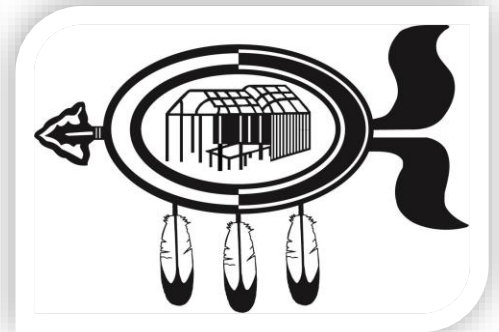


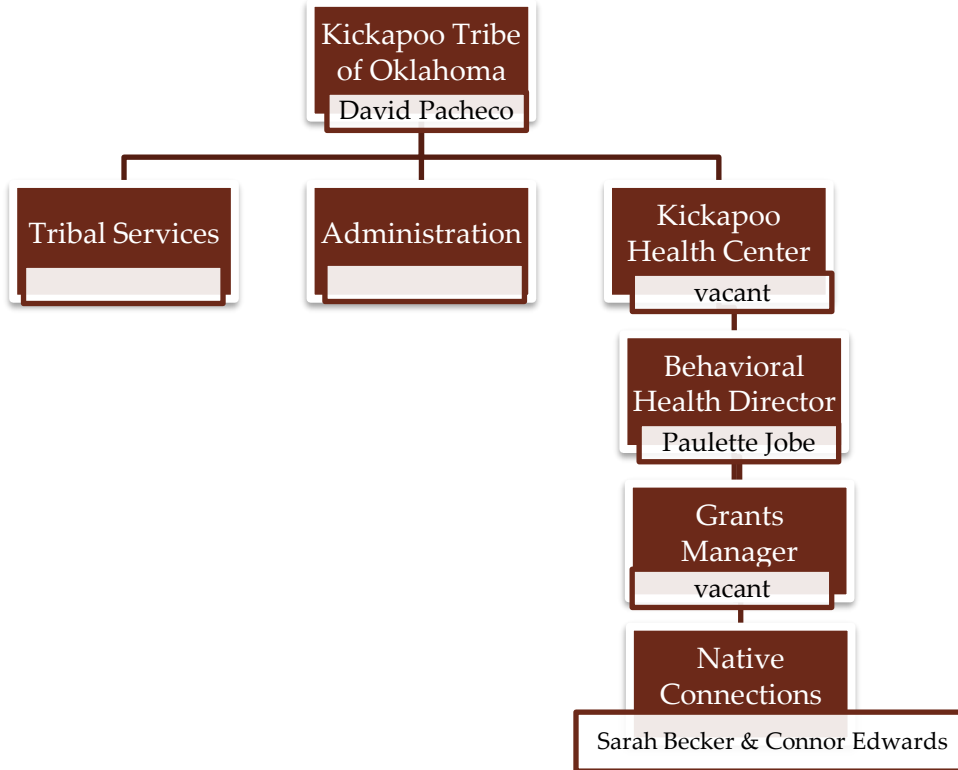


NATIVE CONNECTIONS 2019 Summary Report





The Kickapoo tribe’s current chair is David Pacheco, Jr. The council also consists of a Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Councilperson. The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma governs the Kickapoo Tribal Health Center’s policies and regulations. See Figure 1.1 below for an organizational chart.



Introduction

The Kickapoo Tribal Health Center is an entity of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. The Health Center offers a variety of services to Kickapoo tribal members, as well patients who hold a CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe. Our Behavioral Health Department also resides on the Health Center campus and has grown from 14 staff members last year to 25 staff members now. Services provided include: a) Individual and family counseling b) Support groups c) Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) d) Substance abuse assessment and counseling e) Domestic violence assessment and counseling f) Case Management g) Court-related assessments h) Inpatient and outpatient referrals i) Mental health screenings j) QPR k) Mental Health First Aid l) Crisis intervention m) Anger Management n) Parenting Classes o) Art Therapy p) Yoga & Zumba.

As of this time last year, our Behavioral Health Department consisted of five grants. These grants are: Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI), State Youth Treatment Implementation (SYTI), Tribal Opioid Response (T.O.R.) grant, and Native Connections. Our SYTI grant includes an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), which includes supportive services to individual and group therapy. Some of these services include: Yoga, life skills, gardening, GED classes, transportation, art therapy, and a walking trail. Recently, our department was granted the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF.) grant. A Project Coordinator for this grant was appointed in October 2019. A Prevention Aide position is scheduled to be posted in January 2020. As well as the addition of a new grant, the Native Connections Grant also accrued some staffing changes. Shiela Williams



(coordinator) and Lindsay Hernandez (prevention aide) left the team in June 2019. I, Sarah Becker, became the grant coordinator in July 2019. Connor Edwards was hired as the prevention aide in August 2019.

