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Exploring how community-based research empowers marginalized communities – Part 1: Developing a Culturally Appropriate Aboriginal Parenting Skills Assessment Tool

Three-part Webinar Series brought to you by Community-Based Research Canada

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October 15, 2018
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Presenters

Charlotte Loppie  Kendra Gage
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We Want to Hear from You!
Developing a Culturally Appropriate Parenting Assessment Tool

Kendra Gage - Hulitan Community and Family Services Society
and
Charlotte Loppie – University of Victoria
Who Was involved?

• Hulitan Family and Community Services Society
• Center for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (Uvic)
• UVIC Research Services- Research Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization
• Ministry of Children and Family Development
• Most importantly - members of the Aboriginal/Indigenous community
Environmental Scan

- Identify Parenting assessment tools currently used by Ministries of Children and Family Development across Canada, including those serving Aboriginal families.

- Explore worldviews, values and principles relevant to the Indigenous peoples of Vancouver Island – to inform a locally relevant conceptual foundation for the new assessment tool.
Assessment Tool Development

eight key values:

**Respect:** self-care and respectful interactions

**Courage:** setting healthy boundaries

**Love:** demonstrating empathy and dealing with challenges

**Honesty:** speaking and acting truthfully

**Wisdom:** knowing developmental markers and basic needs of the child

**Humility:** recognizing the gifts of the child

**Belonging:** demonstrating attachment to the child, creating connections with others

**Honouring:** creating a supportive and loving environment
Study Participants

4 Hulitan clients
3 Hulitan Family Development Workers
2 Hulitan senior managers
4 MCFD social workers
2 MCFD team leaders
Data Collection

• Hulitan clients were asked to review the tool and participate in an interview
• Focus group discussions held with Hulitan Family Development Workers (FDWs)
• Interviews held with Hulitan senior managers
• Focus Groups with MCFD social workers and team leaders
• One-on-one debriefing sessions between FDWs and senior managers
• Data gathering was undertaken by an Indigenous PhD candidate
Findings

Reflections on the New Assessment Tool
Clients

- Overwhelming preference for the new tool
- easier to understand, more positive, neatly laid out
- allows clients to be treated as a person
- strengths-based approach is empowering
- sets the stage for good relationships with workers
- more fully engages parents
- helps clients open-up in a more meaningful way
- enhances clients’ self-esteem
- sets a positive tone for relationships and the journey
- helps clients to perceive the assessment more positively
- allows FDW workers to engage more deeply with clients
Family Development Workers

• wording represents a major improvement
• more respectful and inclusive of Indigenous worldviews
• value-focus will strengthen relationships
• will help build trust with clients
• challenge in learning how to use the tool properly
• might be difficult to change how some workers see clients, even using a culturally relevant tool.
Hulitan Senior Management

• provides space to honor Indigenous experiences
• language is accessible and people connect with the values
• collaborative approach to healing and family reunification
• language reflects holistic practice
• facilitates the education of Ministry workers
• use terms like humility, respect, love, and courage make it difficult to be deficit-focused
• represents a step toward balancing power within the Ministry
• confronts racist ideologies embedded in service delivery
Ministry Workers

• facilitates better understanding between the Ministry and clients

• can promote trust and collaboration

• still able to measure indicators relevant to MCFD

• very evidence based and stable

• language is what people use daily, leaving clients less confused, thus fostering better relationships

• acknowledges the trauma Indigenous peoples have experienced and how it has impacted and continues to impact them
Thank You

Questions?
Q & A
Please Share Your Feedback

“Tell us what you think!”
Thank You!

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