Equity in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Webinar Series

Webinar 2: Culture, identity, history as sources of strength and resilience for Tribal Communities.

Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC)

Mission and Vision

The Center aims to grow, advance, and impact the field of IECMHC

Areas of Focus:
- Technical Assistance
- Professional Development
- Clearinghouse

www.iecmhc.org

Facilitators: CEP

Shantel Meek
Founding Director
Children’s Equity Project (CEP)
Arizona State University

Dawn A. Yazzie
CEP-Payson
Southwest Human Development and GIS for IECMHC

Jessica Barnes-Najor
Co-investigator
Tribal Early Childhood Research Center

Marcella Adolph
Head Start Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Children’s Equity Project

- A multi-university initiative, housed at Arizona State University and led in partnership with experts at 15 universities and organizations across the country.
- We work at the intersection of research-policy-practice
- Our mission is to close opportunity gaps and ensure that all children, regardless of race, ethnicity, income, home language, and/or ability, reach their full potential.

Equity in IECMHC Webinar Series

How Did We Get Here?
April 30, 2020 at 12:30 PM
Culture, Identity, History as Sources of Strength and Resilience for Tribal Communities
May 28, 2020 at 12:30 PM
Culture, Identity, History as Sources of Strength and Resilience for African-American Children and Families
June 25, 2020 at 12:30PM
Culture, Identity, History as Sources of Strength and Resilience for Latino Children and Families.
July 30, 2020 at 12:30PM

AGENDA

- Session Goals
- Setting the Stage: Historical and Institutional Racism
- Social and cultural context
- Research to Practice - IECMHC Connection
- Where Do We Go from Here?
- Resources
- Open Discussion: Q&A
Today's Session Goals

- Examine issues of racialized inequities and bias in the early care and education experiences for Tribal Communities.
- Explore traditional practices and their role in healing and resilience.
- Examine the commonalities of IECMHC and traditional practices
- Identify practices and policies to strengthen cultural responsiveness in IECMHC for tribal communities to reduce disparities and support children’s healthy development and learning.

A Framing to Guide Our Conversation

THE GROUNDWATER APPROACH: building a practical understanding of structural racism

Source: Racial Equity Institute (REI), 2018

Fish in the Lake

Source: Racial Equity Institute; Artwork by Jojo Karlin (jojokarlin.com)
Race is NOT biological... It is a social construct, a classification of human beings, that is politically defined.

Racism came before race....
"Racism is the parent and race is the child."
(quote from Ta-Nehisi Coates)

Setting the Stage: Historical and Institutional Racism
Grounding Our Dialogue

Language and Definitions

- Terms: Tribal Communities, Tribal Nations and American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) populations to refer to the first peoples of this land.
- By definition, AI/AN description/title was determined in case law decisions to provide federal funding for tribal nations. ACF and IHS have definitions to use for eligibility.
- AI/AN communities are considered a political group with legal ties to the U.S. government through treaties.

Grounding Our Dialogue (cont.)

Cultural differences and commonalities among Tribal Communities whether living in urban areas, on ancestral lands, or on reservations.

AI/AN Cultural Wisdom Declaration
National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda - 2016

- NTBHA - December 2016
- Gathering of federal and tribal organizations (Indian Health Services, National Indian Health Board, SAMHSA)
- Many tribes collectively acknowledged importance of mental health issues affecting AI/AN
Holding Space

Resilience

Internet dictionary (Google) -
1. the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
2. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity

Merriam-Webster Definition -
1. the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress.
2. an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change

Holding Space (cont.)

- Always pair historical trauma with historical resilience. Shared history of trauma, AND resilience.
- We are still here after hundreds of years of war, genocide, assimilation.

Institution of Assimilation and Genocide
Institution of Assimilation and Genocide

- **Doctrine of Discovery** - 1493
  - Title to lands lay with subjects of a European monarch, not the original inhabitants.


