



2014 White House Report on Native Youth

Finds major disparities in health, education, as well as a state of emergency regarding Native youth suicide and PTSD rates three times the general public—the same rate as Iraqi war veterans.

- More than one in three American Indian and Alaska Native children live in poverty
- The American Indian/Alaskan Native high school graduation rate is 67 percent, the lowest of any racial/ethnic demographic group across all schools. And the most recent Department of Education data indicate that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools fare even worse, with a graduation rate of 53 percent, compared to a national average of 80 percent.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death—2.5 times the national rate—for Native youth in the 15 to 24 year old age group.



Transcending Historical Trauma

- Dr. Brave Heart talks about the process of moving forward from historical grief:
 - “First is confronting the historical trauma.
 - Second is understanding the trauma.
 - Third is releasing the pain of historical trauma.
 - Fourth is transcending the trauma.”



AREAS OF RESEARCH & FINDINGS

- Data collection – Prior/archival research, resolution information, history of Alaska Boarding Schools
 - Fragmented & missing history
 - Misunderstanding and lack of acknowledgement
 - Need for centralized communication and research findings
 - Lack of funding
- Interviews – Boarding school survivors, researchers, descendants
 - Healing is a process
 - There is no replacement for indigenous voices leading this research
- Reactive vs. proactive
 - Fact that it happened
 - Good vs. bad Experience
 - Impact



RESEARCH & FINDINGS CONT...

- People want to tell their story
- Family/Tribes and community need to be involved in the process
- Tribes need to have appropriate codes to protect their tribal citizens
- History needs to be accurately told, especially by the education system
- Policy changes – language, 10-student minimum
- Reconciliation process
- More funding to support this work
- Convening of boarding school survivors
- Boarding School Conference – youth focus
- Boarding schools operating today need to acknowledge the true history



Storytelling for Healing

- Trauma and Silence
- Talking and Validation
- PTSD and Triggers
- Healing and Secondary Trauma
- Indians and Deficit Discourse
- Hope and Resiliency



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