TeleBehavioral Health 2025 Training Series

Behavioral Health Institute (BHI)
Harborview Medical Center

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Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center (NRTRC)

Website: https://nrtrc.org
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May 16, 2025







Behavioral Health Institute (BHI)

Training, Workforce and Policy Innovation Center

The **Harborview Behavioral Health Institute** (BHI) is a program of Harborview Medical Center that is dedicated to advancing innovation, research and clinical practice to improve community mental health and addiction treatment. The BHI also serves as a resource for the advancement of behavioral health outcomes and policy, and supporting sustainable system change.

The BHI brings the expertise of Harborview Medical Center/UW Medicine and other university partners together to address the challenges facing Washington's behavioral health system, through innovation and improving access to effective behavioral health care. BHI pillars include:

- Clinical Services
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Training, Policy and Workforce Development
 - Expanded Digital and Telehealth Services and Training





Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center (NRTRC)



Telehealth Technical Assistance Center

The NRTRC delivers telehealth technical assistance and shares expertise through individual consults, trainings, webinars, conference presentations and the web.

Their mission is to advance telehealth programs' development, implementation and integration in rural and medically underserved communities.

The NRTRC aims to assist healthcare providers, organizations and networks in implementing cost-effective telehealth programs to increase access and equity in rural and medically underserved areas and populations.

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Speaker Disclosures

None of the series speakers have any relevant conflicts of interest to disclose.

Planner disclosures

The following series planners and team have no relevant conflicts of interest to disclose:

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DISCLAIMER

Please be aware that policy changes may take place after the original date of this presentation.

Any information provided in today's talk is not to be regarded as legal advice. Today's talk is purely for informational purposes.

Please consult with legal counsel, billing & coding experts, and compliance professionals, as well as current legislative and regulatory sources, for accurate and up-to-date information.

We gratefully acknowledge the support from















TeleBehavioral Health 501

Utilizing telehealth, A Brief Treatment Model, and the Wellness Approach to Provide Culturally Informed Services to Alaska Native People

JOSEPH FORSCHER, LPC, LCMHC
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WELLNESS CLINIC DIRECTOR
ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM









Welcome to Alaska!

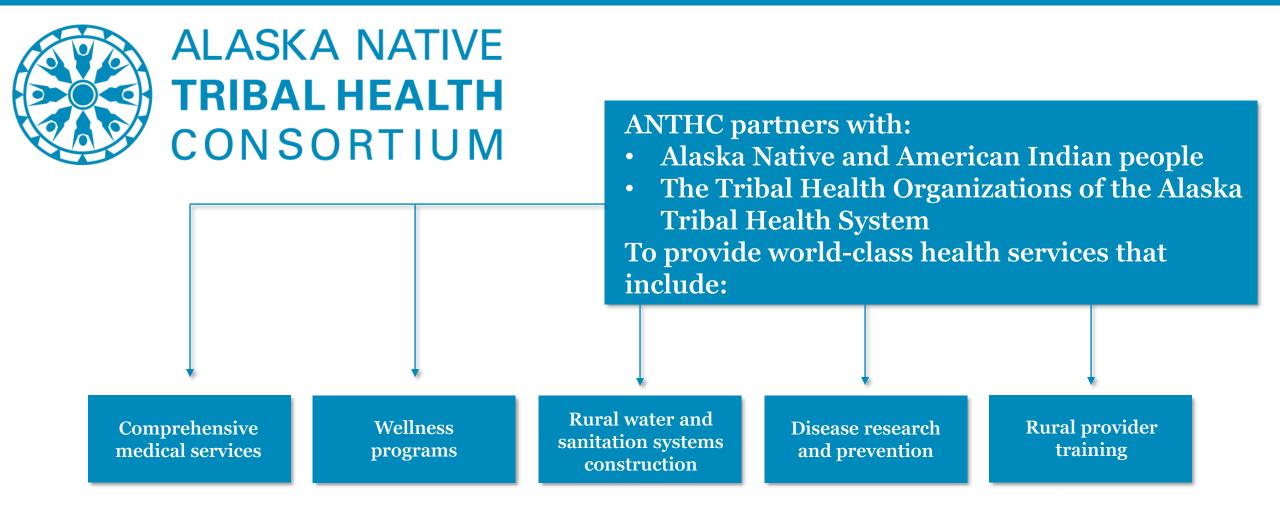
We are the Behavioral Health Wellness Clinic

an Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium clinic

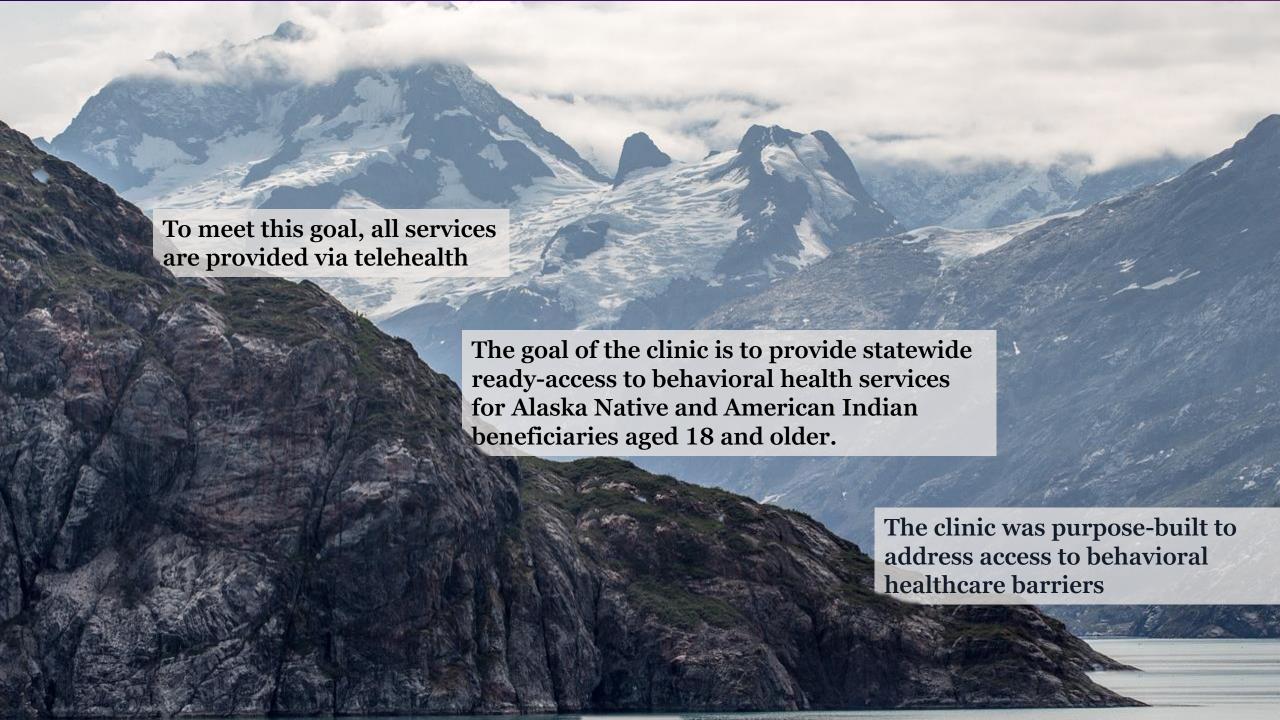
this is our story



The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is a non-profit Tribal health organization designed to meet the unique health needs of Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Alaska



ANTHC Vision: Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world

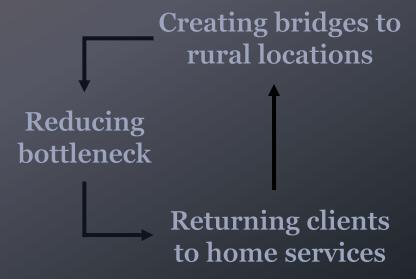




BHWC Mission Statement

Promoting intergenerational wellness through compassionate and easy-to-connect to behavioral healthcare

Supporting Tribal Health Organizations



The seeds of our treatment philosophy and approach are sown into our Mission Statement



Promoting
intergenerational wellness
through compassionate
and easy-to-connect to
behavioral healthcare

intergenerational wellness means we address historical trauma

and aspire to provide culturally responsive services

easy to connect to means we provide tech support and a commitment to direct human contact



Alaska is estimated to have between 175,00 and 200,000 moose





Our Services are Culturally Responsive

Integrating cultural values and beliefs into behavioral health services for Alaska Native people is a valuable endeavor because:

- cultural involvement can be protective factors against risky behaviors, such as suicide, substance use disorders, and criminal legal involvement*
- by reconnecting to traditional healing practices, a person may reclaim the strengths inherent in traditional teachings and practices**
 - even if a person doesn't actively engage with their cultural background, this approach in therapy can still create an opportunity for the person to examine how factors might be impacting their behavioral health***

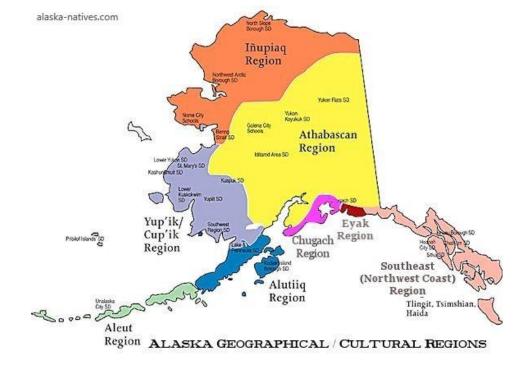
^{*}Allen J, Mohatt GV, Fok CC, Henry D, Burkett R; People Awakening Team. A protective factors model for alcohol abuse and suicide prevention among Alaska Native youth. Am J Community Psychol. 2014 Sep;54(1-2):125-39. doi: 10.1007/s10464-014-9661-3. PMID: 24952249; PMCID: PMC4119568.

^{**}O'Keefe VM, Cwik MF, Haroz EE, Barlow A. Increasing culturally responsive care and mental health equity with indigenous community mental health workers. Psychol Serv. 2021 Feb;18(1):84-92. doi: 10.1037/ser0000358. Epub 2019 May 2. PMID: 31045405; PMCID: PMC6824928.