- **Indian Removal Act** - 1830

Navajo Treaty

‘Long Walk of the Navajo: The 1864 Encounter at Hweeldi and its’ Impact on Dinetah’

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f37Ytqe2rio

Boarding Schools 1871 - 1950’s and today

Assimilation

“Kill the Indian, Save the Man”
Captain Richard Henry Pratt, Carlisle Indian School Founder

“Only by complete isolation of the Indian child from his savage antecedents can he be satisfactorily educated.”
John B. Riley
Indian School Superintendent 1886
Dawes Act - 1887

“In 1910 The Department of Interior Sold Under Sealed Bids Allotted Indian Land as Follows:...”
The Snyder Act of 1924 / Voting Rights AZ and NM

1924 - Snyder Act granted U.S. Citizenship for 'Indians'
1948 - Arizona granted voting right for 'Indians'
1962 - New Mexico was last state to grant voting rights

Water rights were given to voting citizens of the U.S. in the early 1900's (settlers, farmers, etc.)

Navajo Nation - Around 30% Navajo homes, no running water.


Indian Termination and Relocation Act 1950's

This law is the reason Urban Indian Centers / Urban Indian Health Centers exist and are funded.

Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act -1975

- Authorized Sec. of Interior, Sec. of Health, Sec. of Education, and other government agencies to enter into contracts with and make grants to federally recognized tribes.

- Many hospitals that were run by the government Indian Health Services are now run by local tribal communities through this Act, called '638 contracts
Indian Child Welfare Act 1978

- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a federal law that seeks to keep American Indian children with American Indian families.

- Congress passed ICWA in 1978 in response to a high rate (25%-33%) of Indian children being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act 1978

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act was enacted to return basic civil liberties, and to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religious rights and cultural practices of American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians.

These rights include, but are not limited to, access to sacred sites, freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites, and use and possession of objects considered sacred.

Institution of Assimilation and Genocide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctrine of Discovery</td>
<td>1493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Removal Act</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776 - 1834</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800 - 1860</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776 - 1860</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snyder Act of 1924</td>
<td>1879 - 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaties</td>
<td>1900 - 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boarding Schools / Dawes Act</td>
<td>1905 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Removal Act</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Termination and Relocation to 1970s Self-Determination</td>
<td>1970 - present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resilience

The resilience found in:
- our culture,
- prayers,
- sacred places in nature,
- ceremonies done today,
  by ancestors
- walking the Red Road / Corn Pollen path
... are the reasons we are still here today.

Source: Racial Equity Institute; Artwork by Jojo Karlin (jojokarlin.com)

Another way to look at: Individuals, Communities, Policy & Legal Systems

Lake water
Fish in the Lake
Individual person
Community, family, location, culture

Ground water
Case law, laws, policies, economic system, colonization, assimilation, internment

Source: Racial Equity Institute; Artwork by Jojo Karlin (jojokarlin.com)

“To show that there is inequity, but not why there is inequity leaves too much open to interpretation. The reality is that we live in a racially structured society. That is what causes inequity.”

– REI, The Groundwater Approach
Reflection

If you are working with a tribal community, how are you considering historical context when delivering IECMHIC?

Data and Research Landscape

data & research

Effects of Institutional Racism for Tribal Communities

- Lack of access to adequate human services and public services.
- Lack of basic infrastructure - roads, water, electricity, internet, cellular service.
- Loss of culture, language, and protective factors.
- Generational effects
Effects of Institutional Racism (cont.)

U.S. Census Bureau statistics reveal that 27% of American Indian and Alaska Native families with children live in poverty. 32% of those with children younger than 5 years live in poverty—rates that are again more than double those of the general population and again are even higher in certain tribal communities (e.g., 66%).

Source: HHS Public Access website, 2009

Effects of Institutional Racism (cont.)

Tribal Early Childhood Data

American Indian and Alaska Native Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)
- Conducted since 1997
- In Regions I-X

American Indian and Alaska Native Family and Child Experiences Survey (AI/AN FACES)
- Began with a multi-year collaborative planning effort
- Conducted in 2015 and 2019

Data available through ICPSR for 2015 AI/AN FACES
Children’s social and emotional skills

Teacher reports show that children have better social skills and more positive approaches to learning when compared to scores in the fall.