The Native Connections grant services seven counties known as the Kickapoo service area. These counties consist of: McCloud, Choctaw, Harrah, Wellston, Meeker, Jones, and Shawnee. See Figure 1.1 to view a map of our service area.

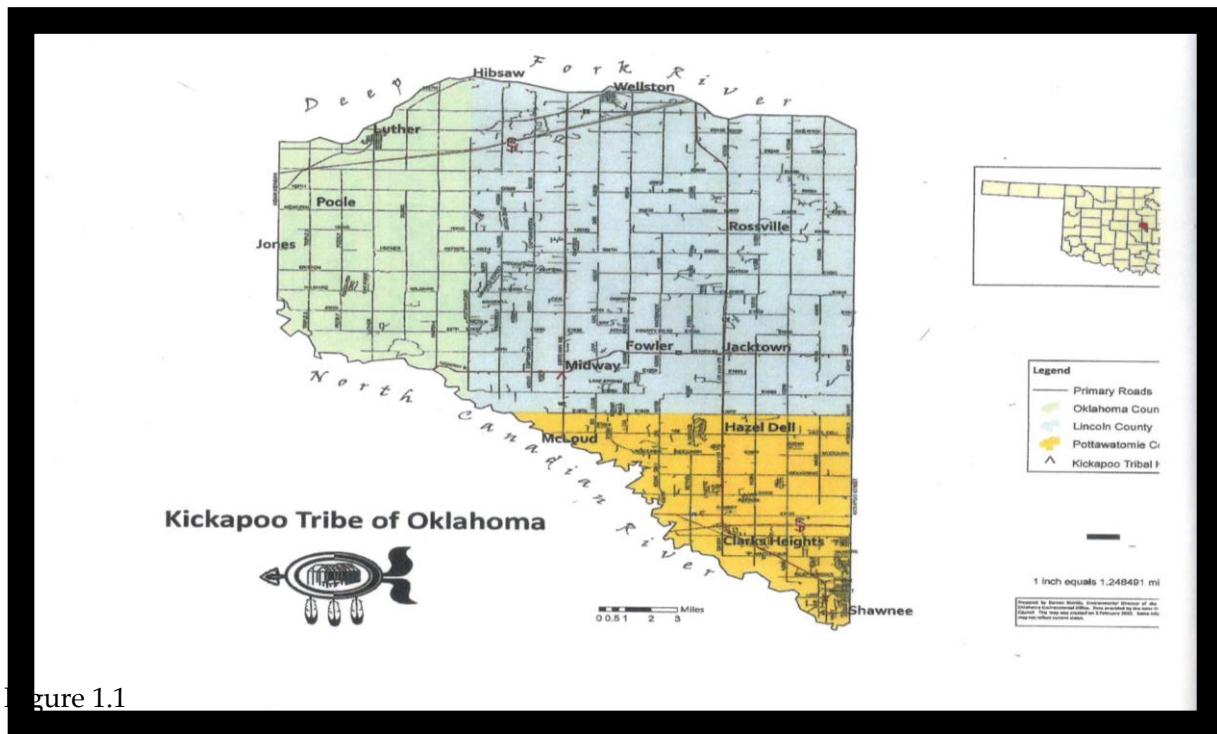


Figure 1.1

Opening Summary

After the first year of the grant was completed, Shiela, the previous grant coordinator, conducted a Community Readiness Assessment in order to assess the areas that need growth and/or improvement, and to determine the areas to maintain. Listed below, you will find various areas that are working well along with areas that are needing improvement.

What went well?

Collaborations/Networking



Building relationships is one of the most important aspects of meeting the goals and objectives of our grant. We enjoy meeting new people who have a common passion to promote well-being and safety in our communities. We understand that we cannot be effective and sensitive to the needs of our population, unless we collaborate with others and build on existing relationships.

Relationships we built upon included our Native Connections Youth Advisory Board. We continue to meet with our youth every month in order to allow them the opportunity to voice their opinions, ideas, and concerns, for our community. We used this opportunity to highlight our youths' commitment and dedication throughout the year.

One collaboration goal we had for this year was to partner with elders more. In January 2019, our grant hosted an event "Bridging the Gap Between Youth and Elders", allowing youth, elders, tribal members, and community members to come together and promote the value and importance of each generation as well as how and why we depend on one another.

