

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

2021 TRIBAL YOUTH VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Strengthening Resilience, Promoting Healing, Restoring Culture



SHAPING BRIGHTER FUTURES WITH
AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH
AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

MARCH 29 - APRIL 2



2021 OJJDP Tribal Youth National Conference

Innovative Strategies- Tribal Youth Courts and Peer-Led Processes

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

12pm AKT/ 1pm PT/ 2pm MT/ 3pm CT/ 4pm ET

Session Facilitators:

Anna Clough, Tribal Youth Resource Center

Guest Youth Presenters: Angela Noah and Elise Hocking

Session Content Development: Tasha Fridia, Tribal Youth Resource Center

Revised: December 2020, Anna Clough

Opening in a Good Way



Today's Facilitators



**Angela Noah,
UNITY Peer Guide**



**Elise Hocking, Intern
Tribal Law and Policy Institute**



**Anna Clough, Co-Director, Tribal
Youth Resource Center
Tribal Law and Policy Institute**



Session Objectives

- **Learn about four youth-led processes and strategies to support youth diversion.**
- **Discuss the use of youth-led strategies to support youth diversion from juvenile justice system.**
- **Consider the use of American Indian and Alaska Native youth-led processes to support youth engagement and resiliency.**



Question

Are you aware of any tribal communities utilizing a teen/peer/youth court model?



Role of Youth in Tribal Society



Youth Courts

What are they?

- A youth/teen court is a diversion program in which youth sentence their peers for violations of policy, code, or law. Generally, will incorporate restorative approaches and employ opportunities for youth to address behavior related to minor or first-time infractions.



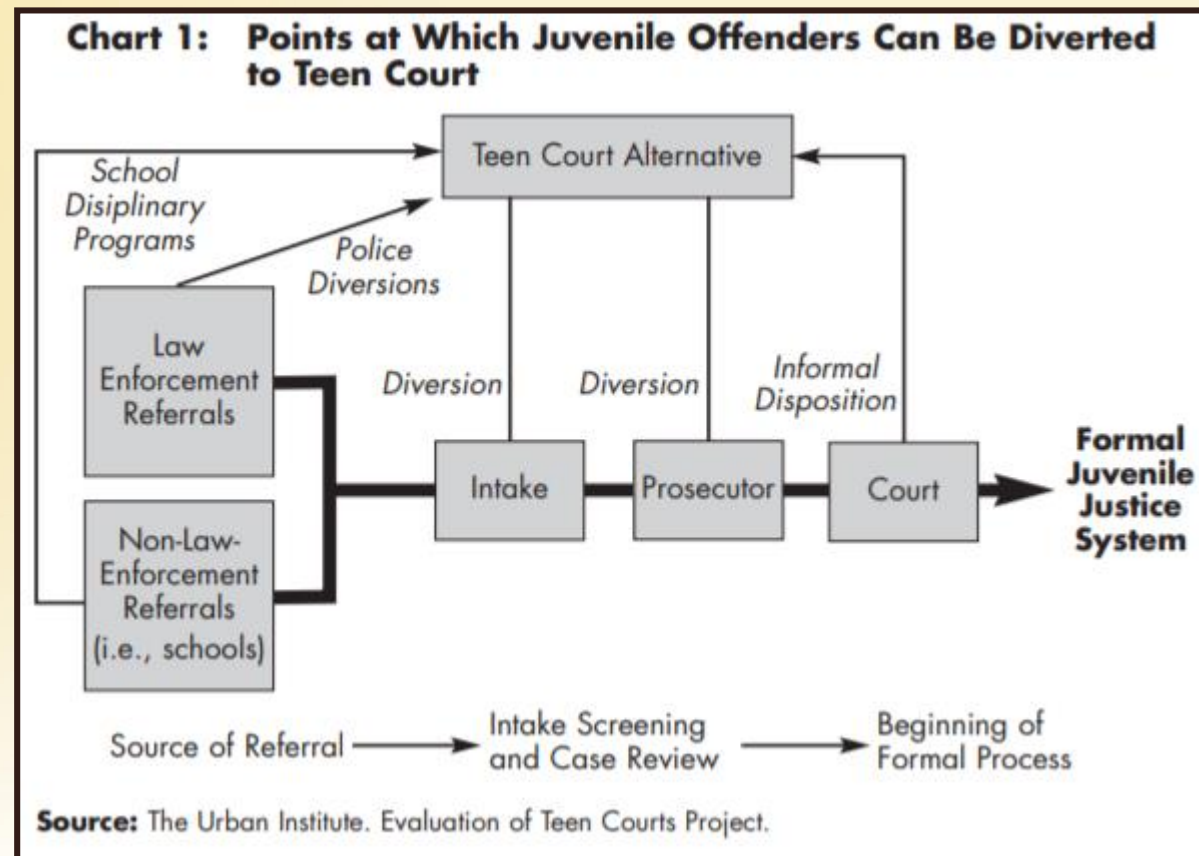
Youth Courts

Why should we incorporate a youth court into our justice system and/or justice system planning?

