



NACS NEWS

*A Tradition
of Caring*

July 2024
Volume 25, Issue 7

Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

- 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York, 14207, (716) 874-4460, Fax (716) 874-1874
- 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York, 14305, (716) 299-0914, Fax (716) 299-0903
- 76 West Avenue, Lockport, New York, 14094, (716) 302-3035, Fax (716) 302-3037
- 100 College Avenue, Suite 200, Rochester, New York, 14607, (585) 514-3984
- 960 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203, (315) 322-8754

July is Bebe Moore Campbell

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

National Minority Mental Health Month is observed in July as a nationwide effort developed by Mental Health America. It hopes to bring to attention the multitude of mental health experiences within Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities. The month also takes into consideration the unfair inequities such as systemic and historical barriers that negatively impact a person's mental health. The concerns and traumas faced by the marginalized, oppressed, and disenfranchised people are unique and need to be addressed as such. It is important to have professional and empathetic mental health caregivers to help overcome mental health issues and faulty diagnoses.

Each July, we honor the legacy of author, advocate, and trailblazer Bebe Moore Campbell by recognizing Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Moore Campbell's ability to tell impactful stories highlighting themes of racism, mental health, and family left a lasting mark on this world and is a foundation for much of the work that continues in support of BI-

POC mental health.

History of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Bebe Moore Campbell was the driving force behind National Minority Health Awareness Month. She was an author, advocate, co-founder of the National Alliance of Mental Illness, Urban Los Angeles who actively campaigned for mental health education and improving mental healthcare facilities in impoverished communities. In 2005, Campbell and her friend, Linda Wharton-Boyd decided it was time to end stigma and make mental health facilities accessible for everyone. Wharton-Boyd suggested dedicating a month to the effort. The two friends worked together to develop the concept of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month and what it would entail. The Department of Mental Health stepped in and Anthony Williams held a news conference to encourage residents to get mental health checkups.

The importance of the month was quickly realized and people started to join the cause wholeheartedly. The two of them held book signings, spoke in churches, and created a National Minority Mental Health Taskforce of healthcare workers, patients, friends, and allies. However, the efforts came to a standstill when Campbell was diagnosed with cancer. She passed away soon after but Wharton-Boyd and other advocates for National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month reignited their cause. It was decided that Campbell's efforts would not go in vain. The group researched and obtained the support of Representatives Albert Wynn and Diane Watson who signed legislation to create an official National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in 2006.

Watch: [Celebrating Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month](#)

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NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Star Wheeler

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Pete Hill

Stages of Life Empowerment Program

Simone Alston



MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If you are planning on moving or changing your address, please contact NACS so we may update our mailing list. Send an email to Newsletter Editor:

gghosen@nacswny.org

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Sharing Generational Wisdom

In BIPOC communities, younger and older generations may hold different sets of cultural values and beliefs. While the mental health of individuals from different generations may be equally affected by racism and discrimination, they may face unique mental health challenges based on their age. Each age group also has their own unique wisdom to share when it comes to taking care of their own mental health and advocating for mental wellness in their communities.

Read More: [Mental Health Challenges Across Generations](#)

BIPOC Mental Health Myth-Busting

In BIPOC communities, talking about mental health can be considered taboo. You may hear certain messages that you should be able to “suck it up” and “deal with your problems on your own.” Some of these messages come from a place of genuine fear because BIPOC populations have historically been harmed by the mental health and health care systems. BIPOC individuals have instead sought out different means of support, such as traditional healers, doulas, or peer advocates. Seeking out therapy or other mental health services can support and supplement traditional methods.

Learn More: [“Myths” that may be barriers to BIPOC communities seeking mental health support](#)

Breaking Down Mental Health Stigma in BIPOC Communities

Mental health stigma is a negative or discriminatory attitude someone holds about mental health. Learn more about how to break down stigma in BIPOC communities and create a space where everyone feels comfortable sharing their experienc-

es with mental health.

Much More: [Factors that may contribute to negative beliefs about mental health within different BIPOC communities](#)

How to Cope When Your Community is Under Attack

When communities face violence or discrimination, the resulting trauma from these attacks can be difficult to heal. Finding ways to process your feelings, feel more grounded, and take action can support you and your community in healing together. Use this activity to help you make a plan for how you will take care of yourself and your community if your community is under attack.

(Especially in light of the shootings in our communities here and across the country, i.e. Tops mass shootings of May 14, 2022 in Buffalo, NY.)

Read For More Information: [When Your Community is Under Attack](#)

Take a Mental Health Test [Here](#)

5 Facts About The Brain That Will Blow Your Mind

- 1. Brain surgeries aren't very new**
In fact, the first recorded brain surgery happened during the Stone Age.
- 2. Brains shrink in size**
As we get older, our brains tend to get smaller with age. This usually happens after middle age.
- 3. The brain needs a lot of energy**
Our brains consume almost 20% of the body's total oxygen and blood supply.
- 4. Brains are quite heavy**
The human brain, on average, weighs three pounds.

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5. The brain is divided into three parts

The three major parts of the brain are the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brain stem.

Why National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is Important

A. It saves lives

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month saves hundreds of vulnerable lives every year with timely help and a supportive network of allies.

B. Makes the world a better place

This initiative was started with the genuine hope of making the world a better and more inclusive place for everyone, especially those who have been historically neglected.

C. It destigmatizes mental health issues

There's a lot of prejudice and stigma surrounding mental health issues. This month aims to fight misinformation so that those who are struggling don't feel left out.

BIPOC mental health statistics and general information

Black/African American Community

- Percent of African Americans with Mental Illness: 17% [\[Source\]](#)
- Number of African Americans with Mental Illness: 6.8 million

Latinx/Hispanic American Community

- Percent of Latinx/Hispanic Americans with Mental Illness: 15% [\[Source\]](#)
- Number of Latinx/Hispanic Americans with Mental Illness: 8.9 million

Asian American/Pacific Islander Community

- Percent of Asian Americans with Mental Illness: 13% [\[Source\]](#)
- Number of Asian Americans with Mental Illness: 2.2 million

Native and Indigenous Communities

- Percent of Native Americans/Alaskan Natives with Mental Illness: 23% [\[Source\]](#)

- Number of Native Americans/Alaskan Natives with Mental Illness: 830,000

Multiracial

- Percent of people who identify as being two or more races with mental illness: 25% [\[Source\]](#)
- People who identify as being two or more races are most likely to report any mental illness within the past year than any other race/ethnic group.

