

# Gathering Cultural and Contemporary Wisdoms for Victim Healing

By

Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group



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"Mistakes are the usual bridge  
between inexperience and wisdom."  
- Phyllis Theroux

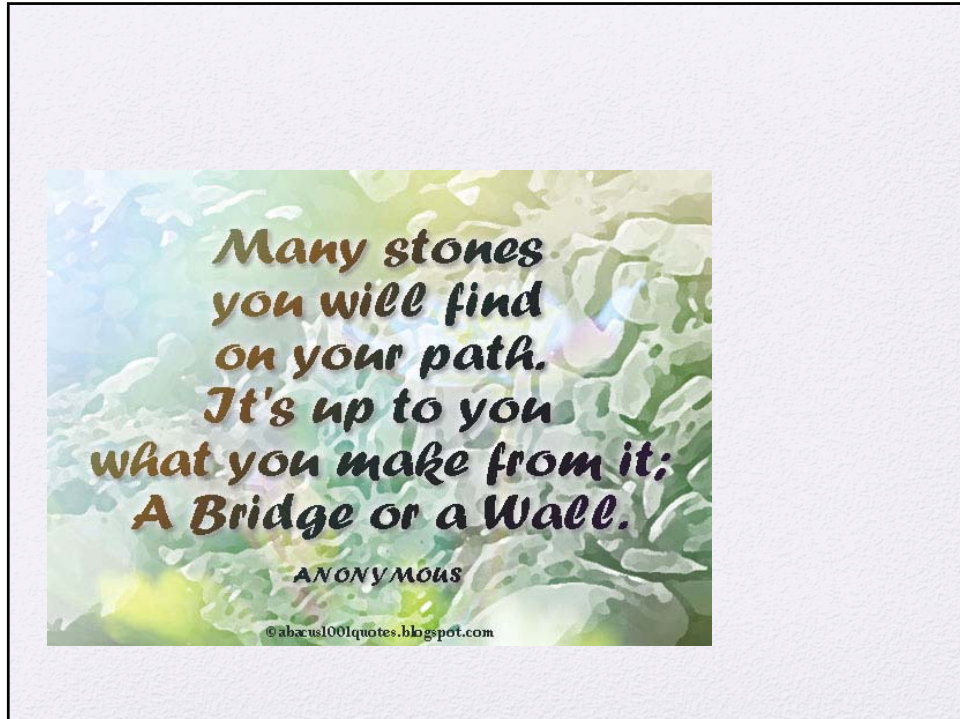
## Introduction

There are ways that we can bridge services for victims but it begins by understanding that we all have or know of wisdoms that contribute to our success as advocates and helpers. This workshop will differentiate between cultural and contemporary practices that contribute to our insight and knowledge of helping victims. Resources offered to victims should not hinge on an “either or process” but rather a collaborative and in unison response.

## Workshop Objectives



- Participants will analyze the meaning of cultural wisdoms.
- Participants will examine contemporary wisdoms.
- Participants will identify a plan for bridging cultural and contemporary wisdoms.



## Wisdom

- What is 'wisdom'?
- What is cultural wisdom?
- What is contemporary wisdom?

7 PILLARS OF  
**WISDOM**

ETHICS  
HUMILITY  
INSTRUCTION  
DISCIPLINE  
KNOWLEDGE  
INTEGRITY  
HONESTY



## Cultural Wisdom

Cultural wisdoms are gathered from what we know to be sustainable practices, truths, and whole wellness concepts that are passed down from our ancestors.

## Contemporary wisdom

Contemporary wisdom are often referred to as practices as a mainstream and generalized base of knowledge.

## Similarities in Contemporary & Cultural Wisdoms

- Community knowledge
- Knowledge of extended family resources
- Access to traditional healing systems
- Understanding of cultural factors
- Increasing chance of being understood by community members
- Institutional knowledge
- Some form of training (professional/grassroots)
- Vulnerable to community pressures

## Star Exercise

- Choose a partner
- One person will close their eyes and the other person will be the “coach”
- Using a pen/pencil, the person who cannot see will be verbally coached to draw the star within by connecting the dots
- When the task is complete the person who could not see will evaluate the effectiveness of their partners direction
- Reverse the role (if time permits)

## Response Services Victims of Crime

- Service providers within Native American communities most often utilize standardized approaches for responding to victims.
- Standardized approaches are often times colorblind and disregard the cultural components that contribute to effective whole-health wellness in Native American communities.
- Native American cultural values contribute to individual and community wellness when systems of care and those values are in support of each other.