^{***}Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *Improving Cultural Competence*. Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series No. 59. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 14-4849. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, 2014.



We Provide Services State-wide



Because our purpose is to support, not supplant, the behavioral health services offered by the Tribal Health Organizations, it is crucial that the BHWC fosters strong connections to communities across Alaska.

Our collaboration with Tribal Health Organizations is key to being a true resource. We support them by relieving pressure on their behavioral health resources while fostering continuity of care.

• Because Alaska encompasses many distinct Alaska Native cultures, our strong partnerships with Tribal Health Organizations are vital in gaining a deeper understanding of each community's unique needs and characteristics.



We Offer Timely Access to Services

Timely access allows for early identification and intervention of mental health issues. Addressing problems in their initial stages can significantly improve outcomes and reduce the need for more intensive and costly interventions.

The privacy afforded by telehealth in small, remote communities, where anonymity can be challenging, helps to lessen the stigma surrounding behavioral health and ultimately promotes increased help-seeking behavior.*



Understanding its environment and how it impacts behavioral health

Alaska is the largest state in the United

States by a significant margin

twice the size of Texas

• larger than the combined areas of Texas, California, and Montana

larger than many countries

• about seven times the size of the United Kingdom

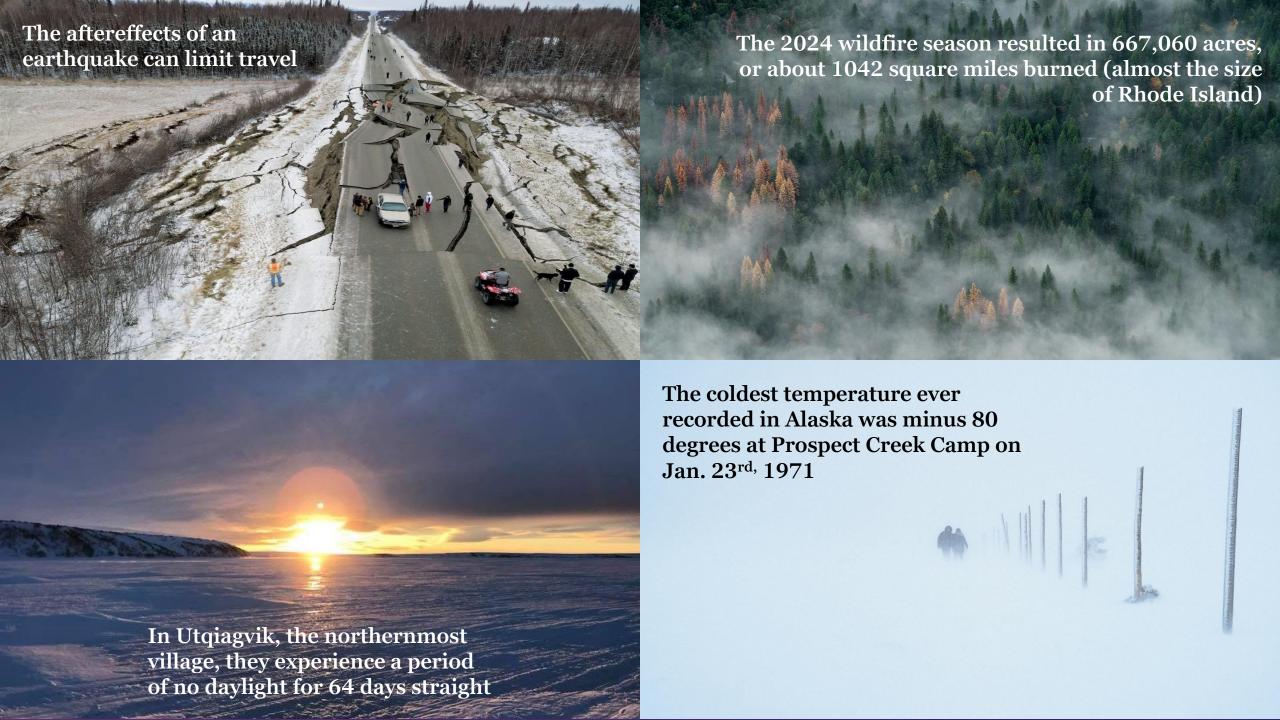


Things Are Different In Alaska

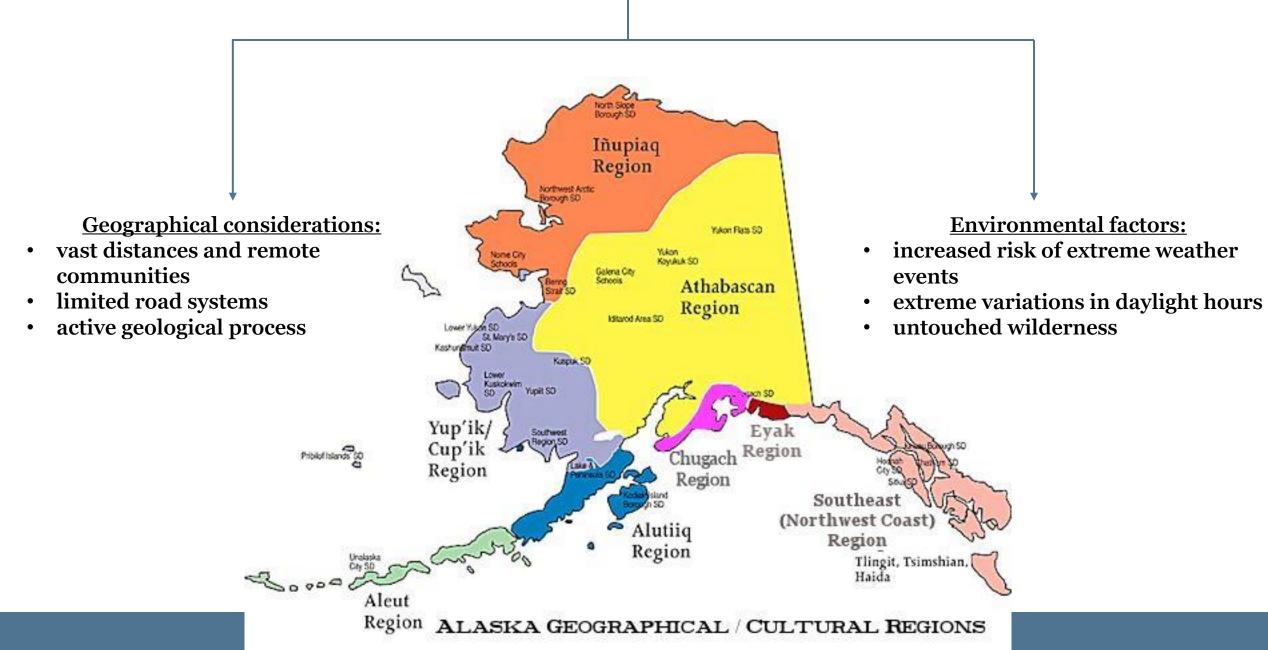


Barriers to Accessing Services





Providing behavioral health services are shaped by unique geography and challenging environmental factors







Cultural Factors that Influence Behavioral Health Services for Alaska Native People

Historical Trauma

Strengths and Resilience

Cultural Values and Beliefs

Cultural Competence of Providers



Historical Trauma

the ongoing impact of

collective intergenerational suffering