Children’s experiences with Native language and culture at home and in the community
Just over half of AI/AN children in Region XI Head Start had parents who reported English only spoken at home.

The majority of AI/AN children in Region XI were in homes where English was the primary language.

Most children’s parents reported they felt it was somewhat or very important for their child to learn a Native language.
Tribal Early Childhood Data

The Narrative: Telling the more nuanced story

Importance of Native language in the face of rapid declines in Native language fluency

"It seems like it is important and helpful to connect language acquisition to health and education outcomes. And not just western medicine health and education outcomes, but to outcomes that are important to respective Tribal communities like knowledge of self, connection to spirituality, knowledge of place and purpose within the community, and connection to beliefs, teachings and practices that created vibrant, healthy communities before western practices and policies hurt our people profoundly. I believe that in our language and culture we find the strength and resiliency that have allowed our people to survive to now. And I think that through that, we will continue to thrive as Tribal Nations."
— Tribal early childhood education program administrator

Making it real...

Discipline: American Indian/Alaska Native Children

13% of AI/AN boys receive out of school suspension

AI/AN children are less than 1% of K-12 enrollment, but make up 9% of corporal punishment cases.
Discipline Continued
Native American Higher Education Collaborative

- CA 2017-18 disciplinary data self-report by schools.
- Native American boys expelled at higher rates than any other student group in CA.
- Rates of suspension and expulsion - 17x to 40x more likely to be disciplined when compared to statewide average.

“There’s always this piece of trying to remove Native people again and again from the data.”
Molly Springer, Report Co-Author

Reflecting on Bias...

IMPLICIT BIAS

...the mental process that causes us to have negative feelings and attitudes about people based on characteristics like race, ethnicity, age and appearance.

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

INTERNALIZED BIAS

...acceptance of external bias by those against whom it is perpetrated.
Implicit Associations... Learned Early...

- Begin early and develop over a lifetime.
- Are experienced through exposure to direct and indirect messages.
- Can become internalized.
- Are actualized at multiple levels: Individual (personal), Interpersonal, and Institutional (systemic).

Reflection

When throughout history, Western education and ways of research suppresses insignificant data, how then do we SEE, VALIDATE, and BEGIN TO ADDRESS disparities and inequities for tribal communities?

Historical, Social, and Cultural Context
Acknowledgement of Protective Factors

For thousands of years before European contact, Indigenous peoples had their own systems of care throughout the lifespan that integrated spirituality and all of nature in the universe. Many still have this way of being.

Doctors
Psychologists
Bone specialists
Midwives
Pharmacists
Forms of governing and justice
Systems of community/family support

Resilience

The resilience found in:
- our culture,
- prayers,
- sacred places in nature,
- ceremonies done today, by ancestors
- walking the Red Road / Corn Pollen path
... are the reasons we are still here today.

Sa’ah Naaghai Bik’eh Hozhoon
Relationships / Kinship Central to Navajo Way of Life

Natural Mental Health system tied into clanship:
- Clanship system, characteristics
- Addressing others through clan relationship
- Someone can establish proper relationship through learning of each others’ clans, could be newly addresses as: mother, father, etc.

Research to Practice Connecting to IECMHC

Personal Story in Resilience and Equity
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

Hajooba’/Ayoo’o’nih
Doing things to
make others happy/help
Understand life / Haashii’o’ kot’eh?
Haala anisht’eh?  Self Identity
Having a connection
/relationship/K’eh
Feeling like you’re
loved/belong
Having WATER, FOOD, SHELTER,
Safety  (K’o’, th, hooghan,
ch’iiyaan)

The Practice of IECMHC

There is emerging
evidence that IECMHC
is a promising disrupter
of bias and disparities.

