



CCCWN News

December 2022

The Beauty of Connection: Tribal Partnerships for Healthier Communities

Strong partnerships between tribal sovereign nations and the communities, institutions, and local governments that live in and operate from ancestral Native lands is a cornerstone of public health infrastructure and improving overall health outcomes. But building these relationships is not without challenges; a long, troubled history of trauma, displacement, genocide, cultural eradication, stolen lands, and broken promises and treaties aren't the best foundations of trust.

Oregon is home to nine federally-recognized tribes that are separate sovereign nations with self-governance powers. According to 2020 US Census data, approximately 185,723 Native Americans ("American Indian or Native Alaskan") live across Oregon. In this context, tribal partnerships are critical to increasing the scope and impact of resources and helping ensure health, safety, and welfare of Native Americans/American Indians in Oregon. The ancestral lands of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians (CTSI), which comprises the most diverse confederation of Tribes and Bands on a single reservation in the United States, was home to 10 distinct languages and multiple dialects. The tribal land encompassed the tri-county region, stretching from SW Washington to northern California and including all of Western Oregon from the Cascades to the Pacific. The CTSI nation today looks very different; in 1954, the Western Oregon Termination Act nullified their federal recognition as a Tribe. In 1977, The CTSI became the second tribe in Oregon to regain federal recognition but with the vast swaths of their ancestral lands distilled down to a 3,900-acre reservation.

Small doesn't mean powerless; with 5,600 enrolled members, CTSI offers a rich variety of programs to eligible tribal members that focus on building and sustaining healthy, stable, and resilient communities. These programs address a wide range of social determinants of health, including housing supports, healthcare, education, and social and human services, as well as natural resources and planning. While tribal history in the U.S. is riddled with injustices and trauma, strong community partnerships that acknowledge and honor tribal sovereignty, culture, and methods has led to better outcomes for the entire region and state. These strong partnerships also help to ensure all tribal voices are heard and that tribal members living and working in other parts of the region receive the support and resources they need to be successful.



Ruby Moon uses the example of the recent Community Health Needs Assessment and the Regional Health Assessments that were conducted through a collaborative process across the region. Just as hospitals and health departments across the state, CTSI is also required to participate or lead an assessment at least once every five years. Ruby saw the assessment process an opportunity to leverage existing partnerships, both formal and informal, work towards a common goal, break down silos, minimize duplication of efforts, and capitalize on the unique expertise each partner brought to the table. The partners agreed to develop the required assessments in collaboration, as well as share staff resources and data that could ultimately build better public health infrastructure and response.

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Tribal Partnerships continued...

In Lincoln County, the CTSI has been an invaluable partner and ally in myriad efforts to address some of the most pressing social determinants of health needs in the region. These include programs to address Substance Use Disorder through harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and recovery activities, early childhood development, nutrition and physical activity projects, and parenting education, and many other available services.

The CTSI is also a core member of the Coast to Cascades Community Wellness Network that enables the tribe and other organizations and community members to come together as one voice to improve the health of the region. This eschewing of the us-versus-them approach in favor of collaborative and creative problem solving allows money to stretch further, programs to have greater reach and impact, and creates the foundation for future partnerships and initiatives. An additional benefit and strength of being a member of the CCCWN and embracing partnerships is that both the tribe and its community partners can leverage those relationships and be eligible for local, state and federal funding opportunities that they would otherwise not qualify for.

In Ruby's words, "The beauty of connections is that we come together to paint one big picture instead of each organization having one swath of color. It's important to think of us, our region as one, as a whole."

Member Spotlight: Ruby Moon

To Ruby Moon, Director of Community Health for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, community is so much more than just a buzz word; it's her *raison d'être*, her life blood. The connections between her family, neighbors, friends, the forests and rivers and sea around her sustain and give her the vitality, energy, and empathy to guide her team and her community toward health, wellbeing, and balance.

Like any good story worth telling, Ruby's is lush with intriguing details and a blurb hardly suffices to describe the verdant life she's created. The nitty gritty—she's lived in Lincoln County her whole life and in Siletz for the past 22 years, and is the daughter (and sister, aunt, mother, friend) of a fisherman—only serve to underscore her connection to her community.

