Evaluation and Research in Indian Country

Douglas A Bigelow, PhD
Professor Emeritus

R. Dale Walker, MD
Professor and Director

One Sky Center
Oregon Health & Science University
Tribal Best Practices Initiative: Phases

1. Tribal response to EBP mandate
2. State TBP initiative
3. Criteria of TBP cultural validity
4. Adoption of Logic Model
5. Evaluation of TBP
6. Institutionalization of TBP
Tri-cultural Sources of Best Practice
Environmental Scan

- Government – Government relationship
- Languages, customs (different and important)
- Small population
- Rural/remote
- Poor communities
- Cultural sensitivity/competence
Epistemology:
Key to “cultural appropriateness”

• **Stop!** Rethink your entire approach

  ➢ *Ways of knowing*
  ➢ *Criteria of “proof”*
  ➢ What matters
Contribution of Science: Evaluability

• Program theory and clarification

• Input-process-outcome

• The Logic Model
Why Understand Epistemology of Culture-Based Practices?

- Develop new CBP
- Validate proposed CBP
- Culturally appropriate tests of what works
- Cross-walk to EBP and PBP
- Disseminate and improve CBP
- Empower indigenous knowledge
Phase 3
Specifying Cultural Validity

- TBP ≡ EBP
- Criteria of cultural validity
- Buy-in to scientific approach
Criteria for Cultural Validity

• Longevity

• Teachings
  – Values
  – Principles

• Elder’s approval

• Community feedback/evaluation/acceptance
Services/Resources
- Income support
- LE/Justice
- Physical MD
- Mental Health
- Sobriety
- Education
- Food
- Emergency Shelter

Home Visiting
- Education
- Training/Demonstration
- Support/Encouragement
- Linking

Child
- Safe
- Healthy
- School ready

Parent
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Motivation
- Performance

Local Context
- Employment
- Housing
- Recreation
- Community Activities/Events
- Social Structure
- Politics

Culture
- Vision/Aspiration
- Morale
- Values
- Principles
- Stories
- Images
Logic Model: 
Culture-Based **Activities**

- Experience, observation, listening, participating
- Traditions, ceremonies, daily observances
- Stories, songs, artwork
- Oral, modeling, practice, animation
- Language, worldview, teachings, experience
Logic Model: Culture-Based **Materials**

- Settings
- Dress; Regalia
- Symbols; Graphics; Pictures
- Sensory Substances
- Food
- Fun
Logic Model: Culture-Based Outcomes

• Balance
• Connection
  – family
  – culture
  – community
  – natural world
  – spiritual world
• Identity

• Meaning
• Power and hope
• Self-esteem
• Community
  – norms
  – adaptive capacity
  – sharing and support
Institutionalize the Culture-Based Approach to Evaluation

• AMH initiative

• Tribal involvement & acceptance

• State legislative recognition (parallel to EBP)
Lessons Learned: Plan for Advancing Evaluation of Culture-Based Programs

**Objective**
- Develop a logic model
- Understand evaluability
- Increasing commitment to evaluation

**Action**
- TPB form, suggestions, and instructions in logic model format
- Goals, activities, and outcomes in measurable terms
- Participation of Tribes in conceptualizing TBP in both Culture-Based and evaluable terms