



Tribal Social Workers, Community Health Representatives (CHRs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs), supporting caregivers, experiencing behavioral changes in loved ones

Presented by:

Chandra Wilson, MSW

Project Director

Northwest Tribal Elders Project

Shawnetta Yahtin, MSW, CSWA

Medical Social Worker

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs



NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Understanding Behavior Changes with ADRD

- **Skills & Strategies**

- Recognize & Respond
- Decipher behaviors

- **Behavior influences**

- **Common Behaviors**

- Apathy
- Depression
- Disinhibition
- Euphoria & Elation
- Anxiety
- Irritability
- Agitation & Aggression
- Eating disorders
- Sleep disturbances
- Motor Behaviors
- Hallucinations and Delusions





Social Worker

- **Who is a Social Worker?**
 - Historically, non-native social workers
 - Native American Social Workers
- **The role of a social worker**
 - Native American Social Workers work and have a responsibility to restore families and tribal communities, through connecting families and communities



Community Health Representative

- Who is a CHR?
 - Indian Health Service has the Community Health Representative (CHR) Program. This is a unique program for providing health care, health promotion, and disease prevention services. CHRs come from the communities they serve and live day-to-day in tribal culture and traditions.
- CHR programs were established to meet the needs of tribal communities and healthcare programs for satisfactory health care delivery:
 - Dedicated to health promotion and disease prevention
 - Outreach and Community Engagement

Community Health Workers (CHW)

- **Who is a CHW?**
 - The American Public Health Association defines a community health worker as “a trusted member of and/or [someone who] has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery
- **CHW programs within tribal communities improve dementia health outcomes:**
 - Increase access to health care services
 - Improve health behaviors
 - Improve access to Medicaid eligibility
 - Increase effectiveness in the use of wrap-around-services
 - Provide case management



Medical Social Worker at Warm Springs

- The role of the Medical Social in the Warm Springs Tribal Community



NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Support for CHRs, CHWs & Social Workers?

- Dementia Training
- Building skills in behavioral health
- Cultural Competency Trainings



NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Thank You

Questions



NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health