

HONORING CHILDREN, MENDING THE CIRCLE (HCMC)



**TREATMENT
COLLABORATIVE**
FOR TRAUMATIZED YOUTH



**PROJECT
HEAL**

Enhancing Trauma Care for Native American Youth to Heal

May 13-16, 2025
Bismarck, ND

Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD • Susan Schmidt, PhD
Emily Sargent, PhD • Regina Ertz, PhD

NORTH
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APPLICATION PACKET

Honoring Children, Mending the Circle

Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth (TCTY) is hosting the cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) titled Honoring Children Mending the Circle (HCMC). HCMC is the clinical application of the healing process in a traditional framework that supports the belief of American Indians and Native Alaskan culture of spiritual inclusion leading to renewal and recovery. The effectiveness of TF-CBT as an evidenced based treatment is maintained in the structure and protocol while the framework, theory, and application is culturally driven. Training involves a four-day intensive session, follow-up case consultation via zoom calls, web-based training and resources.

DETAILS

No cost for training & consultation calls

Breakfast & lunch provided

CEU hours pending

Room block available at Courtyard Bismarck North

KEY DATES

Applications Due

March 5

Notification of Acceptance

March 19

APPLY AT

<https://forms.office.com/r/i3iUZ2LiXV>

FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL

tcty@sanfordhealth.org

Overview

The Indian Country Child Trauma Center *Honoring Children Mending the Circle (HCMC)*

The Indian Country Child Trauma Center (ICCTC) was established in 2004 to develop trauma-related treatment protocols, outreach materials, and service delivery guidelines specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and their families. It is housed at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. ICCTC is the premier training center for training in treatment of childhood trauma for Indian Country.

The Indian Country Child Trauma Center hosts the cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy titled Honoring Children Mending the Circle (HCMC). This clinical training is offered to licensed clinicians who are employed by tribes, IHS, BIE, local tribal/public schools on or near reservations or tribal jurisdictions, or non-profit organizations working in Indian Country and serving tribal children and their families with trauma exposure.

About TF-CBT

TF-CBT is an evidence-based treatment for children and adolescents impacted by trauma that was developed by Esther Deblinger, Judith Cohen and Anthony Mannarino. It is a components-based treatment that integrates trauma-sensitive interventions with cognitive-behavioral strategies to reduce emotional and behavioral symptoms.

HCMC Training Objectives

The HCMC (TF-CBT) training will provide clinicians with the following information & clinical skills:

1. Knowledge and skills to culturally enhance and implement the TF-CBT treatment modules for Native American youth and families, including:
 - a. Education about childhood trauma and common trauma-related impacts
 - b. Supporting caregivers in trauma-informed parenting practices
 - c. Relaxation/stress management training
 - d. Education on the relationship between thoughts, feelings and actions
 - e. Supporting youth in gaining mastery over trauma memories
 - f. Guiding youth and caregivers in developing healthy and accurate trauma-related beliefs
 - g. Strengthening child-caregiver communication skills, including related to the child's trauma history
 - h. Teaching and reinforcing child safety skills
2. Clinicians will engage in culturally related therapeutic activities during training to help increase ability to provide culturally relevant treatment to Native American children & families.

Training Program Structure

1. Prerequisites

The purpose of prerequisites is to ensure preparation for the in-person training by reviewing TF-CBT materials:

- Complete TF-CBT Online Training: <https://tfcbt2.musc.edu> (\$35 to complete)

2. In-Person Training

Participants must attend all of the 4-day in-person training. Training will include active learning, including frequent group discussions, activities and feedback. Training cohort is limited to 15 clinicians.

3. Consultation Calls

Following the in-person training, biweekly consultation calls will be offered over 12 months. Consultation calls will occur on Mondays from 12pm to 1pm CST. The call schedule and additional details will be sent out after the training.

