

YTWC Monthly Meeting Notes – October 19th, 2021

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Role
Seth Hasler	Yurok Tribe Wellness Coalition (YTWC)	Meeting Facilitator, AmeriCorps VISTA
Ethan Makulec	YTWC	Meeting Notetaker, AmeriCorps VISTA
Erin Butler	YTWC	Presenter, AmeriCorps VISTA
Daniel Norton Luna	YTC – Hoh-ke-pek’ Program	Presenter, Community Outreach Specialist
Amanda Ammon	Yurok Tribe Office of Self-Governance	Assistant Director
Ashley Gephart	Humboldt Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) – Public Health Branch (PHB)	Program Coordinator
Aurelia Robbins	Yurok Health & Human Services (YHHS) – Client Services Department (CSD) SAMHSA Youth Suicide Program	Youth Prevention Specialist
Bessie Shorty	Yurok Tribal Court (YTC) – Youth At-Risk Program	Program Manager
Cecilia Moore	YHHS-Tribal Child Welfare & Behavioral Health (TCWBH) Youth Opioid Response	Prevention Specialist
Henry Solares	Yurok Planning and Community Development Department	Grant Writer Planner III
Jay Macedo	Tribal Community Coordinating Center	Program Evaluator
Jessica Cedillo	YTC	Wellness Administrative Assistant
Lau-Lei Lawrence	YHHS-CSD Yurok Opioid-Affected Youth Initiative	Prevention Specialist
Lila Knott	YTC	Community Outreach Specialist
Lori Hodge	Yurok Tribal Council	East District Council Member
Lori Nesbitt	YTC	Opioid Program Manager
Madison Green	YHHS-CSD	Director
Marie Decora	YTC	Outreach Counselor
Phil Williams	Yurok Tribal Council	North District Council Member
Rob England	United Indian Health Services	Health Promotion and Education Manager
Sarah Nelson	Humboldt DHHS-PHB Substance Use Prevention	Senior Health Education Specialist
Shirley Cain	JBS International	Technical Assistant
Theresa McQuillen	YHHS-ICWBH	Prevention Specialist
Valerie Ryles	YHHS-ICWBH	Title IV-E Program Manager
William Bowers	YTC	Associate Judge

2020 California Opioid Data Presentation by Erin Butler

- Opioid-related deaths in CA increased significantly over the last 15 years, accelerating particularly in 2019 and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Opioid deaths of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) may be underestimated by over 35% due to frequent misclassification of race/ethnicity in data.
- Deaths are highest for AI/AN populations, but they account for a far lower proportion of overdose related Emergency room visits. Why aren't these people making it to the ER?
 - Phil: Overdoses are triggered by personal pain in people's lives, the best route to address the root of the problem is to help people to ease this pain.
 - Lori N: Transportation is an issue for many, and non-trust of non-native people/agencies.
 - Madison: Lack of reporting tools in rural Indian country directly impacts reported data.
- Humboldt and Del Norte have two of the highest opioid prescription rates in the state, though prescription rates have dropped substantially in the last 10 years, so progress is being made.
 - California: 330 opioid prescriptions per 1000 people. Humboldt County: 562.2 prescriptions per 1000 people. Del Norte County: 526.6 prescriptions per 1000 people.
 - California: 21,104 opioid pills prescribed per 1000 people. Humboldt County: 41,040 pills per 1000 people. Del Norte County: 61,104 pills per 1000 people.
 - * 95548 (Klamath) – 47,793 pills, 95546 (Hoopa): 93,227 pills per 1000 people.
- Madison: Part of the cause for these numbers is a lack of medical staff and long-term care in rural Indian country, resulting in staff providing short-term treatment with opioid prescriptions.
 - Phil: Where are pills coming from? What doctors are prescribing for what conditions?
 - * Lori N: There aren't too many doctors located in these areas relatively speaking, so tracking down that info may certainly be possible, but the doctors will have it.
- Bessie: Counties with higher overdose/prescription rates are lower-income areas. How do we address health inequities at the income level? Why do wealthier communities seem better able to cope with pain?
 - Seth: Many argue that the opioid epidemic affects everyone regardless of race/class, yet we still see significant correlations with race/class with the epidemic's consequences.
 - Lori N: There is better access to alternative pain management/treatment options in wealthier communities, such as therapy for depression, gym memberships, spas, etc.
 - Madison: We could invite someone from CA Urban Indian Health to discuss the reasons behind health disparities based on socioeconomic inequities.
- Phil: This is also related to the philosophies of the doctors; some doctors believe that with these new medicines that hypothetically no should have to be feel pain at all.
- Shirley: How do we track rates of illicit drug use, rather than just prescription opioids?
 - Daniel: We are inviting law enforcement to present on illicit drug use next meeting.

Hoh-ke-pek' Program Presentation by Daniel Norton Luna

- Part of the Youngest Opioid Victims Assistance Project (YOVA), funded by the US DoJ.
- Goal: Deliver information and services to victims of crimes related to the opioid crisis, identify the scope of the problem and victim needs, and develop comprehensive community-driven responses.
 - The name comes from Roberta Chavez, meaning: "I train, I practice, I repair myself."

- Direct services: Trauma-informed mentoring, group skills, and family gathering activities/events.
 - Wild Souls ranch, porch side visits, cultural education activities/programs for youth and families.
 - Eligibility: Youth ages 0-18, with at least one Yurok-enrolled member in the household, and all youths living in the household will qualify. Target audience is youth ages 6-11.
- Year-in-review: 51 total youths in 25 households served (ages 6-11 accounted for 35 youth).
 - Primary victimization was physical abuse or neglect, followed by bullying.
 - * 31 porch side visits from February-August. Activities included paperwork, making obstacle courses, beading, basket designing, and reading culturally relevant/Yurok-authored books.
 - Wild Souls ranch: 7 youth referred, 34 of 120 sessions attended from June-July 2021.
 - 6 group skills activities organized between November 2020 and July 2021, including: acorn gathering, canoe building, shadow puppetry, and petting zoo visits.
 - 2 family gatherings organized from April-July 2021, including: Skue-yech Son-ee-nah shadow puppet play and dinner attended by 100 people (maximum attendance!) and the brush dance and flower dance protocol training event attended by 170 people, with a camp out Friday-Sunday.
 - 31 referrals given out to other programs, including: Yurok language courses, community service opportunities, financial assistance, and internship/job-training opportunities.
- Moving forward: Grant extended through September 2022, hiring another community outreach specialist (currently accepting applications), additional Wild Souls sessions and porch-side visits, at least 3 family gatherings and 10 group skills activities, covid permitting.
 - Referral form available online, or contact Jessica Cedillo, Lori Nesbitt, or Daniel.

Program Updates

- Lori N: Three new positions are hiring, listed online.
- Lila: finishing up the NIHB grant, Narcan training tomorrow (10/20), upcoming MAT provider interview, and in early stages of developing wellness kits for elder fall feast event.
- Rob: Thursday (10/21) at 6pm there is a virtual card-making and traditional beading event.

Next Meeting: November 16th, 2021, 1 – 3pm