LGBTQ+ Community

- Percent of Individuals who Identify as LGBTQIA+ with Mental Illness: 37%
- Number of Individuals who Identify as LGBTQIA+ with Mental Illness: 3.9 million [\[Source\]](#)

Mental Health America released a report on LGBTQ+ mental health using data gathered from our online screening tools [here](#).

Also view: [BIPOC Mental Health Infographic](#)

Resources:

[National Today](#)

[Mental Health America \(MHA\)](#)

Hello & Welcome to Madison Tighe

Nyaweh Sgeno'!

My name is Madison Tighe, I am the new Indigenous Health and Promotions (IHAWP) Program Coordinator, and I am so excited to officially be apart of the NACS team! You may previously know me as the Special Initiatives Intern in which I spent my last two semesters with Pete Hill while attending University of Buffalo.

I am a member of the Seneca Nation, turtle clan, and from the Cattaraugus territory. I am a recent graduate from UB where I earned my bachelor's in health and human services with a concentration in community mental health and minored in Indigenous studies. I previously earned my associate degree in human services from Erie Community College as I have always aspired to promote the health and wellness of Indigenous communities.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with this organization and hope to collaborate and become familiar with all departments.

Nyaweh,
Maddie Tighe

NACS Youth Clubhouse &
Economic Empowerment



Want you to Join us for a
**GRADUATION
MOVING UP
CELEBRATION!**
JULY 16TH, 2024
TUESDAY
6PM TO 8PM



Join us to celebrate our Native youth
ages 12 & UP who graduated with a
degree or are moving up the 2023-2024
school year with a Chef's Dinner!

1005 Grant St, Buffalo NY

Register your youth now, call
Hillary @ 716-449-6472

Deadline to register is July 2nd

This event is funded by: NYS Office of Addiction Services & Supports (OASAS), United
Way of Greater Niagara, Indigenous Justice Circle, & U.S. Dept. of Labor



HISTORY OF TUSCARORA RAISED BEADWORK IN
NIAGARA FALLS



GUEST SPEAKER:
ANGELA JONATHAN
Tuscarora Nation, Beaver Clan

Location:
1005 Grant Street Buffalo, NY
Date: July 9, 2024
Time: 6:00-8:00PM

ROOTS
REDISCOVERING OUR
ONKWEHON:WE TRADITIONS

For more information:
(716) 874-2797 ext. 334



Funded by: The Department of Health and Human Services-
Administration for Native Americans

Native American Community Services

ROOTS

Rediscovering Our Onkwehòn:we Traditions

Strawberries And Beads

With

Samantha Brascoupe
Seven Dancers Coalition Sexual Assault Advocate

And

Colleen Casali
NACS Community and Cultural Services Director



**ALL CLASSES ARE FREE
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

5:30pm - 8:30pm

20 Person Limit per County

ERIE COUNTY

- July 10th
- July 17th
- July 24th
- July 31st

REGISTRATION COVERS

ALL 4 WEEKS OF CLASS

CONTACT:

Colleen, Arriana or Dakota
(716) 874-2797 ext. 334

NIAGARA COUNTY

- July 11th
- July 18th
- July 25th
- August 1st

Funded by:

The Department of Health & Human Services - Administration for Native Americans



Native American Community Services

SAGE Program

Supporting Assets, Growth and Economics

DAY

Thursdays

TIME

12:00pm - 2:00pm

PLACE

1005 Grant St., Buffalo, NY 14207

For Native American community
members aged 50 and over.

The program will feature craft classes,
guest speakers, estate planning,
expert presenters, and community choice.

Contact Colleen Casali for more information @ 716-548-1348

Funded by Niagara County Office for the Aging, Five Star Bank and LifeSpan



SEEKING PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

PARENTING & HEALTH RESEARCH STUDY

ELIGIBILITY

- Self-identify as Native American & live in urban area
- Primary caregiver of Native American youth age 12-17

JOIN NOW

**TUESDAYS | SPRING
6PM | 2024**

NACS Buffalo Main Office
1005 Grant St Buffalo, 14207

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- HEALTHY FOOD PROVIDED
- CHILDCARE ACTIVITIES with TAKEAWAY ITEMS and YOUTH CLUBHOUSE PROGRAMMING
- TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE AS NEEDED
- 10 WEEKLY CLASSES



FOR MORE INFORMATION

**716-339-1831/
716-874-4460**

pjacobs@nacswny.org

FAMILIES COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR GIFT CARDS UP TO **\$200.00**

FAMILY STRENGTHENING



Who Can Foster

- Singled/Married
- Working/Retired/Stay at home parent
- 21 and Over
- Rent/Own
- Adequate Income
- Stable Home
- Reside in Erie/Niagara County

Greatest Needs

- Racially & Ethnically Diverse Children
- Sibling Groups
- Various Age Groups Birth -18 Years Old
- LGBTQ+ Youth

**BE THE DIFFERENCE, BE A FOSTER PARENT
TAKE THE FIRST STEP AND CONTACT US AT**

☎ (716) 574-8940

✉ jfrappa@nacswny.org

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

RAISE HOPE & FOSTER DREAMS

Become a Foster Parent



**Scan the QR code to
start your application
TODAY!**

**Native American Community Services
of Erie and Niagara Counties
More information call 716-574-8940**



Families Together in New York State (FTNYS) in partnership with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is seeking to employ Policy Family Advisors at the state level to assist OCFS in developing policies and procedures that promote the voice of parents throughout the child welfare system.

Family Policy Advisors are parents with personal experience in navigating the child welfare system

Family Policy Advisors will:

- Assist with case reviews
- Review constituent complaint
- Organize town hall meetings
- Participate in learning collaboratives
- Support development of a Family Peer Support Services program
- Support the development of the Family Peer Advocate workforce

LOCATION/AFFILIATE:

- Buffalo
- New York City
- Albany
- Long Island - part time
- Native American Services Buffalo or Long Island

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

ftnys.org/employment

Position Title: Family Policy Advisor STATUS: Full-time (35 hours) salaried		
Location/Affiliate:		
Region 1- Buffalo NY	Region 4 - Albany NY	Region 7-Long Island part time
Region 3- Syracuse NY	Region 6 - New York City	Region 8-Native American - (LI or Buffalo)
Purpose: Families Together in New York State (FTNYS) in partnership with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is seeking to employ Policy Family Advisors at the state level to assist OCFS in developing policies and procedures that promote the voice of parents throughout the child welfare system.		

