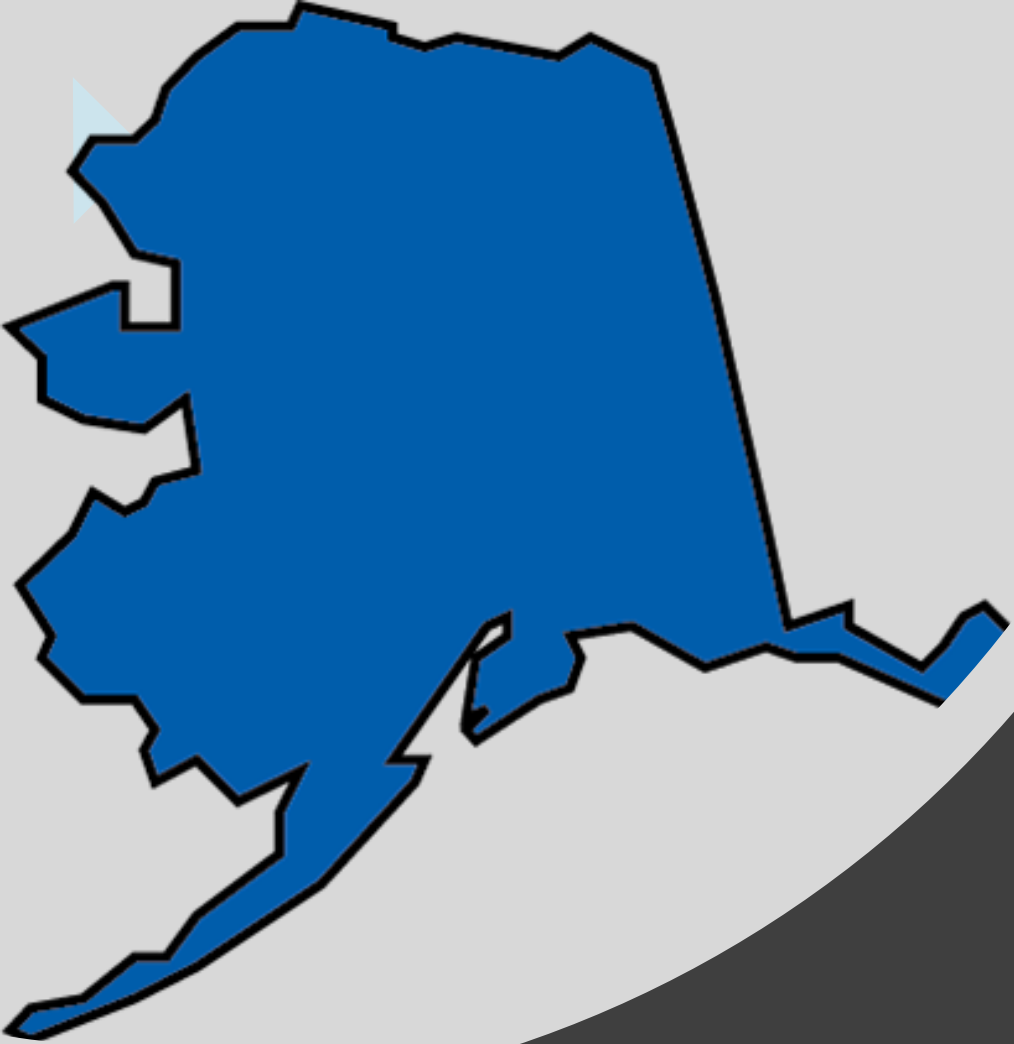
ALASKA

- Existing Tribal Courts can create a THWC docket instead of trying to create an entirely “new” court.
- Tribes that do not have an existing court and want to use the THWC model, may need additional time—such as the time to establish codes/policies.