Requirements for Full Completion:

- Actively participate in consultation calls
- Attend at least 11 calls over the course of one year
- Work on two HCMC (TF-CBT) cases during consultation period (it is recommended clinicians start 4 HCMC cases to account for dropout)
- Complete two case presentations on the consultation calls
- Use at least one standardized instrument to assess HCMC treatment progress with each case (pre & post-tests, these instruments will be provided)

Eligibility Requirements

1. Master's Degree or above in a mental health discipline
2. Professional license in trainee's state
3. 50% of clinician's caseload must be working with Native American/Indigenous children who are between 3-18 years of age

Participant Expectations

- Complete prerequisite activities prior to the in-person training
- Attend the 4-day in-person training and actively participate in learning opportunities, including group discussions, activities, and feedback
- Participate in collaborative conference calls (2 presentations over call period)
- Collect and use metrics to help to assess progress and guide future improvements
- Participate in program evaluation activities

Cost

- Tuition for this training is being sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division. However, you will be responsible for the cost of the online pre-work training, transportation, lodging, and meals outside of the training.

Training Team

Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD

A child psychologist by training, is a Presidential Professor who directs the Indian Country Child Trauma Center within the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Since 1994 she has directed Project Making Medicine, a clinical training program to training mental health providers in the treatment of child maltreatment using culturally based teachings. In 2020 she was awarded the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center, providing training and technical assistance throughout the country on suicide prevention efforts. With the establishment of the Indian Country Child Trauma Center in 2004, she was instrumental in the cultural adaptations of evidenced-based child treatment protocols. Under her guidance, four Evidenced Based Treatments were enhanced for American Indian and Alaska Native families in Indian Country, titled the Honoring Children Series. One of the four is Honoring Children – Mending the Circle, a cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy, for use with American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families. Dr. BigFoot has over 15 published articles and chapters, including serving as the lead author of the recent publication, “Adapting Evidence-Based Treatments for Use with American Indians and Native Alaskan Children and Youth.” Dr. BigFoot has served as PI on sixteen federally funded projects. She currently serves on the federal Commission on Native Children, whose mission is to make recommendations to improve conditions affecting American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children and their families. Dr. BigFoot has over 30 years of experience and is knowledgeable about the concerns of implementation and adaptation of evidenced based practices being introduced into Indian Country. Dr. BigFoot is a member of the national TF-CBT Trainer Network. Dr. BigFoot is an enrolled member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma with affiliation to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana where her children are enrolled members.

Susan R. Schmidt, PhD

A licensed Counseling Psychologist, serves as the Chief Psychologist with the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. Dr. Schmidt’s primary professional interests include the development, dissemination and implementation of evidence-based interventions for trauma-impacted and juvenile justice involved youth and their families. She is a nationally approved trainer in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma (CE-CERT) and Problematic Sexual Behavior – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescents (PSB-CBT-A). Dr. Schmidt collaborated with Dr. Dolores Subia Bigfoot in the design and dissemination of the treatment manual - “Honoring Children – Mending the Circle”, an advanced application of the TF-CBT treatment model for American Indian and Alaska Native youth and families. Additionally, Dr. Schmidt is a long-standing member, and current elected chair, of the Oklahoma State Child Death Review Board.



