Integrating Traditional and Modern Medicine to Improve Health Outcomes

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Photographs of Red Cloud and Principal Chiefs of Dacotah Indians

Taken on their Visit to Washington, D.C., May, 1872.

By Alex. Gardner,

For Trustees of Blackmore Museum,

Traditional View of Public Health
A BRIEF HISTORY OF MEDICINE

• 2000BC—Here, eat this root
• 1000AD—That root is heathen, here say this prayer
• 1800AD—That prayer is superstition, here drink this potion
• 1900AD—That potion is snake oil, here swallow this pill
• 1950AD—That pill is ineffective, here take this antibiotic
• 2000AD—That antibiotic is artificial, here eat this root
MODERN  TRADITIONAL

- Model
  - Allopathic
  - Holistic
MODERN  TRADITIONAL

“Medicine”  Physical  Spiritual
MODERN  TRADITIONAL

- Communication  Linear  Circular
MODERN  TRADITIONAL

- Provider
- Physician
- Healer
MODERN  TRADITIONAL

• Symbol Serpent & Staff Medicine Wheel
MEDICINE WHEEL

NORTH

WEST

EAST

SOUTH
MEDICINE WHEEL

MENTAL

PHYSICAL

SPIRITUAL

EMOTIONAL
Traditional Systems of Diagnosis

Key Components: Ceremony, Family & Community Participation
MEDICINE WHEEL & Diabetes

MENTAL

PHYSICAL

SPIRITUAL

EMOTIONAL
Substance Abuse and the Medicine Wheel

• *What greater grief than the loss of one’s native land*

• Euripides
  485-406 B.C.
MEDICINE WHEEL and Substance Abuse

DECISIONS

VALUES

ACTIONS

REACTIONS
MEDICINE WHEEL and Addiction

DECISIONS

SELF-MEDICATION

NEGATIVE EMOTIONS
Diabetes-Depression-Alcoholism Triad
Sample Programs

• PIMC

• Traditional Cultural Advocacy Committee

• Sweat Lodge on Hospital Grounds

• Intake Form

• Urban Issues
Sample Programs

- Winslow Hospital
  - Medicine Man on Staff
- Hogan on Hospital Grounds
- Medicine Man’s Association
Sample Programs

• Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
  • Traditional Healers on Staff
• BHC
• RBHA
• DEC
• PL 93-638
Of course it was not I who cured. It was the power from the outer world, and the visions and ceremonies had only made me like a hole through which the power could come to the two-leggeds. If I thought that I was doing it myself, the hole would close up and no power could come through.