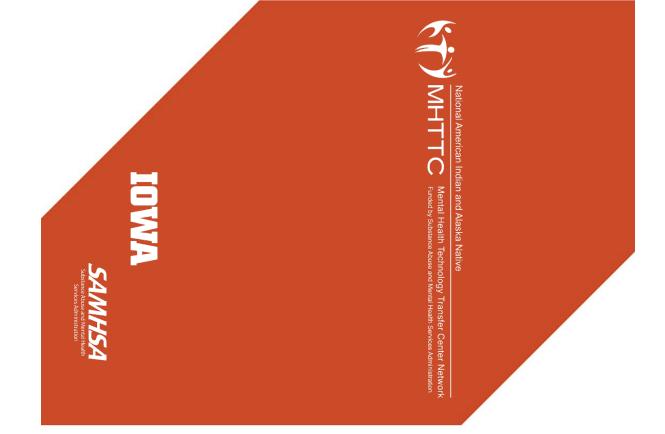
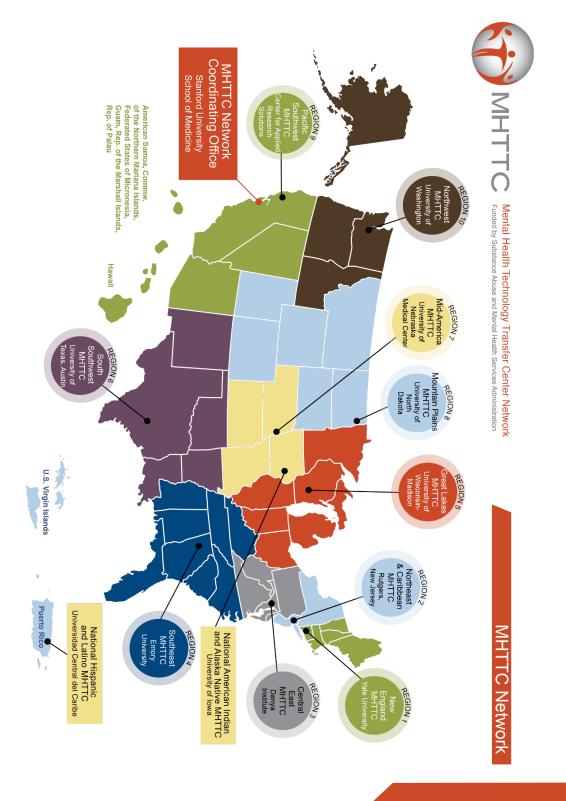


Special Guest Speaker Michael G. Bricker MS, CADC-II, NCAC-2, LPC Flying Starfish, Broken Pots, and Puppies in the River: Culture is Trauma-RESPONSIVE Care





American Indian & Alaska Native Mental Health Technology Transfer Center



Administration (SAMHSA). from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Health Technology Transfer Center is supported by a grant The National American Indian and Alaska Native Mental

policies of SAMHSA, HHS, or the American Indian & Alaska the opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or Native MHTTC The content of this event is the creation of the presenter, and

Follow-up

email, which will include: Following today's event, you will receive a follow up



Links to the presentation slides and recording, if applicable



Information about how to request and receive CEUs, Certificate of Attendance, if applicable



Link to our evaluation survey (GPRA)

Land Acknowledgement

homelands were forcibly taken over and inhabited We would like to take this time to acknowledge the land and pay respect to the Indigenous Nations whose

generations Past and present, we want to honor the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the

and education This calls us to commit to forever learn how to be better stewards of these lands through action, advocacy, support,

respect the many diverse indigenous people connected to this land on which we gather from time immemorial. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced occupation of Native American territories, and we