Qualifications: Policy Advisors are parents that have navigated the child welfare system

- Must have experience accessing and using services in the child welfare system
- Prefer current credentialed advocate or meet criteria to become a credentialed
- Must be able to travel throughout state/region; some overnight travel required
- Develop and provide presentations
- Ability to work in- person at the regional office
- Facilitate focus groups, meetings, and conferences; virtually and in- person
- Partner with Local Department of Social services (LDSS) to support the Family Peer Advocate workforce

Family Policy Advisors will:

- Assist with case reviews and constituent complaint investigations
- Participate in learning collaboratives to solicit feedback to shape the OCFS’s policy agenda

Essential Job Functions:

The major duties of the job constitute the fundamental tasks and/or responsibilities of the position. Employees must be able to perform the following essential functions:

- Advise & advocate in matters of policy, and education to all family, child/ youth service systems
- Increase parent/caregiver involvement across the child welfare system
- Provide agency technical assistance
- Partner with regional Policy Advisors from other child serving agencies
- Engage in training, development, and empowerment of future family leader

Knowledge/Skills/Experience:

- Independently motivated; excellent project coordination and organization skills;
- Experience with advocacy & excellent written, verbal, and communication skills
- Ability to engage with small and large diverse groups of people
- Experience with various software packages: Microsoft Office Suite, meeting software

Salary Range 55,000 - 63,000

Application Instructions: Applicants should send a resume and detailed cover letter to employment@ftnys.org



Native American Community Services Program Offerings through the Stages of Life Empowerment (SOLE) Program



The following programs can be conducted throughout a variety of venues in **Erie and Niagara Counties** for FREE, including but not limited to schools, youth programs, family nights, parent events, etc. Please contact **SOLE Program Director Simone Alston** at **716-983-2564** or sshuster@nacswny.org for more information or to book programming.

All programs can be adapted to meet your group's specific needs, and programs can be created on other topics by request

Adult workshops available upon request, please contact for more information

Target Population	Program Name	Program Description	Implementation Guidelines
EVIDENCE-BASED CURRICULA FOR YOUTH			
<i>*These curricula have undergone rigorous scientific evaluations that have shown their effectiveness*</i>			
<i>*Ask about our other Evidence Based Programs*</i>			
Youth, Ages 13-18	<i>Be Proud! Be Responsible!</i>	Evidence-Based Curriculum that provides youth with a comprehensive approach to gain the knowledge, motivation and skills necessary to change their behaviors in ways that will reduce their risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV and pregnancy.	-Seven 50 minute sessions
YOUTH WORKSHOPS			
<i>*Other Workshops available: Unhealthy Relationships, Barrier Demonstrations, etc.*</i>			
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>A Youth's Guide to Adolescent Development</i>	Helps youth understand the changes they undergo during adolescence, and pays special attention to understanding changes, anatomy, and encourages respect for sexual orientation and gender diversity. <i>*Recommended workshop prior to Evidence-Based Curricula*</i>	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>Female Puberty: We All Go Through It!</i>	Walks young females through the biological changes they will encounter during puberty with special attention to anatomy, hygiene, menstruation, and developing coping strategies.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>Male Puberty: What to Expect</i>	Walks young males through the biological changes they will encounter during puberty with special attention to anatomy, hygiene, and developing coping strategies.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>A Youth's Guide to Puberty & Hygiene</i>	Walks young people of all genders through the biological changes they will encounter during puberty with special attention to hygiene and developing coping strategies.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>A Youth's Guide to Healthy Relationships</i>	Allows youth to explore the basics of healthy relationships (romantic and platonic) and provides insight to keep their current relationships healthy.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>Safer Sext: Online Safety, Privacy, and Digital Intimacy</i>	Offers youth helpful tips about safe internet use as they begin to use social media more frequently, highlighting the consequences of sexting, sexual harassment, and cyber bullying.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>Skills for a Healthy Life</i>	Focuses on the importance of healthy life skills, as they are the building blocks for overall health and wellness. Special attention is paid to stress management, time management, and goal-setting.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	<i>You Have Rights: Minors' Rights to Reproductive Health Care</i>	Provides an overview of minors' rights in accessing sexual and reproductive health care services in New York State. Many youth are unaware that they do not need parental consent to receive these services.	-Approximately one 45 minute session

Funded by: NYS Department of Health/Bureau of Child & Adolescent Health and Cicatelli Associates Incorporated; as well as businesses, foundations, and caring individuals.

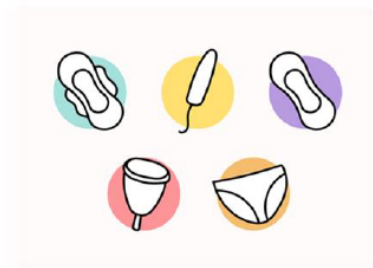
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Youth, Ages 10-18	A Youth's Guide to Consent	Walks youth through the elements of consent, allows them to practice strategies for giving and receiving consent, and identifying its presence or absence.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	A Youth's Guide to Effective Communication	Compares different strategies of communication, allowing youth to identify the most effective strategies, practice them, and identify them.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	A Youth's Guide to Boundaries	Offers youth the helpful tools to establish consent and create and enforce boundaries in all relationships.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	A Youth's Guide to Anti-Bullying	Allows youth to explore types of bullying, develop skills to prevent bullying, and provides insight into its consequences.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	Period Care	Offers insight to what to expect throughout menstruation, as well as information on menstrual products and personal hygiene.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	Budgeting	Allows youth to brainstorm ways to reduce spending and discuss the purpose of saving.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	LGBTQ+ 101	Introduces youth to common terminology and concepts of LGBTQ+ communities, exploring inclusive ways to talk about and understand sex, gender, and sexual orientation.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	All About Abortion Access	Introduces youth to the concept of abortion and abortion options, discusses who has abortions and why, compares myths and facts about abortion, and details abortion access and laws in New York State.	-Approximately one 45 minute session
Youth, Ages 10-18	Clinic Tours	This is an opportunity for youth to receive free scheduled tours and education about their local reproductive health clinics and facilities to reduce any associated stigma with receiving services. We pick you and your youth group up and drop you off!	-Groups of 5 or more -Approximately one-two hours -By request only -Call for Info
	Clinic Transportation	We offer (youth) groups transportation to and from clinics and health care facilities for appointments to eliminate obstacles that prevent youth from accessing care.	-In clinic setting



Condom Availability Program

Free condoms and other barrier methods are available for you or your organization, provided via pick up or drop off. Contact Simone Alston or contact us on our social media for availability.