caused by past colonial oppression



it revisits ancestral wounds

on current generations

Impact of Historical Trauma

Increased rates of PTSD, substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, and suicide

Breakdown of traditional family structures and parenting practices

Loss of cultural identity, language, and traditional ways of life

Distrust of government systems and Western approaches to healthcare



Strengths and Resilience

It is important to recognize the inherent strengths and resilience within Alaska Native cultures

can be protective factors for behavioral health:



- Strong cultural identity and connection to heritage
- Close-knit family and community support systems
- Traditional spiritual practices and ceremonies
- Connection to the land and nature
- Resilience developed through generations of adapting to challenging environments

Strengths and Resilience

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a major force behind the passage of Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Bill in 1945.

During public comments, she famously said:



"I would not have expected that I, who am barely out of savagery, would have to remind the gentlemen with 5,000 years of recorded civilization behind them of our Bill of Rights"

Elizabeth Peratrovich, Raven of the Tlingit Lukaax.ádi clan



Cultural Values

and Beliefs

Holistic View of Health

- Mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being are interconnected
- Behavioral health can be seen as an imbalance in these areas

Emphasis on Community

 The well-being of the individual is closely tied to the well-being of the family and community



Respect for Elders

- Elders are often seen as wisdom and traditional knowledge keepers
- They are a source of guidance for healing

Importance of Traditional Healing Practices

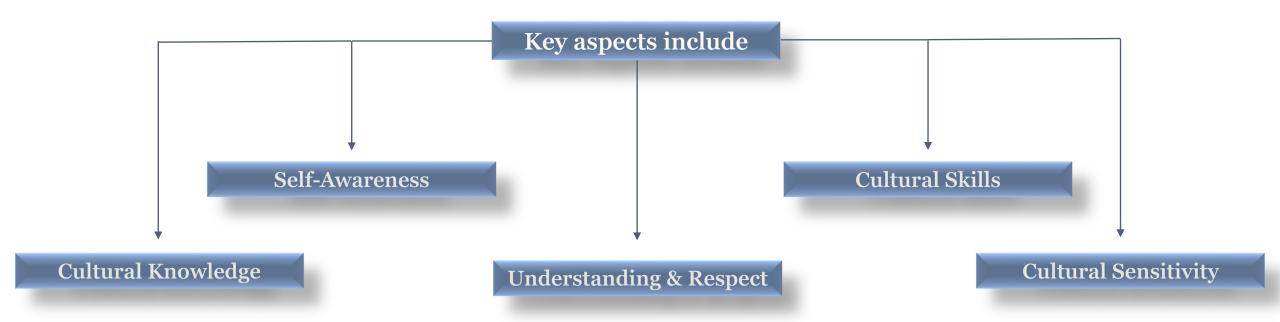
- Many Alaska Native people value and utilize traditional healing methods
- For example: talking circles, traditional medicine, and spiritual practices

Cultural Competence of Providers

Cultural competence can be defined as the ability of an individual or organization to:

- · understand,
- · appreciate, and
- interact effectively with

people from cultures or belief systems different from their own.