## Ideas of Contemporary Practice

- Contemporary practices may conflict with Native American beliefs and practices
- Contemporary crime victim service (emotional/physical) models often respond to signs and symptoms
- Contemporary practitioners who are unfamiliar with Native American tradition and culture may apply cognitive variables such as professional ways of knowing and believing how to treat certain types of trauma



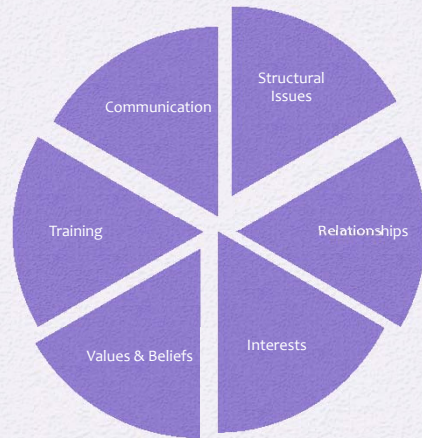
## Contemporary Practice Need

The ability of practitioners to obtain a sense of *cultural humility* and apply this concept to their professional practices that will assist in developing a psychological and sociological understanding of Native American communities.

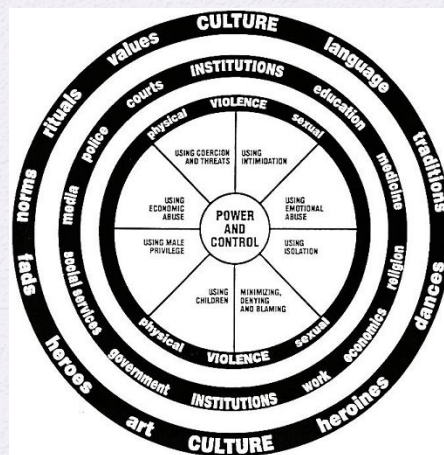
## Effective Services for Victims of Crime

- Provide support to fill service gaps
- Develop interagency training related to service delivery
- Make recommendations for service delivery
- Manage information dissemination regarding victims
- Provide gate-keeping functions to reduce or avoid 'systemic trauma'
- Develop communication plans and strategic responses

# Result of not bridging wisdoms



# Culture Wheel

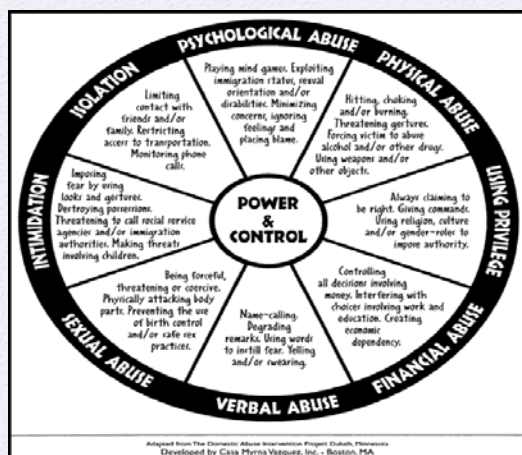




# Team Member Assessment

- Please take a moment to review the assessment
- Identify your level of skill from the statements listed in the first column (none, some skills, very skilled)
- Identify if these skills are relevant to your work ('yes' or 'no')
  - If yes, provide an example in the 4<sup>th</sup> column of how you use those skills

# Cycle of Violence



## Tips for being a part of the *bridge*

“Check our own pulse” become aware of personal attitudes, beliefs, biases, and behaviors that may influence (consciously or unconsciously) care of trauma survivors as well as our interactions with colleagues and staff from diverse racial, ethnic, and socio-cultural backgrounds.

## Bridging Cultural and Contemporary Wisdom

Begins with:

Self-care (whole health approaches)

Communication

Cultural competence

Understanding the dynamics of victims services and community support approaches

Trust, commitment, honesty

## The result of building wisdoms...



## Any Questions/Comments?



**Thank you!**



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## Contact information

Unified Solutions Tribal  
Community Development Group, Inc.

2164 E. Broadway Road, Suite 200

Tempe, Arizona 85282-1961

877-438-4400

[www.unified-solutions.org](http://www.unified-solutions.org)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/USTCDGI](https://www.twitter.com/USTCDGI)

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