



AAIR

Access to
American Indian
Recovery

Monthly Update

April 2009

AAIR Provider of the Month

United Indian Health Services, Inc.: Providing Services in Remote Rural Areas

United Indian Health Services (UIHS) in Arcada, California is a private, Indian owned, non-profit organization that provides outpatient health-care for 15,000 Native Americans and their families in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. Traditional values and customs have been part of daily activities at UIHS since its founding in 1968.



UIHS built Potawot Health Village in the 1990s, which integrates individuals, community, and environmental health. The restored grounds surrounding Potawot enhance wetlands and prairie habitat, with space to grow food and native plants and for traditional ceremonies.

Many people in this area live in remote, beautiful places, beside rivers, the ocean, or in the mountains. They live with high unemployment, poverty and poor transportation options, and a suicide rate double other California counties.



Alan Schrader, LCSW, promoted Clinical Director of Substance Abuse and Mental Health at Potawot after over a year at UIHS's Smith River clinic, has

worked in residential treatment since 1976. Despite long experience working with alcohol, heroin, and barbiturate users, the current drug situation is "baffling," Alan says. "Methamphetamine and the world transfer of illegal drugs through reservations and Rancherias have shown us that

we did not know as much as we thought" about substance abuse.

AAIR at Work

AAIR helps by providing a major part of the budget for the 7 UIHS drug/alcohol treatment staff. AAIR also helps improve the quality of client care with standard intake procedures, assessments, and measurement tools (GPRA) for all clients, Al-

an points out. "AAIR values Native American Spiritual providers." That's important because the UIHS program includes access to purification sweats, Native American healers, and traditional foods and herbs for total mind/body/spirit balance.

Partnering with other organizations enables UIHS staff to make it easier for clients to access needed services. UIHS coun-

selors work with all the local Tribes, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Tribal TANF, drug courts, and probation (adults and youth).

Partnerships Count

It isn't easy to work with groups of both county and Tribal nations members. "Each group has its own goals, priorities, and cultural adjustments," and its own way of doing things.



"For instance, in one county we work actively with the County Drug Court program," Alan explains. "In the other county, Drug Court sends us referrals. As Tribal Drug Courts develop, we'll add new roles and partnerships."

Recently, Alan began encouraging Tribal governments to become AAIR providers and run

sober living homes. Clients in early recovery have a hard time finding



safe, drug-free housing. Sober living homes are affordable and effective. They could be run using Tribal social service and AAIR funds.

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A program of the
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AAIR Advisory Board: Treatment Vouchers a Hot Topic

The AAIR Advisory Board, AAIR administrators from CRIHB, AAIR consultants, and members of the American Indian/Alaska Native community met at CRIHB in Sacramento, March 12 - 13. AAIR providers offered in-depth feedback on the need for more treatment vouchers, then attention turned to the problem of underutilized AAIR recovery support services.

Board members formed a Working Group to look at new ways to define and allocate AAIR vouchers when Year One Carryover funds become available. The group has begun reviewing residential treatment vouchers, a new Meth Dental Services voucher, and other changes to make it easier for providers to serve clients and meet the goals of the AAIR program. Outreach to homeless AI/AN people is also part of the strategy for Year 2 and will be part of upcoming discussions. The next meeting is planned for April 27-28.

UIHS Continued

He suggests holding teleconferences with other Tribal governments, "focused discussions and planning sessions that lead to more AAIR providers in the Tribal areas. More AAIR services means more clients served." That's our goal.

Upcoming Trainings & Webcasts - 2009

June 8 - 12, September 10 - 11

Alcohol Counselor Certification

FREE training for IHS clinic staff hosted by CRIHB for California Area Indian Health Services on behalf of Tribal and Urban Indian Health Programs. Jennifer.Parsons@crihb.net.

White Bison Sacred Hoop Journey in California

April 27 Fresno
April 28 Hollister
April 29 Sacramento
April 30 Placerville
May 1 Bishop

Deborah.Kawkeka@crihb.net or call (906) 929-9761.

May 5, 6 & 7

Medicine Wheel Prevention Program—Firestarter Training

3-day training sponsored by Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley, Counseling Department. Made possible by Recovery/Treatment Technical Assistance and Training for Native Americans in California. Funding: California Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Programs. Call (408) 445-3400, ext. 245 or Ariotutar@ihcscv.org

May 6

Recovery Month Webcasts

"Providing a Continuum of Care: Improving Collaboration Among Services"
Recovery-oriented systems of care provide a continuum of care for individuals in recovery and their families. This episode is part of a monthly SAMHSA webcast series. "The Road to Recovery: Together We Learn, Together We Heal" is this year's theme for Recovery Month (September). Webcasts air the first Wednesday each month, with a final program in November. <http://www.recoverymonth.gov/2009/multimedia/>.

AAIR Providers and Clients Served

- **Total Providers: 99**
- Total RSS Providers Enrolled: 89
- Total Faith-based RSS Providers Enrolled: 44
- Total Community or Secular RSS Providers Enrolled: 45
- Total Clinical Treatment Providers Enrolled: 87
- Total Faith-based Clinical Treatment Providers Enrolled: 43
- Total Community or Secular Clinical Treatment Providers Enrolled: 44
- **Total Clients seen to date: 1907 (CSAT, 4/3/09)**
- **Total Methamphetamine Clients: 855 (45%) (CSAT, 4/3/09)**

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