

## Hello NPAIHB Partners–

As you may know, the *Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board* has several interrelated projects that focus on adolescent behavioral health. Over the years this has prompted us to form numerous prevention workgroups, coalitions and committees independently focusing on substance abuse, STDs/HIV, suicide, commercial tobacco, and other risky behaviors.

Moving forward, we could like to propose streamlining our (and your) efforts, by integrating (or at least coordinating) the dates and locations of several of these groups. By taking a more holistic approach to adolescent behavioral health, we hope to meet the diverse, interrelated needs of the young people that we serve, support cross-program communication, and (ideally 😊) reduce the number of meetings and trainings that those of us wearing multiple hats must attend.

### The Concept:

I am happy to discuss/brainstorm logistics with those who are interested, but I imagine this inclusive, multi-functional group would meet quarterly, at varying locations in OR, WA, and ID. The group could meet as a whole to discuss cross-cutting adolescent behavioral health strategies, and then break into topical committees -- tobacco, substance abuse, STD/HIV, teen pregnancy, suicide, etc. for more detailed action planning, discussion, and resource sharing.

Rather than create stand-alone events, we would like to identify like-minded meetings, trainings, or activities in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho that we could partner with in hosting and/or merge with as a pre- or post- meeting. All partners could add to the agenda - In doing so, we hope to increase participation, reduce (your and our) project budgets for such meetings, and improve the quality and content of these discussions.

### Please Send Your Feedback:

If you are aware of any events that may be amenable to this undertaking, **please give me a call or send me an email with the dates and locations of potential meetings, trainings, or events.** We will make every effort to align this effort with other like-minded meetings or trainings in our region.

I know my contact list is incomplete at this point - Please pass this letter along to others involved in Native adolescent behavioral health who might be interested in this partnership. You will hear more from us soon with possible dates and locations for our Fall meeting.

Take care,  
--S--

### Stephanie Craig Rushing, MPH

Director, Project Red Talon - NW Tribal EpiCenter  
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board  
527 SW Hall, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97201  
ph: (503) 228-4185  
fax: (503) 228-8182  
[scraig@npaihb.org](mailto:scraig@npaihb.org)

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