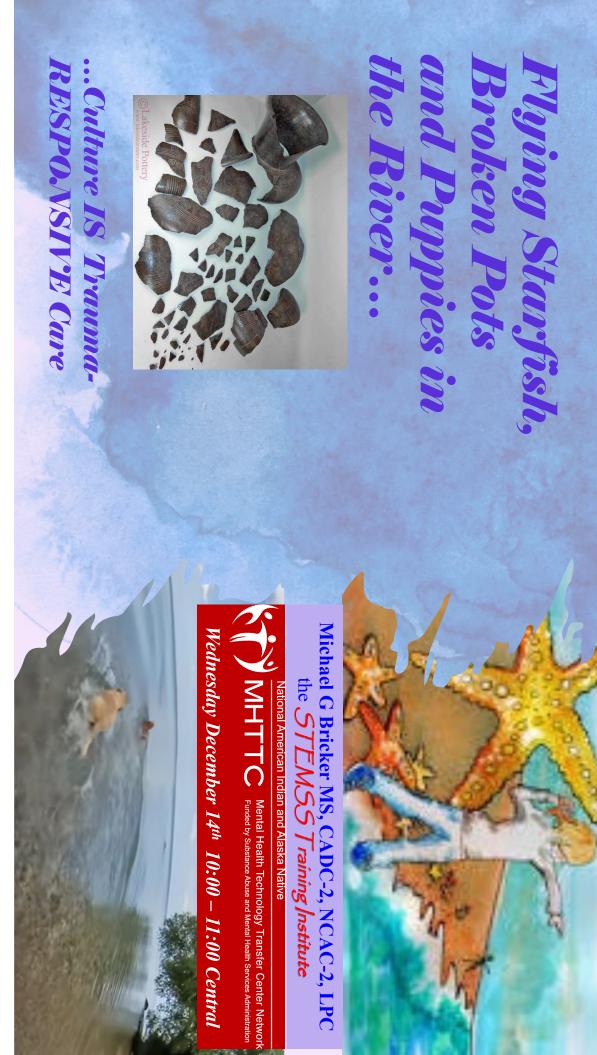
our Indigenous peoples and to mother earth, herself those that stand with Indigenous peoples and acknowledge that land reparations must be made to allow healing for While injustices are still being committed against Indigenous people on Turtle Island, today we say thank you to

Dekibaota, Elleh Driscoll, Meskwaki and Winnebago Nations Ttakimaweakwe, Keely Driscoll, Meskwaki and Winnebago Nations Keokuk, Sean A. Bear, 1^{st.} Meskwaki Nation



seasoned trainer who presents regularly at national conferences, and a NAADAC Approved Education Provider. He served 10 years as Program Director for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. in bush Alaska and was awarded the and mental disorders through the STEMSS® Training Institute and specializes in blending western research-based has been a clinician, consultant and teacher for over 35 years Clinical Director of the Tse nani a Hi (Rainbow Bridge) Residential Program on the Navajo Nation. More recently, he ANTHC Behavioral Health Aide Program Award in 2009 for his work educating Native counselors. He was also Health in Eugene OR. Mike has worked extensively among Native American and Alaska Native Peoples. He treatment with other Wisdom Traditions. He is also a Behavioral Health Clinician for Strong Integrated Behavioral Mike Bricker MS, CADC-II, NCAC-2, LPC since 1984 has been a consultant on "dual recovery" from substance use has developed training workshops for the Klamath, Shoshone-Bannock, Mandan and Yakima Tribes. Mike is a

Contact: mike.bricker@STEMSSinstitute.org (541) 246-8053 Michael G Bricker MS, CADC-2, NCAC-2, LPC Approved Clinical Supervisor – LPC/LMFT NAADAC Approved Education Provider



We all know the story...

...a young boy walking on the beach finds hundreds of starfish washed up on shore after a storm. So he reaches down and tosses one back into the ocean...then another...then another. A man walks by and asks: "What're you doing, son?" The boy replies "I'm saving the starfish!" The man chuckles and retorts "Look at the hundreds of them on the beach...you'll never save them all!" The boy tosses another starfish-

"Well, I saved THAT one!"



us and leads to burnout... recognize and remember. That's discouraging for we all know, the storms of life keep washing starfish onto the beach...sometimes ones we (In fact I never metaphor I didn't like!) But as In behavioral health, that's a pretty apt metaphor.

...and also not much fun for the starfish!