We maintained existing relationships by consistently attending with (Pottawatomie Alliance Toward Community Health (PATCH), KTHC Advisory meetings, Native Connections Advisory meetings, 8 local schools in 7 different communities, and suicide prevention meetings. We also provided QPR and MHFA trainings along with numerous presentations (healthy relationships, bullying, suicide prevention, red ribbon week, etc.) to various audiences.

Our End of School Bash went well this year as well. This activity served as an opportunity to provide grant-related information and suicide prevention education to the community. Below are pictures and along with a post report.

END OF SCHOOL BASH 2019

Located at the Kickapoo Tribal Health Center
105365 S. Hwy 102
McLoud, OK 74851

Wednesday, May 29
4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Open to the Public

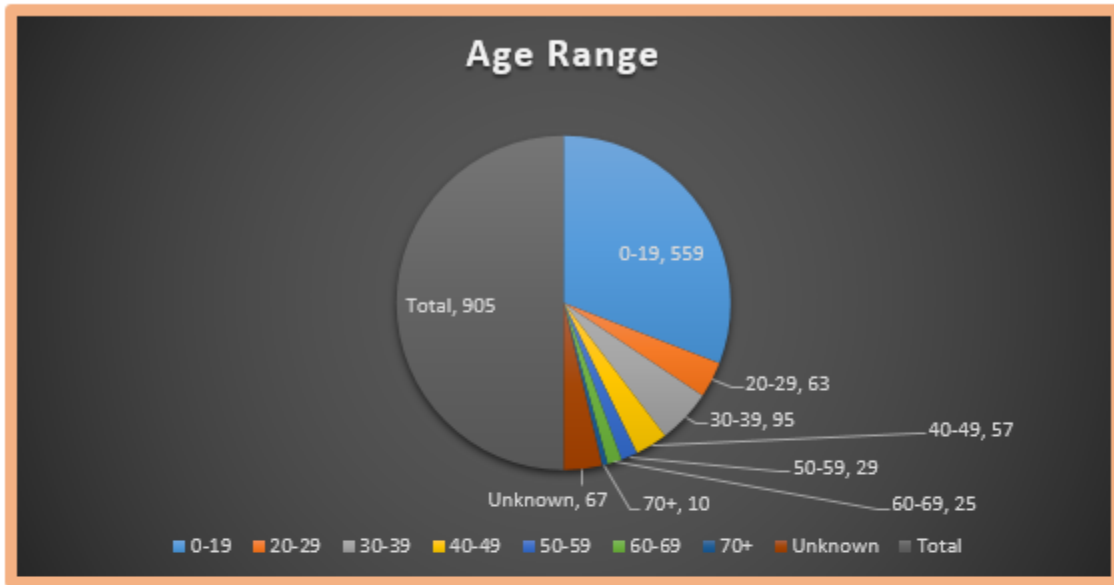
- Pony Rides
- Face Painting
- Knechtball
- Slip-n-Slide
- Free Sun Cream
- Photo Booth
- Ninja Warrior Dome
- Basketball Hoop Shoot Contest
- Food
- Giveaways
- DJ

Hosted by Kickapoo Native Connections Grant
For questions, contact Shiela Williams at (405) 964-2618

