



# UIHI Communication Broadcast

A u g u s t 2 0 1 1

## **Profile on Community Gathering Award Winner: San Diego American Indian Health Center**

Through a grant from the Office of Minority Health, the Urban Indian Health Institute offered a Community Gathering opportunity to the San Diego American Indian Health Center (SDAIHC) to assess their community's need for services for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families. The Community Gathering funds enabled SDAIHC to survey community organizations, create new partnerships and develop a grant application to fund a mental health program for their community.

SDAIHC has routinely utilized data collection methods, such as local surveys and secondary sources, to assess community needs and plan for program development. Through this process, SDAIHC had identified an alarming health disparity: the suicide rate among American Indian/Alaska Native people (AI/AN) people in San Diego County is 11.7 per 100,000, compared with a statewide rate of 9.8 per 100,000. This disparity illustrated a critical need for expanding behavioral health care services that are family-focused, community-owned and culturally appropriate. In response, SDAIHC prioritized designing and implementing such a program.

As part of the Community Gathering process, SDAIHC met with and surveyed potential partners to assess the type and level of mental health services available through other agencies and organizations. Based on this survey of existing resources and partnership opportunities, SDAIHC contracted with a consulting firm to help identify the scope of their future mental health program that would best serve their community. This work enabled SDAIHC to develop and submit a grant in May to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) Circles of Care V funding opportunity. If awarded, the SAMHSA grant will enable SDAIHC to develop and implement their program to improve the mental health and well-being of AI/AN youth and their families.

**If you have any questions, please email [info@uihi.org](mailto:info@uihi.org).**

**Urban Indian Health Institute P.O. Box 3364, Seattle, WA 98114 p: (206) 812-3030 [www.uihi.org](http://www.uihi.org)**