Cultural Competence

Cultural competence is often thought of as a skill that can be learned and ultimately attained

Frequently described as a crucial requirement for working effectively with diverse client populations

The core assumption is that increased knowledge about a culture directly translates to greater competence in providing client care

Cultural Humility

Cultural humility de-emphasizes cultural knowledge and competency and focuses on a life-long commitment to selfevaluation and self-reflection

This helps the service provider foster interpersonal sensitivity and openness that allows appreciation of the diversity within cultures and individual uniqueness

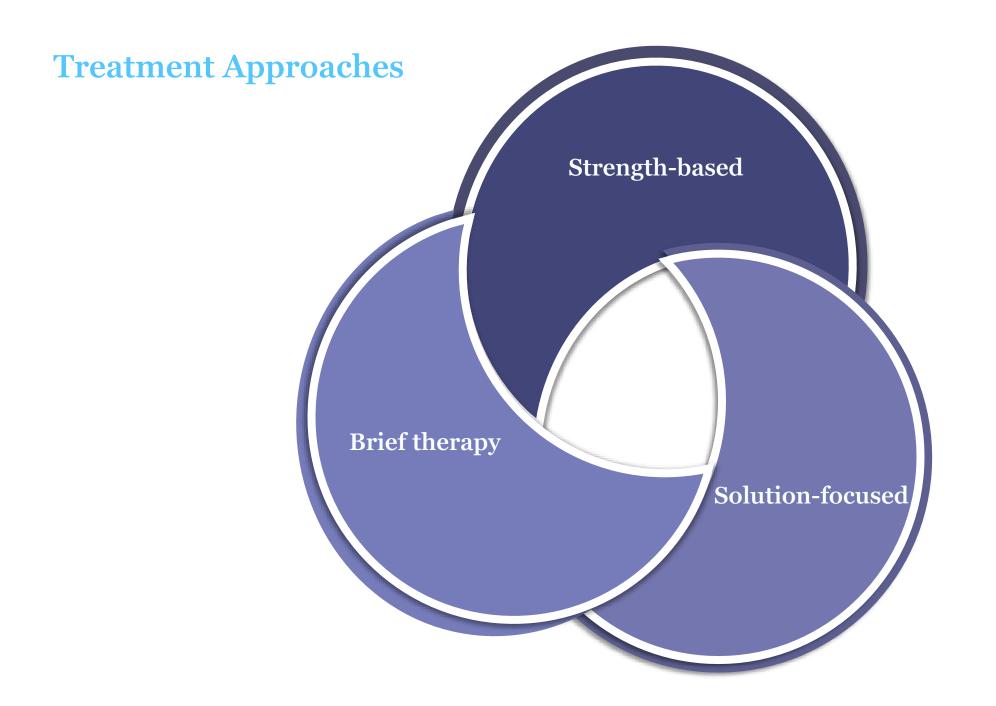
Cultural humility promotes a curious and other-oriented interpersonal style that is more aligned with personcentered care

Integrating Evidence-based Treatment Models into Cultural Traditions, Beliefs, and Wisdom

