

## YTWC Monthly Meeting Notes – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Attendees: 37**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Role</b>
Annelia Hillman	Yurok Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Project Outreach Manager, Meeting Facilitator
Alanna Nulph	Yurok Tribal Court (YTC)	SDVCJ Project Coordinator & Paralegal, Presenter
Daniel Norton Luna	YTC	Community Outreach Specialist, Hoh-ke-pek' program, Presenter
Kendall Allen-Guyer	YTC	To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-wo-chek' Project Manager, Presenter
Lila Knott	YTC	Community Outreach Specialist, Presenter
Ethan Makulec	Yurok Tribe Wellness Coalition (YTWC)	AmeriCorps VISTA, Notetaker
Amanda Ammon	Yurok Tribe Office of Self-Governance (OSG)	Assistant Director
Ashley Gephart	Humboldt County DHHS – Public Health	Program Coordinator
Aurelia Robbins	Yurok Health & Human Services (YHHS)	Youth Prevention Specialist, Noh-sue-no-wow' program
Ben Moradi	YTWC	AmeriCorps VISTA
Caleb Hare	Bear River Band Tribal Courts - Victim Services Program	Victim Advocate
Casey O'Neill	Yurok Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	Housing Community Navigator
Cecilia Moore	YHHS	Prevention Specialist, Noh-sue-no-wow' program coordinator
Elizabeth Thurston	United Indian Health Services (UIHS)	Health Promotion & Education Specialist, Ko'l Ho koom' Mo project
Henry Solares	Yurok Planning and Community Development Department	Grant Writer/Planner II
Jeri Robertson	Housing manager, Tolowa Dee-ni' nation	Housing Manager
Jessica Carter	YTC	Tribal Court Director
Jessica Cedillo	YTC	Wellness Administrative Assistant
Kese McQuillen	YHHS	Youth Prevention Specialist, Noh-sue-no-wow' program
Kim Mamaradlo	YTC	YOVA Community Outreach Specialist
Kirsti Alberti-Valles	Tobacco Free Humboldt	Youth Coalition & Community Engagement Coordinator
Lau-Lei Lawrence	Yurok Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (YOAYI)	Prevention Specialist
Laura Woods	Yurok Tribal Court (YTC)	Community Outreach Specialist
Lizzie Moore	Yurok Tribe Public Health Department (YTPHD)	Intern
Lori Nesbitt	YTC	Opioid Program Manager
Madison Green	Client Services Department (CSD)	Director
Marie Decora	YTC	Wellness Outreach Counselor
Melinda Escarcega	YTC	Adult Wellness Case Manager
Naome Workman	Del Norte County Behavioral Health	Program Coordinator
Rebecca Green	Department of Health & Human Services	Unspecified
Rob England	United Indian Health Services (UIHS)	Tribal Public Health Director
Ron Bates	YTC	Reentry Case Worker
Rosemary Deck	Yurok Tribe Executive Department	Prosecutor
Sarah Nelson	Humboldt County Public Health	Administrative Assistant
Shayna McCullough	YTC, Youth At-Risk Program	Youth Case Worker
Shirley Cain	JPS International	Technical Expert Lead
Tamara Honrado	Yurok Health & Human Services (YHHS)	Deputy Executive Director

## **MMIW Presentation – Kendall Allen-Guver & Alanna Nulph**

- To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' – "I will see you again in a good way"
- MMIW: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women
  - Movement advocating for the end of violence against native women and hoping to draw attention to the high rates of missing native women. Inclusive to men, boys, and two-spirit people.
- This issue goes back to colonial times, and it has been called both an epidemic and a crisis.
  - The issue is not just violence, but also the failure of people to acknowledge it and the failure of institutions to track and properly address it.
- Research shows that violence against AI/AN women in the US is a crisis, but without more comprehensive data, the full extent of the problem is unknown.
- Humboldt county has the highest rates of MMIW in the state, but these numbers are from 1932-2019, and we are missing both data from pre-1932 and data from since the tribes have been able to make more of an effort to track it themselves.
  - Since the Yurok tribe began tracking, the numbers have been seen to be much worse.
  - Many native people are not able to identify a single location where they feel safe, and almost every native woman has experienced some form of violence.
- Humboldt county has the highest missing person rate in the state, roughly twice the average state amount, including more densely populated areas like San Francisco/other major cities.
- To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' project was started by Yurok tribal court to improve the outcomes of MMIW cases. Aims to establish a more effective system of investigation, as well as an enhanced level of protection for native women, girls, and two-spirit people in CA.
- The tribe has contracted with Dr. Blythe George, Dr Jessica elm, and Ms. Nan Benally to collaboratively compile & analyze data with court staff on past & ongoing MMIWG2 cases.
- Remembering some of the many missing women: Natasha Steele, Sumi Juan, Andrea "Chick" White, Emilee Risling, Angela McConnell, Katauna Whisenant.
- In July 2020 & 2021 the Yurok Tribal court released an annual progress report on this paradigm shifting project to improve response to MMIWG2 cases, which included working with national databases that track missing persons.
  - According to research, approximately 62% of MMIW cases are not documented in national missing persons databases.
- What is Human Trafficking? Act + Means + Purpose = Human Trafficking
  - Not necessarily kidnapping. Can be compared to modern-day form of slavery, can be sex trafficking, forced/unpaid farm or factory labor, and more. Includes actions taken to protect or assist human traffickers.
- Trafficking on Tribal Lands: In dearly December 2021, the tribe and MMIW project was made aware of human trafficking attempts in the past two weeks on the Yurok reservation.
  - In response to this, MMIW project put out statement of tips for how to stay safe/protect yourself, including: screen friend requests, avoid drugs and alcohol, maintain close personal connections as traffickers try to isolate individuals from friends and family.

