

YTWC Monthly Meeting Notes – June 28th, 2022

Attendees: 21

Name	Organization	Role
Daniel Norton Luna	Yurok Tribal Court (YTC)	Community Outreach Specialist, Hoh-ke-pek' program, Meeting facilitator
Erin Butler	Yurok Tribe Wellness Coalition (YTWC)	AmeriCorps VISTA, Presenter
Ethan Makulec	YTWC	AmeriCorps VISTA, Presenter & Notetaker
Amanda Ammon	Yurok Tribe Office of Self-Governance (OSG)	Assistant Director
Amber Miller	YTC	Reentry Staff Attorney
Ben Moradi	YTWC	AmeriCorps VISTA
Caleb Hare	Bear River Band Social Services - Victim Services Program	Victim Advocate
Casey O'Neill	Yurok Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	Health and Human Services Community Navigator
Chelsey Castiglione	United Indian Health Services (UIHS)	Tribal Opioid Response Supervisor
Holly Reed	Yurok Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (YOAYI)	Site Coordinator
Jasmine Rafferty	YTC	Reentry Program Intern
Jay Macedo	Yurok Tobacco Wellness Program	Evaluation Consultant
Jessica Cedillo	YTC	Wellness Administrative Assistant
Julie Guerrero	Healthy Communities Substance Use Prevention Program	Unspecified
Lori Nesbitt	YTC	Opioid Program Manager
Madison Green	Client Services Department (CSD)	Director
Melissa Banks	Ke'pel Boys and Girls Club	Program Lead
Naome Workman	Del Norte County Behavioral Health	Program Coordinator
Shirley Cain	JPS International	Technical Expert Lead
Shoshoni Gensaw	Yurok Health & Human Services (YHHS)	Noh-sue-no-wow' Youth Suicide Program Manager
Twila Sanchez	Yurok Health & Human Services (YHHS) Advisory Committee	YHHS Advisory Committee Member, Retired Yurok Elder

Data Workgroup Year-in-Review Presentation – Ethan Makulec

- Data workgroup purpose: to gather information about how opioids and other substances impact tribal members and youth to support YTWC initiatives.
- 2021-2022 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 the work of the Yurok Tribe Wellness Coalition to share with the community.
 - 5. Bring data sharing MOU opportunities to Yurok Tribal Council for consideration.
- Goal 1 progress: Created and are gathering responses to our Community Wellness Poll.

- After several drafts and a pilot test, we have a 9 question survey of simple broad questions, and we are seeking tribal community member’s perspectives.
- Have currently gathered 90 responses, but will need 300-600 for a representative sample of tribal districts.
- Link to the survey: <https://bit.ly/YTWellnessPoll>
- Goal 2 progress: Postponed until 2023 to avoid overlap with Wellness Poll.
 - We already have one of our goals for next year decided!
- Goal 3 progress: Dr. Blythe George presented to council in April of 2022.
 - A copy of Dr. Blythe George’s report is available on the tribal court webpage for the YTWC data workgroup. A recording will be made available in the future.
- Goal 4 progress: Coalition meeting notes, workgroup action plans, and more materials are being recorded, gathered, and shared online
 - Though a full report is not yet complete, many of these materials have already been uploaded to the Tribal court webpage for community access. Link: <https://yuroktribalcourt.org/yurok-tribe-wellness-coalition/>
- Goal 5 progress: These opportunities have been presented to Tribal council action meeting and are currently still being reviewed by OTA due to some challenges coordinating with internal and external partners.
- Jay Macedo: In goal 5 with the data sharing, what entities have agreed to be a part of that agreement, and is it reciprocal with data going both ways?
 - Ethan: I don’t have all the details on that, Lori might know more, but if I remember correctly from strategic planning, there was a program out of Colorado state that we were talking about sharing some software with, but someone else might know better than me.
 - Lori: Having data sharing going both ways is wishful thinking. We did Humboldt and Del Norte agencies that we thought would have data about our tribal membership, some are just resources. The majority of the information that we got is that they do not have a software that collects data, and if they do, they don’t have drop down for tribal people, and those that do have tribal people, they don’t separate out the tribal agency or membership. It made sense that we don’t have data, so we can’t really have data sharing without data to share. It brought awareness to the need for data, so that we can address gaps in services, and demonstrate what those gaps are when we know realistically know that they are there, but don’t have the data to show it.
 - Jay: Is part of this goal to help encourage agencies to have a dataset or data system, and encourage them gather information and ask about tribal membership or tribal household? Is there a way that that could be a part of it?
 - Lori: I think it was encouraging how people wanted to participate and address this gap and wanted to join with tribes that do have services. People want to help people, and especially in this area, it’s been brought to light how that state is not taking care of us, because they are focusing services on where the majority of people are. There is an opportunity to get involved, but it’s stuck within our tribe because of how our data has been used and misused, so we need to rebuild that trust. There are plans to get new software, but we are hoping to plant the seed so that hopefully it happens in the future, even if not soon.

