

Tous', nineeninoo nii'eihii hoonobetouu. Hello, My name is Sunny Goggles, I am the Director of the White Buffalo Recovery Program which is a Indian Health Service 638 Contract for Substance Abuse Services for the Northern Arapaho Tribe. I have been designated to speak today on behalf of the Northern Arapaho Tribe regarding the issue of dangerous drugs on our reservation.

The White Buffalo Recovery Center provides outpatient treatment services to adults and adolescents. The program currently provides adult intensive outpatient treatment, adult outpatient treatment, adolescent outpatient treatment and recovery support programming. The program is a State of Wyoming certified program with three certified or licensed providers at the Arapahoe site and three certified or licensed providers at the Wind River Hotel and Casino site. The program refers to residential treatment centers with limited funding to assist with client costs, which limits clients to state funded beds in Wyoming. In 2014 the program served 109 adults and 5 adolescents with Level III, inpatient treatment recommendations. The program assisted 34 individuals in placement at this level of care, several people are on three to six month waiting lists for beds. Out of the 2014 population the program serves a total of 92% court involved cases including tribal court, Fremont county court systems, federal court systems and local off reservation city justice systems. The funding does allow for prevention services and this program is being developed. Two youth mentors have been hired and they do afterschool programming with Riverton Middle School which has tribal population 116 youth, ages 11 to 14, four days a week. They focus on drug and alcohol prevention, American Indian Life Skills Curriculum, and leadership.

The Wind River Indian Reservation has a crime rate five to seven times the national average and a long history of ghastly homicides according to New York Times, 2012. Like many

reservations, the Wind River Reservation suffers from high unemployment (76%), poverty (68% some form of public aid), substandard housing, and substance abuse. The reservation makes up most of Fremont County and Fremont County leads Wyoming in substance use and violent crime and substance abuse effects (morbidity and mortality). Substance Abuse costs lives, hurts children and families and places a burden of expense on police, courts, jails and public expenditures.

On the Wind River Reservation the social effects of substance abuse are vast. Families are torn apart, lives are lost, and personal injury is the result. In addition, private and public property is destroyed thus, creating a reflection of the community's lack of self-esteem and pride. Substance Abuse effects are directly related to the mortality of the tribal population in our community. A majority of the accidents and other adverse effects are alcohol and drug related, this includes car accidents and unintended injury. Cancer, Heart Disease, Cirrhosis and Diabetes have are directly related to or contributed to by substance abuse.

I share this information so that you can reflect on where our community was in ten years. Because I know our issues will get better. I know we are taking strides down the right path. I know there is hope.

The Business Council has established meetings among, elders, schools and tribal programs to discuss the increase in Methamphetamine on the reservation in the last couple of years. In 2005-2007 there were a series of Federal drug busts that sent several tribal members to federal prison for distribution, manufacturing, and human trafficking. In the last four years many of these individuals have returned to the community with a lack of reentry services and minimal treatment services in prison the community has seen an increase in methamphetamine abuse. This is combined with the high rate of alcohol abuse, underage drinking and other drug use in the

community. This newly formed group meets monthly and is working update the Tribal Action Plan that will include Department of Family Services, Law Enforcement, School Districts, Programs, Elders and Youth. The Business Council has required attendance by Arapaho Tribal programs and are pushing for programs to collaborate for a unified effort to combat substance abuse.

The Business Council and the tribe are dedicated to reducing crime, decreasing substance abuse and creating a healthy environment for our families. The Northern Arapaho Tribe does not want to be known for living on the “Most Depressing and Dangerous Place to Live” as described by Business Insider in 2013 but rather for the efforts it took to overcome and survive with these disparities.

Background information

The Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming is one of four groups of Arapaho who originally occupied the headwaters of the Arkansas and Platte Rivers. After signing the Treaty of 1851, the Arapaho and Cheyenne then shared land encompassing one-sixth of Wyoming, one-quarter of Colorado and parts of western Kansas and Nebraska. Later, when the Treaty of 1868 left the Northern Arapaho without a land base, they were placed with the Shoshone in west central Wyoming, on the Wind River Reservation. The Northern Arapaho are a federally recognized tribe with 50% ownership with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe over the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. Extending over two million acres from the Wind River Range of the Rocky Mountains east onto the Plains, it is the fourth largest reservation in the United States. The Arapaho residences and communities of Beaver Creek, St. Stephens, Arapahoe, and Ethete extend along the Little Wind River in the southeast section of the reservation. The city of Riverton, which is mainly non-tribal land ownership, has a 20% Native population. Current Northern Arapaho tribal population is 9,976 enrolled members. The Eastern Shoshone tribal population is nearly 4,800 and the reservation is home to thirty three other tribes according to US Census Data, 2010.

Tribal administration and governance is centralized in the town of Ethete, with several tribal programs located in the Arapahoe Area which is 20 miles east of Ethete, while Shoshone tribal offices and federal government agencies are located in Fort Washakie about seven miles to the west. The Northern Arapaho have resisted adopting a constitution since it was first proposed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the 1930s. The Business Council is elected every two years and is composed of six members over the age of eighteen years old. Besides the Business Council, Northern Arapahos govern through resolutions passed in General Council, a meeting in which all present and eligible tribal members discuss and decide issues facing the tribe.

