

Lobby Chat Question

What makes you excited about Youth Evaluation?





Pacific Southwest (HHS Region 9)

PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Youth Engaged Evaluation

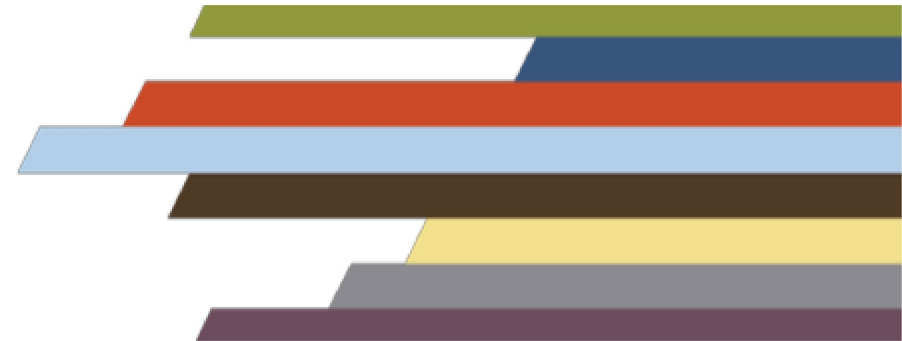
A webinar about bringing youth into the circle of evaluation

April 17, 2025

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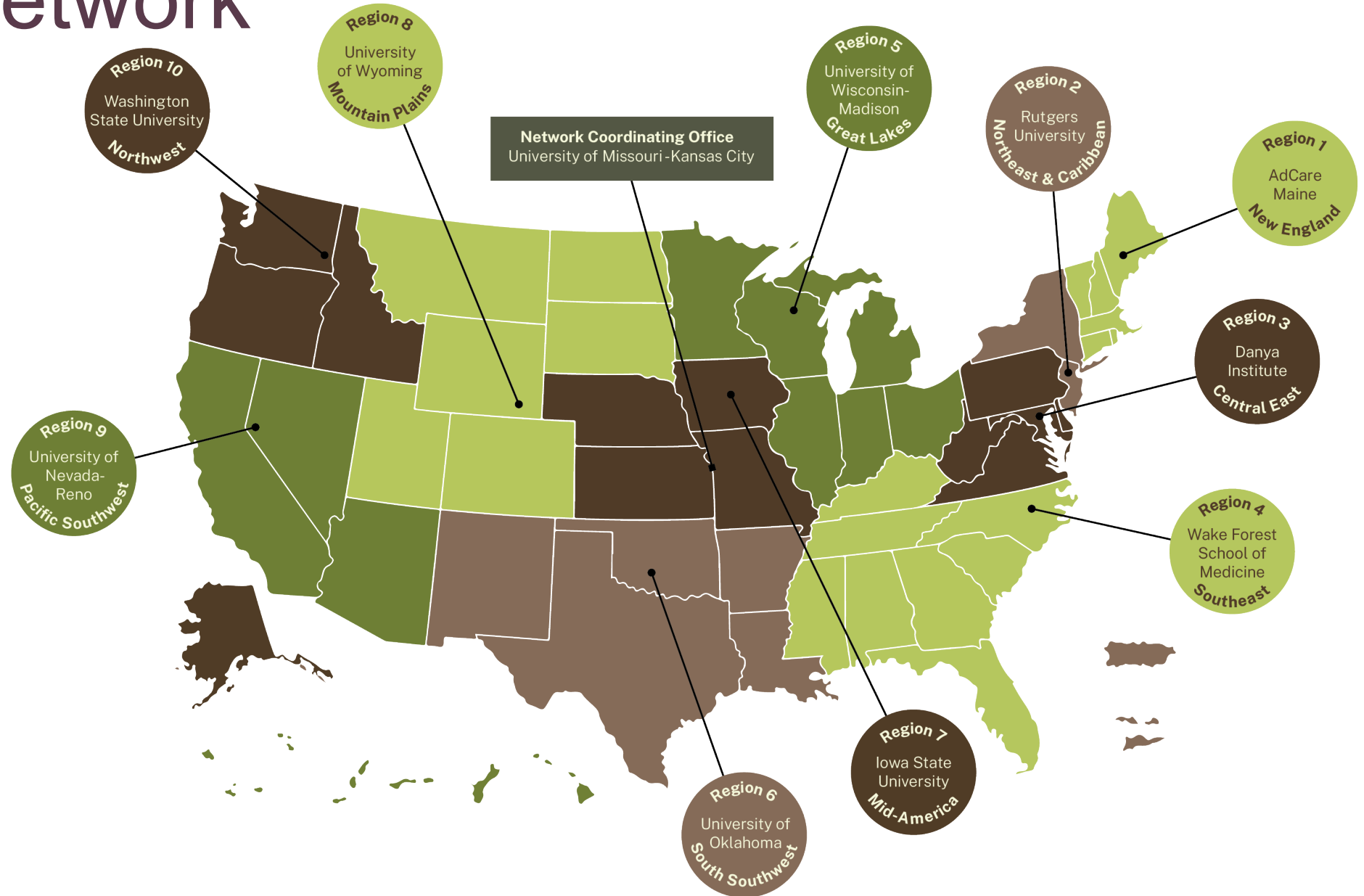
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PTTC Network



