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PROMISING STRATEGIES FOR TRIBAL HEALING TO WELLNESS COURTS: PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING THROUGH MENTOR COURTS

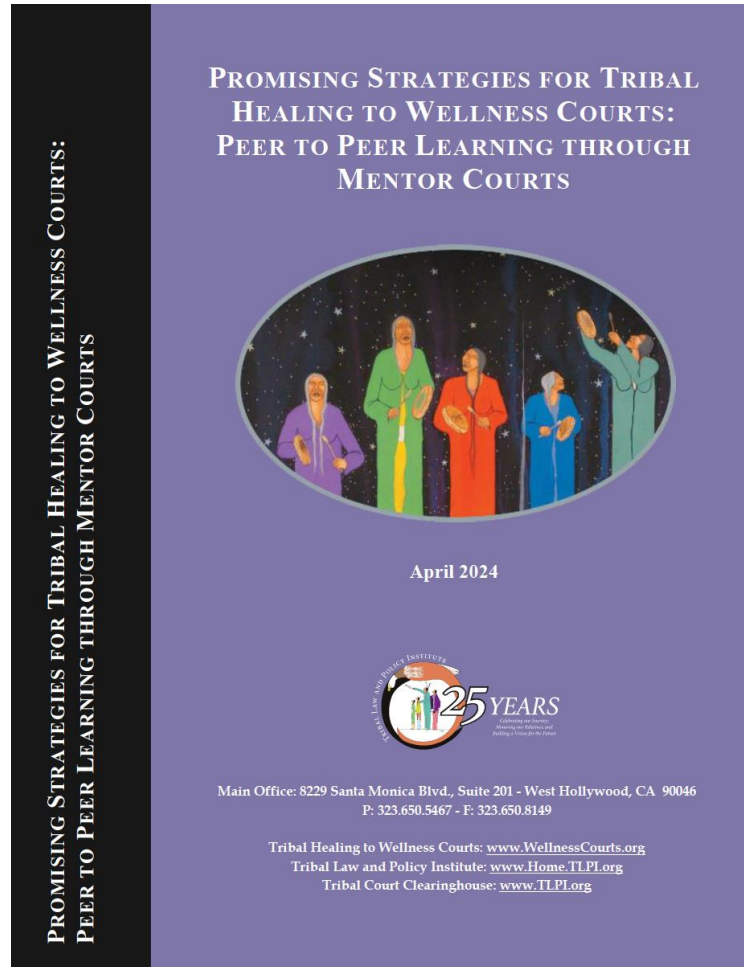


▶ DISCLAIMER

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PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT



*PROMISING STRATEGIES FOR
TRIBAL HEALING TO
WELLNESS COURTS: PEER TO
PEER LEARNING THROUGH
MENTOR COURTS*



▶ TRIBAL LAW AND POLICY INSTITUTE MENTOR COURT PROGRAM

The planning and implementation of a Tribal-specific Mentor Court Healing to Wellness Program came from a need for Tribal-specific technical assistance to best serve Native American and Native Indians (NA/NI) populations. There is still limited research on evidence-based practices specific to NA/NI programs, which require Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts (THWC) to have customized technical assistance.



▶ KEY COMPONENT #1

TLPI Key Component #1: Individual and Community Healing Focus

Tribal Healing to Wellness Court brings together alcohol and drug treatment, community healing resources, and the tribal justice process by using a team approach to achieve the physical and spiritual healing of the individual participant, and to promote Native nation building and the well-being of the community.

ALLRISE Key Component #1: Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.



