



Rural Opioid Technical Assistance

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Montana State University Extension Tribal Opioid Response Strategic Plan Summary

Kauffman & Associates, Inc.

Dr. Iris PrettyPaint
Lead Facilitator

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Background and context



In FY18, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), through the Department of Health and Human Services, funded the Montana State University's (MSU) Rural Opioids Technical Assistance Grants (ROTA)



MSU partnered with KAI to conduct 2-day strategic planning workshops with participating Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant recipients



TOR grant recipients are dedicated to addressing the opioid crisis in tribal communities by increasing access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT)



The goal of the program is to reduce the unmet treatment need and opioid overdose-related deaths through prevention, treatment, and/or recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD)

2-Day Strategic Planning Workshops

KAI conducted four TOR strategic action planning workshops

Tribe	Location	Key Point of Contact	Participants
Crow Tribe	Crow Agency, MT October 16–17, 2018	Peter Big Hair and Dayle Felicia	42
Chippewa Cree Tribe	Rocky Boy, MT October 23–24, 2018	Jessica Windy Boy	26
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	St. Ignatius, MT November 8–9, 2018	Brandy Couture and Patricia Buffalo	10
Blackfeet Tribe	Browning, MT November 13–14, 2018	Louella Heavy Runner	22
Total participants			100

Workshop Participant Profiles



Participant Organizations	Participant Titles
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treatment and recovery centers• Tribal councils• Tribal courts• Tribal police departments• Faith organizations• Community members• Tribal health departments• Tribal colleges• Bureau of Indian Affairs• Tribal social services• Public schools (Pre-K–12)• County health departments• Radio stations• Tribal housing departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licensed addiction counselors• Medical doctors• Clinical pharmacists• Tribal health directors• Police chiefs• Elders• Program managers• Spiritual advisors• Cultural advisors• Tribal councilmen• Social advocates• Tribal court judges• Head start teachers• K–12 administrators• Recovering addicts

TOR Current Reality Overview*

- Low community awareness of available treatment options
- High rates of substance use by high school students
- Pregnant women testing positive for opioid use
- Newborns show signs of neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Grandparents caring for grandchildren
- Limited treatment options that integrate culture-based practices
- Limited available housing for individuals and their families in recovery



*As reported during TOR strategic planning workshops by participants

SWOT Analysis Overview

Internal Strengths

- Family and cultural values
- Cultural awareness and benefits of traditional practices
- Ceremonies, religion, spirituality, and prayer
- Behavioral health services
- Health educators
- Community role models and mentors
- Community coalitions, including neighborhood watch, and community policing

Internal Weaknesses

- Drug diversion
- Law enforcement resources
- Tribal laws and codes
- Support groups for family and individuals in recovery
- Available recovery housing
- IHS communication related to protocols for pain management
- Education about OUD
- Loss of cultural identity among youth



SWOT Analysis Overview

External Opportunities

- Existing community resources, including community services and programs
- Community educational institutions
- Behavioral health
- College substance use disorder classes
- 24-hour drug treatment center
- Medicaid billing

External Threats

- Ongoing drug trends
- Limited available data
- High department staff turnover
- Political micro-management of departments
- Loss of culture/language
- Acceptance of dysfunction
- Territorialism
- Budgetary uncertainty
- Denial of mental illness stigmas



Vision Themes



Overarching Themes

healing, treatment, outreach,
family, culture, and safety



Notable Quotes

- “To see our families turn to our culture and begin to heal”
- “Offering treatment through culturally informed approaches”
- “Offering outreach support to families”
- “To see our community work together”
- “To create safe environments for our families”

Strategic Pillar Themes

- Develop evidence-based OUD treatment and recovery approaches
- Increase OUD treatment and recovery service capacity
- Integrate culture-based practices into treatment and recovery care models
- Create OUD education for community, students, and leadership
- Develop data collection processes
- Develop MAT clinic service capacity
- Increase housing accessibility for individuals in recovery



Strategic Outcome Themes

- Targeted OUD education campaign for the general population
- Inventory of community program services related to healing and recovery support
- Available housing for those in recovery
- Data collection plans across community programs
- Increase MAT clinic participation levels and services offered
- Expanded in-patient and out-patient treatment capacity
- Regular workforce development training related to OUD



Lessons Learned



Tribes need authoritative information about evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services for opioid use disorders (OUD).

Tribes need guidance for local governments, advocacy organizations, nonprofits, providers, state agencies, and others involved in resolving critical, controversial matters regarding opioid abuse treatment.

Tribal communities need to develop community-wide education approaches at their level of community readiness for OUD treatment and prevention.

Tribes need intense technical assistance for grant needs assessments, data collection, and implementation.