

Family Unity workshops help families find and build on strengths

by John Martin
Ute Bulletin

It took the role playing of a family, people selected out of the crowd during a workshop, to lift itself out of concerns for the youth of 16, to discover the strengths in each other, and finally, to formulate a family plan for further growth.

It is a plan filled with "hope for children and families!" concluded Mary McNevens, co-facilitator of the workshop held at the Bottle Hollow Convention Center September 9, in Ft. Duchesne, Utah. McNevens is the director of Protective Services Program from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Becky Aguilar was the facilitator during the workshop and is a staff member of the Tribe's Protective Services.

The two-day workshops were presented to professional caregivers who work with families, the Ute tribal business committee, the Ute Family Center and to community members.

The Warm Springs Tribe's model is based on the Maori people of New Zealand said Mary, who added that, "We share so much with that people."

Warm Springs has used the model since 1991. And with great success.

The program is voluntary to families, no courts ordering them to take the program, no caseworkers pushing them into it and no referrals from police or any other agency.

The family comes into the program by their own choice. So, they don't have to face the have-to feeling of orders or referrals.

Aguilar said it was important to be respectful in giving families information, relaying the words properly and encouraging them to be part of Family Unity.

This is part of the preparation work.

Aguilar goes out into the community of Warm Springs, meets with families of concern and encourages them to be part of Family Unity, a program that is based on group decision.

Led by Aguilar at the Bottle Hollow workshop, the role-players shared their concerns as a family to see who "Tonya" could live with to gain the most support and care.

Concerns came from the parents, grandparents, a policeman and counselors.



Conferees learned Family Unity skills during workshops.

The girl was not being taken care of properly by her mom, due to drinking and drugs. She was missing school, beginning to run around and staying out late. She even had a child of her own.

Even though other agency representatives were present during the meeting, the heart of the digging for concerns came from the family.

"Who," McNevens said, "knows itself best."

It is this emphasis that makes the family-based program model work. With family members saying this is my concern, these strengths I recognize in one another, and then drawing up a plan to go on toward growth.

All without professional caregivers saying, "Do this, do that."

Oh yes, they were present and shared some concerns when asked, but were asked to leave when the family began drawing up its plan. Respectably, among themselves.

Mary wrote the concerns on a chart as they were expressed, word for word. Then the pages were ripped off and hung on the wall for participants to see.

The family then looked for strengths in each other, which were also hung up. Between the list of concerns and strengths was the goal of finding the best place for Tonya to live.

In the scenario concerning Tonya, strength hinged on the grandmother

who had taught her tribal culture and traditions. With the mother drinking, the dad remarried and only keeping the girl for a short while, the grandma stood out strong.

Tonya was also found to be smart and loving, and was even getting straight A's living with her father and stepmother, who were considered by family members as good role models.

Tonya herself had hopes of going on to college. The school counselor considered her bright and talented in science. Though she was not getting the best of support from family, she still wanted a future.

There were many more strengths listed. The picture showed how overlooked strengths recognized among the members toward each other far outweighed the concerns.

A proud family can be found through the Family Unity Model, rich in culture and tradition. A strong family, by getting through the concerns and finding the strengths.

The Family Unity Model brings that out.

Mary cited a case they worked on back in Warm Springs where the elder of the family set the mood of their meeting by merely being present, reflecting dignity and respect.

Being an elder. Knowing the tradition, language and crafts, she was their strength.

Mary said another family elder stood up before their meeting and asked the members not to point fingers, blame or to accuse. To honestly present their concerns. She set the mood for this particular family.

One of the basic expectations in Family Unity is for the family members to honestly lay their concerns out on the table. Do it openly and with concern for the child the meeting is to benefit.

Shirley Reed, Director of the Ute



Becky Aguilar and Mary McNevens at conference.

Tribal Social Services, said the ladies were fantastic in their presentation. And she is sold on the Family Unity Model.

She also said Mary and Becky will return to Ft. Duchesne October 5, 6 and 7 to train facilitators. The

second stage of this in-depth training for staff at the Ute Family Center.

Mary said they will also be having presenters from the Maori at Warm Springs in early November and invited caregivers from the Ute tribe to take part in the workshop.



Becky Aguilar seemed to enjoy presenting the Family Unity information in Ft. Duchesne.

