

Tribal Law Enforcement, Youth Engagement, and Deflection: Strategies for Building Positive Relationships

Center for Health & Justice at TASC

National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College

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CENTER FOR
HEALTH & JUSTICE
AT TASC

Center for Health & Justice COSSAP Team

TTA provider for COSSAP first responder deflection/diversion grantees since 2017



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- Kevin Mariano, Project Coordinator, Fox Valley Technical College

Substance use is not just about an individual, but also children, families, and the community.

- 9 million children grow up exposed to a parent, caregiver, or household member with a substance use disorder
- Victims of child abuse and neglect are more likely to develop a substance use disorder and become involved in the justice system
- Research has shown that Native American persons reported the highest rates of physical abuse, sexual abuse, parental substance use, and witnessing violence than members of any other racial/ethnic category
- Research also indicates a relationship between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and early initiation of alcohol and drug use
- Early initiation of substance use increases the likelihood of addiction into adulthood

What is Deflection & Pre-arrest Diversion?

- **Deflection** is the practice by which law enforcement or other first responders (i.e., fire and EMS) connect individuals to community-based treatment and/or services when arrest would not have been necessary (or an option), or *in lieu of taking no action* when issues of addiction, mental health, and/or service needs are present.
- **Pre-arrest diversion** is the practice by which law enforcement officers connect individuals who otherwise would have been eligible for charges to community-based treatment and/or services in lieu of arrest, thereby *diverting* them from the justice system into the community

Law Enforcement Deflection Programs in Tribal Communities

Traditional Law Enforcement Role

- Crime detection
- Investigation
- Community safety and victim protection
- Choice is to arrest or not arrest
- Culture and Tradition

Challenges in Indian Country

- Jurisdictional
- Lack of resources
- Inability to prosecute
- Challenges with victims/witnesses
- Lack of tribal leadership support

What Do We Know?

- Crimes related to drug use and/or mental illness cause significant impact in tribal communities
- Undermine tribal families, culture, and values
- Treatment/intervention is effective
- Community Youth Programs are effective in prevention
- Alternatives to prosecution (diversion) are employed by different criminal justice entities (e.g., prosecution, courts, etc.)

Law Enforcement Deflection Programs

- Provide resources and services instead of prosecution and incarceration
- Use risk tools and assess/identify lower risk population who would benefit from these services
- Use scarce criminal justice resources for higher risk community members
- Minimizing unintended impact of criminal justice system involvement on the individual, family, and community

Benefits of Deflection

- Changes community perception of law enforcement
- Builds positive relationships (community policing)
- Seen as a resource rather than someone to be feared or avoided
- Prevents future crime committed by those with substance abuse or mental health issues

Deflection: The Role of Law Enforcement in Responding to Children & Families

- Deflection offers us the ability to:
 - Turn every encounter into an opportunity
 - Prioritize early identification and intervention
 - Recognize that addiction is not just about an individual but a family
 - Address racial/ethnic disparity and risk factors

Law Enforcement & Youth Engagement

Camp Triumph and the Tribal Youth Police Academy



Camp Triumph

Kevin Mariano, Project Coordinator, Fox Valley Technical College

Former Chief of Police for Isleta Pueblo

mariano@fvtc.edu



“CAMP TRIUMPH”

A 4-day camp targeting youth ages 10-16 from the Pueblo of Isleta. The camp will help instill “trust” between the youth and police. The officers will be the mentors who teach a curriculum and participate in activities with the youth.

Who is involved?

- Social Services
- Behavioral Health
- Truancy Program
- Recreation Center
- Police Department
- County Sherriff's Office
- National Guard
- United States Attorney's Office