I'd like to call your attention to another story. A young girl is relaxing on the bank of a swiftly flowing stream...just basking in the sunlight. Suddenly they hear a panicked puppy barking – and there it is, thrashing downstream through the water! So she jumps in the water and manage to bring the puppy safely to shore. The girl gets a few "thank you" licks, and the puppy is on its way. So she stretches out in the sun to dry... ...only to hear another puppy! So, still wet – back into the water to rescue another puppy. And another. And another. Finally – exhausted – the girl realizes she can't save them all. But when she looks upstream...there's a guy throwing puppies in the river!

So up the stream our hero goes and – after some energetic discussion – convinces the guy to STOP throwing puppies in the river!



The bartender who'll let you drink all night in exchange for your Sobriety Coin? "Big As terrible as those things are, I think they puppies? The drug dealer on the corner? Metaphorically, who's the guy who hates Pharma" who floods the river with pills? The parallels with the work we do are pretty obvious...or maybe not? miss the point.

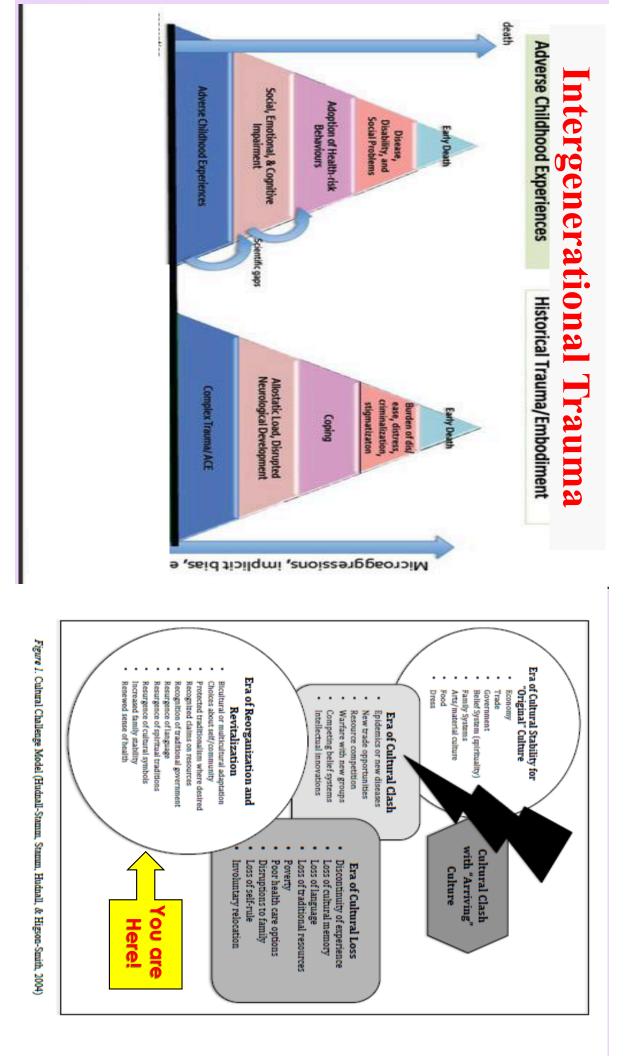
For most of our peeps – especially the "frequent flyers" – the upstream villain surround them with love and coping again into the river. The common back upstream...only to be thrown skills – so many of our "puppies" run the experience of trauma. denominator may well be coming from after we rescue them, dry them off, is trauma. And we stand puzzled why –

difference of degree. It doesn't matter much if it's "big T" effect on the nervous system is only a violence or neglect. The cumulative full of "little t" trauma like domestic trauma like rape and war, or a childhood