Period Pouch Program

Free Period Starter Pouches are available for you or your organization, provided via pick up or drop off. Contact Simone Alston or contact us on our social media for availability.

Social Media

 NACS HEALTH AND WELLNESS  @NACS_SOLE  NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Funded by: NYS Department of Health/Bureau of Child & Adolescent Health and Cicatelli Associates Incorporated; as well as businesses, foundations, and caring individuals.



ERIE AND NIAGARA YOUTH CLUBHOUSES

Clubhouse Locations (select days):

Erie County: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207

Niagara County: 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, 14305

ABOUT NACS CLUBHOUSE:

NACS Youth Clubhouses are an alcohol and drug free space for Native youth ages 12-17.

Native youth are welcome to join our drop-in days. The clubhouses are open in the evenings during the school year. Snacks and dinners are provided for youth!



FOR UPDATES ON EVENTS, UPDATED SCHEDULES, AND CURRENT SCHEDULES SCAN OUR QR CODE OR FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM! @NACS_CLUBHOUSE



POSITIVE OUTLETS

- MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
- ONE ON ONE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE
- SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT
- LEARN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH CLUB BUCKS!

CLUBHOUSE PERKS

YOUTH HANGOUTS

- ALL NACS CLUBHOUSE LOCATION PROVIDES:
- POOL TABLE
 - DARTS
 - MOVIE/GAME NIGHTS
 - GUEST SPEAKERS
 - FIELD TRIPS
 - DINNER/SNACKS
 - TRANSPORTATION



CULTURAL IMPACTS

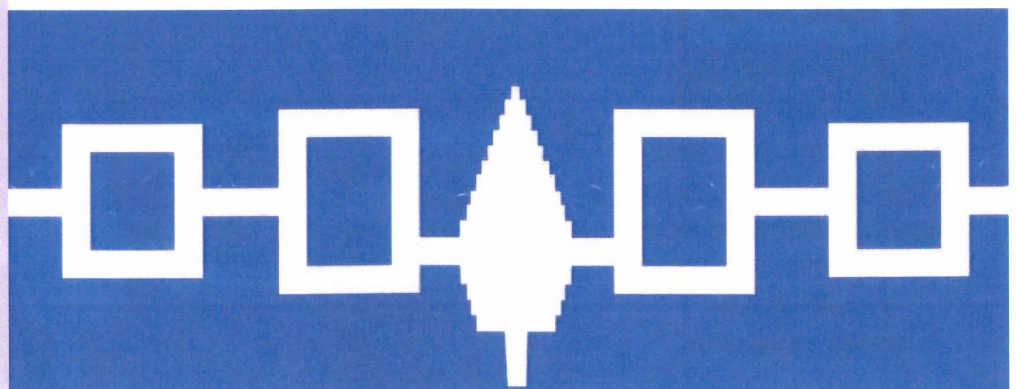
- LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES
- SOCIAL DANCES / HISTORY OF SOCIAL DANCING
- CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS



For more information, please contact:

Hillary Beaudouin, Erie County Clubhouse Manager: (716) 449-6472
Kashmir Bowser, Niagara County Clubhouse Manager: (716) 449-6405

Funded By: The Office of Addiction Services and Supports, foundations, businesses, and caring individuals



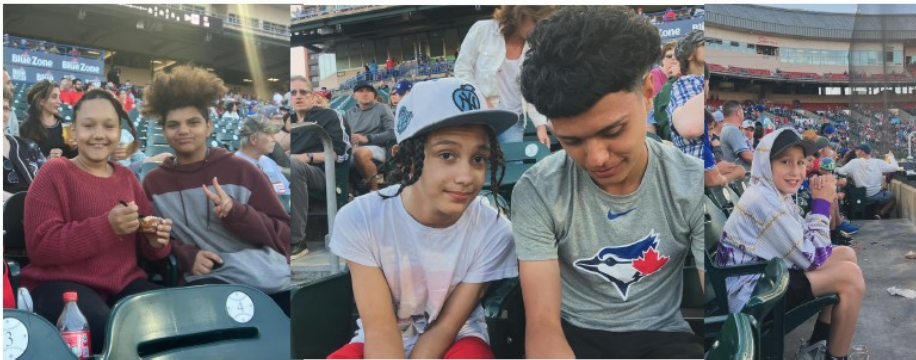
CLUBHOUSE CORNER



JULY EDITION

"Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August." - Jenny Han

BISONS GAME & NACS SOCIAL!



Last month our NACS Youth Clubhouse for both Erie and Niagara county enjoyed a Buffalo Bisons win during their Native American Heritage game night!



Additionally, one of our clubhouse youth, Hunter, was able to practice his singing skills at the NACS Social at West Hertel High School. WAY TO GO HUNTER!!!

To join us for our next outing event, please contact:
NACS Clubhouse (Erie County) Manager, Hillary: 716-449-6472
NACS Clubhouse (Niagara County) Manager, Kashmir: 716-449-6405

YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS

ERIE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT: JALAYSHA



Jalaysha is a new member of our clubhouse since May 2024! She has already begun opening up with our clubhouse staff and building relationships with her clubhouse peers. Jalaysha is an adventurous, strong-minded, and intelligent young woman! We are proud at how much she's blossomed within a short span of time.

NIAGARA COUNTY SPOTLIGHT: KIERA



Kiera has been a clubhouse member since December 2023. She is goofy and a little unpredictable. In her free time, she loves playing softball with the Grand Island Vikings. She recently hit her first home run and was just accepted into the accelerated program in school. We're so proud of you, Kiera!

STAY UPDATED ON OUR CLUBHOUSE EVENTS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA!



SCAN ME

NACS CLUBHOUSE CORNER - JUNE 2024



ATTENTION NATIVE GIRLS AGES 8-17.
JOIN OUR GIRLS SOCIETY:



RAAP

(Rising Above and Achieving Our Potential)

ABOUT RAAP GIRLS SOCIETY:

Our Native Girl's Society aides young girls, women, and members of 2SLGBTQ+ community in reaching their full potential to become independent, healthy, confident, and responsible young individuals.

Through our girl-centered approach, our members learn skills to reclaim matrilineal traditions, strengthen their community, build meaningful connections with others, develop self-esteem, and inspire the peers amongst them.

YES
GIRL!
YOU
CAN!



KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- History of the Haudenosaunee, historical underpinnings and trauma
- Haudenosaunee cultural activities such as: ribbon skirts, medicine bags, beading workshops, and moccasins
- Exploring personal attitudes and knowledge of sexual health and human sexuality
- Skill building for social and emotional wellness
- Financial Literacy and Career Exploration Workshops
- Free Field Trips

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

NACS CLUBHOUSE (ERIE COUNTY)

HILLARY: (716) 449 6472

NACS CLUBHOUSE (NIAGARA COUNTY)

KASHMIR: (716) 449 6405



INDIGENOUS JUSTICE CIRCLE

IMAGEN™



Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network

**ATTENTION NATIVE YOUTH OF ERIE
COUNTY AGES 12-17**

ON-CALL HOURS



**HAVE A QUESTION? NEED RESOURCES?
JUST WANT TO CHAT? HERE'S YOUR
CHANCE!**

**EVERY MONDAY, 2-5 PM
TEXT OR CALL HILLARY - (716) 449 6472
OR SEND DMS TO OUR INSTAGRAM
@NACS_CLUBHOUSE**

NACS YOUTH CLUBHOUSE IS FUNDED BY NYS: OFFICE OF ADDICTION SERVICES & SUPPORTS (OASAS)

**ATTENTION NATIVE YOUTH OF
NIAGARA COUNTY AGES 12-17**

ON-CALL HOURS



**HAVE A QUESTION? NEED RESOURCES?
JUST WANT TO CHAT? HERE'S YOUR
CHANCE!**

**EVERY MONDAY, 2-6 PM
TEXT OR CALL KASHMIR - (716) 449 6405
OR SEND DMS TO OUR INSTAGRAM
@NACS_CLUBHOUSE**

NACS YOUTH CLUBHOUSE IS FUNDED BY NYS: OFFICE OF ADDICTION SERVICES & SUPPORTS (OASAS)

Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.
TOGETHER WE WALK — AN INDIGENOUS PEER EDUCATION PROJECT
*Calling all Indigenous college students, human service providers,
health care workers, and community members!*



INDIGENOUS PEER EDUCATION & HEALTH TRAINING

*Compensation of up to \$ 2,400 for
completing 45 hours of online trainings!*



INTERESTED? Please contact NACS Special Initiatives Director Pete Hill to get started! Once registered, participants will be scheduled to attend an orientation and be directed to set up their virtual learning portal.

Please email Pete at phill@nacswny.org OR call/text 716-574-8981



Included Trainings:

- “Providing Culturally Relevant Native Peer Services”
- “Health Literacy in HIV, STI, & Viral Hepatitis Care”
- “2SLGBTQ+ Cultural Competency”
- “Trauma Informed Care”
- ...and more!

FUNDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH / AIDS INSTITUTE





Information Sheet & Application Form

Project Description:

The "Together We Walk – Indigenous Peer Education" (TWW) Project is an one-year effort to enhance and nurture the health and wellbeing of Native American / Indigenous persons, families, and communities throughout New York State by providing low-effort, informal communications and sharing of relevant resources for peer delivered education with a focus on promoting healthier Indigenous people, reducing rates transmission of HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and Hepatitis C among Indigenous communities, and an increased access to all relevant health services for Native peoples.

We will engage with at least 15 Native American / Indigenous people throughout New York State to attend and complete a series of training sessions during the project period. These trainings are focused on HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis C, as well as additional topics that relate to these health issues, contributing factors, and Indigenous cultural perspectives.

Non-Native people are encouraged and welcome to join this training series and will receive a certificate of completion but are not eligible to receive the funded stipends.

Procedures to Apply and Participate:

Please contact the Together We Walk Project Director (TWWPD), Pete Hill, for an application form and return it when complete.

After an application is received by NACS, participants will be asked to please--

- 1) attend an initial, virtual orientation session with the TWWPD, Pete Hill.
- 2) create an account with the relevant training website portal.
- 3) complete and submit a federal W-9 form to NACS to receive the stipends upon completion of the training, orientation, and related sessions.
- 4) attend and complete all training webinars.
- 5) submit all certificates from completed sessions to the TWWPD.
- 6) attend a monthly virtual discussion with the TWWPD and other project participants.

Participants who complete all 45 hours of training will receive a formal "Certificate of Completion" for the TWW Indigenous Peer Education Project as sponsored by NACS, as well as the maximum stipend amount available through this project.

Thank You & Next Steps!

To engage in the Together We Walk Indigenous Peer Education Project, please complete the following application form, provide brief answers to the questions asked, and return it to Pete Hill, TWW Project Director at phill@nacswny.org or by call or text, at 716-574-8981.

We are very grateful for your interest in this important project! Please do not hesitate to reach out to Pete if you have any questions, concerns, etc.



Continued on page 22



Together We Walk – An Indigenous Peer Education Project
APPLICATION FORM



To engage in the Together We Walk (TWW) Indigenous Peer Education Project, please complete the following application by providing **brief** answers to the questions asked, and return it to Pete Hill, TWW Project Director at phill@nacswny.org or fax to (716) 874-1874. Thank you!

Name _____
Address _____
Cell _____ Email _____
Organization/School/Group (if any – community members are welcome!) _____
Are you Native American, Indigenous? _____

* For the following questions, there are no “right” or “wrong” answers, per se. By providing us with your responses, you will help us gain a better understanding of how we can support your efforts as you progress through the training sessions.

Please limit your responses for each question to about 30-40 words (2-3 sentences) and use a separate piece of paper, if needed.

- 1) Please describe your connection and/or affiliation with the Native community, and please specify which community or communities you identify with.
- 2) This project is initially focused on learning and sharing information about reproductive and sexual health, including HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Hepatitis C. What challenges or opportunities do you envision in sharing this information with Native people?
- 3) How would you describe your comfort level with discussing issues of personal, sexual, and reproductive health with Native community members?
- 4) Please describe your knowledge of trauma-informed care.
- 5) Please describe your understanding of historical traumas impacting Native people, such as residential boarding schools.
- 6) Please describe your understanding of Native American cultures and traditions.
- 7) Please share how you might envision overcoming issues of stigma, denial, and various phobias when discussing sexual and reproductive health?
- 8) How do you envision sharing the knowledge you gained with Native American people after you completion of this project?