Controlled burns help reduce unwanted vegetation

On Monday and Tuesday, September 14 and 15, many people noticed a large column of smoke rising up from the Dry Hollow area just south of Warm Springs. Although there have been numerous fires in and around the community this year, this particular fire was not a "wildland" fire; it was a controlled burn staged by the Natural Resources Branch to improve rangelands within the Tenino/Dry Hollow Grazing District. Approximately 1,100 acres of rangeland were burned to improve plant community health and production in the area.

For the past four years, the Natural Resources Department of Range and Ag has been planning to utilize prescribed fire as a tool to improve range conditions within many grazing pastures throughout the reservation. However, many of these plans have been changed because large wildland fires such as LeClaire, Jefferson and Simnasho occurred during these same years.

Many people have asked, what's the difference between wildland and prescribed fire? Wildland fires are

generally started by natural causes such as lightning, or they are man-caused by off-road vehicle use, vehicle fires, power lines, trains, or arson. Wildland fire generally occurs during the summer months when conditions are at their driest. The primary goal of the Natural Resources and Fire Management staffs in these situations is to stop the fire in order to protect life, property and natural resource values.

Tribal elders have long been aware of the benefits provided by fire. We now use the term "prescribed fire" to describe the type of fires that have been used for generations to achieve predefined goals for land improvement and restoration. Prescribed fire plans are developed well in advance of project work and take into consideration public and employee safety, economics, public health, geographic considerations, and environmental goals and objectives.

The recent burn is a good example of how fire was used as an effective tool to achieve resource management goals within the Dry Hollow/Tenino

District. The prescribed fire was designed to reduce junipers and sagebrush while improving overall forage production and plant community health. The fire will also improve winter range conditions for deer.

Natural fire occurrence has been excluded from this area for the past 50 years. As a result, junipers have taken over the landscape and have negatively impacted the perennial bunchgrass and bitterbrush communities within this basin. Junipers rob the soil of water and nutrients and out-compete other native plants. Over time, when fire is taken out of these communities, juniper will eliminate native species, increase soil erosion, and increase the risk of uncontrolled fire.

The recent prescribed fire was carefully planned. The goals of the burn were thoroughly evaluated as were weather conditions, fuel types, soil moisture, available resources and public safety. Special care was taken to protect private lands and historical features within the burn area. The old church, located at Seekseequa

Junction, was lined and pretreated to ensure its safety. Ignition standards and safety procedures were explained to all personnel before the fire was ignited to minimize the likelihood of mishap or injury.

Fire Management personnel, assisted by the Natural Resources staff, initiated the fire on one-third of the planned treatment area the morning of September 14, when conditions were thought to be appropriate for a prescribed burn. The first burn eliminated approximately 50 percent of the junipers within the treatment area and its overall impacts were positive, according to BIA Range Conservationist Dave Smith.

"We are meeting our desired goals for juniper reduction and plant community improvement," said Smith. "I am looking forward to the next few years when we will see the overall benefit of this treatment on grass and shrub production. I believe we'll see a tremendous improvement in available forage for both wildlife and livestock within the treatment areas."

An additional 2,000 acres will be treated during the month of October to complete this range improvement project. Fire crews are currently preparing the remainder of the blocks by constructing fire lines, limbing junipers and pretreating fuels.

Huge Rummage Sale at the Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 10th, 1998 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lots of kid's clothes, some furniture, toys, food and lots of miscellaneous items.

Come on over and browse awhile.

Sponsored by The Warm Springs Rodeo Association.

Veteran's Raffle, drawing to be held Sunday, November 15th. Items to be raffled: 2 nights stay at Hoffs Motel, 1 cord of wood, Pendleton Shawl, \$100 cash, 1 perm (\$60 value), \$50 cash, Beaded baseball cap, \$25 cash, Scratch-off Lottery tickets (various), \$25 cash, set of pillows, \$10 cash, \$10 gas and other miscellaneous items.

\$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. This raffle is to help put on the 1999 Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Rodeo. 1999 marks the 25th anniversary. Please support our rodeo! Need not be present to win.

Please see the following people to purchase tickets: Ginger Smith, Shawn Jackson, Rita Squiemphen, Vesta Miller, Gladys Squiemphen, John Mitchell, Monica Leonard and Val Squiemphen.

