

Honoring Their Story: Fairness and Accountability in the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court

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Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- **Vision Statement:** The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) envisions a nation where our children are free from crime and violence. If they come into contact with the justice system, the contact should be both just and beneficial to them.
- **Mission Statement:** OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports the efforts of states, tribes, and communities to develop and implement effective and equitable juvenile justice systems that enhance public safety, ensure youth are held appropriately accountable to both crime victims and communities, and empower youth to live productive, law-abiding lives.

OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center

- **Culturally based, trauma-informed training, support and other technical assistance to all OJJDP funded Tribal program grantees as well as all other federally recognized Tribes.**



OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center

- University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.
- Indian Country Child Trauma Center
 - Direction of Dr. Dolores Subia Bigfoot.



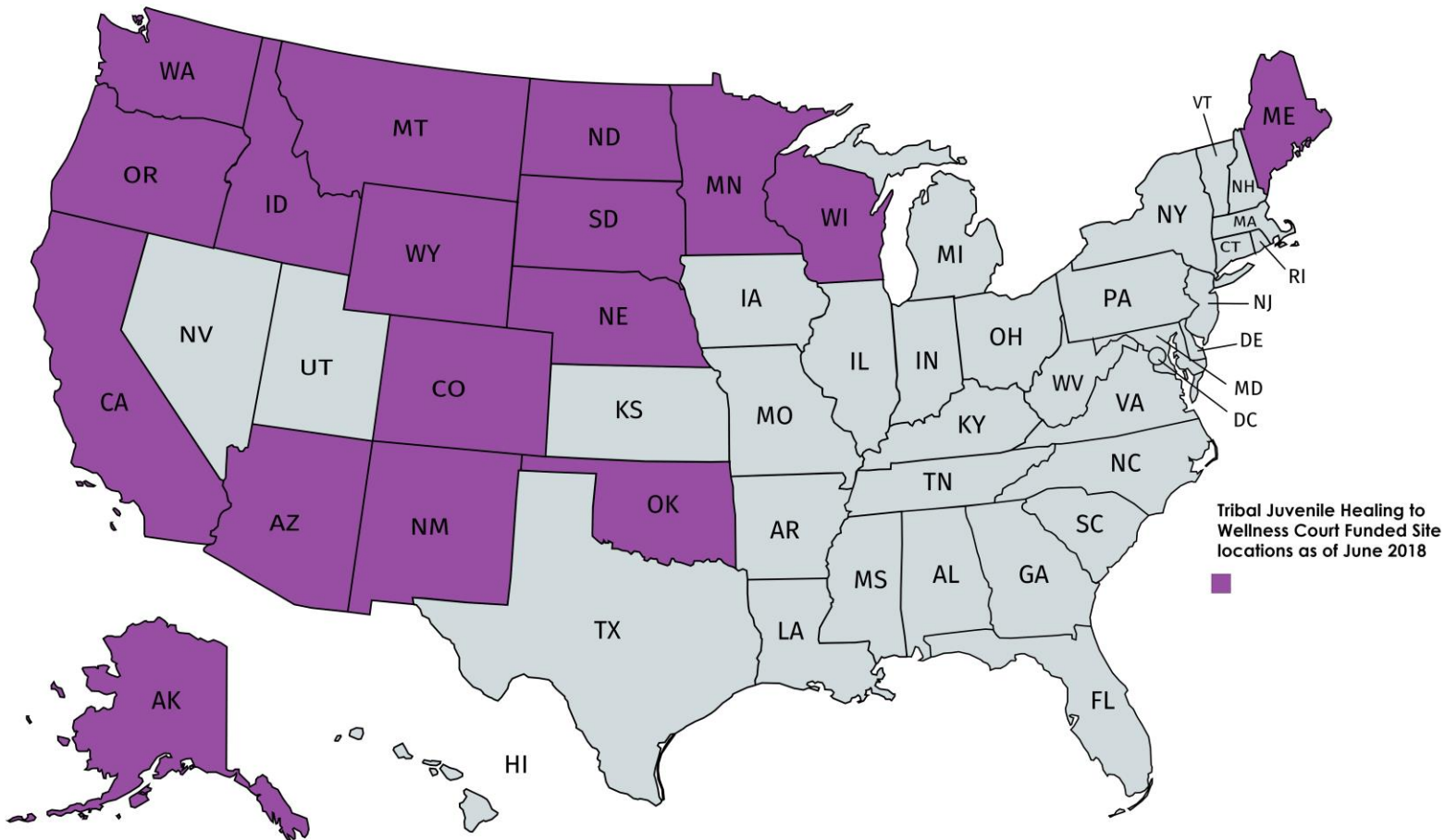
OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation

- Purpose Area 8- Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court
- Purpose Area 9- Tribal Youth Program



Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts OJJDP Awarded Sites



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Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts

- Team-driven collaborative and innovative justice practice, supportive of youth who suffer from addiction to alcohol or illicit substances
- Developed based on the unique strengths, values, and youth needs within the Tribal community.
- Individualized community and judicial case management process supportive of treatment, healing, accountability, and youth wellness.



Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court

Healing to Wellness Court (General)

- *Individualized*
- *Solution-Focused (Problem-Solving Courts)*
- *Accountability through highly intensive engagement and support.*



Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court

Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court

- *Youth Focused*
 - *Developmental Considerations*
 - *Risky Behavior/Peer Influences*
 - *Parent/Caregiver Engagement*
 - *Team training to support effective youth processes within the TJHWC*



Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court:

Tribal Youth Considerations

- *Historic and Intergenerational Trauma*
- *Community Specific Considerations-*
 - *Violence (Domestic/Family/Community/Child Abuse and Neglect)*
 - *Incarceration Rates*
 - *Suicide/Substance Use*



Recognizing the Impact of Trauma



Source: D. Bigfoot (2008). Child Trauma Treatment Center, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK.

Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court: Suggested Practices

American Indian/Alaska Natives

Higher Rates of:

- **Suicide**
- **Substance Use**
- **Exposure to Violence/Neglect**
- **Trauma at alarmingly high rates.**



Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court: Addressing Trauma

Essential to Supporting Tribal Youth

- Knowledge of the Impact of Trauma
- Understanding of Trauma-Informed Approach
- Continued Inter-Disciplinary/ Cross-Training (Key Component 9)



Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court: Addressing Trauma and “Honoring their Story”

- An approach to engaging people with histories of trauma in which you recognize the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledge the role that trauma has played in their lives.
- In all of the different environments in which a traumatized person would find themselves, each person encountered would seek to change the paradigm from one that asks, **“What's wrong with you?”** to one that asks, **“What has happened to you?”**



Guiding Principles of Trauma-Informed Care

1. Safety
 2. Trustworthiness & Transparency
 3. Peer Support and Mutual Self-Help
 4. Collaboration and Mutuality
 5. Empowerment, Voice, and Choice
 6. Culturally competent
- (SAMSHA, 2014)



Trauma-Informed Care and the Wellness Court

- Trauma - Event/Experience/What Happened
- Informed - Knowledge/Understanding/Safety
- Care - Behaviors/Policies/Surrounding/Environment

Transition From what was before to what is now

- *Defining the experience/trauma rather than have the experience or trauma define person*
- *Recognize that the memories/reminders/triggers do not need to devastate*
- *Learn healthy self care skills*
- *Reveals ourselves to ourselves*



Trauma-Informed Care and the Wellness Court- 3 Core Areas



Training



Policy and Practice



Space and Place



Trauma-Informed Care and the Wellness Court- Policy and Practice



Recognition of a Trauma History promotes fairness in the treatment of youth within the wellness/treatment court setting.