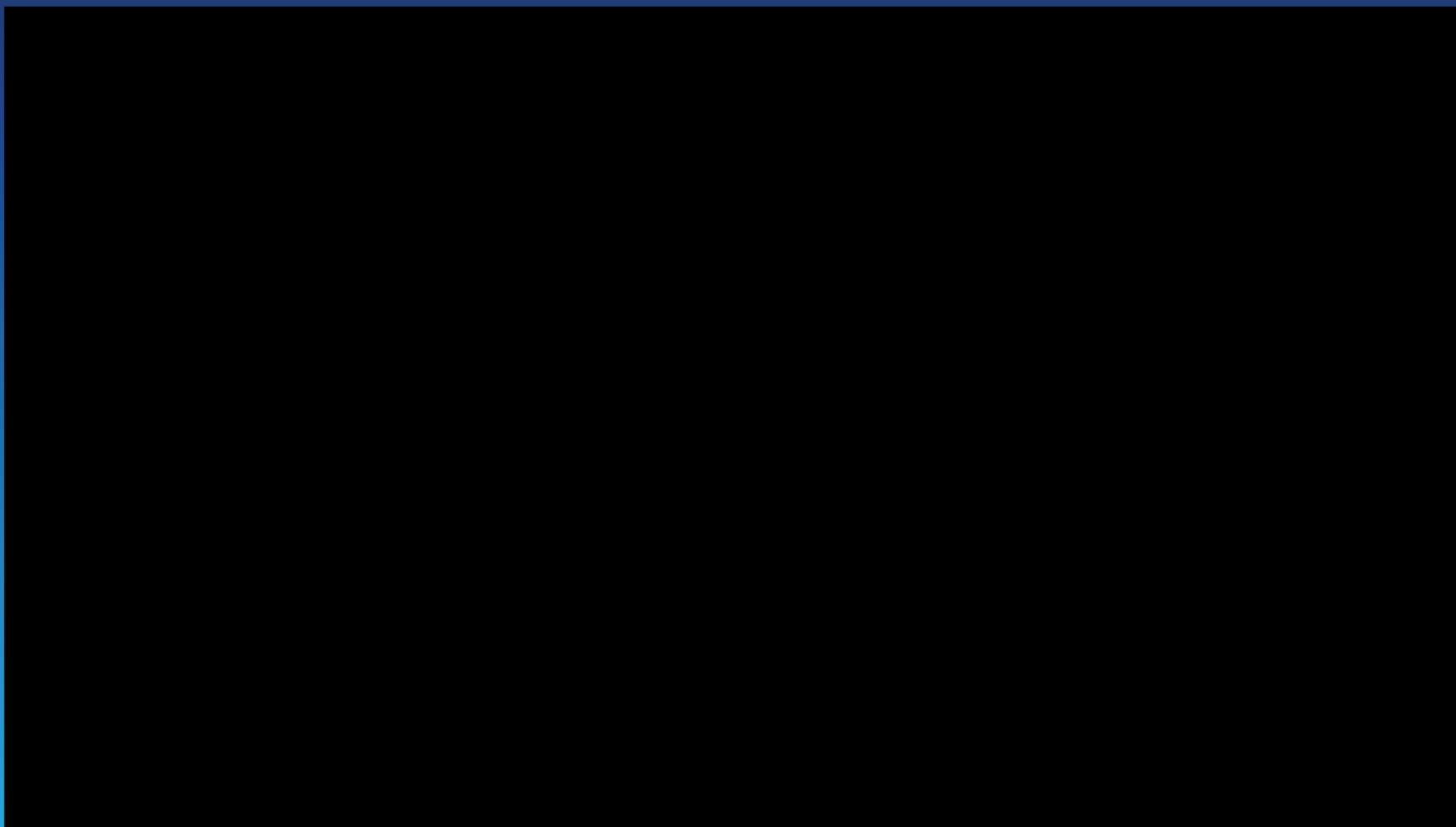
We are actively seeking donations for the camp.

- A) Letter to Casino CEO
 - 1- Admission to Isleta Lakes
 - 2- Admission to Fun Connection & Lunch
- Letter to events coordinator for use of Isleta Golf Course to instruct the youth.
- Herrera Coaches- Transportation
- Other Service Providers assisting with snacks and sack lunches.

Who will participate and how are youth selected?

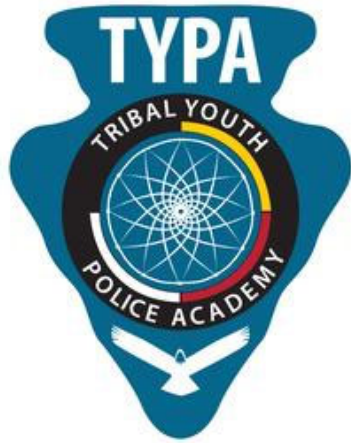
- Local Youth
- Ages from 10-16
- Classes will be divided in three age groups and youth will have color coded teams
- The selections will be made by Social Services, Behavioral Health, Truancy, and Recreation Center

Camp Triumph



Questions





Tribal Youth Police Academy

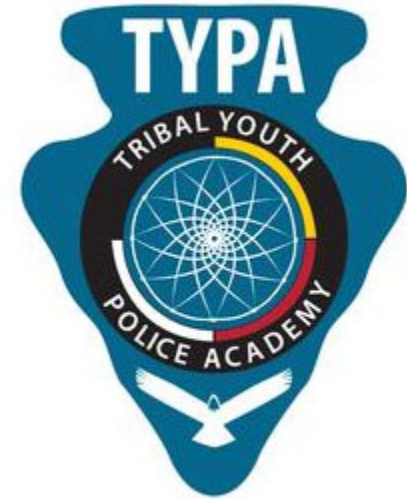
Julian Garcia, Gang Unit Detective, Tohono O'odham Police

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What is TYPA ?