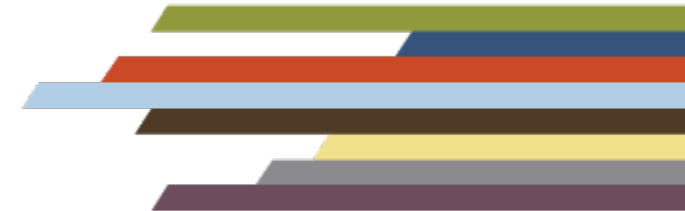
Purpose of the TTCs

1

Develop and strengthen the **workforces** that provide substance use disorder and mental health disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

2

Help people and organizations incorporate **effective practices** into substance use and mental health disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services.



PTTC Network Approach

The PTTCs...

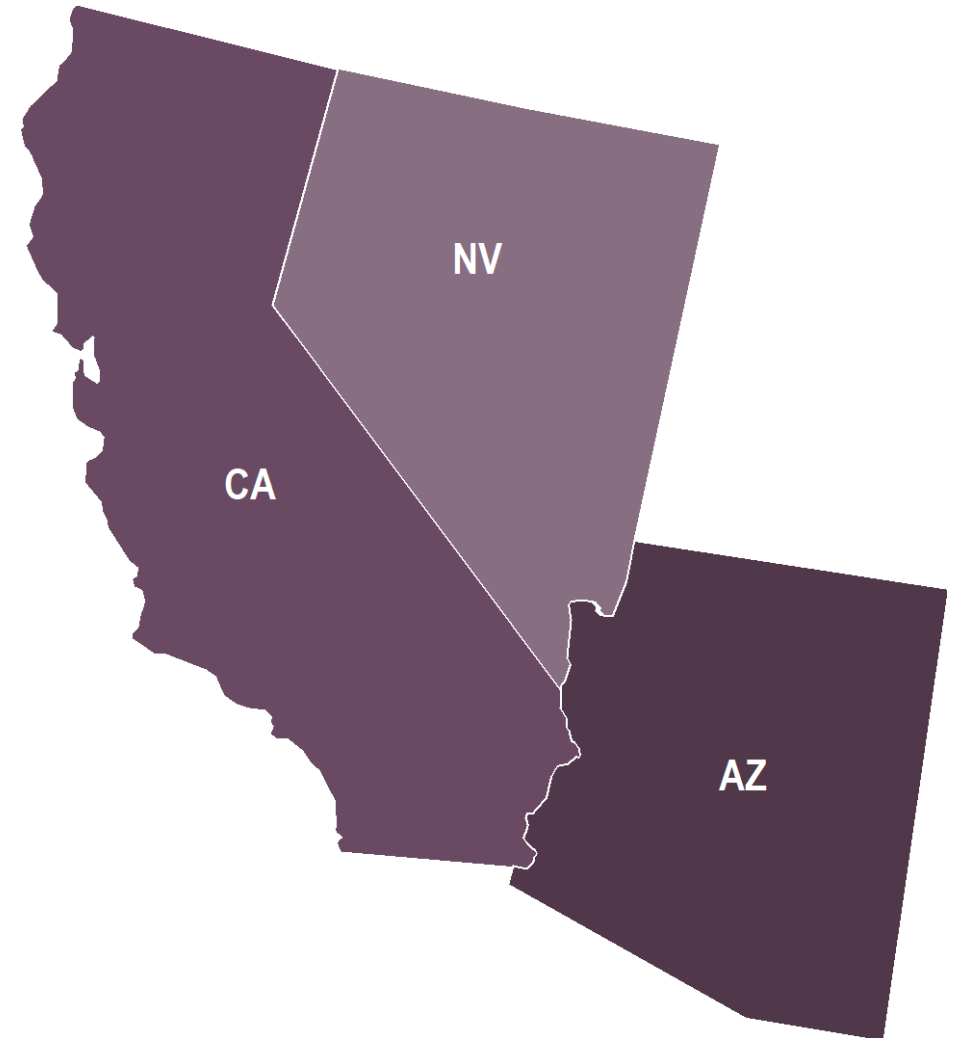
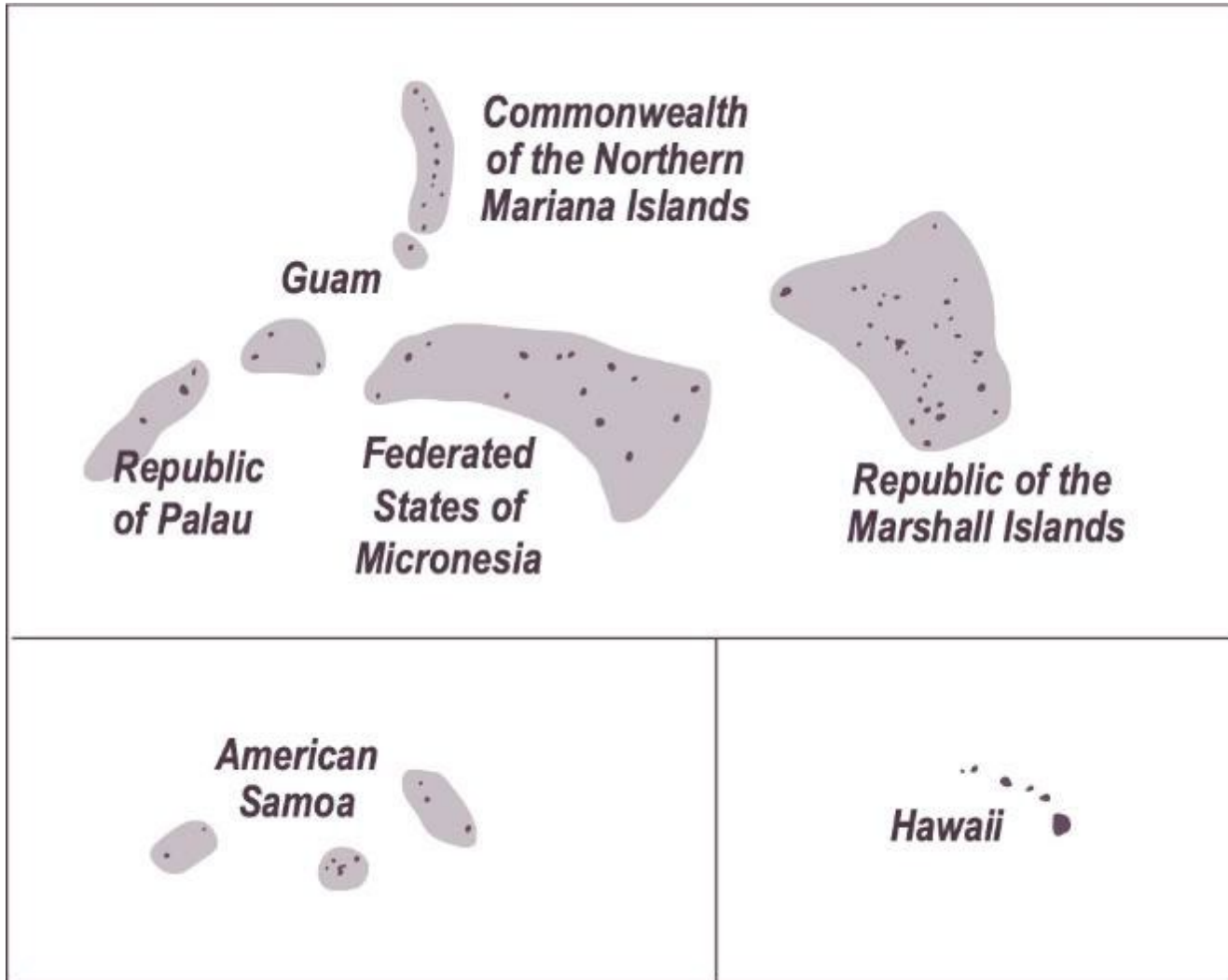
Develop and disseminate tools and strategies needed to improve the quality of substance abuse prevention efforts

