



AAIR

Access to
American Indian
Recovery

Monthly Update

July 2009

Provider of the Month

The Friendship House

Association of American Indians, Inc. of San Francisco

The mission of Friendship House is to promote healing and wellness in the American Indian community by providing a continuum of substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services that integrate traditional American Indian healing practices and evidence-based substance abuse treatment methods.

Friendship House is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that operates a nationally accredited residential treatment for American Indians (AI) through two residential facilities: an 80-bed center for adults in San Francisco and a center for AI women with their children in Oakland.

Both facilities take an holistic approach that focuses on the whole person, to restore mind, body and spirit. Medical, mental health and substance abuse issues are attended to during treatment. Rehabilitation includes education, job training, housing referrals, and reentry support. Prevention incorporates wellness education, parenting skills, and traditional American Indian spiritual and cultural values.

Friendship House (FH) Assistant Director Orlando Nakai points out a key difference between FH and other programs, "We don't tear clients down to build them back up. We believe our

American Indian children are born sacred, spiritual beings. Influences in their life got them off that path, so we bring these strong spiritual values back to help them realize their innate capacity."

The healing begins, Orlando says, even before a client enters the facility. "An American Indian sweat lodge greets clients in the courtyard. This is a very powerful healing concept integrated into the treatment modality."

Cultural enrichment comes in many forms. Native American counseling staff often share their own spiritual traditions and knowledge to help clients. They use stories and songs and participate in drumming groups and talking circles. A traditional healer, Richard Moves Camp, provides cultural and spiritual guidance in many of these cultural components.

Since 2007, Friendship House has delivered nearly \$300,000 in services to AI clients. It hasn't been easy. For example, eligibility requirements demand documentation, but many homeless applicants have lost their papers. While eligible clients can receive services, there's no AAIR funding for family members, despite the evidence supporting the

Continued on back

New Staff?

AAIR Provider Training in Southern California

FREE one-day AAIR provider training, Thursday, July 16, 2009, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

If you are a new AAIR provider or if you have new staff, a training session is strongly advised to serve clients at the highest possible level. This session is for service staff and those who handle data entry and billing on the Voucher Management System (VMS).

Get answers to all your questions. Learn how you to serve more clients and bring more money into your organization. Some AAIR providers have already received over \$200,000 for AAIR client services. Your organization can benefit, as you help clients sustain their recovery.

Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health

11555 1/2 Potrero Road
Banning, CA 92220
(800) 732-8805

Training includes:

- AAIR Program General Information
- Recent Program Changes
- Current Vouchers & Services
- Service Definitions
- VMS Instruction: Enrolling clients, entering services, billing
- GPRA & 6-Month follow-up interviews

Continued on back



A program of the
California Rural Indian
Health Board, Inc.

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Friendship House Continued

important role of families in recovery support and prevention. Funding limits also prevent access to FH's culturally-appropriate Meth Matrix program. However, FH staff work with other providers and agencies to do as much as possible.

That kind of dedication goes beyond a 9-to-5 routine and involves advocating on behalf of clients, participating in community action, serving on state, local, and national boards and working groups, and engaging in outreach and relationship building with tribes across the country.

This level of commitment takes time and energy. As Orlando says, "You have to be well within yourself to operate at this capacity." But the work they do at Friendship House is making a difference every day. "I tell our staff, we may not be doctors or EMTs, but we're still saving lives, and saving and healing the community."

New Staff Continued

Seating is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible. Send your organization name and names of participants to: randal.vardan@crihb.net or call Randal at (916) 929-9761.

Upcoming Training & Conferences—2009

June 22-26

Alcohol Counselor Training: Fundamentals of Case Management

Course focuses on intake, interview strategies, documentation, forms, ethics, service plans, and referral methods used in case management for the substance dependent patient/client. Hosted by California Rural Indian Health Board and held at the Holiday Inn Northeast, Sacramento. Deborah.Kawkeka@crihb.net or Jennifer.Parsons@crihb.net or call (916) 929-9761.

July 8-10

20th Annual Native American Women's Conference

"Native Women of Strength: Substance Not Abuse" is this year's theme. This FREE conference includes sessions on Tule Basket Making, Meth, FASD in Native American Communities, and a Young Women's track for age 14 and up, as well as a hosted luncheon and Awards ceremony. Made possible by the California Rural Indian Health Board and the California Dept. of Drug and Alcohol's Native American Women's Public Awareness Campaign. Held at the Holiday Inn Northeast, Sacramento. Deborah.Kawkeka@crihb.net or Jennifer.Parsons@crihb.net or call (916) 929-9761.

AAIR Voucher Inventory as of June 16, 2009

Voucher Type	Voucher Value	Initial Quantity	Total Issued	Total Remaining
Recovery support without clinical services (evaluations)	\$ 95	954	21	933
Recovery support services	\$ 600	300	23	277
Continuation	\$ 600	300	0	300
Transitional housing	\$ 750	300	4	296
Continuation	\$ 750	300	0	300
Clinical screening, assessment, and diagnosis	\$ 255	1,560	268	1,292
Outpatient treatment voucher	\$ 800	800	120	680
Continuation	\$ 800	800	2	798
Residential treatment voucher	\$2,700	760	139	621
6-month post outcome evaluation voucher	\$ 120	2,514	286	2,228

Voucher Inventory through 9/29/2009

The AAIR program is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB). To learn more about AAIR, call toll-free: (866) 350-8772 or visit: www.crihb.org/AAIR