**Guidance for Community Advisory Circle/Committee**

**What is the Community Advisory Circle/Committee?**

It is a core component of the Strat Pak and is considered a best practice for strategic planning, implementation, and sustainability.

**Who should be on the Community Advisory Circle/Committee?**

A Community Advisory Circle/Committee should be comprised of:

* Tribal community members:
  + Elders
  + Youth
  + Informal leaders in the community
* Service providers
  + Behavioral health
  + Treatment
* Partners that provide direct services to Indigenous youth and their families:
  + Educators
  + Health & wellness staff
  + Language & cultural program staff/consultants
  + Spiritual advisors
  + Tribal justice staff

\*\*\**In the grant goals & objectives, key programs and services will be indicated; staff representation from those key programs and services should be considered to be on the* Community Advisory Circle/Committee.

**How many members should be on the Community Advisory Circle/Committee?**

A recommended and manageable size for the Community Advisory Circle/Committee is somewhere between ***6-12 individuals***.

**What are the primary roles and responsibilities of the Community Advisory Circle/Committee members?**

* Model and commit to being an impartial and objective group in support of the TYP program coordinator and the Indigenous youth and their families who will be served by the grant.
* Willingness to contribute to the development of the overarching framework/program design from planning to sustainability.
* Willingness to work together to develop necessary infrastructural supports for the planning and operational components of the program.
* Knowledgeable about the TYP’s place in the community, trends in the community affecting the field of services, and a focused commitment to the long-range issues that impact Indigenous youth and their families.
* Commitment to contribute to developing asset-based solutions.
* Willingness to build relationships and work together as a Community Advisory Circle/Committee to accomplish the goals and objectives of the TYP program.
* Commitment to attend monthly in-person Community Advisory Circle/Committee meetings.

**What are the possible challenges involved with forming a Community Advisory Circle/Committee?**

* Having no previous working relationships with potential members can be difficult for recruiting efforts.

**Possible solution:** Request a meeting to discuss the program, your vision for the program, and how their expertise will assist in meeting that vision, and how ultimately everyone’s goal is to nurture and care for tribal youth.

* Potential members are very busy people.

**Possible solution:** Everyone has a very long task list as part of their current position but the Advisory Circle/Committee provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the development of a program designed to uplift tribal youth. Their expertise can help make the program as successful as it can be. Benefits of Advisory Circle/Committee membership include creating/strengthening interdepartmental relationships, sharing resources & knowledge about the community, and increasing the positive impact on youth and their families. Also, since the Advisory Circle/Committee only meets once a month, the time commitment is not very much. Explore alternatives to normal meeting times such as evenings or weekends.