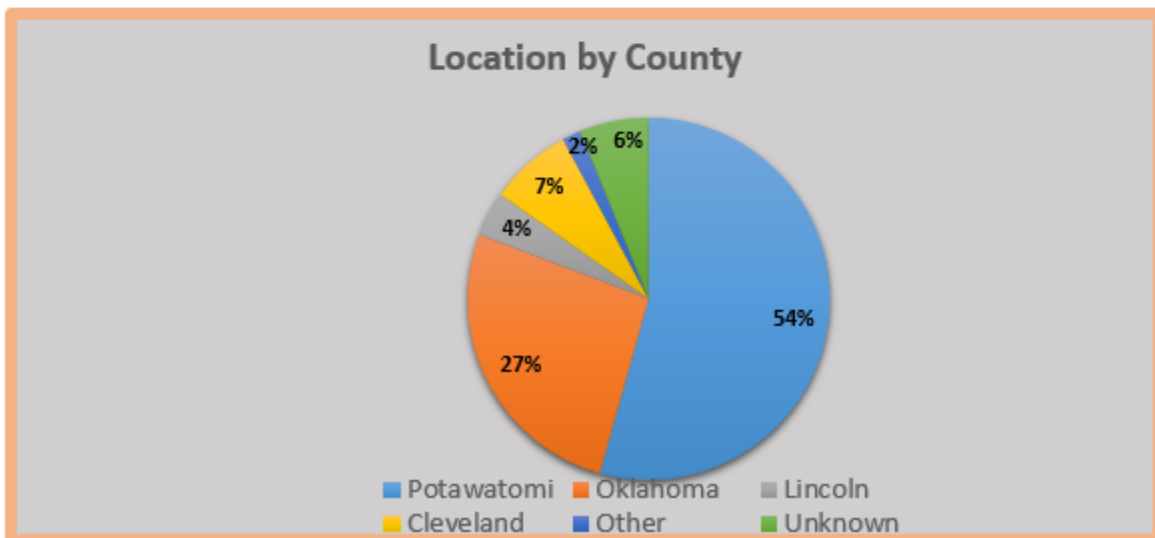




Native Connections
Post End of School Bash Report



- 905 people registered
- 24 tribes represented|
- Kickapoo, Absentee Shawnee and Nonnative were most represented at 62%
- 28% registered as Kickapoo
- 0-19 year olds were the most represented age at 62%





We also hosted the very first Kickapoo Youth GONA Conference for Kickapoos of Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. During their time at GONA, the youth were given opportunities to learn more about Kickapoo history, historical trauma, the Kickapoo language, wellness, healing, and wholeness, teamwork, collaboration, communication, encouragement, affirmation, commitment, overcoming their pasts, as well as the four GONA themes.

Before the event began, youth from all three tribes reported feeling 57% connected to their community and 62% connected to their culture. They identified community strengths as programs & activities, boys & girls clubs, sports & recreation, and lastly, jobs. When asked to name things they would like to see their respective communities do better, youth identified sports & recreation, programs & activities, culture & language, and financial support. Of all registered participants, 48% said they were most excited to learn more about their culture, language, and history, while an additional 17% said they were most excited about being able to meet new people and make new friends.



After the event came to a close, Kickapoo Youth were asked, once again, to evaluate their feelings of connectivity to their communities and culture. This time, youth from all three tribes reported a 20% increase in community connectedness and a 17% increase in cultural connectedness. When asked at the end of the event about how strongly they felt they had learned about Kickapoo culture, language, and history, youth “agreed” across the board that they had learned all three of these things while attending the GONA (in rank order from the thing they felt most strongly that they had learned about to the least: 1) Kickapoo history; 2) Kickapoo culture; and 3) Kickapoo language). Youth also all generally “agreed” that their Kickapoo family grew while attending the GONA (made new friends and connections with youth from other Kickapoo tribes). Many asked when the next GONA would be, and which tribe would host it next. Overall, the facilitators, chaperones, planning committee, and youth all believed this event to be both successful and historical.



SAMHSA native CONNECTIONS

Another collaboration that is incredibly influential for our Native Connections Grant is our relationship with each of the schools in our service area or surrounding areas. In October 2018, our team provided bullying prevention training (harassment, prevention strategies, handouts and resources, etc) to Meeker High School freshmen. There were 62 people in attendance. Also in October 2018, we reached out to South Rock Creek School to provide suicide prevention training for 25 8th graders. Afterwards, we delivered drug free resources to Wellston, Meeker, SRC, and McCloud Schools.



In January 2019, we provided a “Trauma-Informed Training” to the teachers at Wellston Public Schools, bringing in an expert on trauma informed care, Dr. Jennifer Sweaton. There were 74 people in attendance. In February 2019, we provided a “Grief Support Training” to educate McCloud teachers about how to professionally and appropriately respond to grief. In April 2019, our team provided QPR Training and educational resources at the Oklahoma City University’s Powwow for almost 50 people. Also in April 2019, our team provided resources and information to parents of Shawnee High School students.



In August 2019, we surveyed 182 McLoud High School students about their knowledge and need for additional training on suicide prevention. We found that over 80% of the students were aware of resources, such as the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, that they can identify numerous risk factors for suicide, and that they believe their students and staff would benefit from additional training. However, less than 40% of students identified being involved in counseling or believing that they could benefit from counseling.



In September 2019, with a new Native Connections Team, our grant provided training to McLoud (371) for bullying, Dale (156), Meeker (161) & Jim Thorpe Academy (56) for substance abuse awareness, South Rock Creek (30), Wellston (152) & Jones (275) for suicide prevention. For the month of September, Native Connections reached 1201 students by providing on-site training. In addition to providing training to students and staff, we implemented a TAP Initiative (Teacher Appreciation & Preparation), where we compiled resource kits and a digital database of resources for all administrators, staff members, and teachers. Please see the pictures below.



Submission of Yearly Report by: Sarah Becker, MS, Native Connections Project Coordinator.