

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



Joint Jurisdictional Court 2014

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Introductions

- Many of our team is here.
- Must acknowledge those who couldn't make it including California's Administrative Office of the Courts.



Location

California Tribal Background

- Over 100 federally recognized tribes.
- Largest population of Indian people in the Nation.
- Majority of the Native American Population is from out of state tribes.
- We are a Public Law-280 State.

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

- Established in 1916 through land purchase by BIA.
- 330 Tribal Members.
- 80 residents on the reservation.

CHALLENGES AND STRENGTHS

Tribal Court Funding

- CA Tribes are not eligible to receive BIA “638” funding for tribal law enforcement or tribal courts.
- No “active” Title IV-E agreements to allow funding for tribal foster care placements to follow children into tribal court.

State Court Funding

- Realignment.
- State level court budgets.
- Counties absorbing populations.
- All the specialty courts in the county are not receiving extra funding.

Land Base - Housing - Jurisdiction

- Many tribes in CA have small reservation.
- Many tribes in CA have a waiting list for their on reservation housing.
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians has more members living off the reservation than on the reservation.
- No schools on the reservation.
- Many offenses occur off the reservation.

Strengths – Intra

- 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 – Inter

- Strong relationship with El Dorado County Court since Tribal Court began.
- Background on relationship.
- El Dorado County has vast experience starting and sustaining specialty courts.

JOINT JURISDICTION PLANNING

The T.A. Grant

- Tribal Court and County already working together.
- Informal, not a lot of structure.
- Applied for the Technical Assistance grant to develop a Joint Jurisdiction Court.
- Based on the Leach Lake model.
- Out of a National pool we were 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 meetings with all the players.
 - 2-3 days of consecutive meetings.
- Agreed upon ground rules to ensure everyone has a voice in our planning.
- End goal is to have a manual to guide us as we implement our planning.
 - We already have the first draft after 2 meetings!

Still in the planning stages with another in person meeting ahead but so far...

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Team Building

- We have had 2 very productive in person meetings.
- We all made it to this 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.

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.

Tribal Youth Involvement

- Identified ways to engage youth in the planning.
- Youth will present on their impressions of the project and the courts in general at next meeting.
- Court Name - Youth will work with tribe's language committee to recommend court names to larger committee.

More That We Know

- We will be relying on county probation for supervision of this caseload.
- We will be relying on Tribal Health Clinic for majority of services.
- We will need to be available to provide cross training and education.
- We still have work to do but it will be done and we will be successful in our goals.

Questions for the Team?

