

### Community Need Statement

Dream Quest (DQ) is a youth center in Willow Creek, CA that provides positive youth development opportunities to the communities of Eastern Humboldt County and Western Trinity County. DQ is currently planning for an expansion into a new purpose built building which will extend DQ's capacity to positively impact the community. Along with facilities expansion, DQ is planning to expand the capacity of its staff and programming, including the continual improvement of youth outcomes. DQ requested my assistance to collaborate in an effort to uncover knowledge around program evaluation and the experience of families involved with DQ.

### Theoretical Issues

- Positive Youth Development
- Indigenous Research Methodology
  - Mixed Methods Research
- Trauma-Informed and strength-based

### Acknowledgements

*Trish Oaks, Executive Director  
Necahual Gamboa, Program Coordinator  
George Koortbojian, President  
Dream Quest Board of Directors  
Phoebe Cellitti, ASW  
Pam Bowers, PhD  
Raquel Evans, my loving wife*



### Credibility Statement

I am a resident of Willow Creek that settled there eight years ago. I have worked in the community as a social worker and as a youth music instructor and I care deeply about the wellness of the youth, while carrying my own biases. I choose to bracket these experiences with the aim of cultural responsiveness and the knowledge of the unique history of the region.

### Method

Through collaboration with the staff and board of Dream Quest, we developed a plan to meet their needs with a community survey. Successive drafts, consultation, and consideration of various research methodologies led us to a set of questions that prioritized the experience of the participants. Using SurveyMonkey platform, we distributed the survey both online and in paper form. At the close of the survey, we filmed and posted to social media an anonymous raffle to distribute the survey incentives. Along the way, I spent Friday afternoons engaging with the community at the youth center.

### Deliverable

- An evaluation report from our survey which summarizes the felt need and preferences of the families involved with Dream Quest
- A narrative of the project process and lessons to inform similar efforts to survey Dream Quest families in the future
- Based on the voice the community, the report includes opportunities for Dream Quest to make program improvements and directions to guide future grant making.
- Example: The survey revealed a clear preference in favor of constructing a new youth center facility.