Tribal Youth Police Academy (TYPA):

- Fostering development of future Tribal Criminal Justice and Community Leaders
- Hosted by National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical Collage (FVTC)
- Funded by the COPS Office



What is TYPA?

- August 11- 16, 2014 in Appleton, WI
- Police Academy based training program
 - Squad Leaders
 - Room Inspections
 - Personal Discipline
 - Manners “Sir”, Ma’am”
 - Uniform Dress Code
 - Marching / Cadence





Who attended?

- 41 students, ages 14 – 17
- 34 Federally recognized tribes
- 13 different states
- 9 instructors/mentors
- 3 staff members



For many this was the first time off their reservation.

Student Experience

Explored Law Enforcement and other Criminal Justice careers

- Lecture
- Hands-on training
- Student participation & Group discussion
- Mock exercises & criminal cases





Student Experience

Law Enforcement activities included:

- F.A.T.S – Firearms
- Building clearing
- Traffic Stops
- Defensive Tactics
- Physical Fitness
- Forensics



Student Experience

Demonstrations & Presentations

- S.W.A.T team members
- K-9 Officers
- Theda-Star Helicopter



Student Experience

Center for Organizational Advancement (COA)

- Ropes Course
- Team Building Challenges



Student Experience

Reflection sessions, conducted in Talking / Healing circle

- Cultural discussions and activities
- Shared stories of growing up in tribal communities
- Gangs, substance abuse, domestic violence, and suicide



Student Experience

Evening downtime included:

- Sports Activities
- Games
- Group Activities



Student Impact

- Leaders began to emerge from the group
 - Encouraged others, assisted Staff, organized the group
- Fears were conquered
 - Challenge course, public speaking, being in command
- Passions ignited
 - Law Enforcement, Fire Fighter, Military, Corrections, Tribal Leaders, College
- Friendships were formed

Student Impact

2 Year follow-up

- Criminal Justice careers
- Fire Fighter
- Early Childhood Development and Family Studies
- Military

Family Impact

Parent feedback POST academy:

- Goal Driven
- Renewed confidence
- Respect for Law Enforcement
- Participates more at home, school, community
- Positive role model for youth, siblings



What's next for TYPA?



Q&A

Lessons Learned

- Youth Programs
- Working with local community youth programs.
- Find a champion within the law enforcement agency.
- Build collaborative relationships with behavioral health/substance abuse programs to ensure capacity for referrals.
- Identify officers who will coordinate with behavioral health/substance abuse programs.

Lessons Learned (Continued)

- Seek community engagement and support.
- Know the community you are serving and gear services to the community.
- Develop cross-training program for law enforcement and behavioral health/substance abuse programs.

What Is Needed to Develop A Deflection Program?

- Training for officers on substance abuse and mental health
- Change in law enforcement culture from investigation and arrest to assess and refer
- Seeing the benefit of behavioral health and substance abuse treatment approaches
- Leadership buy in
- Strong partnerships
- Planning
- Funding

What Is Needed to Develop A Deflection Program? (continued)

- Need to collect data on the nature of the problem and how they have been handled in the past
 - May be uncomfortable to look at this, particularly related to recidivism
- Is the problem a community concern? Have there been any recent unfortunate events and outcomes

Deflection: A Call to Action

- Internal review: assess how your agency addresses the needs of at-risk youth.
- Establish partnerships: leverage trusted relationships with treatment and services providers to enhance your program's reach and credibility.
- Identify gaps: define and pursue areas of opportunity to connect children and families to community-based services.

Questions?

Additional Resources

- National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College, Adverse Childhood Experiences and their Impact on Tribal Communities, 2020:
<https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/NCJTC Adverse Childhood Experiences Impact on Tribal Communities.pdf>
- International Association for Chiefs of Police, Practices in Modern Policing: Police-Youth Engagement, 2018:
https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/IACP_PMP_PoliceYouth.pdf
- National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, Drug Endangered Children: Guide for Law Enforcement, 2013:
<https://cops.usdoj.gov/ric/Publications/cops-p258-pub.pdf>

Need TA?

Request training and technical assistance:

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or visit the TTA request page on the COSSAP website:

<https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request>





BJA's

Comprehensive

Opioid, Stimulant,
and Substance Abuse

Program