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



A Tradition of Caring

Services we provide:

- ⇒ Case management/career counseling
- ⇒ Job search and placement assistance
- ⇒ Assistance in identifying employment barriers
- ⇒ Occupational skills training/skills upgrade
- ⇒ Interview preparation
- ⇒ Resume writing assistance
- ⇒ Educational resources and information
- ⇒ Resources for entrepreneurs
- ⇒ Referrals and Linkages to other services
- ⇒ Status card/Tribal documentation assistance

Funding Available to Eligible Native Americans for:

- * Work Experience Positions
- * On-the-job Training
- * Tuition/Books/Educational Support
- * Work Clothes/Tools
- * Training/Certification Programs
- * Other Supportive Services

For more information and/or
to make an appointment, contact:
Native American Community Services

Buffalo Office
716-574-9731

Rochester Office
585-514-3984

Syracuse Office
315-322-8754

We have offices in
Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lockport,
Rochester and Syracuse

Counties we serve:

Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee,
Wyoming, Monroe, Livingston,
Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca,
Cayuga, Oswego, Onondaga,
Cortland, Oneida, Madison

Funded by the US Department of Labor

Native American Community Services Workforce Development Services



Native American Community Services has a workforce development program that offers employment and education services to the Native American community in Erie and Niagara Counties. The following is a list of services that are available to eligible participants which includes limited financial assistance related to...

Services provided to eligible participants:

• Case Management related to workforce activities	• Educational resources and information
• Assistance in identifying barriers to employment	• Tuition/Book assistance
• Career counseling/exploration	• Entrepreneurial/small business technical assistance training information
• Job search and placement assistance	• Follow-up services
• 6-week work experience program	• Referral and linkage services
• Resume/Cover letters and interview assistance	• Status Card/Tribal documentation assistance
• Occupational skills training/Skills upgrade	• Supportive Services
• On-the-job training	• Supplemental Youth Services

The following are requirements needed to qualify as an eligible participant:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 14 years of age or older ❖ Reside on/off the reservation in our service area ❖ Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian ❖ Tribal documentation of enrollment in a federal or state recognized tribe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Males 18+ have registered with Selective Service ❖ Unemployed or under-employed ❖ Laid-off, furloughed or dislocated workers ❖ Veteran or Spouse of Veteran ❖ Meet all WIOA eligibility guidelines |
|---|--|

We provide these services to Native Americans living in the following counties of New York State:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erie • Niagara • Orleans • Genesee • Wyoming • Livingston • Monroe • Wayne • Ontario | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yates • Seneca • Cayuga • Oswego • Onondaga • Cortland • Oneida • Madison |
|--|--|

*Native American Community Services
1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207
(716) 874-4460*

Food Pantry Guidelines

OPEN:

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm



Required Documents:

- Must live in the [14207 or 14216](#) zip code
- Must have [Picture ID](#)
- Must have [ID for everyone](#) in household
- Must have [proof of address](#) (current utility bill)



*****If you are a NEW client you must come in before 12 noon*****

*****Please note that clients may come to the pantry one (1) time each calendar month and they may receive service from ONLY one (1) food pantry.*****



Our organization is here to provide families with a supplemental food base. These supplemental items, when combined with your own provisions, help stretch each family meal. We provide service for numerous families each month and strive to treat each client with fairness and respect. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding of our policies.



JOIN US IN OUR FIGHT TO HELP PREVENT DEMENTIA

MAP is a research study looking at whether metformin can help prevent memory decline for people with mild memory concerns.

You may be able to join if:

- you are 55-90 years old,
- you or your loved ones have noticed some changes in your memory, and
- you are not already being treated for diabetes or dementia

Potential benefits:

- You will receive some of your blood test results. We can also share these results with your healthcare provider.
- Your participation may improve the prevention of dementia for future generations.

Taking part in MAP is voluntary and will not affect the care you receive.
If you decide to join, you will be compensated for your time.

For more information, please contact:

Nick Audino
716-323-0549
NCAudino@buffalo.edu

or visit us at:

cuimc.columbia.edu/mapstudy

Scan here with



smartphone camera



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White Buffalo Calf Born at Yellowstone National Park

By Kaili Berg, *Native News Online*, June 11, 2024

Last week (June 4, 2024) at Yellowstone National Park, a sacred and rare event took place as a white buffalo calf was born. The occurrence holds deep significance for various Native American tribes, who revere the white buffalo as a powerful symbol of spirituality and hope.

Wildlife photographer Erin Braaten of Dancing Aspens Photo was there to capture the moment, although she just missed witnessing the birth, Braaten captured the photos of a lifetime.

In an interview with [Cowboy State Daily](#), Braaten recounted her initial confusion and later realization of the extraordinary scene unfolding before her.

“We were just driving along, and there were some bison crossing the road,” Braaten told *Cowboy State Daily*. “I was looking back, and I saw what I thought maybe was a coyote.”

Upon closer inspection, she discovered it was a white bison calf. Remarkably, it had clearly just been born.

“The afterbirth, the placenta was still there, and the calf was just standing up,” Braaten said.

White bison are exceedingly rare and are often considered a sacred symbol among various Native American tribes. The white coloration may result from a genetic mutation known as leucism, which causes patches of white coloration on the skin or fur.

Unlike albinism, which is characterized by a complete lack of melanin, leucistic animals have reduced pigmentation, resulting in white or patchily colored fur while retaining normal eye color.

According to the [National Bison Association](#), there are approximately 500,000 bison in North America, and only about one in every ten million bison born is white.

Among the Lakota people, the white bison holds a special place in their spirituality and traditions. The legend of the White Buffalo Calf Woman is central to their beliefs.

According to the legend, a white buffalo calf appeared to the Lakota many generations ago and transformed into a beautiful woman who taught them sacred ceremonies and imparted important spiritual knowledge. The White Buffalo Calf Woman promised to return again, signaling a time of peace and harmony.

Other tribes, such as the Cherokee, Sioux, and Mandan, also revere the white bison. For these tribes, the white bison symbolizes purity, spirituality, and the promise of prosperity. It is believed to be a powerful omen and a message from the Creator.

Yellowstone National Park plays a crucial role in the conservation of American bison. Once nearly driven to extinction, bison populations have rebounded due to concerted conservation efforts. The park's bison herd is one of the few remaining that has not been interbred with cattle, preserving their genetic purity.

Watch: [Rare White Bison Calf Born in Yellowstone National Park](#)

White Buffalo (Calf) Prophecy

Posted on May 19, 2012 by Roberta Estes

The white buffalo calf holds special significance to American Indians- especially the Oceti Sakowin (The People of the Seven Council Fires, also known as the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota, or the ‘Sioux’). As it is a crucial part of the teachings and prophecy

of White Buffalo Calf Woman, the white buffalo calf is considered a sacred omen of change.

