

PATHWAY TO HOPE: HEALING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

VIDEO GUIDE BOOK



Tribal Law & Policy Institute

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“When we can heal ourselves, we also heal our ancestors, our grandmothers, our grandfathers and our children. When we heal ourselves, we heal Mother Earth.”

*Rita Pitka Blumenstein
Yup'ik Great Grandmother*





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"Putting Victims First"



First Training of Community Facilitators Session - October 2007



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Relax and Color Tab



Forward

The *Pathway To Hope* video is a resource for Native people to use to strengthen tribal community responses to child victimization and to support community healing from historical and intergenerational impacts of child sexual abuse. Our goal is to have the video used as an educational resource for Native communities and to have it presented by individuals who have skills and knowledge that will facilitate discussion and assist Native victims in their healing journey.

This video guidebook is a companion to the “Pathway to Hope” video. It focuses on the process of healing from sexual abuse through a holistic community perspective. While treatment and healing that focuses directly on the individual survivor of child sexual abuse may be helpful in reducing symptoms like anxiety or depression, this approach fails to acknowledge the importance of relationships in Native communities and families. In Tribal communities and villages, pain can be more complex and felt by many, so that the impact of child sexual abuse on the individual is greater because of the way that people relate to each other. Therefore, holistic healing for the survivor of child sexual abuse often occurs in the larger context of the community.

This guidebook does not hold all the answers. In fact, in many ways, it asks more questions than it answers. This was done intentionally; with the respect and understanding that each community has its own unique history, strengths and challenges. Many of the answers, therefore, can come only from the individuals in each community, and not from any outside provider or trainer. While many issues that may be helpful to discuss relating to child sexual abuse are identified in this resource document, these may not be all the issues that need to be addressed. Each community will decide this for themselves.

Where to Turn for Additional Support

If you have come across this video and video guidebook without the benefit of having attended the “training of community facilitator” session, please contact Project Coordinator Diane Payne at the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, 2221 East Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508, telephone 907-770-1950, fax 907-770-1951, or email diane@tlpi.org; or the writer, Kimber Eversen at Changing Tides Child and Family Enrichment Center, 1044 East End Road, Suite C, Homer, Alaska 99603, telephone 907-253-1264, or email changingtidesalaska@gmail.com for information about how to obtain phone consultation, a specially tailored “training of community facilitator session”, or a community presentation in your village.



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We are grateful for the vision and dedication to the healing of Native child sexual abuse victims of the video project advisory committee members Eleanor David, Lynn Hootch, Priscilla Kameroff, Al Stevens, and Diane E . Benson to the development of the vision and concept for the Pathways to Hope: Healing Child Sexual Abuse video and this guidebook. These Alaska Native people not only envisioned the tools to end silence for child victims, but also directed us in the development of these resources to assist in the restoration of wellness to their tribal communities. We are also thankful for the healing energy and expertise provided by Kimber E vensen, who joined our efforts later to write this Guidebook. We know that each one will continue in sharing their healing energy to change the lives of Native children and adults as they move along their healing paths. - Diane Payne, Children's Justice Specialist, Tribal Law & Policy Institute

Thank you to the Office for Victims of Crime for the opportunity and the support to develop this important resource for Alaska Native child victims.





Pictures from various
Pathway to Hope:
Healing Child Sexual
Abuse Training of
Community Facilitators