Outreach Workgroup Year-in-Review Presentations – Erin Butler

- Highlights:
 - 2022 Youth Wellness Summit coming soon on Tuesday July 12th.
 - Narcan trainings: over 150 people trained, over \$7,000 in incentive checks distributed
 - Drive-thru PPE Giveaway and shadow puppet show programs
 - Flyers for monthly observances and awareness programs.
 - Social Media campaigns: over 40,000 views on 384 posts since September 1st.
- Workshops and Ongoing Groups: 6-week beading workshop, self-defense workshop, traditional arts & crafts workshop, cultural arts classes, acorn gathering, women’s talking circle, EEE’ youth coalition, and many more!
- Collage of a selection of outreach flyers, including: PTSD awareness month, tradition woodworking group, Narcan training flyers, spring fling promotion, and more.
- Casey O’Neill: I like how you are approaching and presenting data, how it doesn’t have to just be in the form of a complicated survey.
- Jay Macedo: what is the difference between the youth council and youth group?
 - Daniel: Dale moon runs the youth council, and worked with a youth court program also, which are run through the tribal court. Then the EEE’ youth coalition is done through YOYI, run by Madison Green and Lau-lei Lawrence. Tribal court program more focused on building leadership skills.
 - Lori: The tribal court program was focused on establishing a youth court to help them find and learn about non-punitive solutions.
 - Melissa: Yurok youth council has 5 or 6 participants, and they are going to be forming their own tribal council but for youth to help build those leadership skills. They will be voting on president and vice-president and running events on topics like substance abuse and peer pressure.

Wellness Village Workgroup discussion – Daniel Norton Luna

- We lost the initial facilitators of the wellness village workgroup to other jobs in the last year.
- Goal of the workgroup was to get community input about what services should be provided, where a village should be, and applying for a HUD opportunity.
- YIHA applied for the Indian housing block grant without the help of the wellness village workgroup, and successfully got the reward of approximately \$5 million. Probably 2-3 years away from 5 single-family home development being livable according to Nicole Sager from YIHA.
 - Nicole had HUD experience that original grant writers from the wellness village workgroup did not have when they first applied. In new application that has been granted, most of the language referring to specific wellness services was removed, as that would have Pidgeon-holed what the homes were designed to provide too much.
 - We currently have parallel groups going focused on the idea of establishing a wellness village. Spoke to Nicole from YIHA this morning about whether a wellness village workgroup would be helpful, and she said that there would be a lot of work to be done establishing the policies and coordinating services to be provided. The current YIHA board would not be able to handle that on their own so it would be difficult to establish it

as truly a wellness village where people living in those homes are getting comprehensive support. When coming up with the rules and regulations, they would have to make sure they are not violating and laws and regulations from HUD, granting agency, or the tribe. HUD and tribal council will have to approve it, so it is going to take a lot of work to establish a wellness village.

