

Southcentral Foundation Traditional Healing Program

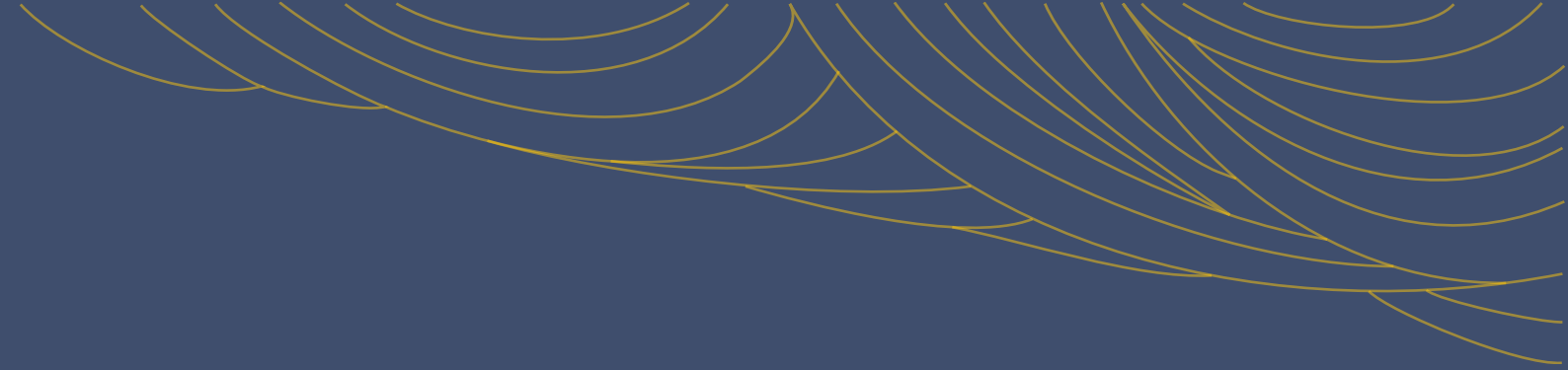
April Kyle, President and CEO



*Alaska Native
People Shaping
Health Care*

Developments in Traditional Healing

- Nationally and other states
 - Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services has approved waivers in four states (Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, and California) to allow for Medicaid coverage of Traditional Health Care Services at Tribal health facilities.
 - Arizona was the model for this waiver, and submitted its application in 2015.
 - More states, including Utah, have waiver applications in process or pending.
- Alaska's Rural Health Transformation Program



“Strengthen Tribally led Traditional Healing in care delivery: Support and expand existing Indigenous Traditional Healing practices within the Tribal health system (including home visits where appropriate), mentorship for traditional healers, and orientation/education for clinic staff and providers to foster culturally appropriate, holistic care.”

(AK Dept. of Health, RHTP Application)

Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act 1975

Summary of Congressional Findings:

- Prolonged federal domination of Indian Health Service programs has:
 - Served to retard rather than enhance progress of Indian people and their communities
 - Denied an effective voice in the planning and implementation of programs that respond to the true needs of the people

“From the time of European occupation and colonization through the 20th century, policies and practices of the United States caused and/or contributed to the severe health conditions of Indians.”

Self Determination

The right of indigenous people to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.



Southcentral Foundation

An example of
one part of the
Tribal health
system






Vision

A Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness.

Mission

Working together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services.





Customer-Ownership



Traditional Healing

Building on ways of knowing and healing that have existed for thousands of years

History of SCF's Traditional Healing Clinic

- Started in the 1980s with a recognition of importance of culture to healing
- In the 90s, SCF hired Tribal Doctor Rita Blumenstein to help found the program
- Traditional Healing Clinic opened in 2001 in the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center



Traditional Healing Services

- The clinic aims to heal the mind, body, and spirit of customer-owners by providing culturally relevant services rooted in Alaska Native values, beliefs, and practices.
- Customer-owners must be referred to the clinic, usually by a primary care provider.
- Traditional counseling - receiving advice from a trusted voice
- Healing Touch—In some respects similar to massage therapy or physical therapy.
- Cultural classes

Training and Oversight

- Becoming a Tribal Doctor
 - Years long process
 - Rigorously trained in understanding possible contra-indications to Traditional healing services
- Clinic and the training process are overseen by a Traditional Healing Elders Advisory Council
 - The council determines which apprentices are a good fit to become official Tribal doctors

Positive Outcomes

- SCF has conducted two full evaluations of the program over the past decade. The first was in 2017, and the second was over this past year.
- The most recent research findings have shown that:
 - "Across multiple measures, engagement with the Traditional Healing Clinic is associated with clinically and statistically meaningful improvements in reported pain, overall health, and reduced utilization of primary care and emergency services...This evaluation supports the findings of the 2017 evaluation and emphasizes the value of the Traditional Healing clinic which not only decreases the burden of pain on customer-owners and increases their perception of overall health, it decreases the burden on busy primary-care clinics and the emergency room"
 - These reductions in health care utilization save the system resources in the long-run.

Questions?



Qaġaasakung
Aleut

Quyanaa
Alutiiq

AwA'ahdah
Eyak

Mahsi'Gwich'in
Athabascan

Igamsiqanaghalek
Siberian Yupik

Háw'aa
Haida

Quyana
Yup'ik

T'oyaxsm
Tsimshian

Gunalchéesh
Tlingit

Tsin'aen
Ahtna Athabascan

Quyanaq
Inupiaq

Chin'an
Dena'ina Athabascan



Thank you!

