NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH

What’s Behind the Resistance?
Tribal Jurisdictions
Pre-Caucasian Invasion

[Image of a map showing various Native American tribes across the United States, labeled with tribes such as Chinook, Yakima, Nez Perce, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Pawnee, etc.]
“In 1492, Columbus sailed the Ocean Blue...”

...and got totally lost.....
First Contact

- Landed on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas
- Inhabited by the Taino people
Who were the Taino?

- Most numerous of the indigenous people of the Caribbean, inhabiting what is now Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republican, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

- Complex hierarchical religious, political, and social systems

- Very skilled farmers and navigators

- But all the Europeans saw was that they were naked
  - “similar to Adam and Eve before the snake showed up”
“We must save them!”

- Clothing
- Religion
- Language

- By 1550, the Taino were close to extinction, primarily due to diseases brought by the Spaniards
Sick and dying from a difficult journey

Starving and lacking food sources

Local natives taught them their methods of farming and gathering.

Squanto (Pawtuxet band of the Wampanoag tribe) was instrumental in helping the Pilgrims

- Translator to assist with diplomacy and trade with the other native people
- Taught them effective methods for planting corn and the best places to fish.
Squanto’s birth name was Tisquantum

First kidnapped by Captain Weymouth and taken to England in 1605.
  - Treated well and eventually returned to their homeland

In 1614, captured by English explorer, Thomas Hunt
  - Sold into slavery in Spain along with 20 other Indians
  - Later rescued by Spanish friars and sent to England

Eventually made it back to New England, only to learn that his tribe had been wiped out by disease

Settled in Plymouth in 1619 and began working with the Pilgrims
Seeking “religious freedom”
After hearing about the success the earlier settlers had decided to immigrate.
Proceeded to claim any land that wasn’t fenced in!
How do we solve the “Indian Problem”? 

Three Proposed solutions:

- First, Geographical.....just make them move
How do we solve the “Indian Problem”?

Three Proposed Solutions:

- Option two- Military Subjugation/Genocide
How do we solve the “Indian Problem”?

This proved unsuccessful...
How do we solve the “Indian Problem”?

Three Proposed Solutions:

• Option Three- Education
  • “Kill the Indian...Save the Man”
Indian Boarding Schools

- Children forced to leave their homes and families
- Stripped of the clothes, belongings, medicines, and hair
- Forbidden to speak, sing, or worship in their native tongue
- Immersed in Christian education
- Provided rudimentary scholastic training
- Vocational training to become laborers/servants
Complete isolation from family life/values/culture
  - Loss of identity

Large dormitories/system resembling prisons
  - Facilities rampant with disease
  - Sexual abuse by staff, and later by other students as they got older

Students sent home with skills that had no value within the tribal community

1978- Indian Child Welfare Act- AI parents gained the legal right to deny their children’s placement in off-reservation schools.
MAP works with 29 of the 38 Federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma
- Directly or through contractual relationships with other agencies.
- Many tribes operate multiple clinics/hospitals

MAP has trained counselors in 12 tribes and health centers
Meetings with tribal leadership
Invitations to education events through tribal connections
Training tribal representatives as counselors
Providing printed materials for distribution at health centers/tribal events
Participation at tribal events
PBC access to trained MAP counselors to address questions/concerns
Lessons learned:

- Sovereign tribal nations
  - Unique in their culture, beliefs, values
- Let them know who you are, where you are from, how you can help, and back off!
  - If what you are offering will help their elders, they will reach out to you.
- Keep to the point; don’t bring in new topics not previously discussed
  - A great way to build trust is to stick to the approved topic(s).
- Patience.....lots and lots of patience
  - Work at their pace
  - Be prepared for setbacks
    - Staff turnover
    - Changes in leadership
Resources

- “American Indian Outreach”- Alex Ward
- “The Great Father- The United States Government and the American Indians”- Francis Paul Prucha
- “Indian Removal”- Grant Forman
- “Our Spirits Don’t Speak English: Indian Boarding School”- DVD