Everyone brings their wisdom and
learns from one another
Consulative Stance in IECMHC

10 Stances:
1. Maturity of knowledge
2. Avoiding position of sole expert
3. Wondering instead of knowing
4. Understanding another's subjective experience
5. Considering all levels of influence
6. All voices, especially child's voice
7. The centrality of relationships
8. Parallel process as an organizing principle
9. Patience
10. Holding hope

Similar Traditional Navajo Stance/Beliefs:
1. Jit'aa koci' t'iyee
2. Akaa ahayah, doo akadaa daalii da
3. Doo ahataadoodii da. Saad aad ahaalii
4. Wit'ehiizhii doo hajooba
5. Tsii ahchii haanibh baa isiihdo
6. All voices, especially child's voice
7. Tsii twiizhingi, tsii bii bi
8. Parallel process as an organizing principle
9. Patience
10. Neechii Naahaadzi

Case Examples of IECMH Consultation on Navajo Nation

Individual Child
36 mos. old.
Parent consent, PBS, etc.
loss of caregivers
regression, aggression
sleep, eating
Teacher: teacher; students: students

Classroom/Pre-K
Setting up 'talking space' for children.
Teacher shared 'talking' with children,
gave them space to maintain practical role played.
A couple of children used space often.
Before 'talking space,' teacher or aide
would take them into hallway and leave other
adult with all children.
Changed language of 'time-out.' For this
classroom, this worked.

Programmatic
Meeting with Decision Makers (director) of ECE
sites. Provide trainings around several
childhood topics. Child, Early Care
Development, etc.) IECMH Consultant Supports
director so they can support staff who then
support young children's SES development.

IECMHC in Tribal Communities
Voices from the Field

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is something that tribal communities have been practicing for thousands of years.

5 Year Project LAUNCH Grant

- Consultation occurred in early education classrooms.
- Allowed program to bring in cultural teachings and activities to be brought to the community and early education classrooms.
- IECMH Consultant used stories and the culture to teach social-emotional skills.
- Program was well received by the community.

Hundreds of years of challenges can be countered through **relationships**.

IECMHC, evidence-based way to strengthening relationships, building and healing healthy attachments through parallel process.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqurstFL6kl
Hi +dyazzie@swhd.org  Do we have the link to this video for +sy63@georgetown.edu  to download?  
+lgordon@bankstreet.edu

Krystle Canare, 5/27/2020

Possible video for 5 mins

Dawna Yazzie, 5/27/2020

I've included the additional video/slide on the next slide - +dyazzie@swhd.org  
+lgordon@bankstreet.edu  please confirm if we are using

Krystle Canare, 5/27/2020
Where do we go from here?

Recommendations

- All funders, researchers, practitioners, school and early childhood leaders, and federal and state policymakers should partner with tribes and learn about their histories and customs.
- Ensure all federal technical assistance efforts begin with an understanding of the tribes’ history and resiliency, and build on cultural traditions and best practices.
- Ensure all data, across systems, are disaggregated and analyzed by AI/AN, regardless of sample size.

Recommendations (cont.)

- Ensure state IECMHIC systems leaders partner with tribal leaders in developing, expanding, and improving ECMHC services.
- IECMHIC systems leaders should equitably prioritize service expansion to the highest needs communities, including tribes.
- IECMHIC systems leaders should include, as a part of ongoing training reflective supervision, an understanding of the histories, traditional practices, and resiliencies of the tribal communities they work with.
- Ensure all ECMHIC system evaluations and data collection include and consider tribal communities.
- ECMHIC systems leaders should ensure that data tracking to identify and address disparities is a core part of consultants’ work.
All has been restored to beauty and balance again....
Hozhoo Nahasdlii’

Don’t Forget!

How to use a QR Code:
- Open your camera on your Smartphone or Tablet.
- Point your camera at the code as if you were going to take a picture (but don’t snap a picture).
- Once your camera is able to focus on the image, it will prompt the associated content on the top of the phone which you can then tap.

Please complete the survey that will pop-up at the end of this webinar.
Thank you!

Open Discussion and Q&A
Open Discussion

Join us for a 30 minute Q&A immediately following the end of the webinar.

Open Discussion Q&A

THANK YOU!
CONNECT WITH US!

www.iecmhc.org
IECMHC@Georgetown.edu
@IECMHC