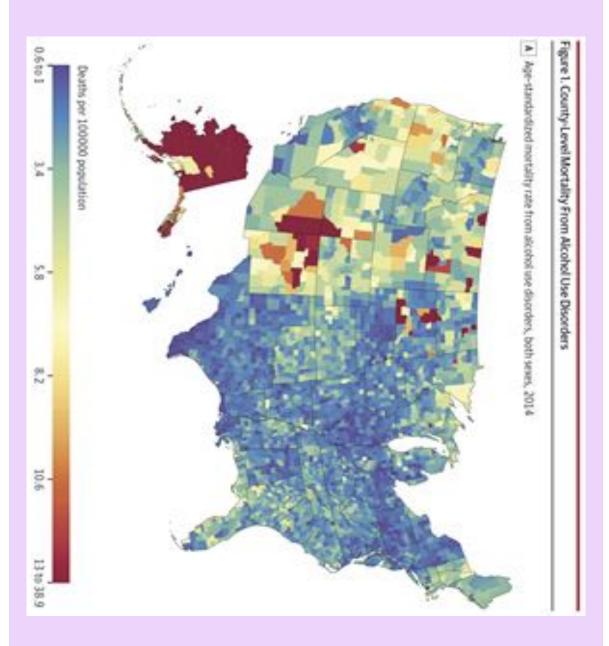




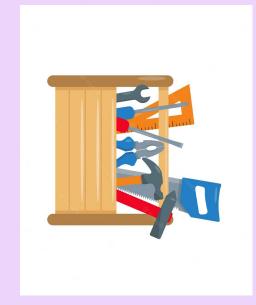


"Despair Deaths"

The highest rates of alcohol-related deaths are in areas with high Native American and Alaska Native populations, county-level data from the University of from the University of Washington of Washington



Why is it that our best efforts as clinicians sometimes seem to have only a temporary benefit? I believe that, when it comes to treating people who come from the experience of trauma, we may not be using the right tool for the job!



We all know that the impact of trauma gets stored in the bodymind in different ways – sometimes as a "body memory", sometimes an unconscious implicit memory stored in the "fight/flight" limbic system of the brain. What do both of these trauma repositories have in common?

They are inaccessible to most of our treatment interventions! Since the limbic system doesn't understand language – and has no concept of linear time – it's simply impossible to "logic people out" of being trapped in their story.



Traditionally, most of our treatment modalities (with the possible exception of EMDR, Yoga and Somatic Experiencing) rely on psycho-education, cognitive restructuring and skills acquisition. So our evidencedbased manuals hammer home the benefits and pathways to recovery from mental health and substance use disorders.

> But when it comes to treating the trauma that keeps tossing our patients back in the river...it's like trying to drive a SCREW with that hammer. You might be able do it – if you're really careful and really good...but it's not the right tool for the job!



stop growing and go to seed? And others seem bring patients to us. But why do some of them unconsciously contaminates – and sabotages weeding and watering the garden of woes that to bloom brightly for a while...only to wither The many Western evidence-based practices and die? Our patients can't grow healthy their best efforts (and OURS) to get well in our toolbox are wonderful for pruning sunk deep into the pain of the past, so it plants in poisoned soil! Their roots are

But when we "replant" them after treatment the toxic trauma underground can take a toll – some wither and die, others fail to thrive and just hang on



Don Coyhis and the Native Wellbriety movement talk about a "healing forest" of healthy trees growing in healthy soil. We do wonderful work "re-potting" our patients in treatment so we can nurture and water them back to health..



Speaking of "re-potting"; that brings to mind another metaphor – the lives of our patients have been broken and fragmented by trauma, often from an early age. Their souls have been shattered like a piece of pottery.



Which brings us to the second problem with our treatment efforts: we tend to focus on the fragments of the jar. Removals.
Boarding Schools. Theft of land and resources. MIMIW2S.
Destruction of the family. Loss of language...the list is long and painful.

But the fragments of the jar are pieces of a person who once was whole...and can be again!

There is an ancient Japanese art called Kintsugi – "golden seams" – joining broken shards of pottery with gold.

The beauty is in the broken places... a rebirth of healing and wholeness which hold the brokenness of trauma together. This is the TRUE essence of trauma-responsive care! It gives depth of meaning and context to the EBPs we are asked to use in treatment. We help our patients find the strength of Spirit to mend their broken lives!