Sponsored by the Warm Springs Rodeo Association

Farm Service Agency Fall newsletter

Committee Members

Crook-Deschutes County Committee: Dean Pettyjohn, Chairman; Tim Williams, Vice-Chairman; Greg Bedortha, Regular Member; Dean Davis, Regular Member; Ken Miltenberger, Regular Member; Pam Hart, Minority Advisor

Jefferson County Committee: Jerry Zistel, Chairman; Irene Towle, Vice-Chairman; Lynn Carol, Regular Member

Office Move Completed

The Farm Service Agency is now open for business at our new address. Our location is 625 SE Salmon Avenue in Redmond. We are just north of the Redmond Airport. We are under a new phone system in our new service center. You can reach the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development by dialing (541) 923-4358. After dialing this number an automate attendant will prompt you to enter one of the following extensions: Extension 2 for FSA; Extension 3 for NRCS and Extension 4 for RD.

County Committee Election

Candidates for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, the entire area of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, will be elected on December 9, 1998. The duties of the County Committee (COC) include informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs, keeping the State FSA committee informed

of local conditions, recommending needed changes in farm programs, participating in county meetings as necessary and performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee. This program or activity will be conducted on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

Nomination petitions will be accepted from October 1 through October 26, 1998. COC positions are for three-year terms. Petitions are available at the FSA office.

Changes for 1999 AMTA Payments

The Emergency Farm Financial Act recently signed allows for accelerated payments for the 1999 contract year. Payments may be requested anytime between October 1, 1998 and August 2, 1999. Payments may be requested as two 50% payments or as one 100% payment.

There are new cash lease requirements for 1999 AMTA contracts. If a cash lease arrangement exists for a farm, 1999 contracts will require either a written lease, rental agreement signed by owner, or the landowner must sign to a 0% share on the Production Flexibility Contract. Cash rent certification will not be authorized for the 1999 contract year.

USDA Hay Network

USDA has a new way to match farmers and ranchers having hay surpluses with those suffering shortages. It's HAY NET, a nationwide

computer database and clearinghouse for sharing information about hay availability.

Here's how it works. Producers with too much or too little hay sign up at their local FSA office. The information they provide goes into the database. A participant that would like to get rid of surplus hay is provided with a list of the closest farmers and ranchers who need hay. Each participant with a hay shortage is given a list of those with surpluses. Participants in the HAY NET are then free to make their own arrangements.

That's all there is to it. If HAY NET can help you, please come into the office and sign up. The sooner you participate, the better the system will work.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

LDPs are market gain payments, not loans, calculated daily by comparing the county loan rate against the Posted County Price (PCP). To meet eligibility requirements, each producer must be participating in the PFC program, have an acreage report, be compliant with HELC/WC provisions, and maintain beneficial interest in the crop at the time of application. Quantity eligible for LDPs is 100% of the production shown on acceptable production evidence. When coming to the office for payment, please bring all production evidence with you.

Hike into Grand Canyon no easy trip



Joseph Logan before and...



after hike into Grand Canyon

Joseph Logan told his grandfather Hamilton Greeley while on vacation this summer that he was going to hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. He told his grandfather the trek would take him only an hour to "run down" and an hour to "run back up." He began his trip at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Hamilton replied that he and his son James had hiked the same trail 22 years earlier and it was more like a 10-hour hike. Hamilton agreed to meet Joseph at the trail head at around 11 p.m. that evening.

Joseph took with him a 1/2 gallon of water but no food because the extra weight would slow him down.

Joseph ran down the six-mile trail to the Colorado River in a hour-and-a-half. He managed to get lost for a "little while" and took the wrong trail leading back to the top of the Grand Canyon. He ran out of water and "got thirsty as heck and really hungry...I kept thinking that hot dogs would taste real good."

Deep down in the Grand Canyon, Joseph did meet a good guy hiker from Quebec, Canada, who gave him something good to eat and he did find a water station to fill up his jug to get him the 11 miles to the end of the trail.

Joseph found the hike out of the Grand Canyon to be very difficult. "The more I hiked out, the more tired my body got, and the more tired I got the more hungry and thirsty I got. I just wanted to lie down along the trail and sleep for a while."

Joseph did continue hiking. It seemed like eternity but after seven long hours, he did reach the top of the Grand Canyon.

"My poor body hurt from head to toe from this torturous hike. It was two full days before I was physically mended. "It was a good hike. I don't think I will ever do this tough hike in one day ever again," concludes Joseph.