HEALING AND HOPE: A CALL FOR INTEGRATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR AMERICAN INDIANS IN ARIZONA

- Hon. Charles R. Pyle
- May 2, 2019
- ASU West
THE FLAGSTAFF EXPERIENCE

Supplement substance use disorder treatment with:
Medically-Assisted Treatment
Acudetox (auricular acupuncture)
Traditional Native American Therapies
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROBLEM AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

- EXTREME POVERTY
- POOR EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT
- EXTREME REMOTENESS
- HISTORICAL, INTERGENERATIONAL AND EXPERIENTIAL TRAUMA
CRIMES

- PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
- DUI
- HOMICIDE
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER
- PUBLIC INTOXICATION
CONSEQUENCES

• INCARCERATION
• SEPARATION FROM FAMILY/COMMUNITY
• SUPERVISION
• RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT (i.e. Phoenix)
• REPEAT
HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

- DIABETES
- LIVER DISEASE
- ALCOHOL POISONING
- HEART DISEASE
- FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME
- REDUCED LIFE EXPECTANCY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

- SEVERE DEPRESSION
- POST TRAUMATIC STRESS
- SUICIDE
- SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
ONE TRIBAL NATION’S EXPERIENCE

• VERY REMOTE.
• SMALL POPULATION
• SIGNIFICANT # MEMBERS ON FEDERAL SUPERVISION
• MALE LIFE EXPECTANCY LESS THAN 50 YEARS
• HISTORICAL TRAUMA
BAD ACTS OR BAD PEOPLE?

HORRIFIC PRISON CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIVE SUPERVISION PLACED ON INDIVIDUALS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PRESUMES THAT PEOPLE ARE INHERENTLY BAD.
IS IT A DISEASE OR A MORAL FAILING?

CJ RESPONSE IS PUNISHMENT AND IMPRISONMENT, NOT TREATMENT
ORGANIC IMPACT ON BRAIN FROM SUBSTANCE USE AND TRAUMA (with overlay of poverty)
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYNERGY

- UNTREATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS FEEDS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- UNTREATED DEFENDANTS RECYCLE WITHIN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
TRAUMA - experiential and historical
65% of US inmates meet the criteria for substance use addiction

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Columbia University, 2010
Mental Health Conditions in Incarcerated People

55% of men
75% of women
15-20% SMI
“Research has found that nearly all prisoners have experienced a traumatic event in their life and a high proportion suffer from PTSD”

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2017
PREVALENCE OF TRAUMA IN INDIAN COUNTRY

- 80% OF ADULTS HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE
- 56% OF WOMEN ARE PAST VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- NATIVE YOUTH 2.5 TIMES HIGHER EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA THAN NON NATIVE YOUTH
- 22% OF NATIVE YOUTH EXPERIENCE PTSD – TRIPLE THE RATE OF GENERAL US POPULATION
1. DIRECTIVE/COERCIVE

2. JUDGMENTAL/SHAMING

3. MORALISTIC NOT THERAPEUTIC
CARL THE FLOORWALKER
BRENE BROWN - THE POWER OF SHAME

- GUILT – I DID BAD
- SHAME – I AM BAD

“THE ANTIDOTE FOR SHAME IS EMPATHY.”
MAT, ACUDETOX AND INDIGENOUS HEALING

- VOLUNTARY
- NOT JUDGMENTAL
- NOT MORALISTIC
- THERAPEUTIC
- DISEASE TREATMENT FIRST
- THEN CHANGE THINKING
THE “AHA MOMENT”

NOT LIKELY TO COME FROM JUDGE OR PROBATION OFFICER
EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES

- Changes focus to data collection instead of understanding current evidence
- Demands no evidence for the status quo
- Tends to justify the status quo
- “…efforts of federal probation are a baseline upon which it is difficult to improve.”
NOTHING WORKS!

Robert Martinson’s famous conclusion from his 1974 survey of 234 studies of prison rehabilitation programs, which led to four decades of dismantling prison rehabilitation programs.
INDIFFERENCE AND INERTIA
do we know about:

TRAUMA AWARENESS
MEDICALLY ASSISTED TREATMENT
ACUDETOX
INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL HEALING
CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT
OPTIONS FOR GRADUATED SANCTIONS
FLASH INCARCERATION
MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

• EFFECTIVE FOR OPIOID AND ALCOHOL USE DISORDER
• NOT EFFECTIVE FOR COCAINE AND METH
• GROSSLY UNDERUTILIZED IN US HEALTH CARE
• RARELY UTILIZED IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM DESPITE HIGH INCIDENCE OF OUD AND AUD
ADVANTAGES OF EAR ACUPUNCTURE

• PORTABLE FOR REMOTE LOCATIONS
• EASY TO TRAIN ADS’s
• EXTREMELY LOW COST AND LOW RISK
• NON-JUDGMENTAL
INCREASE AWARENESS OF MAT, ACUDETOX AND INDIGENOUS THERAPIES

- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY
- COURTS
- CORRECTIONS
- POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
- FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY
  - (On and off the reservation)
NADA APPROACH “PRE-CONFERENCE”

- TRAIN AND CERTIFY ADS’s
- TRAIN AND CERTIFY MAT PROVIDERS
- EDUCATE ON TRADITIONAL HEALING
CONFERENCE FOR AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES

• SERVICE PROVIDERS
• CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEADERS
• POLITICAL LEADERS
• People from on and off the reservation
NOW is time to PUSH for CHANGE

- PEOPLE NEED IT
- LEADERS ARE BECOMING MORE AWARE
- AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS ARE READY TO GROW
- STATUS QUO IS UNACCEPTABLE
CALLING FOR COLLABORATORS

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• LOOKING FORWARD TO HELPING OTHERS AND EACH OTHER