# Transforming Care in Tribal Communities for Sexual Assault Survivors Through Partnership and Technology

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# Importance of SANE services for Hopi and Tewa people



### Hopi-Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse

- Tribal coalition that provides training, technical assistance, advocacy support to tribal and non-tribal agencies, and culturally based awareness on violence against native women.
- Located on the Hopi reservation in north eastern Arizona.
- Fully staff with four staff members and a six member board.
- We also serve as a forum for uniting our community members to effect social change and systemic reform to end violence against Hopi and Tewa girls and women.

### Hopi-Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse

• Our mission is to "Advocate for a coordinated response system that creates a safety net towards building healthy communities, while embracing the strength of our cultural values and traditions.



### Life Supporting Teachings

### Honoring & Respecting Our Hopi Tewa Women

- 1. Teach *Kyaptsi / Ah'ging* All Living Things are respected and honored, especially females. In a healthy relationship, we listen without judgement, value one another's thoughts, feelings and opinions. Honor each others decisions and choices.
- 2. **Wuhti' pas hikyata** Women and girls are very precious. We must love, honor and respect them as they are vital to the Hopi way of life.
- 3. **Sumi'nangwa** Coming together to do activities for the benefit of all, out of a strong desire & commitment to contribute to benefit society.

4. **Nami'nangwa** - Helping one another in the times of need, without having to be asked, or expecting

compensation for the deed.

5. Teach *Clanship & Identity*. We receive our linage from our women. Our identity is given to us by our mothers.

6. Teach that Hopi male and female roles are of *Balance* and *Equality*, not privilege or power. A women's role in the Hopi community is vital to the Hopi way of life.



### Small, Close Knit Communities













### Advocating for SANE

- Outreach to native nurses, increased likelihood of permanency.
- Survivor stories may be more effective than numbers and data.

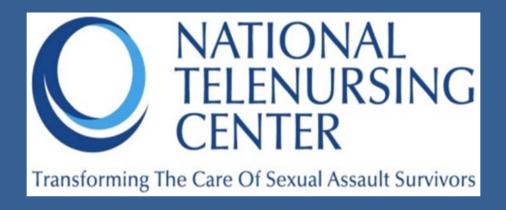




Community
Commitment
Communication
Collaboration
Consistency



• Organize and build strong relationships to effect social change and enhance services that will maintain strong cultural values & life-ways of our people.



# The National TeleNursing Center

Joan Meunier-Sham, RN, MS Co-Director, National TeleNursing Center Project

### The Problem

- Access to expert Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) care is not equally available to all sexual assault victims in the US.
- SANE Programs with low volume may have difficult maintaining competency and confidence.
- Work can be emotional and isolating

### VISION & MISSION

- Utilize telemedicine to extend the reach of expert SANEs to adolescent/adult patients in underserved populations and regions
- Increase the quality of forensic evidence collection and patient care in hospitals across the U.S.



### Challenges for Tribal Communities

- •Small, close-knit communities
- Concerns for privacy/confidentiality
- •SANE Staff recruitment and retention
- •Lower volume hospitals

### MASSACHUSETTS SANE EXPERTISE



#### A Foundation of Success

- 21 years of experience
- Over 22,800 patients

#### Knowledge

- RN, NP, CNMW, MD
- 40% hold advanced degrees

#### **Exceptional Care**

- 1 Centralized statewide program
- 6 Regions
- 30 hospitals
- 8 Children's Advocacy
   Centers
- 150 specialty trained and certified SANEs
- 30% have been SANEs for 10+ years

### Mission-Driven Partners























### Newton Wellesley Hospital

- 310 Bed Community Hospital
- Partner's Health Care System
- Newton, Massachusetts





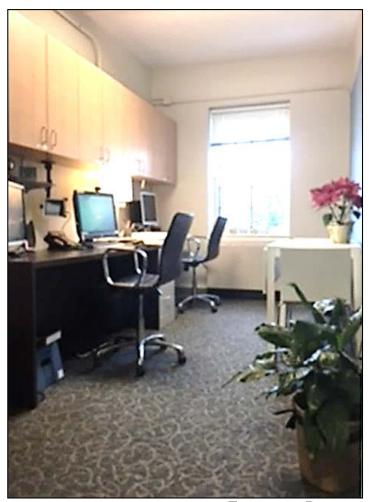
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### DEVELOPING "THE CENTER"

- Establishing a Location
  - A private and secure location
- Creating Policies & Procedures
  - 30+ patient centered policies
  - Site specific resources



A Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit



Encounter Room 1 The National TeleNursing Center



### TeleNursing Hub NWH

Two private session rooms.





Auxiliary lighting Sound dampening panels



### The TeleSANEs

- 22 expert MA SANEs
- Specialized training
  - Equipment
  - Site specific kits/protocols
  - Communication
  - Coaching
  - Cultural considerations



### Pilot sites

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital (CA)

Sutter Lakeside Hospital (CA)

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (CA)

Hopi Healthcare Center (AZ)

MetroWest Medical Center (MA)

St. Anne's Hospital (MA)



Hopi Health Care Center, Polacca, AZ



Saint Anne's Hospital Fall River, MA

### Pilot sites







Sutter Lakeside Hospital Lake County, CA



Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, CA



Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton North San Diego County, CA



MetroWest Medical Center Framingham, MA

### Challenges

- •Interstate licensure
- •No universal forensic evidence kit
- Navigating complex systems
- •Lower volume hospitals
- •Sensitivity of content matter

### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- Assessing Site Readiness
  - Visiting hospitals to assess readiness.
  - Assessing equipment needs







### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- Fostering Community Partnerships
  - Planning together
  - Beginning at the site







### Understanding and Respect

- Historical Trauma
- Institutional Racism
- Mistrust of Government
- Historical LE response to sexual violence
- Shame
- Fear



### Care Beyond Evidence Collection

- Trauma-informed
- Patient-centered
- Focus on healing
- Believing, validating, respecting
- Ensuring access to emergency contraception, medications to prevent STIs and HIV

### Hopi and NTC Partnership

- Weekly-Biweekly check-ins with NTC
- Training sessions
- Review of cases
- Work to ensure best practices for community
- Provide a sense of collegiality and team versus isolation
- Debriefing after tough cases
- Self-care package

### A Gift of Healing



### Staff Readiness

- Provide on-going training for both TeleSANEs and Remote Site staff on NTC technology and patient care policies/procedures
- Ensure that everyone is ready when the patient arrives.





