

Youth Voices Matter

Lori Hayes
Department of Social Work
Cal Poly Humboldt
Class of 2023

Community Need Statement

In partnership with the Yurok Tribe, this project seeks the opinions of Yurok extended foster care and aged-out foster youth about their experiences, their needs, and their opinions on how services can be improved and ideas for future programming for Tribal foster youth. The Yurok Tribe is expanding services for youth through their Child Welfare Department, their Tribal Court and their TANF Department and would like to consult with Tribal youth to help guide future program development.

Theoretical Issues/Literature

- The needs of Indigenous youth are multifaceted, and the relational worldview model has helped to guide the youth interview process to seek out needs and strengths of youth in all the dimensions of their lives. The relational world view model assesses health and wellbeing on all four interconnected quadrants. These quadrants include "context, mind, body and spirit" and each quadrant "represents a unique facet of an individual's health, and their interconnections and intersections must be considered when working with Indigenous people" (Davidson Cowling, 2018).

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the Yurok Tribal Health and Human Service Department for helping to make this project possible with funding and support and all the hard working individuals who work there. I'd also like to acknowledge all of the youth who participated and shared their experience and knowledge with us.



Credibility Statement

Having lived among Karuk People for a decade and working for both the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, I felt comfortable doing this project. Even with this experience with Tribal Communities, it was important for these interviews to have an open-ended approach in order to get honest and open answers from the youth participants.

Method

Qualitative analysis is being used for this project. Interviews are transcribed and common themes and insightful input will be highlighted and color coded. This information will be used in the final write up that will be presented to the Yurok Tribe.

Deliverable/Results

This project will produce a report that highlights common themes found in the interviews, insightful input and ideas for improvement provided by the participants. As the ICWA Department and the Tribal Court continue to design programming for youth and refine existing programs, the hope is that this final report will provide useful information that will help them in program design and improvements over time.

References

Davidson Cowling, S. (2018). Culturally Responsive Social Work Methods for use with Indigenous People. *McNair Scholars Online Journal*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.15760/mcnair.2018.3>