▶ TRIBAL HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT (THWC) CHALLENGES

- Limited access to resources
- Jurisdictional complexities
- Historical trauma
- Lack of evidence-based research
- Increased staff turnover
- Increased family relationships in programming
- Culturally appropriate and sensitive technical assistance



▶ THWC STRENGTHS

- Self-determination and tribal sovereignty
- Holistic approach to justice
- Culturally inclusive
- Restorative
- Community focus
- Family focus
- Recovery Capital
- Lower recidivism rates



▶ WHY TRIBAL SPECIFIC TA IS IMPORTANT

- Takes into account the history of colonization and its impact on tribes and Native people
- Takes into account intertribal conflicts
- Better understands generational/historical traumas that help lead to maladaptive substance use in tribal communities
- Better incorporates Indigenous learning, culture, and ways of being
- Better incorporates Indigenous justice values, practices, and systems



▶ MENTOR COURT DEVELOPMENT

There is still limited research on evidence-based practices specific to NA/NI programs, which requires Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts (THWC) to have customized technical assistance to address the following:

- *Adapting the drug court concept to include alcohol dependency and abuse treatment services due to the high volume of alcohol abuse in Indian country;*
- *Designing an effective drug court process within unique jurisdictional factors; and*
- *Ensuring sustainability in the face of unsecure funding, high Wellness Court Team turnover rates, and limited available human resources.*



▶ MENTOR COURT ELIGIBILITY

- Mentor Courts must be able to host in-person and virtual visits from other jurisdictions.
- Mentor Courts must have all key essential team members of a healing to wellness court team
- Mentor Courts must be able to provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities and adhere to site visit policies
- Mentor Courts must have all essential team members on their multidisciplinary team.
- Mentor Courts must adhere to the 10 Key Components of Healing to Wellness Courts.
- Mentor Courts must have a written policy and procedure manual and participant handbook that you are willing and able to share with other jurisdictions
- Mentor Courts must be willing and able to provide data, participate in research and publications, and media campaigns as requested by TLPI
- Mentor Courts must be an operational court program for at least two (2) years



▶ SISTER COURTS

Sister Courts are Tribal programs in the planning, implementation, or enhancement stages seeking Mentor Courts' expertise and experiences to enhance their own jurisdictions. The relationship between Mentor Courts and Sister Courts is representative of the interconnectedness of Indigenous peoples and the significance of shared knowledge.



▶ DECOLONIALIZED APPROACH OF PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Peer-to-peer learning is advantageous for Indigenous populations as it aligns with traditional communal learning practices and can address specific needs within the community. Peer-to-peer learning is a culturally responsive method of teaching that supports intergenerational learning and knowledge sharing.



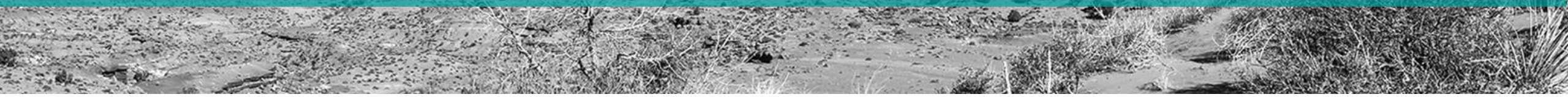
▶ PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Mentoring is an inherent peer-to-peer practice where knowledge is shared and provided on a personal, programmatic, and community basis. The Mentor Courts can use their lived experiences to provide insight on how to successfully provide support services to participants involved in programming. This approach learning is a culturally sensitive practice and Indigenous learning practice for Tribal communities is deeply rooted in the cultural traditions, values, and ways of knowing of Indigenous peoples.





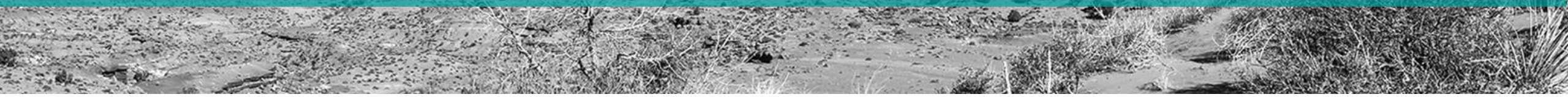
Tulalip Healing to Wellness Court



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Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court Program Round Table



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