

Elder Abuse within Tribal Communities

Tribal Coordinated Response

What is a Tribal Coordinated Response

Tribes have worked together cooperatively for many years. Native societies needed a high level of cooperation to survive (e.g., obtaining sufficient food, protection of the people). American Indians and Alaska Natives place value on the importance of the group rather than on the individual (SAMHSA, 2019), which is central to the role of a coordinated community response (CCR). The focus of change is not on the individual worker, it is about changing what organizes and coordinates workers to think and act. (Pence, 2001)

A Tribal Coordinated Community Response (TCCR) should be a blending of the Duluth-Model CCR while centering traditional ways of seeing the world, including how the Tribe practices their values and beliefs.



Tribal Values to Include in the TCCR Work



Respect for Elders and their autonomy: Honor the value Elders have, their lived experiences and desire to be independent.



Cooperation and harmony: Work together to address challenges and work together with shared understandings and effort.



Humility: Recognize the knowledge and expertise of peers, and be open to learning new ideas and approaches.



Respect for tradition and spiritual practice: Include practices to bring strength, healing, and caring to the work together.



A Tribal Coordinated Community Response (TCCR) serves as an effective approach to transform the conditions in our communities that enable abuse in later life by reforming the systems addressing domestic violence.

A central part of the work is to ensure Elders are safe from abuse, and that those engaged in harm are held accountable for their abuse.

The TCCR will work over time to build standardized practices that produce the best outcomes for Elders and that are

conducted in a way that addresses long-term harm and incorporates Tribal lifeways to foster recovery from abuse and promotes healing.

Implementing this work within a Tribal framework is crucial, as it guarantees that the TCCR effectively impacts the Tribal community. The efforts involved in the TCCR are challenging and demand patience and perseverance. Over time, the community will recognize and appreciate the positive outcomes resulting from the TCCR's dedicated work.



Oral traditions remain a most important way of developing trust, sharing information, strategies, advice, contacts, and ideas.

— Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*

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