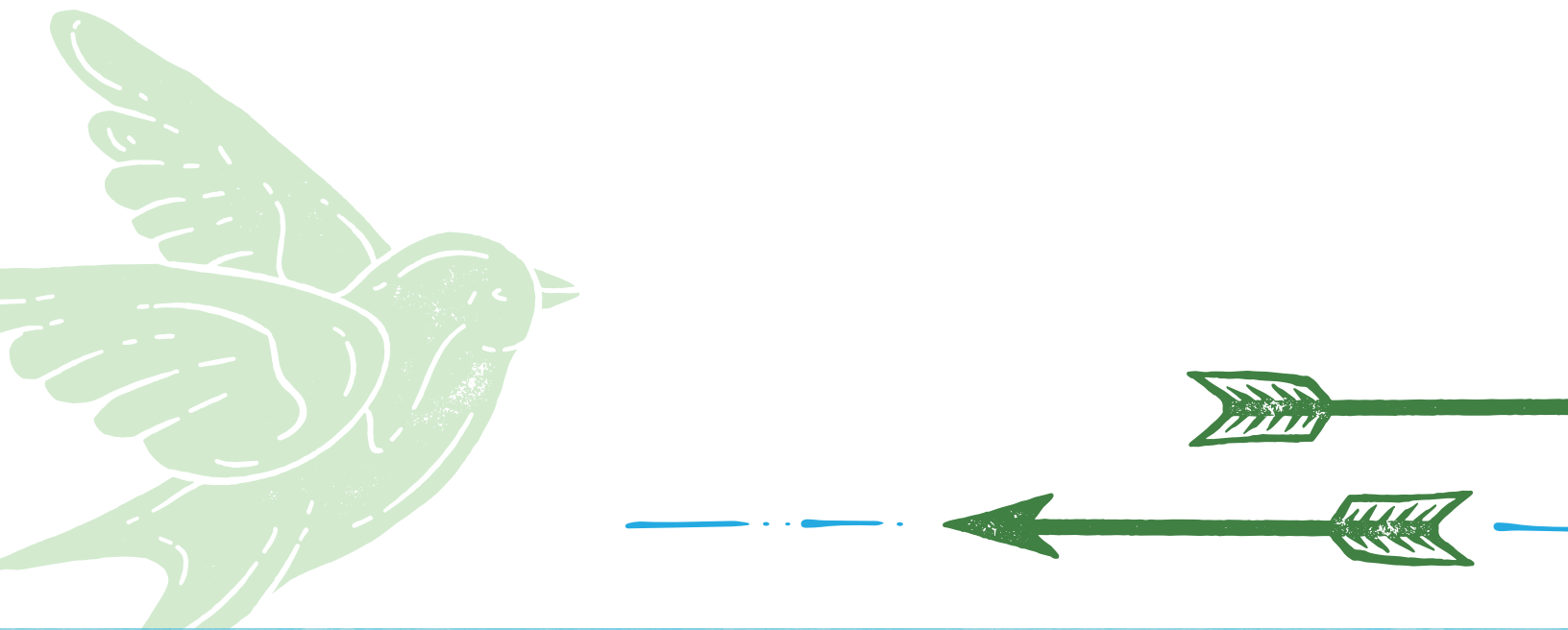
Training Team

Emily Sargent, PhD

A licensed clinical psychologist at Sanford Health and Sanford Research in North Dakota. Her expertise specifically lies in research and treatment in traumatic stress in tribal communities. She is a former Indians into Psychology Doctoral Education student (Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, University of North Dakota) and a tribal member of The White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Additionally, she is the Cultural Diversity Director for the North Dakota Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth, which is a grant program committed to the dissemination of mental health evidence-based treatments for traumatized children. Dr. Sargent specifically focuses on disseminating culturally informed care practices to child serving disciplinaries and increasing access to traumatic stress treatments for Native American communities.

Regina S. Ertz, PhD

A licensed Clinical Health Service Psychologist and currently working with the Fort Belknap Indian Community as the Director of the Aaniiih-Nakoda Integrated Behavioral Health/Chemical Dependency Program. Dr. Ertz has embraced a collaborative, nonjudgmental, trauma and diversity-informed approach to treatment. She is committed to incorporating traditional American Indian values in conjunction with therapeutic practices in providing support to Native children/youth, their families, and the community, if appropriate. Dr. Ertz maintains advanced training in Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) certified clinician, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) certified clinician, Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) in school-aged children/adolescents. Dr. Ertz also has extensively participated in the implementation of treatment and training for the cultural enhancement of TF-CBT, Honoring Children Mending the Circle (HCMC), when working with American Indian children/youth who have experienced trauma.



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