



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

October 2017



### The National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda

*Improving the Behavioral Health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs)*

#### Context

##### The National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda (TBHA):<sup>1</sup>

- Released in 2016 by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Resulted from conversations and consultation with tribal leaders
- Begins with an American Indian and Alaska Native Cultural Wisdom Declaration
- Highlights the extent to which behavioral health challenges impact tribal communities
- Offers a framework for strategies and priorities to improve the behavioral health of AI/ANs
- Meant to serve as a blueprint to encourage further collaboration on these issues

#### TBHA Framework

The TBHA is organized around five foundational elements:



#### Policy Recommendations

How can tribal leaders and others use the TBHA to promote policy solutions to these issues?

- Discuss the impact of behavioral health issues in your community
- Share best and promising practices on how tribes can address these issues
- Discuss the need for more research, resources, and funding to address these issues
- Support behavioral health integration into primary care
- Support local and cultural adaptation of programs
- Encourage more federal interagency collaboration and federal, state, local collaboration with tribes
- Help raise awareness of and advance the TBHA

<sup>1</sup>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA). (2016). *The National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD. Available at: <https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/PEP16-NTBH-AGENDA/PEP16-NTBH-AGENDA.pdf>.