Treatment Approaches



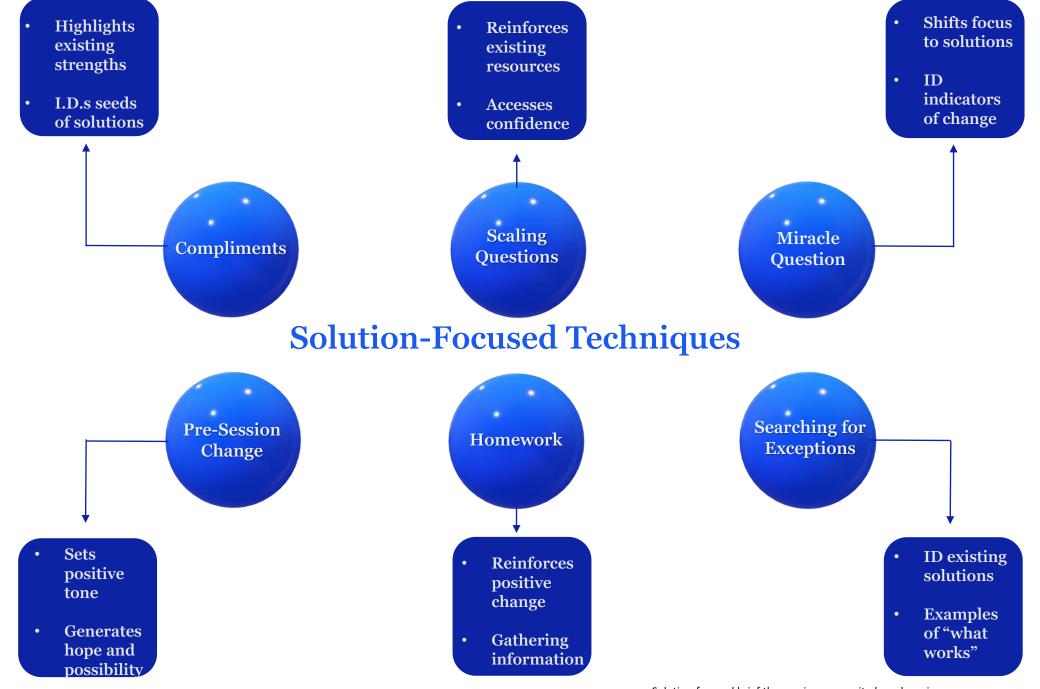
Lower Dewey Lake Skagway AK



Brief Therapy



- Intentionally structured to be brief
- Targets a particular problem or set of related issues
- Therapist and client collaboratively establish clear and well-defined goals
 - progress is regularly measured against these goals
- Primary focus is on the client's current situation and desired future outcomes
- Prioritizes the use of effective techniques that can facilitate change within a shorter timeframe



Solution-Focused Techniques



"that's a very insightful observation you made about yourself"



"Suppose that tonight, while you were sleeping, a miracle happened, and the problem was completely solved. When you wake up tomorrow morning, what would be the very first thing you would notice that would tell you a miracle had happened?"



"Since the last time we met, has anything been a little bit better or different about the reason you are seeking therapy?"



"This week, try doing one small thing differently in your interactions with the person at work. Observe what happens as a result"



"On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 represents (the problem) being as bad as it's ever been and 10 represents (the problem) being completely resolved, where are you today?"



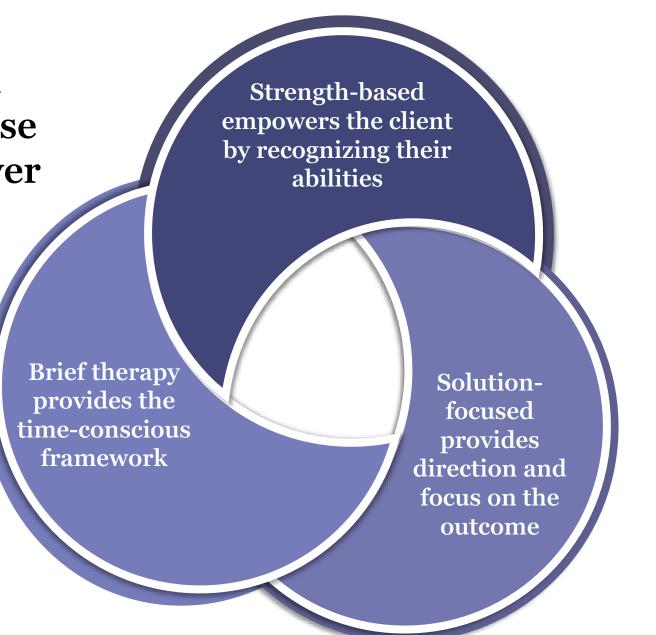
"Can you think of time recently where you felt even a little bit less anxious in social situations than usual?"

Strength-Based core assumptions

- Everyone possesses a unique set of talents, skills, knowledge, and positive qualities
- People are resilient and capable of growth and change
- Problems can be sources of challenge and opportunity
- Focusing on strengths fosters hope and empowerment
- Change is constant and inevitable



As we have combined and synthesize these approaches over the years...



...the BHWC treatment approach was born

The Wellness Approach

We embrace the Wellness Approach because it provides a broad framework that enhances our brief therapy, solution-focused, and strength-based clinical foundation

The Wellness Approach aligns with:

- Brief Therapy because it is focused and creates efficient progress toward well-being
- Solution-Focused because of the focus on the individual's capabilities and potential solutions
- Strength-Based because it highlights identifying and leveraging an individual's existing strengths, talents and resources

In general, the Wellness
Approach is a good fit for the
BHWC because of its holistic
perspective. We like it because it
reminds us to always consider
the interconnectedness of
health factors:

Emotional

Physical

Spiritual

Social

Mental

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) This approach is a mindfulness based behavioral therapy that helps individuals accept difficult thoughts and feelings as a natural part of life while committing to actions that align with their personal values.

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)
This treatment framework recognizes the widespread impact of trauma on individuals and aims to provide services in a way that promotes healing, avoids re-traumatization, and supports individuals in rebuilding a sense of safety and control.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
This type of psychotherapy focuses on identifying
and changing negative or unhelpful thought
patterns and behavioral reactions. One of the
central assumptions is that our thoughts, feelings,
and behaviors are interconnected.



Sitka Alaska was originally the ancestral home of the Tlingit people, who lived there for over 10,000 years



Alaska Native peoples have experienced significant trauma, including historical and intergenerational, alongside systemic inequities.

Given these profound impacts, a traumainformed approach, which prioritizes safety, trust, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural humility is essential.

Behavioral health providers using this approach with Alaska Native people should seek a deep understanding of the unique historical and cultural factors that impact them.