**Caveat that each youth has an individual history.*



Trauma-Informed Care and the Wellness Court- Policy and Practice



Policy and Practice:

- *Do implemented policies within your Court reflect a Trauma-Informed Approach?*
- *What changes can be made?*

Trauma-Informed Care and the Wellness Court- Policy and Practice



- Trauma informed Juvenile Justice codes
- Formulize partnerships through MOU's that include TIC
- Setting trauma informed care policies for team
- Utilizing community resources
- Youth lead/youth guided

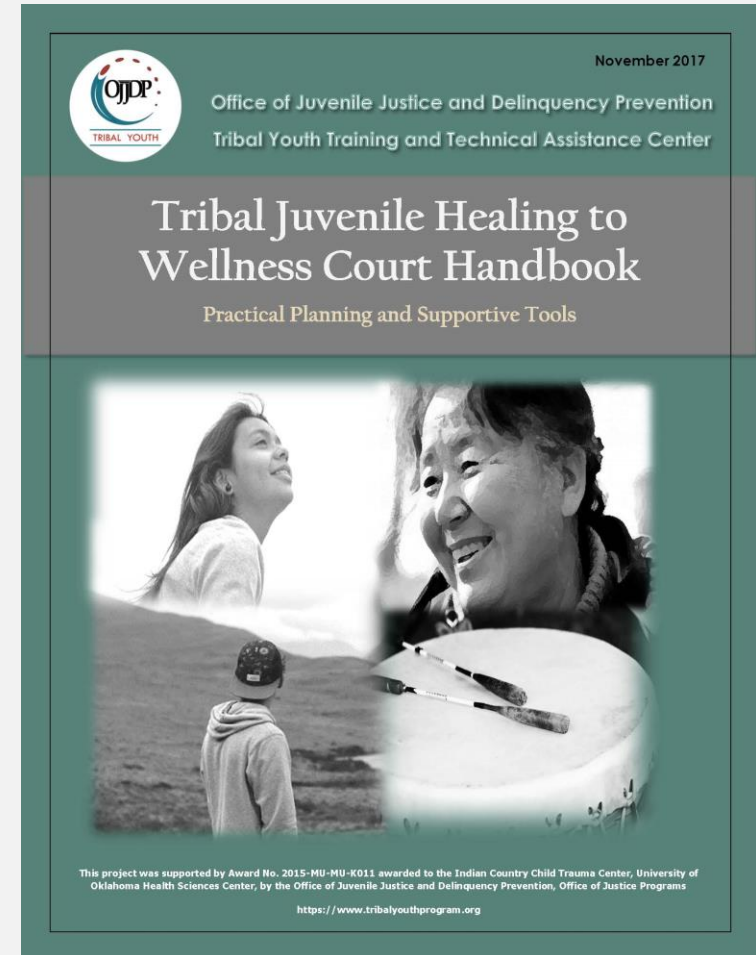
Trauma-Informed Care and the Wellness Court- Policy and Practice



- Engaging family & caretakers
- Intake & transition processes
Screening/Assessment/Referral
- Trauma informed Strategic
Planning

Resources

- **OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center**
 - **Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court Handbook, Planning Guide and Supportive Tools.**
 - **Other wellness court resource links:**
<https://tribalyouthprogram.org>



Resources

- **Visit Tribal Law and Policy Institute:**
- <http://www.home.tlpi.org/tribal-healing-to-wellness-courts>
- **Planning, Treatment, and Case Management guides available to support Adult and Juvenile Wellness Courts.**
- **Visit Tribal Access to Justice Innovation**
- <http://www.tribaljustice.org/about>



Free Virtual Training Simulations



Practice interacting with virtual tribal youth in a way that promotes cooperation and respect. You will learn about how historical and individual trauma can lead to negative behavior and how your own actions can empower them to make better choices.

- Culturally-tailored
 - Developed with 25 Tribal Subject Matter Experts
 - Sensitizes users to historical and intergenerational trauma
 - Adapted from evidence-based model in collaboration with OJJDP Tribal Youth TTAC
- Go to:
www.kognitocampus.com/login
 - Use enrollment key tribalyth



Free Virtual Training Simulations

at-risk
for High School Educators



- Professional development for HS Teachers and Staff
- 60-90 minute learning experience
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- Go to www.kognitocampus.com/login
- Use enrollment key ofateacher



Free Virtual Training Simulations

Friend2Friend



- Peer support for high school students
- 30 minute learning experience
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- Classroom activity
- Sample lesson plan available
- Go to:
www.kognitocampus.com/peer
- Use enrollment key ofastudent



Thank You.

**Thank you for your presence
today.**

OJJDP Tribal Youth TTA Center

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Views expressed in this presentation are that of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Justice or the United States Government.

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