- Tribal council is supportive, but it's a matter of if we have the capacity to dedicate staff and programs to working on this project with the YIHA board. A wellness village work group would have to do a lot of the heavy lifting on this in these next few years, because once the buildings are made and ready to be inhabited, council will want people in those buildings whether or not we have established the policies and regulations for a wellness village by then.
- Amber Miller: I have done a lot of work on policies and procedures for re-entry housing. There is talk of needing to amend the code to make space for that kind of housing. A main question here is where staff for these wellness village services are coming from, from tribal court? YHHS? outside agencies?
 - Daniel: YIHA is most concerned with making sure we have people in these homes, since we have a housing crisis in the tribal community. One challenge is figuring out how to hold spaces and homes for people who are making use of wellness services, especially if they have not recovered from their substance use challenges after using these services. A challenge of making sure we are being effective in achieving our goals. YIHA has long list of people who need homes, but it is also a challenge to provide homes to people who need wellness services without having those services available, since wellness services are not the focus of YIHA.
 - Amber: What has the potential to happen when folks aren't given the support services they need in these types of circumstances is that it can go badly, making it difficult for those programs to be sustained. To provide the housing without providing the services is problematic, and then the role of court agencies is focused on people who are in court programs, but there are also a lot of folks struggling with homelessness, mental illness or substance use that fall outside court program's eligibility. We are so understaffed that we have 5 case worker positions open, and one person managing the cases for all court cases and re-entry housing. So my major concern is just making sure that we are considering where staff are going to come from and where the funding for that will come from.
 - Daniel: This work could perhaps be the focus of a wellness village workgroup going forward, as a topic for future workgroup discussions.
- Casey O'Neil: I am a community navigator working with bringing families home doing case management work helping clients overcome personal and financial barriers, which is the kind of work Nicole is talking about. Especially with HUD regulations that limit what they can do. If we need more individuals, email me and we can get referrals for families in Humboldt.
- Lori: Another thing to consider is that because it is under HUD, their regulations disqualify a lot of the people we are challenged with. It can look like an overwhelming number that we have to house, but when we get into HUD, it decreases the amount of people we can house.
 - Casey: I did want to mention that there are other grants with more low-barrier options for housing that don't have HUD regulations tied to them, with money set aside for tribal communities. Our needs aren't really being met, but there are opportunities to get those

needs met, so maybe I can meet with Daniel or another group to go over some other things that are being offered.

- Amber: HUD also very recently released a memo asking HUD recipients to review their regulations to reduce barriers for those with prior convictions? So that should be in the works soon, but I haven't talked to YIHA about those changes yet.
- Shoshoni Gensaw: If we're putting in for grants and we know there are restrictions for the living situation, then as a group and tribe we need to be on the same page about if that is the proper funding source for what we're looking for. Maybe this wasn't the right funding source, and we will need more buildings or living spaces to be able to implement this project the way it needs to be implemented. For the case management component, is there a way we can put in for funding for another space aside from the family unit homes for children of parents living in these homes where the rules might restrict having children there. The reason why they're successful is how structured they are.
 - Amber: For the woman's housing plan, they can bring children up to 10 years old into the women's house. We have lots of space in it now, but we haven't had any applicants, so please refer anybody to me.
 - Lori: We just need to have them having gone through treatment so that they're on the road to recover.