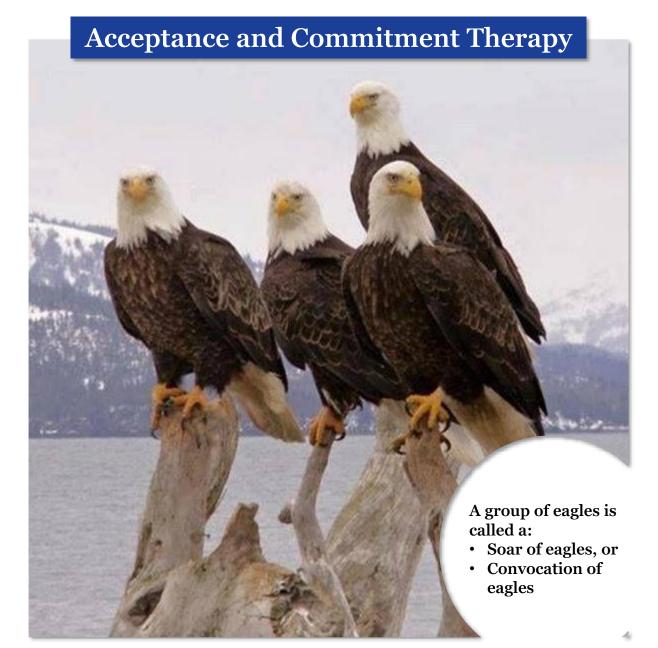
Integrating traditional healing practices and prioritizing trust and respect in therapeutic relationships is crucial.



CBT can be adapted to address specific issues like anxiety, depression, and substance use, which can be exacerbated by trauma and cultural stressors

Cultural adaptions might involve:

- Storytelling: Using traditional narratives and personal stories to illustrate CBT concepts
- Integrating indigenous knowledge: linking cognitive restructuring to traditional ways of knowing and understanding
- Addressing cultural identity: exploring how cultural identity influences thoughts and behaviors



ACT emphasizes universal human processes and contextual understanding which makes it adaptable across cultures

Cultural adaptions might involve:

- Clarifying culturally relevant values:
 - exploring values within the context of Alaska Native traditions and ways of life
- Adapting metaphors and exercise:
 - using metaphors and experiential exercises that resonate with Alaska Native experiences and worldviews
- Integrating spirituality:
 - acknowledging and incorporating the role of spirituality and traditional beliefs in well-being

Continuing Medical Education Accreditation

Accreditation with Commendation: The University of Washington School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation: The University of Washington School of Medicine designates this Live Activity for a maximum of 12 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. (Each 1 hour webinar is 1.0 credits).

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This workshop has been approved for 1 CEU by the Washington Chapter, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists and Licensed Mental Health Counselors.

Our Provider number is #1975-433.









TeleMental Health Guides for Infancy to Young Adults

Guides (8)

- Infancy and Toddlers
- Pre-schoolers
- Elementary School Children
- Middle School Youth
- High School Teens
- Young Adults
- Neuropsychological Testing
- Suicidality

Guide for Elementary-School Children

DEFINING ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL CHILDREN (GRADES 1-5)

Elementary-School Children [ES, grades 1s to 5th vary greatly by gender and age in their pubertal development and cognitive maturity, and resources. For example, a 1st grade boy may still be learning to combal inputies and cooperation in the classroom while a 5th grade if may be kelly probered and aware of societies expectations. This, the children must be faulbel in considering the engagement and teachers of ES children through TeleMental Health [TMH] services. Typically, ES children readily engage with technology, especially seeing themselves or "TV".

SAFETY AND PRIVACY

Eubalithing safety and privacy depends on the child's location while receiving TMH services. If located at a clinical size, safety and privacy will be ensured by clinical procedures at those sizes. If located at a non-clinical site, such as a school or home, careful planning to ensure safet and privacy is needed.

- o At the beginning of each session reserbia and downed prietro's hortion and exchange inaudiati context information (phone, text message, or e-mail). Include any new oddress, in case the officion needs to call emergency services, as ordined in the Privacy and Sostay Panning fool (PSP Tool (papended to the Introduction Guide, as well as to comply with documentation regulations in the medical record. If polluta is no cost, he sure they are parked and documentation regulations.
- o Consider providing a virtual tour of the clinician's office to the child and parents/caregiver to demonstrate that no one else is in the room observing the session. Also, assure them that there is no unseen or unhand
- Consider a virtual tour of the child's room or home to ensure that no unseen participant is viewing or listening to the session, or coaching the child.
- Explain that recording of the session is prohibited.
- by any third party.

 Ensure privacy at home by scheduling while sibling and other adults are not home, connecting out of visua range of others, using headphones, and keeping low-volume radio or TV playing in the common areas to
- caid auditory privacy.

 Consider non-traditional settings at home if needed to ensure privacy, such as a bedroom, bothroom, porch, backyard, or car (with a parent/
- Consider the impact of non-traditional settings on the child's presentation, e.g., less motor activity in a car, less anxiety in the backyard, more depressed a school.