So what's the antidote to the poisoned soil? The answer, I believe is HOPE! Our main job as clinicians is to help our patients borrow hope from us. Not some platitudinous "just make lemonade" hope – but vibrant *capital H* HOPE that they no longer have to be prisoners of their past! "Heart Open...Please Enter" is a slogan from AA. Another is "*When your* Heart Opens *the* Pain Ends"

> So how can we honor this opportunity with our patients? One way to begin is with the ACEs Survey or a traumainformed psychosocial interview to see how deep the soil of trauma is. Then we begin to honor and build on the resilience that helped them find their way to our door.

I tell every patient *"if surviving it didn't kill ya…getting over it isn't going to!"*





Diane Yatchmenoff, PhD – Portland State U.



Commitment to Trauma Awareness

Understanding the Impact of Historical Trauma

Agencies demonstrate TIC with Policies, Procedures and Practices that:



Create Safe Context

Physical safety Clear and consistent boundaries Transparency Predictability Choice

Restore Power

Choice Empowerment Strengths perspective Skill building Modeling

> Support Self-Worth: Value the Individual

Respect Listening Collaboration Compassion Mutuality Relationship







Responsive"... what's the dif? "Irauma-Informed vs "Irauma-

Trauma - Responsive

Trauma - Informed

•••

- Acknowledges that trauma exists
- Looks through the lens of diagnosis
- Treats clients as "survivors"
- Looks for ways to identify and treat

•

Staff are the "experts" Program has the power

- Recognizes that trauma is a universal human experience
- Looks through the lens of resiliency and competence

*

- Helps patients to see that this is what happened to them, not who they are
- Helps the patient to re-write their story in the present tense in order to HEAL
- Patients are the "experts"

Trauma-Responsive Care:

WHO needs it?

- Every person who walks in your door is potentially "someone who comes from the experience of trauma"
- Everyone should be offered the opportunity to be screened...
- ...starting with the Staff!
- ACEs Survey, SRRS, Stress Inventories

WHO should do it?

- EVERYONE in the facility, not just the "counselors!" Every single receptionist, office staff, custodian, executive – each has a chance to save a life!
- Your clients are "sizing you up" before you even realize it.
- Healing has already begun... or not!



from the experience of trauma": Working with "persons who come

Huh? Who are they?

They are not "victims" resiliency that we need to understand... opportunity to develop a set of strengths and ...and that they need to feel safe enough to share with us! They are people who have had a unique They are not "survivors" Labels keep them "trapped in their story"

from the experience of trauma": Working with "persons who come

Starts before they walk in the door

community? (Do you know?) What is your Agency's reputation in the <u>consumer</u>

Requires us to become aware of THEIR awareness

thought about? What are some perceptual barriers we may not have Are the support staff friendly and helpful? Is the waiting room calm and welcoming?

Working with "persons who come from the experience of trauma"

- How are potential clients greeted?
- Just because they're here doesn't mean they're engaged
- They're "sizing you up" before you're even aware of it! (How did you dismiss the client before them?)
- A welcoming smile turns a handshake into a "heart-shake"

- We're always asking them to examine their values and assumptions...
- ...have we examined OURS?
- What are "they" like?
- Why do you think they are here?
- Transference and countertransference
- When you're stressed and you will be! – where do you fall on the Karpmann Triangle?



Working with "a person who comes from the experience of trauma"

Requires a different "heart-set" as well as mindset

- "You never get a second chance to make a first impression"
- "They may forget what you said or did but not how you made them feel"
- Requires a level of openness to their experience that challenges our traditional boundaries

Working with "a person who comes from the experience of trauma"

Counseling 101

- "They don't care what you know until they know that you care"
- "If your only tool is a hammer, you'll treat every client like a nail" - Carl Rogers
- Whose needs are getting met here? Why did they come here, and how am I helping them toward that goal?
- "I don't care why they come —I only care about why they stay" - *Bricker*

Bear in mind that RULES are not safe!

- "Rules" are what other people in power used to hurt me
- "Rules" only seem to work for the other guy
- Developmentally, many clients are at a maturity level where "rules" are only meant to be challenged, evaded or manipulated

Trust and transparency rely on **reasons**, not just rules. ("What's the WHY?")

are usually a waste of time... For instance - "Group Rules"

- They're based on the "establishment" expectations for minimally acceptable behavior...
- ...the "lowest common denominator" ot compliance
- They are based on a power differential...
- ...which often leads to a power struggle!
- They tell the group <u>exactly</u> how to challenge your control.