### The Encounter Process

### Before NTC Involvement

Patient presents to the ER

Patient is medically cleared and consents to the NTC



### Pre-Encounter Phase

One-on-one TeleSANE and clinician conference



#### **Encounter Phase**

Introductions, collaborative history and evidence collected

NTC disconnects and patient is discharged



### Post-Encounter Phase

TeleSANE and clinician review documentation, package kit and debrief

### NTC Collaboration

#### 222 Patient Consults

- 133 Patient Encounters (Exams)
- •90% of eligible patients accepted NTC services
  - Over 100 trainings conducted with Remote Sites

### Benefits to Clinicians

- NTC offers trainings on telehealth technology and relevant topics
- Provides support for the differing needs of SANE sites and non-SANE sites
- Clinician support



### Benefits for the Community

- Hospital community benefit
- Expert role beyond patient encounter
- Feedback and support on development of protocol, policy and advocacy
- Supports and mentors pilot site liaisons

### Our Partners Voices



Transforming The Care Of Sexual Assault Survivors

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

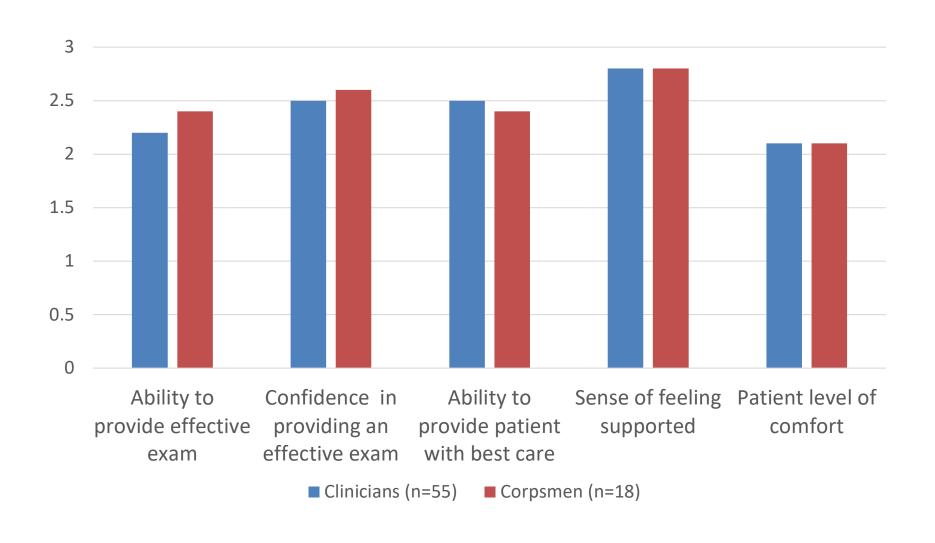
- Increasing Clinician Confidence
- Positive Feedback from Providers
- Positive Feedback from Local Crime Labs
- Community & Professional Benefits



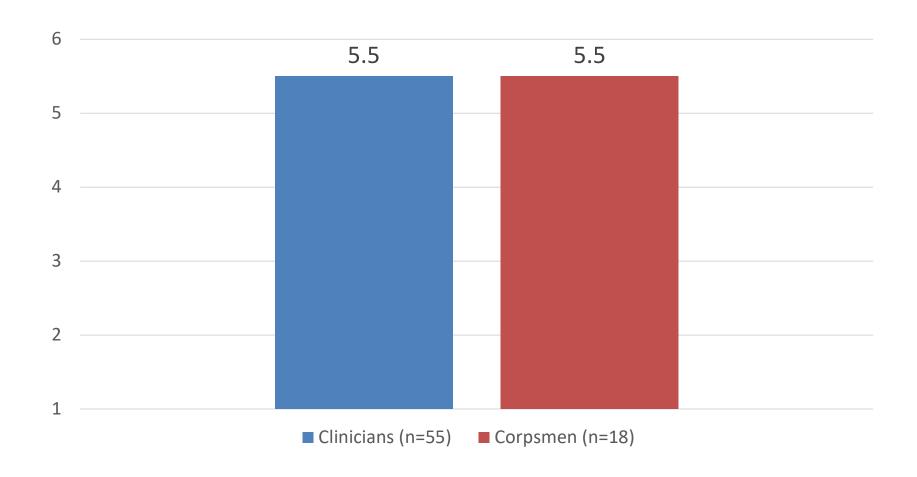
Sutter Lake, CA



# Impact of TeleNursing Experience: Very Positive



# Overall Quality of the TeleNursing Experience



### For More Evaluation Information

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### NTC Feedback

"I am not feeling anxious anymore, and am telling the other nurses to believe me that you will never need to feel afraid again of taking care of these patients. The support from the TeleSANEs is everything that they have promised."

Remote Site Clinician — St. Anne's Hospital, MA



### ThankYou

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## Questions?

### Webinar

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