- Identifying sample trafficking ads: Many such will include a woman’s name on flyers so that kids are more likely to trust, and will offer money, “transportation”, etc., so that kids who are desperate for money are likely to respond.
  - It can be hard to monitor social media, but evaluate job offers & friend requests carefully.
- Yurok Tribe has declared a state of emergency, along with several other tribes
  - Tribe and council responded to the trafficking attempts that were made to several mothers who were approached both in Arcata and on the reservation by the same men.
- Goal is to make MMIW something people know about, not something that must be explained
- Lori Nesbitt: When traffickers are done with people, they find that tribal reservations are an easy place to leave them, since we are in the middle of 101 and other trafficking routes.
- Lizzie Moore: who should I talk to to get this data and where are you getting data from?
  - Kendall: We met with many survivors over the course of this program, and researchers have been able to gather tribal affiliation information for some cases. Before we started there were some efforts made to develop this database earlier.
  - Lizzie: State data or local?
    - \* Kendall: both, including Federal data too. What we’ve learned is that some police/law enforcement in Crescent city, and other places, didn’t know and weren’t documenting cases in NAMUS database.
- Madison Green: Thank you for sharing this. When it comes to sharing data between local PD, researched data, etc. how has the working relationship been sharing that data?
  - Kendall: We conduct assessment interviews with people we are working with, and only hesitancy has come from police since they don’t necessarily have legal authority to share.
  - Alanna: Everyone has been willing to share information, but we have encountered hostility getting action/enforcement from police or court orders, for instance with some domestic violence cases.
- Tamara Honrado: what happens with the information shared with MMIW project? How is it being relayed out? What next steps are taken? How are you communicating to the community about how to respond? Are you able to share database/data-sharing agreements?
  - Kendall: That database is open to anyone who needs it if they ask us. We are in year 3 of our grant, and our focus is on getting this information out to this community, which this presentation is a part of.
- Shirley Cain: Part of the reason why federal numbers are lower is that many people are hesitant to report/talk to the feds, so it is very important and good that you are getting these numbers on the local level. Do you have a strategic plan in place to address these issues? As has been mentioned, this is also a domestic violence issue, and a child welfare issue as well.
  - Kendall: With the more recent Emily Risling case it has been easier to see the progress that has been made. But we don’t have the resources for private investigators, cadaver dogs, etc. so we are working on developing an investigative model that other reservations could use, instead of having to reinvent the wheel with each case.

### **YTCW Data Workgroup Progress Check-In – Daniel Norton Luna & Lila Knott**

- Presenting an overview of data workgroup planning since summer strategic planning to update the coalition on the progress we have made on our goals so far.
- Data workgroup goals:

- 1. Develop Broad survey to gather poll data from each district
- 2. Complete 2022 Community Readiness Assessment with focus on adults.
- 3. Report 2021 Yurok Tribal Data Collection Project to Yurok Tribal Council
- 4. Create report about Yurok Tribe Wellness Coalition’s work to share with community.
- 5. Bring data sharing MOU opportunities to Yurok Tribal Council for consideration
- Goal 1: Community Wellness Poll
  - Progress: Focused on collecting data about public safety, substance use disorder, and child protection.
  - Next Steps: organize distribution tactics and write script to cold call members of the community with a phone list. Volunteers needed.
- Goal 2: Community Readiness Assessment
  - Discussed in data workgroup about possible issues and how to define community.
  - Postponing CRA to 2023 to focus on Community Wellness Poll
    - \* This way we can focus on just one data-gathering effort, so people aren’t split between two projects that require a lot of detailed effort to put together.
  - According to our grant, we only have to do a CRA every other year anyway, and we had only been planning to do one every year to keep up the rhythm.
- Goal 3: Sharing data results with Yurok Tribal Council
  - Progress: Invite to Dr. Blythe has been sent to ask if she can present the 2021 tribal data collection project to tribal council.
- Goal 4: Collect YTCWC data
  - Progress: collecting data on notes/attendance from YTCWC coalition meetings and notes/attendance of workgroup meetings.
  - Next steps: keep collecting and expand collecting until we are ready to start reporting back. Open to suggestions on information to be gathered.
- Kirsti: what would be the hours needed for the volunteers?
  - Daniel: we don’t have exact date/times set yet, but probably early march.

