

# **FAMILY WELLNESS WARRIORS INITIATIVE**

## **Guiding Principles DRAFT**

1/7/2016

1. Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI) focuses on a community-based approach, building upon the strengths of all partners, recognizing and valuing the diversity of viewpoints and traditions within the community. As we work to implement the model we will at all times keep in the forefront of our consideration the communities we serve, and in all capacities in which we serve whether as advocates, providers, or community members ourselves.
2. This work relies on the development of a collaborative, inclusive approach in which all participants share their skills, learn from each other, and appreciate the contributions of all team members. We will utilize an iterative process that assures effective participation of all key stakeholders.
3. This model is based on the belief that change is possible – for individuals, families, communities, and the system that serves them – and that ownership and buy in can be a positive agent in the change process.
4. This model is based on the belief that American Indian and Alaska Native cultures are the great strength of these communities and the basis of their resilience when faced with challenges. Important assumptions, or the “secret sauce” of FWWI include:
  - a. Elders give permission to the next generation to break the silence
  - b. Men will be considered part of the solution to ending domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and child neglect, not part of the problem.
  - c. Restorative processes should be approached from a holistic view to attain wellness.
  - d. Alaska Native people must lead the way in order for Alaska Native people to attain wellness.
  - e. Those who harm can be restored to a healthy style of relating.
  - f. There is a need to eschew the terms victim and perpetrator - maltreatment is cyclical and often those who harm others were themselves harmed earlier in the cycle

- g. Harms experienced and committed must be discussed openly devoid of guilt, shame, and blame.
5. This model honors the American Indian and Alaska Native cultures so that each component of the effort is sensitive to the cultural values and realities of these communities.
  6. We strive to do no harm in the implementation of this model. Community strengths will be celebrated at the same time as difficult issues are identified.
  7. This model is the continuation of long-standing, productive collaborative relationships and represents an ongoing commitment to improving health services for community members through high-quality best practice models. This collaboration will continue beyond this model.
  8. By disseminating results to all key stakeholders, and then by pursuing scholarly publications, we will build a knowledge base for similar efforts in this and other communities.