...and they won't disappoint you!

But we gotta have rules, right? So Keep it simple: "Just for today I commit to

H onesty with myself and others

O penness to others' beliefs and opinions

N ot "preach" or attack my peers

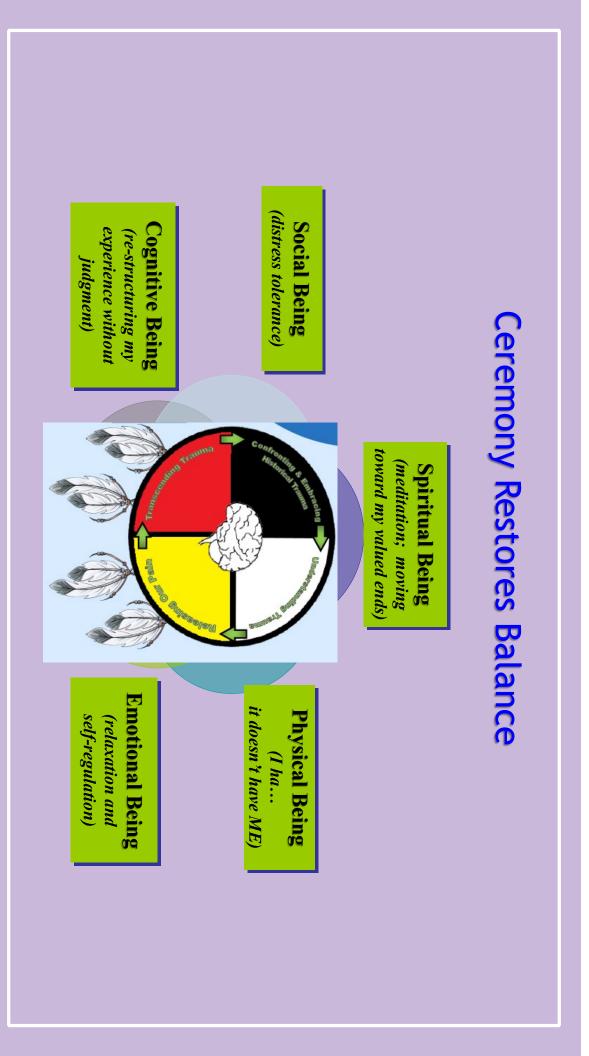
U ffer my truth quietly and respectfully



R espect the privacy of the Group"

Specific Ceremonies Grandfather's Stories Sweat Lodge Smudging Drumming

Native Modalities - presented by Elders



Culture is the Cure!

Principles for Trauma-Responsive Care in American Indian & Alaska Native Communities

- ÷ Trauma is universal: All people have been impacted by trauma in their lives and of themselves, pathological. Because trauma is so endemic that it is frequently seen as normal, a non-diagnostic approach to working with those who have been suffer the negative consequences of trauma and that the resulting symptoms are not, in necessary for effective healing. NA/AN communities need systems and providers who recognize that most people harmed – and those who have caused harm – is not only compassionate, but may be
- * Native People are resilient! All individuals have the potential to heal from their acknowledge local resilience. strengths of the individual and community. All planning for healing should acknowledged, validated and recognized as a factor in current wellness concerns may accomplish this. An open, supportive care-providing relationship where the trauma is improve outcomes. All efforts to address wellness should be based on the inherent traumatic experiences, but they need a safe, healing environment in which to

A merican Indian and A laska Native Communities Principles for Trauma-Responsive Care in