According to legend, the White Buffalo Calf Woman was a holy entity that visited the Oceti Sakowin over a

four-day period about 2000 years ago. White Buffalo Woman, or Ptesan-Wi, as she is called in the Lakota language, taught them sacred ceremonies, songs, and dances. She gifted the people with a sacred bundle containing the

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White Buffalo Calf Pipe, which still exists to this day and is kept by Chief Arvol Looking Horse of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

There are several iterations of the story, but in essence, they all match except for a few details.

The oral tradition says she first appeared to them in the form of a wakan (holy) woman who “floated” above the ground. She stayed among them for a period of time and taught them how to use the buffalo to sustain them, and gave them instruction in seven sacred rites they were to incorporate into their daily lives and preserve and pass down to future generations.

One version of the story from John Lame Deer in 1967 tells us that two young men went out to hunt. Along the way, the two men met a beautiful young woman dressed in white who floated as she walked. One man had bad desires for the woman and tried to touch her, but was consumed by a cloud and turned into a pile of bones.

The woman spoke to the second young man and said, “Return to your people and tell them I am coming.” This holy woman brought a wrapped bundle to the people. She unwrapped the bundle giving to the people a sacred pipe and teaching them how to use it to pray. “With this holy pipe, you will walk like a living prayer,” she said. The holy woman told the Sioux about the value of the buffalo, the women and the children. “You are from Mother Earth,” she told the women,

“What you are doing is as great as the warriors do.”

Before she left, she told the people she would return. As she walked away, she rolled over four times, turning into a white female buffalo calf. It is said after that day the Lakota honored their pipe, and buffalo were plentiful. (From John Lame Deer’s telling in 1967).

A slightly different variant says that when White Buffalo Woman left the Lakota people, the people saw her walking off in the same direction from which she had come, outlined against the setting sun. As she went, she stopped and rolled over four times. The first time, she turned into a black buffalo; the second into a brown one; the third into a red one; and finally, the fourth time she rolled over, she turned into a white female buffalo calf before disappearing.

White Buffalo Woman promised to return to restore the Earth to harmony if the necessary preparations were made.

She said she would send a sign her return was near in the form of four unusual buffalo, which would be born white, then during their lifetime, they would cycle through the four colors of the medicine wheel which, among other things, represent the races of the world: red, yellow, black, and white. Some people say the prophesy said they would do this in reverse order from the way she took her leave from the Earth as she traced her way

back to our spiritual realm.

White Buffalo Woman warned that several other white buffalo would be born around this time, who would not live to complete the full color change cycle, before the true sacred buffalo were all born. She said when all four sacred white buffalo had returned, the people would be at a crossroads and if they took the right path, there would be a renewal of the Earth. If they chose the wrong path, the Earth would be destroyed, and there would be no hope of restoring harmony beyond that point.

If these sacred white buffalo signs were recognized and heeded, a period of peace and harmony in the world would be restored before her return, when the Mother Earth would heal herself and men would live in harmony with each other, nature, and the natural world, but only if the right choices were chosen. If the wrong choices were made in these days, and man chose to ignore these signs, the Earth would be destroyed.

Several white buffalo have been born, documented from 1833. You can see an extensive list here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_buffalo

Many have undergone color changes, including the calf, Miracle, born in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1994. Miracle was believed by many to be the prophesied Sacred White Buffalo. Miracle died in 2004 but not before giving birth to other white buffalo calves.

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You can visit Miracle's webpage here:

<http://whitebuffalomiracle.homestead.com/>

The Heider family who owned Miracle and own the farm where she, and other white buffalo born since, have lived, have always been very careful not to allow commercialization of Miracle or the other calves. They opened their farm for visitors free of charge for years, and now people visit Miracle's grave as they visited her in life.

Legend of the White Buffalo

The legend of the White Buffalo Calf Woman remains ever promising in this age of spiritual enlightenment and con-

scious awareness. Many of us are looking for signs of peace in today's world of confusion and war.

"With the return of the White Buffalo, it is a sign that prayers are being heard, that the sacred pipe is being honored, and that the promises of prophecy are being fulfilled. White Buffalo signals a time of abundance and plenty." (from Sams and Carson, Medicine cards)

Though harsh as the world we live in may be, throughout recorded history, there have been spiritual leaders teaching peace, hope, and balance (synergy) amongst all life. This was taught by great teachers such as Jesus,

Buddha, the Dali Lama, and Native American leaders.

Chief Crazy Horse, Chief Seattle, and Chief Red Cloud are a few of the visionary leaders who committed their lives to bring peace and internal happiness to all who they touched. They were tangible signs of goodwill toward all men, women, and children.

Legend courtesy Jim and Dena Riley, added March 2005. Updated by [Kathy Alexander/Legends of America](#), updated March 2023.

Resources:

[Native Heritage Project](#)
[Legends of America](#)



During extremely hot weather:

- WEAR light-colored, loose clothing.
- DRINK water; avoid alcohol.
- FIND shade where you can.
- STAY in air-conditioned spaces.
- AVOID using your oven or stove.
- TAKE cool (not cold!) showers/baths.
- TAKE breaks when outside.
- AVOID/limit physical activity.
- KNOW the early signs of heat illness.
- CHECK on loved ones, neighbors and anyone who lives alone.



Erie County
Department of
Health



Public Health
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erie.gov/health

Job Posting



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.

1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874
1522 Main Street ● Niagara Falls, NY 14305 ● (716) 299-0914 ● Fax (716) 299-0903
76 West Avenue ● Lockport, NY 14094 ● (716) 302-3035 ● Fax (716) 302-3037
100 College Avenue, Suite 200 ● Rochester, NY 14607 ● (585) 514-3984
960 James Street ● Syracuse, NY 13203 ● (315) 322- 8754

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Workforce Development Specialist

Type: Full-Time Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary/ Range: \$17.00-\$19.50 / hour

Office: **Buffalo** (Travel Required)

Summary:

The Workforce Development Specialist assists in planning and implementing goals and objectives of the Workforce Development Component as well as ensuring quality of service provision to clients. Incumbent will be flexible to evening and weekend schedules. All efforts will be performed with understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind Principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducts Initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs.
- Develops an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with client.
- Develops and provides workshops to clients in such areas of academic, life skills, and technical areas.
- Keeps abreast of current trends in the local job market.
- Establishes an effective support network and provides referrals for clients.
- Attends and participates in weekly component staff and other required meetings.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
- Develops an outreach action plan to successfully recruit and retain participants and employers into the program.
- Conducts outreach to academic entities, unions, coalitions, service providers, and other individuals/agencies to promote services, develop linkages, build network opportunities and advocate for issues in the Native American Community.
- Develops and nurtures relationships with employers for on-the-job training agreements and work experience opportunities for clients.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in human service or related field of study preferred, with three (3) years' experience in workforce development including supervision and program management, or a combination of education and work experience
- Knowledge of local area service providers
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements
- Must have clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300K
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations
- Knowledge of local Native American communities
- Must be able to lift minimum of 30 lbs.
- Must be able to perform in a smoke-free environment

BENEFITS:

- 403 (b) Retirement Plan
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program
- Flexible Spending Account
- Paid Time Off (PTO)

For Consideration send resume to humanresources@nacswny.org

Job Posting



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.