TIP: Limit children's use of electronics during sessions unless the clinician and parents/caregivers need time to talk without interruptions.

SAFETY AND PRIVACY CONT.

 Consider sessions in a clinic or school, if other professionals are involved in the child's treatment plan or if the child is reluctant to talk at home.

- Onliders may stray from the clinicion's view on the monitor, e.g., children who are hyperactive, disruptive, or cansious. Bole stops to ensure the child's solety, and the room's integrity. Steps may include following the child with the camera, the parents/caregiven maintaining view of their child and informing the chilcion, or presents/caregiven revening their device's camera to surreptitiously show their child's calcivity to the chilcion.
- Anticipate elopement by poorly self-regulated children. Plan for a second adult to manage these children while the clinician completes the interview with the parents/caralyers.
- Secure the equipment if sessions are done in a clinic as impulsive children may damage it.
- If an emergency arises, such as suicidality, refer to the Suicidality TMH Guide and the PSP Tool. The PSP Tool should have been completed prior to the initiation of clinical services and includes referral information for the patient's community.
- Also, be aware that calling 911 may not link to other communities. Refer to the PSP Tool as noted above.
- TIP: Determine early the feesibility of and parent/ caregiver's comfort reporting interviewing the child alone, and whether the child poses any potential risk to the equipment or the room.

TELEMENTAL HEALTH GUIDE FOR ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Case Example

Abdul is a 10 y/o Afghani refugee boy who presented with his mather due to the school's concern with his inattention and disractibility in class, assilessness and difficulty abying sected, pelling out answers impulsively, and falling behind accordenically. His Mother noted similar difficulties in the home, especially regarding homework. Both parents worked and lived in an urban neighborhood with poor transportation options, so they agreed to home-based TMH. The family used their smortphone for the sessions, with adequate, but not optimal, cell reception. Sessions were held in the parent's bedroom, for privacy. An older sister workhold the silvings in another room or took them for a walk.

Abdul was readily engaged over the smartphone and told of his favorite videogame, his love of Legos, and his best friend at school, as well as the injustices of his siblings. The clinician conducted the interview by alternating between the mother's history and the child's inout.

Even with the spotty connectivity, the clinician appreciated Abdu's good verbal skills, intellect, charming personalty, as well his impulsive hirosiveness and mild mid-facial and guttural lic. To assess his gross motor skills, the chinician acid Abdul to do some movements, hiroliding some discree movements. He was anxieved and had difficulty cooling down once wound up. To asses his fine motor skills, and to keep him accupied in order to obtain the mother's history, Abdul was assked to draw a picture of his forviore animal. He impulsively scribbed something and quickly returned to the smartphone to show his arrivoria: and naminal, but he enhusiastically told of its meaning, demonstrating his crealivity and knowledge.

The clinician then asked Abdul to play with his Hot Wheels in front of his mother, allowing more time with the mother while monitoring Abdul. He did so, fairly quielly for a while, then become increasingly louder, and then disruptive. At various times, Abdul's mother quietly flipped the smartphone's comera to allow observation of Abdul's play without his knowledge. He did show symbolic play, although somewhat aggressive with the Hot Wheels twacking off some wheels.

Then, the clinician sent an AD+ID rating scale and an anxiety rating scale to the older draughter's balter so that the most could complete these behavior reports in another room while the clinician spent some individual have with Abd-III the mother also logged into the school's website to check Abdul's grades, missing assignments, and the teacher's recent comments. Meanwhile, the clinician observed Abdul's play and engaged him verbally regarding his trick Wheels. The clinician suited Abdul to trace the forciven the followed care and write the name of a long with his name on top of the paper. He showed some difficulties with tracing and permonship but had correct spelling. He showed increased to movements while engaged in this task.

The clinician made a diagnosis of ADHD with a concern about a fine mater disability and its. They wrate a treatment and an on the "Mish Board" that included a of the clinician requesting complished no blanking rating scales from selected eachers, to be uploaded into the clinician's website panal; b) making the child a "Focus of Concern" under Public Low 34-1.42 for further school evaluation and passibly special educations services, and of Jewelpoing a structured plan for fornewed in cluding turring in reliability, and of the mother reviewing the treatment plan on the website and reading information about ADHD treatment, including using behavior charts. As the family did not have a primer, the clinician disa sent hard capy of the treatment plan and reading. They made a plan for the mother to meet alone with the clinician in a week to set up a behavior program and discuss the relevance of a medication trial, consistent with evidence-based treatment plan and the content plan and discuss the relevance of a medication trial, consistent with

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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIAT

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uwcolab.org/tmh-guides





Additional Free Resources for Washington State **Behavioral Health Providers**

EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

- UW Traumatic Brain Injury Behavioral Health ECHO
- **UW Psychiatry & Addictions Case Conference ECHO**
- **UW TelePain series**

PROVIDER CONSULTATION LINES

- **UW Pain & Opioid Provider Consultation Hotline**
- **Psychiatry Consultation Line**
- Partnership Access Line (pediatric psychiatry)
- Perinatal Psychiatry Consultation Line













