



Partnership for Chemical Dependency Treatment Programming

The Fresno American Indian Health Project and the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest

Over the past three years the Urban Indian Health Institute's (UIHI's) [Health Equity project](#) has facilitated partnerships between Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs) to strengthen services in specific disease topic areas: cardiovascular disease and depression. This year the [Fresno American Indian Health Project \(FAIHP\)](#) and the [Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest \(NARA\)](#) participated in the third and final partnership, the Partnership for Chemical Dependency Treatment Programming (PCDTP). Over four months, the FAIHP and the NARA, guided by the UIHI, engaged in three activities to strengthen ties between the two UIHOs and to help create the framework for chemical dependency program change at their organizations.

After an initial introductory teleconference, each organization participated in an organizational readiness assessment, including an analysis of five domains: leadership, community profile, existing infrastructure, financial resources, and work environment. A model of the assessment process is available on the UIHI website. Finally, the organizations came together in Portland for a strategic planning workshop. Each site presented a [Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats \(SWOT\) analysis](#) to introduce their programs. Then both teams together created goals, objectives, and strategies to help each organization plan to achieve their program change goals. While the organizations differ in size and service profile, they were able to learn from each other's experience. NARA is a national leader in urban AI/AN CD treatment and FAIHP just started their third-party billing profile under Medicaid expansion, which led to spirited planning with fresh ideas and lively discourse. NARA's goals included the integration of substance abuse services across all of their sites and developing their relationship with Oregon State's AI/AN council on addiction with area tribes. FAIHP's goals included establishing their third-party billing system and collaborating with local CD partner agencies to gain access to AI/AN patients in their urban core.

Both organizations made progress towards their goals since the workshop, and indicated that the goals, objectives, and strategies were shared with their organizations to help with internal planning exercises. Their partnership has continued with NARA sharing some example behavioral health policies and procedures with FAIHP since the workshop. For NARA, the strategic planning workshop exercises led to forming a tribal liaison outreach team to facilitate referrals with tribes. Also, NARA is creating a housing and employment development position to work with clients transitioning out of residential treatment. FAIHP is setting up their Medicaid service delivery profile and third-party billing system. FAIHP plans to use the workshop materials to inform their quality assurance and improvement systems in the future.

