

Alison J. Boyd-Ball, Ph. D.

Title: Enhanced-Family Intervention for American Indians: Lessons Learned

Abstract: The Community Shadow Project, entitled "Family Intervention of Youth AOD in Indian Communities" aims to adapt, develop, and test a community-based intervention for adolescent substance use appropriate for the culture, resources, and needs of three northwest American Indian (AI) communities. This five-year continuation program of research focuses on adapting the Adolescent Transitions Program (ATP; Dishion & Kavanagh, 2003) to these AI reservation communities by using community based participatory research methodology. To assist in the cultural adaptation, we use community focus groups for review of the research protocol, approach to recruitment and retention, and the application of the ATP family intervention. This research project provides the opportunity to develop clinical experience, a database of the needs of AOD American Indian adolescents and families, and culturally sensitive measurement and research protocols to examine the effectiveness of the ATP adaptation to AI communities. Specific to this population, we collect additional stressors such as micro-aggression, discrimination, historical trauma, and worldview that may account for negative outcomes. We use AI story telling in our family observation tasks to measure problem solving and supporting cultural development. To accommodate the application of this preventive intervention in Indian communities, the study includes an "across community" randomized, multiple baseline design (Biglan, Ary, & Wagenaar, 2002) that evaluates the effectiveness of ATP in reducing AOD among high-risk adolescents (N = 300). The use of a multiple baseline design provides ample time and experience with each of the three collaborating tribes to specifically tailor our menu of family interventions to the strengths and uniqueness of each community and to collaborate in the development of a family-centered intervention infrastructure (i.e., the Family Resource Center). The five-year application will improve our understanding of the collaborative process of adapting the ATP strategy within the AI community, as well as evaluating the effectiveness for reducing AOD problems across and within communities. This research is funded by NIAAA.

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Bio-statement: Dr. Ball is a Research Associate at the University of Oregon, Child and Family Center. She received her Ph.D. in Special Education and Rehabilitation from the University of Oregon in 1997. Her research interests include understanding post-traumatic events and how this relates to substance abuse in adolescents, as well as designing effective interventions programs for American Indian youth and their families to prevent the onset of alcohol and drug use. She and colleagues have examined the contribution of family and community dynamics to escalations in adolescent substance use, delinquency, and violence. Her intervention research focuses on the effectiveness of family-centered interventions and the need for cultural integration and adaptation of local cultural practices into intervention models and research practices. She has presented at

numerous conferences related to these topics and is currently focused on publishing her work.

As well as being a Research Associate, Dr. Ball holds other positions at the University of Oregon, such as Multicultural Coordinator for the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Co-Director of the Sapsik' wala Project (Indian Teacher Program). Dr. Ball currently serves on the Native Research Network as co-chair elect (2007-2008) and is the Oregon Indian Education Association President. She is a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes.