

Using Culture to Prevent Trafficking of Indigenous Youth

Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie

West Central MN Regional Navigator, Someplace Safe

Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Cohort 5

Anne.lr@someplacesafe.info

What is HTLA?



- Program under NHTTAC
- Partnership with CORO
- Cohort 5 also partnered with CNAY, ANA, and ACF
- Focus on leadership development and project question

How can culture be a protective factor in preventing trafficking among all indigenous youth?

Cohort 5 Project question

Project Work

- Research
- Interviews with key stakeholders
- Differing takeaways and perspectives
- Recommendations
 - Macro Recommendations
 - Mezzo Recommendations
 - Micro Recommendations



Recommendations

Macro Recommendations

- Assess current systems
- Increased funding for cultural programs
- Culturally appropriate, trauma informed training for systems
- DATA

Mezzo Recommendations

- Increased funding available to local government for cultural programs
- Mandatory hiring of Indigenous folks in systems

Recommendations

Micro Level

- Increase access to prevention and intervention programs
- Indigenous representation and oversight in all steps of the process
- Investment in measures of quality and accountability



Next Steps

- Specific trainings for systems professionals and partners
- Technical assistance
- Cultural connections
- Cultural resources



Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie is currently the West Central Minnesota Regional Navigator out of Someplace Safe. She is a current fellow for the Human Trafficking Leadership Academy's Cohort 5, where she and 11 other professionals across the US have worked on the project question of how culture can be used as a protective factor against Native youth. Anne has been in the anti-trafficking field for about 3.5 years, and has worked with Native Communities for 10 years.



Kirby William is currently the outreach coordinator for the Native American Program with Legal Aid of Nebraska. She is also a current fellow for the Human Trafficking Leadership Academy's Cohort 5, where she and 11 other professionals across the US have worked on the project question of how culture can be used as a protective factor against Native youth. She has been working in violence prevention and awareness for 6 years.



What Can You Do?

- Program Self-Evaluation
- Make Space
- Connecting clients to cultural resources
- Engage in education
- Eliminate Bias
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, but also recognize the onus is not on Native folks