Tribal Culture in Treatment Court

Greeting
Formal Ho-Chunk greeting
Moment of silence

Introduction
Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts are tribal adaptations of drug courts. The name "Tribal Healing to Wellness Court" was adopted to incorporate two important Native concepts:
1. Both Healing and Wellness.
2. Emphasize the program’s efforts to promote wellness as an ongoing journey for program participants.
Holistic Treatment Based Approach

The Wellness Court philosophy is centered upon healing the individual physically, spiritually, and socially. For many tribal peoples the healing process is intertwined with the use of customary or traditional legal process and values.


Holistic Goal

“The holistic goal of a Tribal Wellness Court is to help chart a healing to wellness journey for individuals who have lost their sense of direction, their vision and purpose. Wellness court convenes to redirect a disoriented unsteady, and dazed individual onto a better course or path. It points a person toward a place where strength and balance can be found.”

Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Judge

Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts

Key Components are intended to serve as a potential framework for designing and implementing a Tribal Healing to Wellness Court based upon the state drug court model; however, it is not recommended best practices and it should not necessarily be used as a primary benchmark for performance. The tribal key components have been reoriented and generalized from the state key components so that they are relevant to the tribal setting and allow for tailoring in different geographic, demographic, jurisdictional, and cultural tribal contexts.

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.

Key Component #2
Referral Points and Legal Process
Participants enter Tribal Healing to Wellness Court through various referral points and legal processes that promote tribal sovereignty and the participant’s due (fair) process rights.

Key Component #3
Screening and Eligibility
Eligible court-involved substance-abusing parents, guardians, juveniles, and adults are identified early through legal and clinical screening for eligibility and are promptly placed into the Tribal Healing to Wellness Court.
Key Component #4
Treatment and Rehabilitation
Tribal Healing to Wellness Court provides access to holistic, structured, and phased alcohol and drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation services that incorporate culture and tradition.

Key Component #7
Judicial Interaction
Ongoing involvement of a Tribal Healing to Wellness Court judge with the Tribal Wellness Court team and staffing, and ongoing Tribal Wellness Court judge interaction with each participant are essential.

Key Component #8
Monitoring and Evaluation
Process measurement, performance measurement, and evaluation are tools used to monitor and evaluate the achievement of program goals, identify needed improvements to the Tribal Healing to Wellness Court and to the tribal court process, determine participant progress, and provide information to governing bodies, interested community groups, and funding sources.

Key Component #9
Continuing Interdisciplinary and Community Education
Continuing interdisciplinary and community education promote effective Tribal Healing to Wellness Court planning, implementation, and operation.
Key Component #10

Team Interaction
The development and maintenance of ongoing commitments, communication, coordination, and cooperation among Tribal Healing to Wellness Court team members, service providers and payers, the community and relevant organizations, including the use of formal written procedures and agreements, are critical for Tribal Wellness Court success.


Collaboration
A creative response to substance abuse and crime is necessary to ensure tribal members dispersed widely throughout the state and country have access to treatment court. Collaboration between Tribal Healing to Wellness and other Treatment Courts provides an opportunity to educate communities about Native American culture fosters, diversity in programs, and increases service opportunities for tribal members.

Collaboration Goals
- Increase awareness of the specific needs of Native Americans
- Identify similarities and differences between Tribal Wellness Courts and other Treatment Courts
- Encourage collaboration between Tribal Wellness Courts and other alternative courts
- Encourage an open discussion about specific issues
- Improve collaborative efforts and resource sharing
- Encourage networking among Courts
Native American participants in Treatment Courts

• Educate Treatment Courts on Native American cultural beliefs and events.
• Attendance to cultural event or ceremony is only possible if they are compliant within your court guidelines.

VRNA

Vocational Rehabilitation for Native Americans (VRNA) - VRNA has been in operation since 1999 providing culturally appropriate vocational rehabilitation services to Native Americans with disabilities residing in the GLITC service areas. The Purpose of the program is to provide vocational rehabilitation services for gainful employment to eligible Native Americans.

Resources

• Consultation/advice with tribal leaders regarding traditions, beliefs, spirituality and cultural events.
• Or you can contact:
  • Robert Mann
  • Email: Robert.mann@ho-chunk.com
  • Phone: (608) 343-2702
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Questions?