- ••• space. The local justice system is a key partner in building a sense of safety and ally designed to reduce arousal, is a primary goal in the creation of an effective healing environments are necessary for healing. An integrated mind/body approach, intentionconfidentiality in the healing community. trust and foster empowerment and increased self-efficacy. Safe, Sacred and nurturing Trust, Safety and Confidential Support: Effective healing relationships are built on
- * support and teaching methods can be just as effective as Western clinical healing Healing Models and Native Ceremony: American Indian/Alaska Native healing because they can establish or re-establish meaning for those healing from trauma models. These techniques can be even more effective than clinical interventions models and Cultural interventions that use Ceremony, rituals, traditional counseling,
- ••• recognized and honored in planning oprions for each individual. **Options Must Remain:** People who have experienced trauma ned choices and control in an effective recovery process. The diversity of Tribes and Tribal practices must be

A merican Indian and A laska Native Communities **Principles for Trauma-Responsive Care in**

- systemic cycles of trauma within the family or community. Trauma care must address Tribal expectations regarding violence; naming and addressing the impact of mass trauma events such as natural disasters; government policies; historical events and **Roots of Trauma May Lead from Individual to Family, then to Community** from trauma in AI/AN communities may include: changing current community & healing of the individual, family and community, not just the patient alone. Healing Healing: Addressing the traumatic events an individual has experienced may uncover
- ••• government, local justice system, educational institutions, and human service agencies community norms must include a collaborative approach among the Tribe's **Community Provider and Justice Systems Must be Engaged:** Changing

acknow-ledging that violence is present while fostering community responsibility and

including all relatives in the healing process.

A merican Indian and A laska Native Communities **Principles for Trauma-Responsive Care in**

- judgment in the process of categorization and measurement – require careful scrutiny Non-Diagnostic, Non-Judgmental Care: Judgment is an effective barrier to healing. strive for non-judgmental processes, and must carefully evaluate the helpfulness of for possible risk of harm. Any effective trauma-responsive approach muct continually ities, judgmental positions may be especially offensive and incompatible with healing formal diagnostic efforts from trauma. Treatments of trauma based upon formal diagnoses – which require Due to the type of current historical trauma & loss experienced by AI/NA commun-
- ••• From: American Indian & Alaska Native Communities Trauma Informed Care Work Group meeting report. January 30th 2009

"Toolbox" of Native Teachings

QUNGASVIK ·TOOLBOX·



People Awakening **Protective Factors**

wanted the media and researchers to focus on problems in their communities and how their lives were in peril. Instead, they asked: What are the stories about our people's strengths, hopes, and successes? How do so many Alaska Native people live good lives without abusing alcohol and drugs? A decade ago, a group of Alaska Native people said they no longer

Alcoholism, of the National Institutes of Health. and funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and at the Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR), questions led by an Alaska Native advisory council, their partners The People Awakening Project set about to answer these

helped them to get and stay sober. of what helped them to stay safe from alcohol and drugs, what Over three hundred people from around the state shared stories

factors were essential for leading a good life. substance abuse and giving them reasons for life. These protective Many of the stories shared similarities in protecting people from

description. these protective factors. This section contains a complete list and The Qanruyutet, teachings, for the Qungasvik are based on

protective factors addressed by the activities. When you develop your own Qanruyutet activities, consider the ways that these activities can promote these protective factors. Each Qanruyutet chapter of the Qungasvik describes a few of the

Culture is Prevention

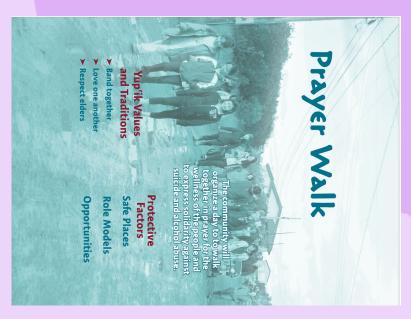
Create Your Own Teaching

This guide can help you format the teaching that you create for your community.

Protective Factors Protective Factor Name

- Yup'ik Title
 What is the Yup'ik name for this teaching?
 Write and record an audio of the title in Yup'ik with the dialect of your community. Protective Factor Name
- (These buttons link to the definitions of the Protective Factors.)
- ➤ Title What is the English translation of this teaching?
- Protective Factors
 What are some protective factors that are delivered through this teaching?
- Summary
 What is this teaching about?











