



Integrating Care: Traditional Practices in Behavioral Health Programs

As mentioned previously, the American Indian and Alaska Native perspective on healing is holistic. In addition to integrating primary health care and other social services into your program, it is critically important to integrate traditional healing practices and healers into your behavioral health services for American Indian and Alaska Native clients. Likewise, you need to determine what tribal practices to include in American Indian and Alaska Native clients' treatment and recovery plans and evaluate what benefit might be expected from them. This section contains an administrative tool, a Tribal Practice Approval Form, which can help you with this task.

The Oregon Addictions & Mental Health Division (n.d.) has created a process for approving evidence-based tribal practices. The application form and instructions can help you identify, evaluate, and monitor American Indian and Alaska Native cultural and healing practices unique to your tribal community that you might want to include in your behavioral health service program.

OREGON ADDICTIONS & MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS TRIBAL PRACTICE APPROVAL FORM

1. Name of Tribal Practice _____
2. Brief Description _____

3. Other Examples of This Tribal Practice (*Replications*)

4. Evidence Basis for the Tribal Practice: Historical/Cultural Connections
 - Longevity ("*Grandmother test*") _____
 - Teachings on which practice is based _____
 - Values incorporated in practice _____
 - Principles incorporated in practice _____
 - Elder's approval of practice ("*three elderly women test*") _____
 - Community feedback/evaluation of practice _____
5. Basic Problems (or Goals) Addressed by This Tribal Practice

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