



White Bison's 6th Annual Conference

Wellbriety Movement in Motion!

Youth, Families & Suicide Prevention



**October 27-29, 2006
Denver, CO**

Location:

**Double Tree Hotel
3203 Quebec Street
Denver, CO 80207**

Reservations:

1-303-321-3333

Room rates: \$72 plus 14.85%

Registration fee: \$250

(includes Coupons for selected training programs)

See Details at

www.whitebison.org





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Wellbriety Movement in Motion: Youth, Families, and Suicide Prevention October 27-29, 2006 Denver, CO



Purpose: The purpose of the conference is to increase access to suicide prevention resources for youth and families. Suicide does not “just happen.” Preventing suicide begins with providing strong spiritual, cultural, and family foundations for children. In Native American communities this also means that it is important to focus on cultural traditions, cultural identity, and creating a sense of meaning and purpose in the lives of our children. In order to do this, adults must have the skills, knowledge, cultural and spiritual perspective to mentor children in a healthy way. Healing our children means that we begin by healing ourselves. It is also important that the healing approaches used be grounded in traditional Native American teachings and ceremonial practices. Five objectives structure the conference design, selection of speakers, and the opportunities for participants.

Goal 1: Provide culturally appropriate solutions for addressing the needs of children and their families. Presenters and workshops will provide opportunities to explore culturally appropriate models for character development and healing for children and adults who have experienced intergenerational trauma, family alcoholism and disconnection from family roots and ties.

Goal 2: Present culturally appropriate youth and adult programs that serve as a pathway for the prevention of suicide in Native American communities. Many communities are currently experimenting with family and community approaches to suicide prevention that build on cultural values and practices. These programs will be featured in the general workshops.

Goal 3: Introduce culturally appropriate strengths and assets that support parenting and family healing. These trainings are based upon traditional cultural teachings about how to work through conflict, how to implement healthy parenting practices and how to nurture family relationships.

Goal 4: Provide grassroots people with the opportunity to discuss and develop solutions for making youth a priority and healing families. Sharing experience, hope and strengths in relation to healing is a valuable opportunity. Participants who are healing from family dysfunction related to alcohol and substance abuse have much to share about what works and what doesn't work in relation to the healing process.

Goal 5: Provide youth with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and knowledge about their role in the Wellbriety Movement. Youth will be developing strategies to prevent underage drinking in their own communities. Drinking is associated with a great number of youth suicides.





Learning and Professional Development Opportunities at White Bison's 6th Annual Conference:

- ◆ Network with other Native Americans who are addressing issues of youth, families and suicide prevention
- ◆ Examine Wellbriety programs for youth, families and suicide prevention
- ◆ Discover and discuss key characteristics of what works in prevention, treatment, intervention and recovery processes for culturally appropriate training programs
- ◆ Explore and analyze issues of implementing programs at the community level
- ◆ Make recommendations for essential procedures for community implementation of programs
- ◆ Review culturally relevant approaches for suicide prevention
- ◆ Explore traditional Native American teachings that provide a framework for culturally appropriate trainings
- ◆ Develop knowledge about what is required to implement programs at the community level.
- ◆ Develop skills in planning and design of community development programs
- ◆ Develop personal leadership skills
- ◆ Apply humor to life situations
- ◆ Participate in traditional Native American ceremonies
- ◆ Review state-of-the-art cultural approaches for working with youth, families and for suicide prevention
- ◆ Explore a process for assessing a community's readiness to implement change
- ◆ Explore cultural approaches to risk and protective factors for suicide prevention in Native American communities





Events and Speakers at White Bison's 6th Annual Conference: Wellbriety in Motion--Youth, Families and Suicide Prevention



Friday Keynotes and Events:

Don Coyhis, President of White Bison, Inc. (Mohican) Overview of the Wellbriety Movement

Don Coyhis & Bill White, MA, Senior Researcher, Chestnut Health Systems

Alcohol Problems in Native America--The Truth about the Lie,
Examining the Myths and Truths

Terry Cross, MA Children in Alcoholic Families

Gene Tagaban (Haida-Tlingit) Native American Humorist (evening entertainment)

Friday Workshops:

1. Medicine Wheel & 12 Steps for Veterans
2. Coalitions as Clans
3. Healing Hurt Children
4. No More Fallen Feathers: Youth Suicide Prevention
5. Mothers/Daughters of Tradition and Fathers/Sons of Tradition
6. Families of Tradition
7. Fathers of Tradition
8. Brief Interventions
9. Warrior Down: Families in Recovery

Saturday Keynotes and Events:

Jerry Moe, MA Betty Ford Center, Director of Children's Programs Children and Families
in Recovery

Don Coyhis, White Bison, Inc. You Must Create a Healing Forest

Everything is Interconnected: Demonstration of a Community Exercise with Don Coyhis
Wellbriety Updates-- National Efforts and Website Communications with Don Coyhis

Saturday Discovery Circles: Focusing on Culture as Prevention of Suicide

Discovery Circle #1: Individuals

Discovery Circle #2: Peers

Discovery Circle #3: Family

Discovery Circle #4: School

Discovery Circle #5: Community

Saturday Night Powwow

Sunday Morning Keynotes:

Dr. Pamela Jumper Thurman, Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity,
Colorado State University Community Readiness and Research

Youth Presentation on Strategies for Preventing Underage Drinking

