

# Developing Partnerships in Recovery



Rod Robinson, MA, LAT, LAC  
CornerStone Consultants



# Primary Elements to Partnering

- Willingness to risk an idea that helps people
- Find someone who shares the vision
- Identify your mission
- Belief is 80% attitude 20% effort/skill
- Courage to identify the “real” turf issues
- Challenge the issues, “why and why not”, where, who, how...
- Do your homework on who you want to help, who you want/need as your partner(s) and what they bring to the mission.



# What to look for in a Partnership

- Perspective- is it a real issue?
- Passion- is it worth your effort?
- Professionalism- will you give your best?
- Principled- is it the right thing to do?
- Priority- are you willing to give the time?
- Persistence- can you go the distance?
- Performance- can you carry your load?



# “Practicing what we Preach”

What do partnerships offer to those we serve?

- **Hope** - for a better life
- **Faith** - that we will help them to find the right path(s)
- **Courage** - to continue on no matter what
- **Trust** - in ourselves and others
- **Honesty** - willingness to take responsibility for our actions in order to find solutions



## *Cultural Considerations...*

- Respect - the need to return to honoring ourselves, others, our history and all of creation
- Humility - understand that we have a part to play in deciding our path to follow
- Truth - seeking it, believing it and living it
- Wisdom - understand that we must use the gifts we have been given to benefit others so that we honor our creator and culture



## *Hardships Students Will Face*

- Fear - of what others will think
- Hopelessness - that A better life is for someone else
- Emptiness - not knowing where I belong
- Selfishness - thinking only of me and mine
- Self Pity - giving up on myself and others
- Generational Shame - being ashamed of who I am instead of what I have done



## *Barriers to Be Moved*

- Lack of Identity → A Sense of Belonging
- Feeling Less Than → Feeling Valued
- Humiliation → Gain Respect for Self
- Feeling Judged → Stand as an Equal
- Being Forced → Decide for Ourselves
- Irresponsible → Doing for Others
- Distrust → Show you my open hands



## *How to Move the Barriers*

- Listen to me rather than assess me
- Guide me but don't fix me
- Allow healing time instead of simply stabilizing the situation and moving on.
- Point out what is right in me before you point to what is wrong
- Do not be afraid to use humor to heal



## *How to Move the Barriers*

- Understand that teasing is a tool and laughter heals many wounds
- Be on the earth whenever possible
- Be clear and simple with methods
- Use time, instead of be used by it
- Storytelling/legends/dreams/visions
- Allow for mourning of our losses



## *How to Move the Barriers*

- Allow for practice of cultural beliefs that may vary with each person
- “Open your hands if you want me to open my heart” show your own humanness
- Allow access to our elders and teachers
- Don’t fear moving from “4 walls teaching” to the “Healing Circle of Life”.



## *Gifts You Can Help Me Find...*

- Being worthy of a good life
- Fearlessness in its pursuit
- Having vision and value
- Having quiet strength, faith and reverence
- Healthy humor
- Kindness and respect
- Patience
- Peace of Mind and an Open Heart



# Cultural Competence

- **“ May be defined as the state of being capable of functioning within the context of cultural difference” - J. Romero.**
- **Ethnicity as a relational concept - group identity based on culture, language, religion, or common attachment to a place or kin ties.**



# Competencies Needed to Work Within a Unique Culture

- The importance of language spoken by provider or trained interpreter
- Appreciation of applied culturally-based healing practices
- Training to gain skills for engaging patients
- Boundary recognition acceptable to the culture
- Support structure is critical, however may be different from the norm
- Be aware of stigma and generational shame issues