### **Scenario Break-Out Room Exercise – Daniel Norton Luna & Annelia Hillman**

- Breakout room discussion activity about how to handle a hypothetical scenario.
  - Hoping that people can immerse themselves in the scenario and focus on what senses they might be experiencing, what smells, sounds, sights, etc.
- First time doing this activity, but we are really excited about it, as it will be thought-provoking at the least, and it will allow us to identify & share the services we know about, but perhaps more importantly also identify the gaps in services needed for certain scenarios.
- “Jerry” Breakout Room
  - Scenario: You are yourself, in Klamath at 10am in the summer. You meet Jerry and learn that he is a 64 year old tribal member living Weitchpec (far away/hard to get to), and was shot by his wife when he was 26, so he has long-term pain and trauma. He is currently addicted to opioids and has been hospitalized from symptoms due to excessive opioid use. He asks if we know how he can get opioids, and if we can give him a ride upriver.

- \* What would Jerry be feeling right now? What do you hear/smell/see? How do you respond to him and what resources might you recommend/give to him?
- Discussion: Jerry is likely feeling in pain/anxious and is looking for relief. Since he lives in a small community, that may make it more difficult to access resources, especially if he knows the service providers in the area personally. A lot of what we decide to do depends on his situation and what position/state he is in, and if know him. If we are driving a GSA, we are not allowed to give people rides. We may not be able to address his desire for opioids but could connect him with elder services or help with housing rehabilitation. Can connect him to United Indian Health, oak valley, or the welfare office which can provide food boxes. If he looks hungry/thirsty, we can buy him snacks, water, deodorant. Mutual aid is important to develop where possible.
- \* Gaps identified: The distance between Crescent City and Klamath can make travel and access to resources more difficult.
- “Sally” Breakout Room
  - Scenario: 28-year-old single mother with two kids under 12. Has torn ligaments in her shoulder from playing softball and has been provided with opioids from UIHS until her surgery in 3 months. She is asking you for help since she needs to detox before the surgery since she has been using prescription and non-prescription opioids in excess, including using a needle a few times. In Willow Creek at 1pm, her lunch break.
  - Discussion: She knows she is going to be in crisis soon and is reaching out for help. We can offer Narcan, resource cards, can help put together a plan to support her kids.
  - \* Gaps identified: People may feel uncomfortable or unequipped to handle and provide services directly themselves, but we can still sit with someone while they call someone or walk them over to a clinic that can help them.
- “Victor” Breakout Room
  - Scenario: 17-year-old approaches you at a gas station in Hoopa at 4:40pm. 2 years ago he broke his ankle by jumping off a cliff at the beach while he was hiking. He has a girlfriend in Eureka who is having a baby, and his opioid medications are in her car at the hospital. He is stranded in Hoopa because there is a road slide.
  - Discussion: Since he is a minor, we should not offer services without parental involvement, even if giving a ride to Eureka does seem like the best option. We should call/contact parents. He may be stressed and in pain since he is without his medications and his girlfriend is having a baby. Can contact Yurok behavioral health, ICWA, and call Alita Redner. Could contact Eleonor Beall with youth wellness court. In Del Norte there is a minor-parent program that works to support parents who are minors that we could direct him to.
  - \* Gaps identified: Public transportation issues, since that is likely why he is having trouble getting to Eureka.
- “Maggie” Breakout Room
  - Scenario: 32-year-old Yurok tribal member working in Eureka. Has no injuries, but her father and brother died in a car accident 10 months ago. It is 7:30am and you are in a work car on your way to participate in a training in Hoopa with her. She starts asking about signs of addiction, if you know anyone addicted to opioids, and if you know where

to get opioids. She tells you to stop at a gas station in Blue Lake and goes to the bathroom with her purse for 30 minutes.

- Discussion: Don't judge a book by its cover, her appearance is not necessarily evidence of drug use, and she is likely grief-stricken. Could be experiencing homelessness and may be considering trying opioids to numb emotional pain. We can ask open-ended questions to determine if grief, substance use, or something else is the cause of her behavior, she could be crying in the bathroom or taking substances. Discuss/offer support groups or counseling options with her. "I know where to get you help, not opioids."
- \* Gaps Identified: There is a needle dispensary at the gas station in Blue Lake, there should be opioid help resources next to that.

**Next Meeting: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 1 – 3pm**