



# Native Education Collaborative

Connecting partners | Cultivating resources



## Behavioral Health: Tribal Best Practices

### Native Community Strengths

All Native communities demonstrate these survival skills:

- Resilience
- Strength
- Endurance

### Tribal Best Practices

- Varied meaning based on specific tribe
- Tribes know what works without requiring empirical support
- The lack of modern documentation does not equal a lack of results
- Modern approaches must adjust requirements to respectfully include ancestral knowledge

### Circles of Care and Wrap-Around Services

- Provides opportunities for authentic community voice
- Organized around the needs of the child
- More aligned to traditional world views
  - ▶ Everything is relational: Life is made up of harmonious cycles, seasons, relationships
  - ▶ Everything is connected: Health comprises of physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual components
- Current Western medicine is beginning to integrate into traditional practices

## Circles of Care

- Features collaboration between agencies, families, and youth
- Creates coordinated, community-based, culturally, and linguistically competent services
- Has professionals partner with families and communities to create a care plan

## Wrap-Around Services

- Allows the child to thrive in home while receiving treatment
- Created by a Community Care Team consisting of:
  - ▶ Youth
  - ▶ Natural supports
  - ▶ Formal supports

---

## 4 Phases of Wrap-Around Services

### Phase 1: Engagement

- 1–2 weeks
- Staff learn about family history and story
- Identify cultural strengths
- Identify areas of support

### Phase 2: Initial Plan Development

- Family invites the support system to help create a plan
- Identify family strengths, challenges, and values
- Produce family vision, goals, and action steps
- Identify services to support the goal

### Phase 3: Plan Implementation

- Put plan into action
- Continually assess success
- Adjust troubled action steps
- Assign new tasks to support system

### Phase 4: Transitioning

- Move from formal support to informal support
- Plan for potential stressors
- Plan for future supports

---

## Wrap-Around Core Values

- Child- and family-focused with the family determining what services they use
- Community-based with decision-making at the community level
- Culturally competent and responsive to the specific population being served

---

## Wrap-Around Guiding Principles

- The family and surrogate family are full participants
- Early identification and intervention are promoted at the system level
- Children have access to:
  - ▶ Comprehensive services to address all areas of health
  - ▶ Individualized services guided by an plan made for them
  - ▶ Services provided in the least-restrictive environment
  - ▶ Integrated care with agencies, programs, planning, and coordinated service delivery
  - ▶ Case management support to ensure the provision of all needed and requested services

The contents of this publication were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.