The NIDA (2015) states that scientific research since the mid-1970s shows that drug abuse treatment can help many drug abusing offenders change their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors towards drug abuse, avoid relapse, and successfully remove themselves from a life of substance abuse and crime. It is true that legal pressure might be needed to get a person into treatment and help them stay there. Once in a treatment program, however, even those who are not motivated to change at first can eventually become engaged in a continuing treatment process. The problem is the lack of appropriate levels of treatment services for the tribal population. This is evident by the 2014 report by the White Buffalo Recovery Center.

Adult program 2014: Assessments are conducted by licensed and certified staff utilizing the Addiction Severity Index (ASI). A provider will visit Fremont County Detention Center and Wind River BIA Correctional Facility once a week for assessments. Total of 327 Adults assessed. The program offers Level II.1 Intensive Outpatient Program which is 9 hours of treatment a week for 12 weeks. This allows clients to be home and still get an intensive level of treatment currently the program has 10 slots for this program. Total of 49 Adults. The program offers Level I Outpatient Programs including Basic Alcohol and Drug Education (BADE), Relapse Prevention and Parenting this includes group or individual sessions. This is a minimum of one hour a week for 12 weeks. Total of 104 Adults. The program offers Level 0.5 Adult DUI Education Class once a month. This class is a total of 12 hours and is a state approved curriculum. Total of 62 Adults. Individuals who need a Level III Residential placement are referred to local inpatient facilities and the program will provide transportation as needed. Total of 109 Adults. Due to a lack of funding the program utilizes facilities within the State of Wyoming and clients are on waiting lists for state funded beds. The program then assists with the clients' portion of payment. The program receives \$79,000 a year for inpatient placement. In the past the program has paid \$15,000 for 30 days of treatment which means 5.3 clients could attend this level of care. With the use of state funded beds the program has been able to send 32 clients to inpatient for 90 days or more. The problem is many individuals have a 3 to 6 month wait before they get a bed date, during this time many clients lose contact with the program, get re arrested or lose their life. With only one facility 32 miles away, with limited capacity, utilizing a transitional program awhile awaiting a bed date is infrequent. The closest adult inpatient facility is two hours away and the program has referred people to centers in California and Nevada also. For those that do return from Level III treatment there is only one place for reentry and that is in Fort Washakie at Sho Rap Lodge, otherwise many people go back into the housing situation that they left. Their change for continued sobriety is decreased due to the lack of transitional housing.

Adolescent Program 2014: Assessments are conducted by licensed and certified staff utilizing the Adolescent Addiction Severity Index (AASI). Total of 13 Adolescents assessed. Many clients get an assessment with another program and come to White Buffalo Recovery for services. The program offers a Level I Outpatient Adolescent Education Program for a minimum of one hour a week for 8 weeks. Total of 12 Adolescents. The program offers a Level 0.5 Minor In Possession (MIP) Education course once a month. This is an 8 hour course and is a state approved curriculum. Total of 8 Adolescents. Individuals who need a Level III Residential placement are referred to local inpatient facilities and the program will provide transportation as needed. Total of 5 Adolescents. Facilities utilized are Central Wyoming Counseling Center in Casper, WY (2 hours one way), Northwest Counseling in Powell, WY (2 hours one way), 4 Dances Treatment Center (5 hours one way) and Cathedral Home in Laramie, WY (3 hours one way). Currently the program does not offer Level II.1 Intensive Outpatient Program but is

planning to offer this level of care in June 2015. The program currently refers out for this Level of care. Total of 10 Adolescents. The program is waiting to move into a new modular office that will have space for group counseling. The only place to get Level II.1 care is through the Wellness Court in Fort Washakie (32 miles away). The program offers youth prevention this includes school presentations, youth conferences, mentoring services, community events and sober activities. Total of 300 Adolescents served.

Causes of Death 2001-2010 of Tribal population in Wyoming, Vital Statistic Data

- 1st ACCIDENTS AND OTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS (INJURY)
- 2nd CANCER
- 3rd HEART DISEASE
- 4th CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE (CIRRHOSIS)
- 5th DIABETES

Mortality Rates 2001-2011 for the Tribal Population in the State of Wyoming

The number of deaths that occur in the population per unit of time (usually one year)

- Cancer 185.70 per 100,000 (whites 173.1/100,000)
- Heart Disease 170.28 per 100,000 (whites 164.07/100,000)
- Accidents and Adverse Effects 121.01 per 100,000 (whites 61.75/100,000)
- Diabetes 90.01 per 100,000 (whites 23.22/100,000)
- Chronic Liver Disease 87.00 per 100,000 (whites 9.85/100,000)

The life expectancy for the general population is 78.7 years.

The life expectancy for Native Americans in the US is 71.1 years.

Native Americans in SD can expect to live only to their 64th birthday.

The average of death for Native Americans in Wyoming is 53.1 years old