Provide training and resources to prevention professionals to improve their understanding of

- prevention science,
- how to use epidemiological data to guide prevention planning, and
- selection and implementation of evidence-based and promising prevention practices.

Develop tools and resources to engage the next generation of prevention professionals

Pacific Southwest



Housekeeping

- Chat feature
- Q&A feature
- Webinar recording and materials
- Certificates of attendance





Youth Engaged Evaluation:

A session about bringing youth
into the circle of evaluation



AKA

Allyson Kelley &
Associates,
PLLC.

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Bethany Fatupaito, MPH
Sadie Posey, BS



Topics of Discussion



Conceptualizing evaluation with youth at the table



Applying Indigenous values to youth engaged evaluation work



Sharing examples from youth engaged evaluation

Learning Objectives

Describe the importance of youth voice



Discuss the participatory process of collecting information with and from youth



Explain how to engage youth in evaluation



Discuss the implications of youth engaged evaluation

Our Teachers



AKA

The common thread linking our clients and team is **transformation** and **healing**.



- Education
- Treatment
- Recovery
- Prevention
- Balance
- Wellness

Kahoot

Indigenous Youth Engaged Evaluation Framework



What's the difference?


Indigenous Evaluation

- A method of evaluation based on Indigenous ways of knowing, being, feeling, and doing
- A subjective experience, it cannot be standardized
- Learning from thoughtful reflection and assessment – values are central to the mission

Youth Engaged

- Bringing youth into the circle of evaluation work
- Elevating their perspectives
- Asking them what matters and what to measure
- Usually involves people between the ages of 5 and 20

Varying Levels of Youth Involvement



Youth Involvement	Process
Highest	Youth-led evaluation is part of the organizational planning cycle; Experienced youth act as peer trainers and are paid for their time.
High	Youth participate in evaluation design, data collection, and analysis; Youth report findings, implement change.
Medium-High	Youth design and administer instruments; Staff analyze results, develop findings, and implement changes.
Medium-Low	Youth give input on the process and planning the evaluation.
Low	Youth collect data.
Very Low	Information is collected from youth.
None	Outside adult conducts research without collecting information directly from youth.

Discuss: Big Questions

- How much data do we need to collect?
- What level of involvement do we want from youth?
- Will learning be evaluated separately?
- What do we really want to know? Did this work? Why does this program matter?

What is the most important evaluation question/impact that we want to know?



**How do you define
Youth Engaged
Evaluation?**

Being Intentional – Engaging Youth in Evaluation

What would it look like if you were asked to engage youth in evaluation?

- Where would you find them?
- What would you pay them?
- What would you ask them?
- Why might they be important to engage?

Youth engaged evaluation is about stories, integrity, and relevance.

- UIHI, Building the Sacred (Polansky & Eco-Hawk, 2021)
- Reframing Evaluation: Defining an Indigenous Evaluation Framework (LaFrance & Nichols, 2010)
- Medicine Wheel Teachings, Balance, Recovery (Kelley et.al., 2015)
- Evaluation in Rural Communities (Kelley, 2018)

Questions & Language Matter*



We asked participants to circle a RezDog that describes how they feel based on adapted statements from the Native PRIDE Sources of Strength scale. Agreements below reflect the percentage of participants who circled a smiling RezDog with hearts for eyes.



89% have family who cares about them.

