

Native Interest Group Meeting

2.26.15

Melanie Nadeau, American Indian Public Health Resource Center (AIPHRC) welcomed group and introduced herself. An interest survey was set out but paper copies are available. Introductions of those present were completed.

American Indian Public Health Resource Center

An introduction to the AIPHRC was given. The AIPHRC's website is

http://www.ndsu.edu/centers/american_indian_health/

Two of the four AIPHRC project managers were present and reported on what is currently being worked on within their area.

Anita Brock, Policy Project Manager is working on ACA and Medicaid expansion at the tribal level. These two resources are under-utilized within the tribal population and would allow more options for healthcare. At the state legislative level, Senate Bill 2321 was introduced for accrediting community health workers (CHW) on tribal lands. This would allow the CHW program to be billable under Medicaid, to support people within their home settings. The other bill which would benefit the ND tribal nations is Dental Health Aid (HB 1441). This bill is if passed would allow the services of a federal or tribal certified dental health aide therapist within Indian health practice settings and exempt dental health aide therapists from state licensing requirements.

Hannabah Blue: Services Project Manager is working on capacity building and technical assistance with the tribes. Tribes have expressed concerns about each tribal entity having its own data and the data being isolated. Work will begin on streamlining their data services to facilitate communication among the tribal entities.

AIPHRC Graduate Assistants: Amber Cardinal – GA is working on her Master of Public Health and is from the MHA. She assists the services project manager. Petra One Hawk – GA from Standing Rock and her passions are the Lakota language and access to healthy foods. Petra assists with research and education. Ruth Buffalo – GA from MHA Nation and is working on her third master degree. She assists with policy.

ND Tribes

The ND tribes are Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Spirit Lake Tribe Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara (MHA) Nation, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. There is a fifth reservation, Sisseton Wahpeton Reservation which holds some land in ND, but has no towns in North Dakota.

Discussion Points

One of the main reasons that this group was proposed is due to NDSU having a long relationship with the tribes and working with tribal citizens. The group is meant to make connections with others who are interested in and working with tribes, and to streamline the efforts. As well as improve relationships between NDSU and the tribes. If anyone is working on a project with tribal members/ entities, linkage is important. The group could ensure that members know each other, what work is being done, provide support and ensure communication.

Survey results were shared. It is a diverse and interdisciplinary group and can be viewed within the slide presentations.

Suggestions by the group.

1. Salish Kootenai College, located in Pablo, MT, hosted the American Indigenous Research Conference. This was suggested by one of the members as a resource.
<http://www.ncai.org/events/2014/10/10/salish-kootenai-college-american-indigenous-research-association-annual-meeting>
2. It was suggested that there be coordination with UND and NDSU for research and work with tribes.
3. UND has 31 programs that assist Native American students. NDSU has much work to do to increase the draw for and support of Native American students. Support needed, includes wrap around services, a Native American center at NDSU, as well as curriculum. A Native American Student Center is being sought by a staff and faculty at NDSU and has been approved by the student senate.
4. There are definable struggles identified by most native students and are different concerns than other students. Support for these students needs to occur.
5. There are consequences of science which negatively impacts tribal communities and work must be done to repair relationships.
6. To work with the tribes, there must be an understanding the trauma of the people, their history and their communities. Tribal entities and people need to be approached using culturally sensitive techniques.
7. The Center would like to assist with a holistic approach to working with tribes.
8. A presentation can be done about boarding schools and the impact that this action has had on tribal members. This will occur at the next scheduled meeting on March 27
9. A reading list can be developed to assist in understanding tribal background, autonomy and needs. This will be developed and listed within AIPHRC's resource list. See website address.
10. A listserv can be completed if this is acceptable with the members. In future, it may be possible to record these meetings.
11. It was suggested that meetings be placed on the calendar for the next six months to assist with planning.
12. Survey monkey will be used for formatting, activities, and gathering input on how the group moves forward.

Next meeting is March 27 from 11:30-1:00 within the Memorial Union.