

1/22/2009

Oklahoma Tribal State Relations Workgroup

History

In 2005 the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) became the host agency for the Transformation State Incentive Grant (TSIG), an infrastructure grant to transform the Oklahoma care-giving systems into more consumer-driven and recovery-oriented programs. Please take a detailed look at Oklahoma's Comprehensive Plan: Implementation Summary at <http://www.okinnovationcenter.org/> to find out where Oklahoma currently is with implementing transformation efforts.

Tribal Workgroup

In 2006 The Governors Transformation Advisory Board (GTAB) was formed, it is the board appointed by Governor Henry to oversee TSIG and is chaired by Governor Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation. That same year GTAB requested the Tribal State Relations Workgroup to be formed. This effort was informed by the Technical Assistance provided by Holly Eco-Hawk and in collaboration with the Oklahoma Children's Mental Health collaborative simultaneously being formed.

Purpose

To make recommendations and provide insight for Oklahoma Transformation as it relates to all behavioral health service needs. It also serves as a monthly point of contact for tribal state relations and information forum between entities and individuals.

Accomplishments

- Established a monthly Tribal and State workgroup to address all behavioral services needs, January, 2007.
- Reviewed "Practice-Based-Evidence: To build indigenous services and supports" A proposal prepared by Dr. Dee Bigfoot and Dr. Jamie Bartgis.
- Holly Echohawk and Associates provided evaluation and recommendation from Tribal Work group, presentation to GTAB.
- Voting slot for SOC executive team.
- Encouraged Tribal Liaison position as one of the transformation positions to be hired. Fulfilled position August 2008, Cortney Yarholar.

Current Priorities

- Develop strategic plan to integrate traditional healing practices/interventions as reimbursable services through Medicaid
- Address contract language to be more respectful and honoring of tribal sovereignty
- Develop ODMHSAS Tribal Consultation Policy

Oklahoma Tribal Children's Mental Health Collaborative

History

In 2005, Indian Health Care Resource Center (IHCRC) was awarded a Circles of Care (CoC) grant to plan a system of care for urban American Indian youth in Tulsa, Oklahoma. IHCRC CoC and the Oklahoma System of Care (SOC) began more formal discussion about cultural competency and treatment for American Indian youth across the state. The first of these discussions was held at a **State-Tribal Meeting** facilitated by Holly Echo-Hawk during the Oklahoma SOC's Annual Children's Behavioral Health Conference in April of 2006. This meeting was attended by Oklahoma SOC and Oklahoma Transformation Grant representatives as well as representatives from tribal communities and Indian programs. The major feedback from the communities was 1) that American Indian youth and their families are suffering, 2) there have been historically strained relationships between the tribes and the state, and 3) that the state needs to "come to our communities" to see the context and conditions in which American Indian youth live.

From this meeting, the Oklahoma SOC recognized a lack of tribal voting membership in the by-laws and began to examine ways to improve representation. IHCRC CoC agreed to organize and facilitate monthly conference calls funded by the Oklahoma SOC. The first monthly conference call was held in September of 2006 and this group was later called the Oklahoma Tribal Children's Mental Health Collaborative. This monthly conference call serves as an avenue for tribal communities that are invested in improving children's mental health to learn about state-level activities and provide input to the state's work in children's mental health transformation.

Purpose

In addition to developing mechanisms for policy-level input from American Indian communities on children's mental health issues in the state, the Oklahoma Tribal Children's Mental Health Collaborative works with the state to create opportunities for cultural competency training in communities, addresses access and utilization of services for American Indian youth and their families, and identifies cultural factors in Evidence-Based-Practices with American Indian youth in Oklahoma.

Accomplishments

Since the beginning of the Oklahoma Tribal Children's Mental Health Collaborative in September of 2006, there have been a number of outcomes as a result of the groups work:

- A voting slot for a tribal representative was added to the Oklahoma System of Care State Team. The Collaborative worked to identify a process for electing a representative to speak for American Indian communities at the State Team.
- Holly Echo-Hawk was invited to the Oklahoma to present at the Governor's Transformation Advisory Board. This board unanimously voted to include a **Tribal Workgroup in the state mental health transformation work.**
- The group has drafted a letter in collaboration with the Innovation Center for Governor Bill Anoatubby to send to tribal leaders of all 37 federally recognized tribes requesting a representative to be appointed to the **Tribal Workgroup**. This group continues to be involved in planning for the Tribal Workgroup.
- The group drafted a letter to the ODMHSAS requesting that specific questions regarding cultural competence and tribal government be included in the interview questions for Oklahoma Mental Health Commissioner candidates.

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Representation on the Monthly Conference Calls

The following tribes, Indian organizations/programs, state, and federal entities have had representation on at least one of the monthly calls since September of 2006.

Tribes:

Muscogee Creek Nation
Choctaw Nation
Chickasaw Nation
Cherokee Nation
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes
Sac and Fox Nation
Caddo
Wichita
Absentee Shawnee
Citizen Pottawatomie

Indian Organizations/Programs:

Oklahoma Area Indian Health Services Office
Chickasha Native American Division Disability Program
Oklahoma City Indian Clinic
Indian Country Child Trauma Center, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa
American Indian Institute, College of Continuing Education
Wichita Tribal youth program

State:

Oklahoma System of Care, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS)
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
Innovation Center Transformation Grant, ODMHSAS
Office of Juvenile Affairs

National:

Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Echo-Hawk and Associates