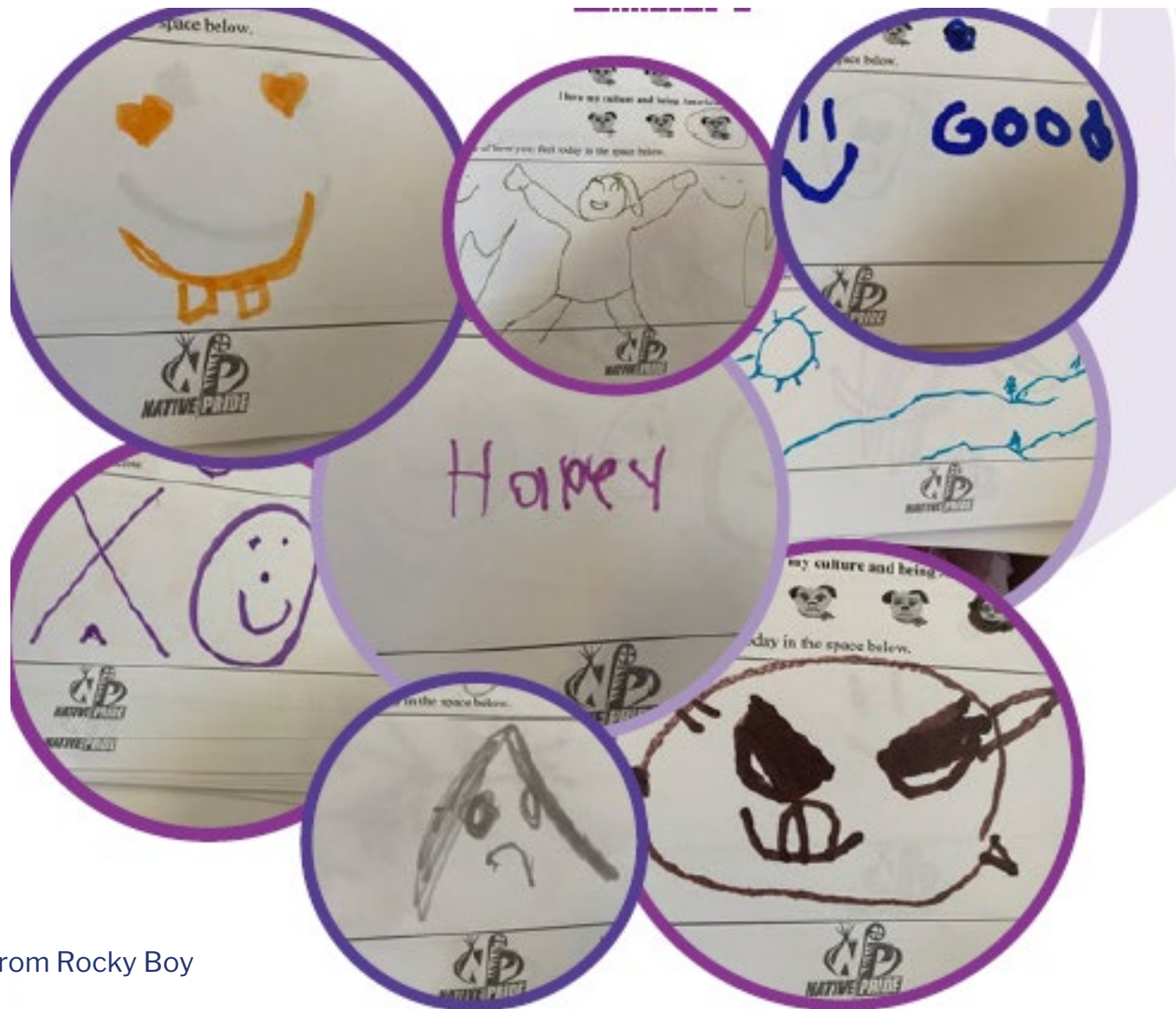
87% keep busy with healthy activities like sports, music, art, and culture.

85% have adults who care about them.

83% help others.

59% have friends who make good choices.

Draw a picture of how you feel right now.