...what are YOURS?



Each Native Culture has its









So this is where ancient art meets ancient Wisdom! Kintsugi – "golden seams" – joining broken shards of trauma with the Spirit and strength of Native Culture and resilience. The beauty is in the broken places... a rebirth of healing and wholeness which hold the brokenness of trauma together, stronger than it ever was. This is the TRUE essence of traumaresponsive care... helping our patients use Culture and the strength of Spirit to mend their broken lives!



So our main job as clinicians is to hold open the door of possibility, and guide our patients through to a life worth living! After all, isn't that why you do this work?

You want to <u>be</u> the difference that MAKES a difference in the lives of the people you serve. And that, my friends, is work worth doing!



And happy puppies!

The last starfish!



And the reward for all the work you do...



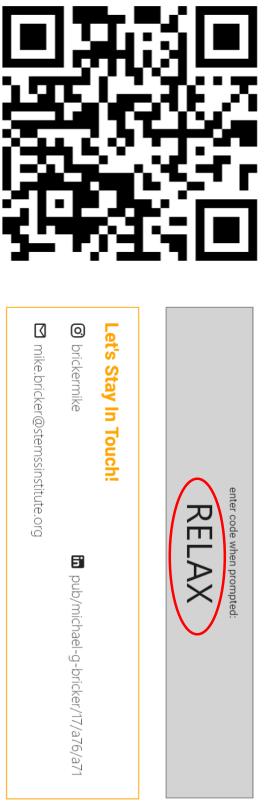
Thank you... ...for bringing hope, help and healing to the people you serve!

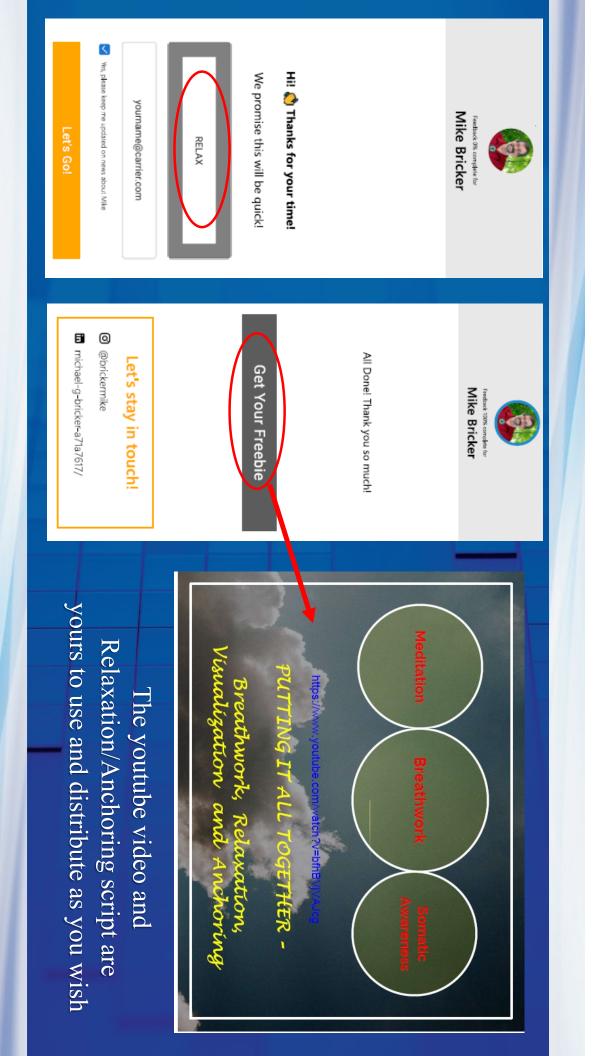




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Scan this QR Code or go to talk.ac/mikebricker





Promoting dual recovery since 1984

Michael G. Bricker MS, CADC-II, NCAC-2, LPC

The STEMSS® Institute

Support Together for Emotional and Mental Serenity & Sobriety https://STEMSSinstitute.org mike.bricker@STEMSSinstitute.org

Consultation in recovery from

substance use and

mental disorders

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