1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874
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100 College Avenue, Suite 200 ● Rochester, NY 14607 ● (585) 514-3984
960 James Street ● Syracuse, NY 13203 ● (315) 322-8754

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Family Preservation Caseworker

Type: Full-Time Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary/ Range: \$19.23 / hour

Office: Erie County

Summary

The Family Preservation Caseworker works in conjunction with the Local County Department of Social Services (LCDSS /DSS) and is responsible for providing prevention services to families referred from DSS. Incumbent helps children remain safely in their homes and prevent placement outside of their home. All efforts will be performed with understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide effective and efficient case management for assigned families.
- Maintain strong communication with the family working toward stabilizing and strengthening the family unit, with regular face-to-face contact.
- Make use of appropriate counseling, parent training, home management, support, and advocacy services.
- Work collaboratively with referral sources, community service providers, and family members to meet goals.
- Produce accurate, thorough, and timely progress notes in CONNECTIONS.
- Ensure all court mandated or recommended services are applied and supported.
- Provide transportation for meetings, services, and appointments in a safe, reliable vehicle, as necessary.
- Maintain confidentiality and sensitive information.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

- Bachelor's degree in human service or related field of study required with experience in child welfare.
- Knowledge of ICWA, ASFA, Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Must have clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300K.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations.
- Knowledge of local Native American communities.

BENEFITS

- 403 (b) Retirement Plan
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Paid Time Off (PTO)

For consideration send Resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Job Posting



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.

1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874
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100 College Avenue, Suite 200 ● Rochester, NY 14607 ● (585) 514-3984
960 James Street ● Syracuse, NY 13203 ● (315) 322-8754

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Family Preservation Caseworker – Niagara County

Type: Full-Time Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary/ Range: \$17.23- \$19.23 / hour

Office: 76 West Ave., Lockport NY, 14094

Summary

The Family Preservation Caseworker works in conjunction with the Local County Department of Social Services (LCDSS /DSS) and is responsible for providing prevention services to families referred from DSS. Incumbent helps children remain safely in their homes and prevent placement outside of their home. All efforts will be performed with understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide effective and efficient case management for assigned families.
- Maintain strong communication with the family working toward stabilizing and strengthening the family unit, with regular face-to-face contact.
- Make use of appropriate counseling, parent training, home management, support, and advocacy services.
- Work collaboratively with referral sources, community service providers, and family members to meet goals.
- Produce accurate, thorough, and timely progress notes in CONNECTIONS.
- Ensure all court mandated or recommended services are applied and supported.
- Provide transportation for meetings, services, and appointments in a safe, reliable vehicle, as necessary.
- Maintain confidentiality and sensitive information.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

- Bachelor's degree in human service or related field of study required with experience in child welfare.
- Knowledge of ICWA, ASFA, Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Must have clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300K.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations.
- Knowledge of local Native American communities.

BENEFITS

- 403 (b) Retirement Plan
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Paid Time Off (PTO)

For consideration send Resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Job Posting



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100 College Avenue, Suite 200 ● Rochester, NY 14607 ● (585) 514-3984
960 James Street ● Syracuse, NY 13203 ● (315) 322-8754

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Erie County Clubhouse Youth Leader – 3 openings

Type: Part-time Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary/ Range: \$16.00- \$17.00 / hour

Office: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207

Summary

The Youth Leaders assist the Clubhouse Manager in providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all members. The Clubhouses welcome self-identified Native American youth and young adults ages 12-17. Leaders will provide transportation, supervision, and leadership. Recruitment through outreach and attending and participating in weekly staff meetings will also be required. Leaders must be available for non-traditional hours, meaning evenings, and weekends. The Clubhouses are open 25 hours per week both in-person and virtually. All efforts will be performed with understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise, provide leadership, and be a positive role model for youth.
- Deliver workshops and activities in a confident, organized manner.
- Ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of evidence-based prevention models.
- Provide safe transportation and/or supervision of youth to and from clubhouse activities.
- Recruit youth through local outreach efforts.
- Adhere to data collection and performance measurement requirements determined by contractual obligations.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

- Bachelors or associates degree in human service or related field of study preferred.
- Experience working with community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Have knowledge and understanding of substance use, and experience with at-risk youth.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Must have clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300K.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals and groups.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.

BENEFITS

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program

For consideration send Resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Job Posting



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.

1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874
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100 College Avenue, Suite 200 ● Rochester, NY 14607 ● (585) 514-3984
960 James Street ● Syracuse, NY 13203 ● (315) 322-8754

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Niagara County Clubhouse Youth Leader – 3 openings

Type: Part-time Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary/ Range: \$16.00- \$17.00 / hour

Office: 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Summary

The Youth Leaders assist the Clubhouse Manager in providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all members. The Clubhouses welcome self-identified Native American youth and young adults ages 12-17. Leaders will provide transportation, supervision, and leadership. Recruitment through outreach and attending and participating in weekly staff meetings will also be required. Leaders must be available for non-traditional hours, meaning evenings, and weekends. The Clubhouses are open 25 hours per week both in-person and virtually. All efforts will be performed with understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise, provide leadership, and be a positive role model for youth.
- Deliver workshops and activities in a confident, organized manner.
- Ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of evidence-based prevention models.
- Provide safe transportation and/or supervision of youth to and from clubhouse activities.
- Recruit youth through local outreach efforts.
- Adhere to data collection and performance measurement requirements determined by contractual obligations.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

- Bachelors or associates degree in human service or related field of study preferred.
- Experience working with community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Have knowledge and understanding of substance use, and experience with at-risk youth.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Must have clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300K.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals and groups.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.

BENEFITS

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program

For consideration send Resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Native American Community Services
of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.
1005 Grant Street
Buffalo, New York, 14207

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gghosen@nacswny.org
You can also look for our newsletter on our website:
http://www.nacswny.org/news_and_events.html

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Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.
1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York 14207

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