Example used with permission from Rocky Boy Health Dept and Native PRIDE

AKA Youth Engaged Evaluations

Doya Natsu Healing Center
Horse Culture

Fort Peck 32nd Annual Youth
Leadership Conference

NPAIHB NARCH Public Health
Research Academy



Next Generation of Evaluators

- NPAIHB NARCH Public Health Research Academy
- Shared with youth the purpose of evaluation
- Practiced evaluation methods





SBRRC NDO IHS SAMHSA NATIVE PRIDE



METHODS USED TO CREATE STORIES



GOALS

- End cycles of poverty and trauma
- Fun activities available for all
- People are accountable
- Cultural practices, positive identity, and empowerment help us reach our goals

VALUES

- Be Positive
- Focus on Education
- Practice Spirituality
- Embrace Native culture
- Be a Mentor
- Sustain Efforts
- Have Humility
- Embrace Courage
- Be Respectful
- Model Healthy Relationships

AKA ELDERS CURRICULUM CULTURE



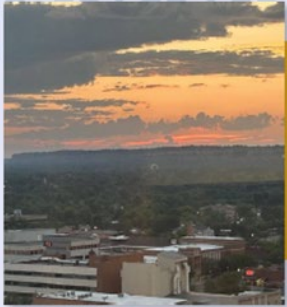
This is a living evaluation model of how we approach our work, the values we uphold, and the shared goals we are working toward. For more information visit www.spottedbull.org

Summer Evaluations with Youth in Communities

- In-person data collection (surveys)
- Online surveys (Qualtrics)
- Photos
- Videos
- Qualitative Reflections
- Storytelling
- Reflection
- Trainings & Evaluation Capacity Building for Youth



Youth Led Evaluation Examples



I was taking a picture of the sky, and it made me feel happy and grateful for how pretty the world is.

I was getting a Navajo Burger; it make me feel very excited because my mom always talked about how good Navajo fry bread is.



We met Supa Man, and we felt good.

Group 2 Report

One day we all got onto a bus and we all traveled together to a city called Billings. We all met on August 14, 2023. The next day we were all put into a group, we are the rez rockets. We all might be different in age (17,42,10,14,15) but we are all from Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. Some have dreams to be in the medical field or the military and retirement, and be batman. We all are ready to depart in different directions. Most of us are unsure of feeling and life.

85% of youth **believe that the Creator loves** and cares about them.

- 75% of youth rate their spirituality as good or extremely good.
- 75% believe they can do challenging things.
- 70% of youth were hopeful about the future.
- 50% of youth agree or strongly agree they look for creative ways to alter difficult situations at baseline.

The top sources of strength overall

- #1 Caring Adults**
I feel I have good, caring relationships with adults who truly care about me.
- #2 Healthy Activities**
I feel I keep involved in healthy activities like sports, music, art, teams, and organizations.
- #3 Family**
I feel my family cares about me, spends time with me, and is strong support for me.
- #4 Culture and Community**
I feel connected to my culture and community.

The top wellness concerns that youth may experience

- #1 Depression and Anxiety/Alcohol and Drug Use**
- #2 Suicide**
- #3 Physical Appearance/How You Look**



Lessons from Youth Led Evaluation

- Multiple methods work best.
- We don't need to evaluate everything.
- Good things take time.
- In-person works best.
- We are storytellers.
- Evaluation is part of the history and library of knowledge that will help our community heal.



Reflections for Youth Engaged Evaluation

How does your program engage in evaluation?



Does your work reflect youth voices?



How do you create spaces and programs for youth?