Strategic Planning Discussions – Daniel Norton Luna

- Vision and Mission statements review: The goal is to make sure these statements still resonate with the group and see if any changes need to be made, since these statements were first established back in 2018 when the coalition started. The coalition was initially established to especially focus on the opioid crisis. Specifically, the over prescription problem and the consequences that came from that when prescriptions suddenly stopped that led to community issues.
 - Vision: “The Yurok Tribe will commit to restoring our communities by utilizing an immediate response with holistic and medicinal approaches.”
 - * Intended as a statement of what we want our work to bring our world towards in the future, potentially even the far future. It described the future we would like to see, whereas the mission has more to do with how we are going to get there.
 - Mission: The Yurok Tribe will unite to battle the poisons of addictive substances in our community and restore our beliefs in family values, spirituality, and cultural responsibilities.
 - Twila: My first thought for the vision is that I would like to see the word “culture” or going back to our traditions, but I don't know exactly how to word it.
 - * Daniel: That's good feedback, it does seem to be missing something about our traditional values and culture.
- Lori: The mission and vision statements almost seem to be backwards, since the last phrases of both seem like they should be flipped.
 - Twila: Vision statements are usually pretty short, so I think “The Yurok Tribe will commit to restoring our communities” is a complete vision.
 - Daniel: Are there any specifics we want to include with that, like family or spiritual values, or is “restoring our communities” sufficient.

- Casey O’Neill (in chat): Recommend including the word “inclusion,” as a small reminder of rebuilding oneself and allowing individuals back into the community.
- Daniel: It sounds like we feel that these statements have the right spirit, but that we can revise and tweak them, so they more clearly state what we are out to accomplish. With the idea of inclusion, there is a process involved, which sounds like something that can go into a mission statements, since it sounds like something that is happening to restore our communities.
- Review of values
 - 1. Keeping the Community and Families Safe.
 - 2. Honoring the Potential for Change.
 - 3. Providing Consistent, Nurturing Care and Discipline.
 - 4. Importance of Education and Healthy Lifestyles.
 - 5. Providing Direction and Purpose.
 - 6. Importance of Family Involvement.
 - 7. Importance of Community Involvement.
 - 8. Honoring the Sacredness of Cultural and Spiritual Values.
- Daniel: We can leave the values as they are for now and continue talking about the mission and vision statements.
- Re-focusing brainstorming exercise questions:
 - 1. What Challenges persist in our community?
 - 2. What changes in our community have we noticed over the past year (e.g. new issues, new grant projects, etc.)
 - 3. Could work addressing these issues fit in the framework of the established workgroups?
- Casey: low-barrier housing is a challenge that has gone unaddressed.
- Daniel: mental health and suicide have not been brought up yet and are also still persisting.
- Twila Sanchez: The importance of education in health lifestyles. Being from the diabetes and nutrition program, I still feel that as a tribe we need to work on those issues. We are now having teenagers diagnoses with diabetes, so education about healthy eating, nutrition, and taking care of our bodies is important.
 - Casey (in chat): access to healthy eating
 - Lori (in chat): along with nutrition is healthy dental care and prevention.
 - * Casey: Some dental care routines and teaching that used to be standard in schools has become secondary to other educational focuses, so it is not something be taught with as much repetition as it used to.
- Lori: We have a challenge with keeping stakeholders to continue involvement since it has dropped off since covid decrease. When covid first started, we had a lot of stakeholders coming to this meeting, including county education and treatment centers we now have to recruit again and bring back We still need to get more community members to have a voice in here. Also, funding for substance use treatment.
- Daniel: We livestream a lot of our meeting, but I have looked at Facebook stats with Erin and it doesn’t seem like we’re getting a lot of community engagement.

- Amanda Ammon (in chat): Jobs and child care.
- Casey: Overscheduling issues with work and activities makes it hard for parents to teach and manage some of these skills like dental care. With parents working jobs all day and kids having many activities after school, there is not enough time to nurture hygiene and other skills.
 - Daniel: I'm seeing a theme come up of self-care and what that looks like for different people in the community.

Program Sharing

- Julie Guerrero: BIPOC community save the date for September 16-18, hosting a free for BIPOC community, participants can stay at Requa inn or camp nearby. Designed to help address burnout.
 - Email: asaulsbury@mckfrc.org
- Amber Miller: upcoming MMIP mural project, July 12th – 17th. Also introducing our new intern Jasmine Rafferty!
- Lori: we are doing a fishing game at salmn festimal and are looking for donations for items like toothbrushes, coloring books, etc. Email: lnesbitt@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Next Meeting: July 19th, 2022, 1 – 3pm