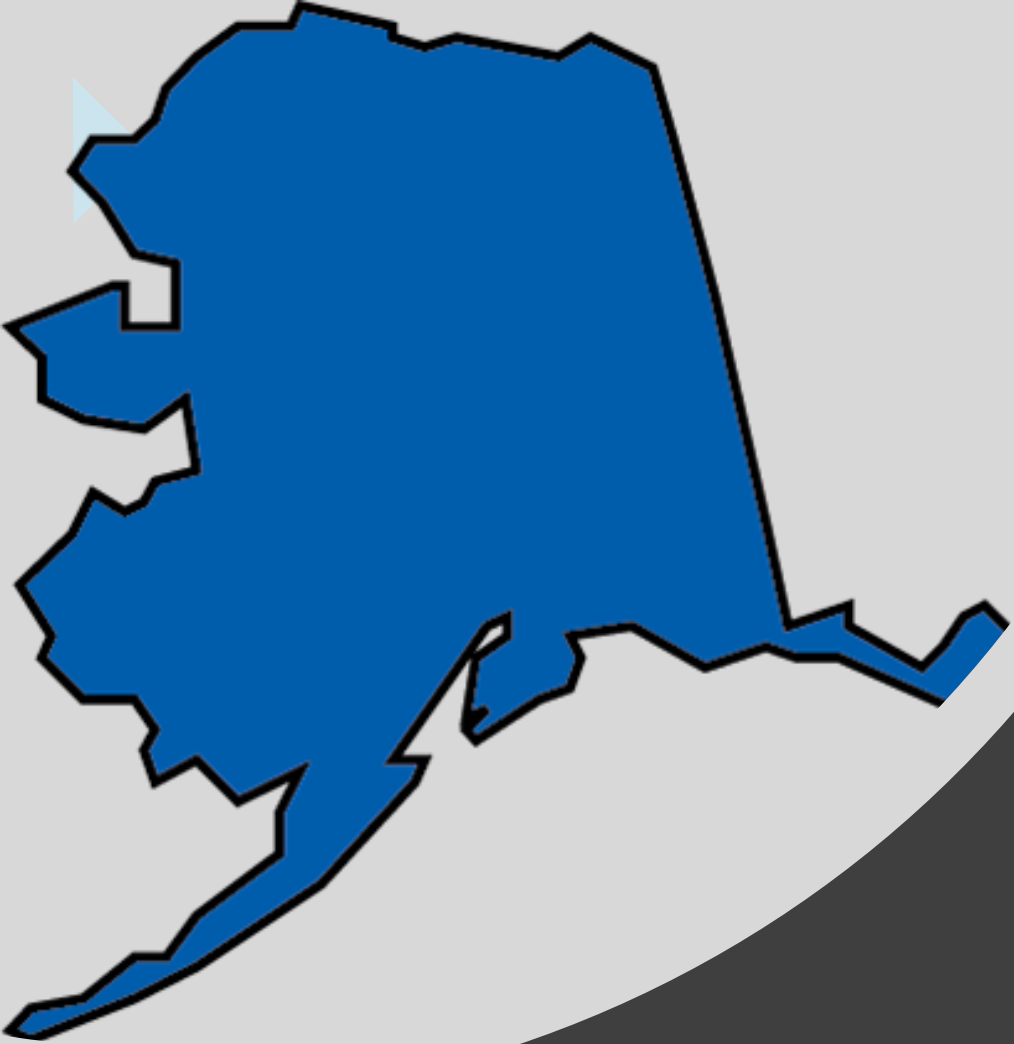
ALASKA

- Cultural-based healing programs e.g., talking circles are compatible with and easily integrated into the THWC treatment component.
- Cooperative agreements with Native Regional Health Providers are important for leveraging and increasing delivery of essential substance use and mental health services.



ALASKA

- Integrating therapeutic or THWC practices into an existing court can be done without operating a large scale THWC.
- Tribal-State Policy Agreements in AK can increase access by tribal citizens to local justice and culturally relevant healing resources.



ALASKA

- It is difficult for Alaska Tribes to exercise criminal jurisdiction under PL 280 which is necessary for bringing cases to the THWC unless the tribe has a diversion agreement in place.
- Family Wellness Courts would be quite compatible with Tribal courts in AK as most are very experienced with adjudicating child protection cases.

TABLE DISCUSSION

- Considering these three programs- share your thoughts about these three JHWCs.
 - What are some of the commonalities?
 - What are the differences?
 - What are some of the things that you think helped contribute to the implementation of the court?



▶ LESSONS LEARNED

As we consider the initial JHWCs what are some lessons learned?

- Youth referral processes can impact access to the program's resources and services.
- Important to establish clear entry criteria.
- Consider youth needs with the Phased Program (6 months/12 months/aftercare)
- Where we house our program services
- Youth Development/Motivation to Change
 - Motivational Interviewing/Positive Youth Development
 - Engagement with Culture and Mentorship Opportunities

▶ DISCUSSION

- In the development of your JHWC or in planning:
 - What are some of the challenges you have experienced or that you foresee?
 - What are some alternatives to the program components you had hoped to implement?

EVALUATING RESOURCES



Sustainability



Understanding
Parameters



Continuing Education



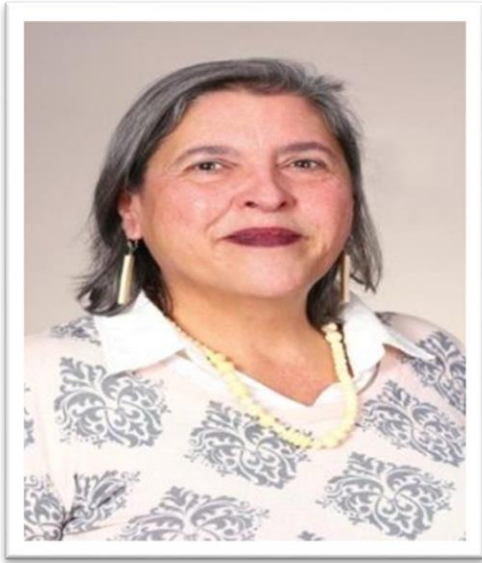
Modern Practices

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Training
- Continuing Education
- Expansion
- Establishing Responsibilities



▶ CLOSING THOUGHTS...



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Thank you



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