Her love for her people and her deeply-ingrained desire to serve, has inspired her to many pursuits; she was the lead teacher and a family advocate with Head Start for 17 years before deciding, mid-life and as a single mother with four kids at home, to go back to school, and as a Ford Scholar. She was motivated, at first, by the mix of fear and pride that comes with being part of a fishing family and watching loved ones go to sea. Tragically, she lost a family member to the trade, which ignited in her a fierce need to forge something positive out of something so devastating. Understanding fishing rules and regulations, with an eye to safety, guided her initial studies and research. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Oregon State University with BA in Human Development with an emphasis on Social Services and a master's degree in Public Policy with an emphasis on Rural Studies.

It's no surprise that the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Grant, a federal-university partnership program to bring science together with communities for "solutions that work," picked her up immediately. Her connections, integrity, and compassion allowed her to navigate the sometimes-fraught world of catch allocations, shipboard safety regulations, and other fisheries regulations with an ease that is rare in the industry. Even so, Ruby craved a deeper connection with her community. When her current position at CTSI came open about seven years ago, she applied and was hired, much to everyone's benefit. Ruby might undersell herself—"the tribe took a huge gamble hiring someone with a fish background to fill a public health role"—but if that's a gamble, CTSI and the entire community hit the jackpot.

Ruby's connection to the people and land around her bleeds into her personal life, in fact, it is her personal life. She is an avid gardener, forager, and apothecarist. She loves tromping around in the woods with her granddaughter/apprentice looking for wild medicinal plants and foods, which she uses to create traditional medicines and meals that she unsurprisingly shares generously with her community.



Monthly Updates

Bridges to Recovery

Core grant activities continue during the No Cost Extension period. Grant funds supported the third annual CTSI Harm Reduction Conference Dec. 12-14, 2022. The final close-out report will be due in May, 2023.

Oral Health Co-Location

Credentialing for two Capitol Dental EPDHs to practice at SPCH is finalized and they will begin seeing patients Dec. 20, 2022 at SPCH. Grant team is working with SHS Marketing to update Healthy Smiles for All media campaign for Lincoln County. Non-competing continuation progress report is due to HRSA by Jan. 31, 2023.

Rural Communities Supporting Women and Youth

Year 2 grant activities include early intervention and education in elementary and middle schools, coordinating care with the Linn County jail, facilitating parenting classes for families, and providing peer services in the labor and delivery unit. The Maternal Health Care Coordinator provides baskets of supplies to women. The Project Director continues to provide Narcan training to organizations and community members in Linn County. The grant handed out 216 Narcan kits and has ordered additional kits.

Measure 110 Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN)

The Linn and Lincoln County BHRN grants began during Oct. 2022, while the Benton County BHRN grant began in August/September. Each BHRN will run through Dec. 31, 2023. All three counties have a Coordinator working with the partners to provide technical assistance and support for the BHRN (Avalon Mason, Benton County Coordinator; Jennifer Beckner, Lincoln County Coordinator; and Michelle Means, Linn County Coordinator). Progress reports are due Jan. 15, 2023. All BHRN partners have signed an MOU in each county. A team is creating a Linn County and a Regional brochures to increase awareness of SUD/ODD resources and services for individuals in the region.

Helping Impact Women and Youth (HIWAY)

This three-year HRSA opioid implementation grant, awarded to SNLH, began Sept. 1, 2022. Grant agreements and sub-awards have been signed by the 12 community partners that comprise the Lincoln County HIWAY consortium. Two peer support specialists, one resource navigator, a coordinator and a teacher have been hired through grant subawards.

Parenting Success Network

Winter 2023:

- **Nurturing Parenting: Prenatal Families**—9-week parenting series. In partnership with Family Promise of Lincoln County and ReConnections Counseling.

Starts January 3rd (hybrid option)

- **Active Parenting of Teens**—6-week parenting series for families with teens in partnership with Family Promise of Lincoln County

Starts January 11th (hybrid option)

Ongoing supports include:

- **One-on-one Parenting Coaching**

Parenting Success Network has several parent coaches available to support the diverse families in our community. Families can choose the parent coach for their family and self-register [HERE](#) or call Pollywog at (541) 917-4884

- **Triple P Online**

Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org

or llame a Luis (541) 220-9686

Questions and Comments?

For questions and comments related to the monthly CCCWN Newsletter, please email Shelagh Baird at sbaird@samhealth.org

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