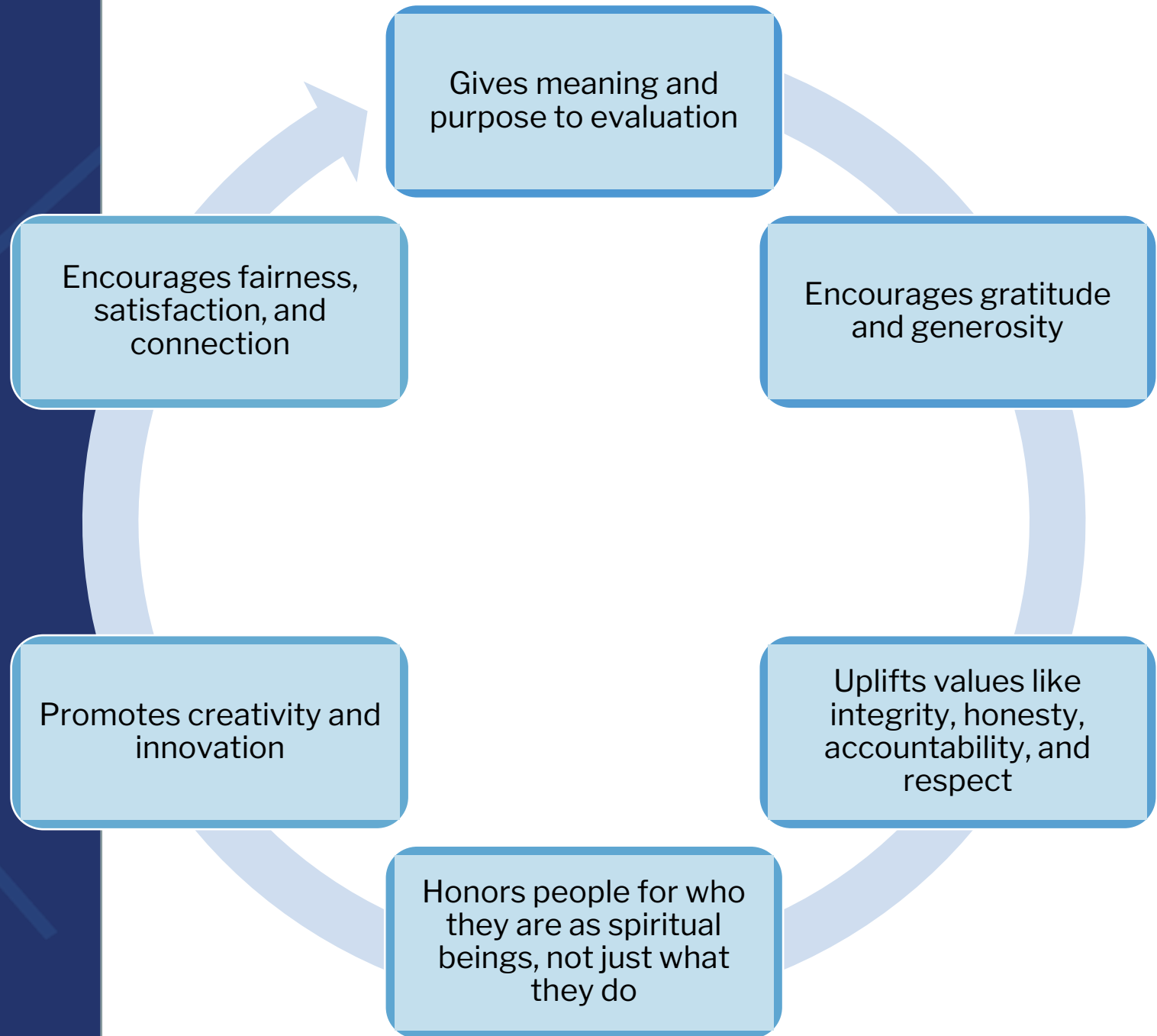


How does youth led evaluation help you tell your story?



What stories can you tell us today?

Implications for Youth Led Evaluation in our Lives



Final thoughts

Youth want to be involved and are capable of collecting data and adding much value to each of our programs.

Youth engaged evaluation will always bring a unique and meaningful perspective to our work.

Cultural values, lived experiences, and connections cultivate meaning and future stories that teach us how to live.

We are storytellers. We are thinkers. We are survivors. We want our lives to have meaning and honor. We want to show others our sacredness. We can do this through Youth Led Evaluation. There are many paths and there is no wrong way to tell your story.

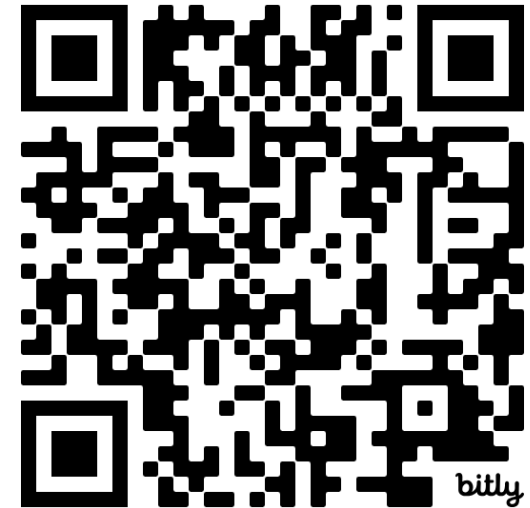
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Youth Matter!

Scan to view more info about
Our Evaluations

bit.ly/3Y3DNVF



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Post-Webinar Feedback

Please click on the link in the chat to complete a very brief online feedback form!

Thank you!



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Thank You!



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