



2017 TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ANNUAL CONSULTATION CONFERENCE

APRIL 23-27, 2017 | SPOKANE CONVENTION CENTER-SPOKANE, WA
PROGRESSIVE PARTNERSHIPS: INVESTING IN TRIBAL NATION BUILDING

Recorder Form

Onsite Contact Jackie Eagle 918-520-6334

Recorder: Jackie Eagle

Date: 4/26/17

Session Title: Partnering to Measure Successful Health Outcomes

Panelists:

Cindy Gamble, Tribal Liaison, Partnerships for Native Health, Washington State University

Lonnie A. Nelson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Washington State University College of Nursing

Summary of Issues and Items Discussed:

Cindy Gamble: IREACH is a community based research initiative. IREACH's vision and approach are very similar to that of this year's conference. Partnerships are important and they recognize that Tribes have to be involved. They're goal is to improve the health of AI/AN through research partnerships with Tribal communities. Currently have 30 active partnership sites. Community is an important aspect of their partnerships and is where the strengths and knowledge lies. Their community partnerships bring more opportunities and resources to the Tribal communities, including cutting edge interventions, training and education, and community capacity building. Although doing research may not be necessary to know what things will improve health in a community, it brings attention to what you're doing and provides the opportunity to share that information with others. A second part of the community partnerships is outreach events. They go into communities and work with the community to identify and organize the kinds of events and outcomes the community would like to see come from the event. They also use these events as opportunities to educate Tribal communities on different health care topics that they aren't familiar with. Investing in and working with Native students is an important aspect of IREACH and they strive to hire Native students to give them the opportunity to work in health research fields. Research is important and how you do that research is important, which means it's critical to work closely with Tribal partners.

Lonnie Nelson: Research is curiosity, but with a structure and a function. When looking at health research among AI/AN there are many social determinants that play a role. Some of these include family circumstances, culture, food security, housing, poverty, and education. In North Dakota there is a 12 year difference in life expectancy between AI/AN. Mr. Nelson overviewed examples of IREACH's projects. These projects focus on the community and what they want to research, rather than just the disparities that exist. The goal of these projects is to find interventions that aren't economically taxing on the Tribal community. By performing these research projects and studies, they have been able to identify how health issues specifically affect AI/AN and the interventions that would best help to improve healthcare. Additionally, they can then implement and evaluate those identified interventions to document the effects and how well they will work. Since the priority is to identify effective interventions that aren't economically taxing, if they are successful, they can be used to prevent more costly possibilities. Mr. Nelson then discussed the approaches and process for performing an economic analysis in relation to quality of life. IREACH has established an initiative that recruits, trains, and intensively mentors AI/AN with the goal of training independent AI/AN researchers. Mr. Nelson then overviewed the outcomes of this initiative, to date.

Questions from the Audience:

1. Do you have to test Native communities outside those involved in the project before you can expand it them? Yes
2. What is the education requirement for the Independent Researcher Training Initiative? You must have a doctoral degree.
3. What are the key indicators a community should concentrate on when trying to be more effective in addressing the needs of their community while still maintaining the level, integrity, and accessibility of the research? Perhaps the Investigator program would be the way to do that? If there is someone in your community that qualifies for the Investigator program, we encourage you to send them for training.
4. Is/could your study on cerebrovascular be applied to Native veterans? Currently, there is a program at Arizona State University that is working with Native veterans and looking into using telemedicine to address the needs of and provide care to Native veterans in rural areas.

Follow Materials, Documents, Websites for Reference:

PowerPoint Presentation Titled: "Community-Engaged Health Research in Indian Country," which will be available on the Self-Governance Communication & Education website: tribalsegov.org.