

# Therapeutic Justice: Lessons from the Shingle Springs— El Dorado County Joint Jurisdiction Healing to Wellness Court

Hon. Suzanne Kingsbury

Hon. John Smith

Hon. Korey Wahwassuck

Hon. Christine Williams



# Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and El Dorado County, California



Joint Jurisdictional Court 2014

**GENERAL BACKGROUND**

# The Joint Jurisdiction Project Concept

- The Superior Court of El Dorado County and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Tribal Court are working to establish a first-of-its-kind, joint-jurisdictional project that will create a collaborative court for juvenile and family cases across the two jurisdictions.

# Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

- Established in 1916 through land purchase by BIA.
- 330 Tribal Members.
- 80 residents on the reservation.
- Located within El Dorado County

# El Dorado County

- One of 58 Counties in California.
- Rural “Cow County”.
- Population 181, 737.
- Geographically large county.
  - 5 Courthouse locations.



Location

**CALIFORNIA TRIBAL LANDS**

- Tribal Lands
- County Boundary

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2011), ESRI (2006), TANA (2006).  
 AIR1100040\_3 16 May 2011

# CHALLENGES AND STRENGTHS



# Challenges

- Historically, conflicts between Tribe and County.
- California is a PL-280 State.
  - Increased conflicts.
  - Decreased Tribal justice system development.
- Still lack of trust in both communities.
- Tribal Youth getting lost in the system.
  - Charter School.
  - Juvenile records.

# Strengths – Intra - Tribal

- Shingle Springs believes Wellness Court is good governance.
- General funds available to fund the court.
- Established a Wellness Board of key personnel and officials to recommend Wellness plans for individuals.
- Robust health clinic with many services on the reservation.

# Strengths – Intra - County

- El Dorado County has extensive experience with “specialty” court models and success
- County Leaders are favorable to progressive approaches to juvenile justice

# Strengths – Inter

- Strong relationship with El Dorado County Court since Tribal Court began.
- Tribal Court State Court Forum
- Collaboration on Truancy Cases
  - Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)

# JOINT JURISDICTION PLANNING

# The T.A. Grant

- Tribal Court and County Courts already working together.
- Informal, not a lot of structure.
- Applied for the Technical Assistance grant to develop a Joint Jurisdiction Court.
- Based on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe-Cass County Wellness Court Model
- We were honored to be selected!!!

# The T.A. Team

- Our Consulting T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More) includes:
  - Judge Korey Wahwassuck – Minnesota District Court of Itasca County
  - Judge John Smith – Minnesota Court of Appeals
  - Attorney Jennifer Fahey – Jennifer Fahey Consulting, Boston, Massachusetts
  - Allison Leof, PhD – Oregon Health and Science University

# First Step - Key Players

- We identified the departments/agencies from the tribal and county sides that we needed in our planning process.
- We invited specific people from each of these to attend in-person planning meetings.
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians designated to host these meetings.



EVERYBODY CAME!!!

# The Planning Process

- Facilitated 3 meetings with all the players.
  - 2-3 days of consecutive meetings.
  - May, July, and October 2014
- Agreed upon ground rules to ensure everyone has a voice in our planning.
- Creating a manual to guide us as we implement our planning.

# Team Building

- We have had 3 very productive in person meetings.
- Key Players from the County and Tribal Side attended a Tribal Wellness Court training as a big team!
- We have gotten to know each other and some work has already begun as a result.
- Increased understanding and respect every time we interact.

# Tribal Youth Involvement

- Youth attended a portion of the last planning session.
- Presented their thoughts about the concept.

An outline of the collaborative court

**KUCH'IM:UPUSHNU':ANU:SH**

# Vision and Mission

- Collaboratively created a Vision and Mission:
- The Court's Vision: One safe, strong community of thriving families created through trust and healing.
- The Court's Mission: Joining together to provide justice through trust, respect, and love by empowering youth and families to create positive change.

# Goals – Part 1

- Administer justice in a safe and supportive environment.
- Reduce incarceration.
- Reduce crime and prevent re-offenses.
- Improve public safety.
- Empower and support our youth and families.

# Goals – Part 2

- Promote self-sufficiency through positive behavioral change.
- Promote community and family connections.
- Create more effective, cooperative interventions.
- Foster positive community relations.
- Celebrate cultural diversity and understanding.



# Target Population

- We agreed as a team to include:
- Juveniles and “transitional youth”
- Up to age 24.
- Not limited to drug offenses.
- No offense restrictions, but...

# Screening

- Participants have to be screened and determined to be eligible.
- Ideally we would like to develop a multidisciplinary screening team.

# Wrap-around

- We are planning to use a wrap around model to serve the whole family.
- Could mean having a youth who has a “dependency” case where we are providing services across several generations.

# Division of Work

- We will be relying on county probation for supervision of this caseload.
- We will be relying on Tribal Health and Wellness Center for the majority of services.
- County DA and Public Defenders will play a role as well as Tribal Attorney.
- Plan to involve County CASA with special tribal recruitment and training.

# Division of Work (2)

- Social Services from both sides.
- Law enforcement from both sides.
- Judges from both sides.
- Continued participation from the larger steering committee/advisory group regarding policies and procedures.

We still have work to do but it will be done  
and we will be successful in our goals

Questions?



# OHSU Project TEAM



- Oregon Health and Science University Project TEAM
- Project TEAM is dedicated to helping tribes and local governments create, implement and manage joint jurisdiction collaborations. Our goals are to improve justice outcomes while building positive community relationships.
- Stay tuned for future TA opportunities

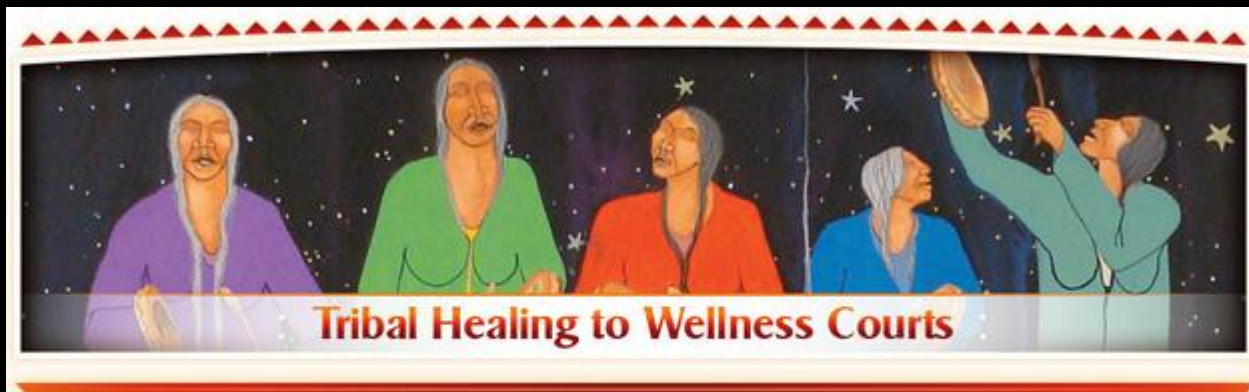
# Tribal Law and Policy Institute

- Training and technical assistance for all Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts

[www.WellnessCourts.org](http://www.WellnessCourts.org)

[wellness@tlpi.org](mailto:wellness@tlpi.org)

323-650-5467







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