- Alternative process to address status offenses (truancy, curfew, school incidents, underage drinking).
- Alternative process to address minor or first time offenses (traffic violations, nonviolent crimes, bullying).
- Restorative process to address harm to community and families; repair harm done to victims; help offenders make better choices.
- Exercise sovereign authority; develop laws and processes that are culturally grounded; target specific needs of the local Tribal community.



Youth Courts



Models of Youth Courts



Adult Judge

Youth Judge



Youth Tribunal

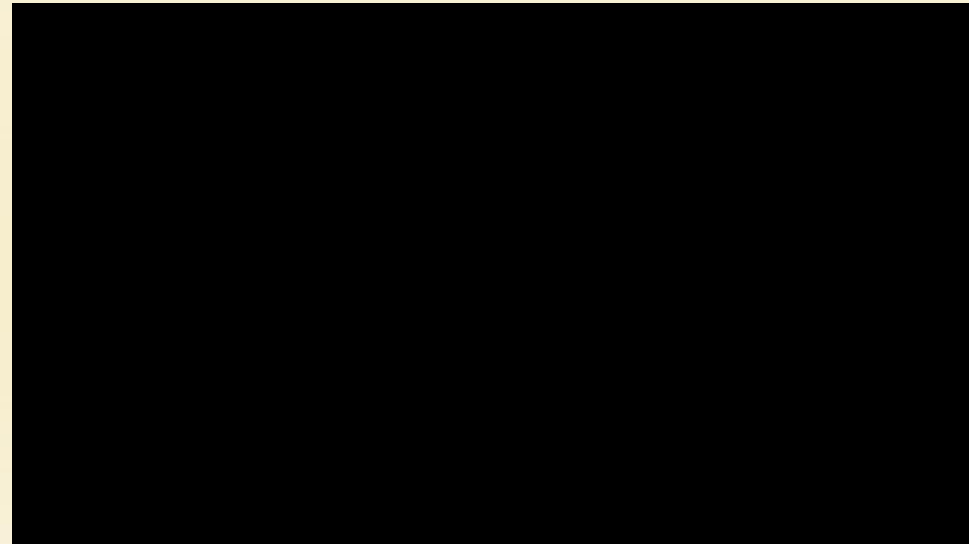
Peer Jury



Example of Tribal Youth Teen Court Development

Development of the Chemawa Youth Peer Court

- Responsibility
- Health
- Pride



Questions to Consider

What model would work best in your community?
Are there any models that would not work in your community?



Community Considerations

Benefits:

- Opportunity to engage youth
- Community Partnerships
- Creates an option not otherwise available in tribal communities
- Inclusion of youth in the problem solving process
- Exposure to tribal government and tribal legal system
- Recognize and bolster community faith in tribal youth

Challenges:

- Youth Engagement
- Community buy-in
- Funding
- Transportation
- Recruitment
- Retaliation
- Sustainability



Sentencing

Consequences:

- Apologies
- Restitution
- Community Service
- Counseling
- Assessments
- Essay Writing
- Community Service

Opportunities:

- Community work
- Life Skills
- Interview Skills
- Traditional Ceremony
- Cultural Arts Classes
- Self-Esteem Building
- Leadership Training
- Youth Court Jury Duty



Community Partners

- Intra-Tribal Departments
- Indian Health Services
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Elder Centers
- After School Programs
- Local Governments
- Local School Districts



Questions for Consideration

- Who would lead this effort in your community?
- What partners can you identify in the community?
- Are there any community-specific barriers that would inhibit implementation of the teen court approach?



Other Youth-Led Models

Peacemaking Courts

- **Mediation**
 - Neutral mediator/co-mediators
 - Attorneys may participate
 - Goal is for mutually agreeable resolution through dialogue
- **Conferencing**
 - Focus is on groups of individuals affected by activity
 - Facilitator sets the group focus
- **Circles**
 - Based on concepts of freedom and individuality
 - Can be a particular focus (women/men/substance abuse)
 - Rarely involve legal professionals (may include counselors)
- **Councils**
 - Includes Tribal Leaders
 - Consensus required
 - Traditional aspect



Tools for Community Success

- **Collaboration**
- **Innovation**
- **Patience**
- **Perseverance**
- **Strength**
- **Resilience**



Discussion

THE TRIBAL YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

 www.TribalYouth.org



Envisioning a future
where Indigenous youth
thrive through traditional
lifeways.



The Tribal Youth Resource Center is a part of the [Tribal Law and Policy Institute](#) and is supported by Grant #2018-MU-MU-K001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

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*Enhancing safety.
Ensuring accountability.
Empowering youth.*

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Session Evaluation

Please remember to fill out the workshop evaluation.

Workshop Information:

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

12pm AKT/ 1pm PT/ 2pm MT/ 3pm CT/
4pm ET

Session C3: Innovative Strategies- Tribal
Youth Courts and Peer-Led Processes



Closing in a Good Way





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