



Wabanaki Generations – Addressing HIV/AIDS in tribal communities in Maine

A project of GENERATIONS: Strengthening
Women and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS

- Wabanaki Mental Health Association
- Maine Migrant Health Program
- Maine Community AIDS Partnership





Background

- HIV in tribal communities is still a hidden problem surrounded by lack of knowledge and stigma
- Focus on women taps into matriarchal culture in Wabanaki tribes





Collaborative Description

Three agencies

- 8 days of training for outreach workers
- Management team: email and phone calls as needed (at least monthly)
- “All hands” meetings bi-monthly, alternating conference calls /in person
- Monthly outreach worker contact sheets
- We are a team





Program Overview

- Capacity building with tribes in Maine
- Focus on women and families
- Goals
 - reduce stigma
 - bring topic into consciousness
- Awareness of risks & protective behaviors





“ I have a gift for you.”





“We are the program”



Investing in the wisdom, training, capacity and empowerment of key individuals is the cornerstone of both the intervention and the transformation.



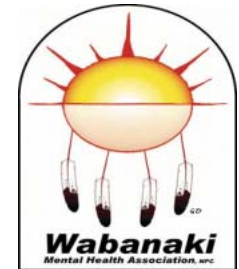


Program Features

Outreach –

bring messages to audience

- One on One
- Small groups
- Health Fairs
- Large Gatherings





Program Features

Strategies

- Education and information
- Testimonials and storytelling
- Counseling and testing
- Referrals





Program Sites

Laundromats	Grocery Stores	Raker Center
Campfires	Blueberry Barrens	Health Fairs
Camps	Gatherings	Social Networks
Senior Centers	Boys & Girls Clubs	People's Homes
Community Kitchen	Methadone Clinics	Schools





Evaluation Description

Process Measures

- Number of events, contacts
- Number of tests, referrals
- Feedback from Champions and community leaders
- Instances of community initiated contact





Contacts

Outreach Contacts:

- 1x1 = 232
- 17 Groups = 220
- 8 Gatherings = 300
- Testing = 160 women
- Exposure to information
=>1,000 additional people





Findings

- Eventually, we were welcomed
- Indigenous and ingenious outreach generated large volume of testing
- Stigma has gone down
- Issue awareness has increased
- Collective acceptance in community





Lessons Learned

- Invest in training and team building
- Hiring / Staffing decisions are key
 - HIV+ women willing to speak
 - Traditional healers for outreach and education encounters
- Part time / Full time doesn't matter because eventually they're always working because they become community resources





Reflections

- Senior Center
- “How do you build trust”
- Stigma, capacity
- Evolution





Thank You

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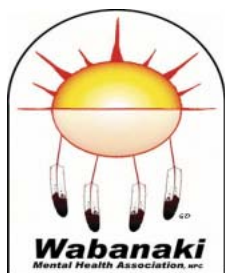
NATIONAL AIDS FUND
A National Catalyst for Local Action

Johnson & Johnson



Wool-lun-kay-uzz

Take good care of yourself



Wabanaki Mental Health

207-990-0605

www.wabanaki.org

Maine Migrant Health

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www.mainemigrant.org

MCAP

207-622-7566 x225

www.maineaids.org

