To understand from an Inuit point of view what makes a program culturally safe

Staff
Waipounamu
2018
Aims for greater social justice
– Promotes a more critical analysis and understanding of culture in relation to historical, political, and
– Review of selected documents
Feedback
Staff, managers, BOD members, and partners
Managers & others
Inuit clients
To foster the development of a trusting relationship
(one or two per centre)
To find ways to improve programs to best meet the needs and expectations of Inuit
To describe various practices that promote or impede cultural safety for Inuit
To identify
To share the results, to discuss the interpretation
for decision makers, health providers, and communities on the adaptations required for
To
Advanced knowledge
Other key people (e.g., family members,
2
the different perspectives on cultural safety,
Is based on respectful relationships, dialogue, sincere commitment, equitable partnership, critical
reflection, and system transformation
 Goes beyond cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, and cultural competence
Promotes a more critical analysis and understanding of culture in relation to historical, political, and
social and economic contexts
Aims for greater social justice

What is this project about?
Discrimination, linguistic and culture differences between clients and service providers are
among the factors that may explain differential access to health systems and in turn health
iniquities between and among populations. [1-3]
A failure to take into account the role of culture in the delivery of health services is likely to
contribute to the iniquities inherent to health systems.
This project examines the role of cultural safety in healing and treatment programs for
Inuit. In exploring how culture can contribute to these programs, they can be made more
responsive and effective for people they serve.

What are the project objectives?
In the context of healing and treatment programs offered to Inuit for substance abuse:
1. To understand from an Inuit point of view what makes a program culturally safe
2. To describe various practices that promote or impede cultural safety for Inuit
3. To identify enabling factors and barriers to providing culturally safe programs for
Inuit in different contexts of care
➢ Aim: To find ways to improve programs to best meet the needs and expectations of Inuit

Overview of the project

What is proposed to be done?
Over a 15-month period, information will be gathered using a combination of the following methods:
• Interviews and small group meetings – To understand the different perspectives on cultural safety,
as well as the enabling factors and barriers to providing culturally safe programs for Inuit
  o Inuit clients: small group activity (drawing, collage) + individual discussion
  o Staff: 2-3 group discussions with different staff members in each group
  o Managers & others: individual discussion
• Observation of selected day-to-day activities – To foster the development of a trusting relationship
  with people in each centre, to reach a deeper understanding of their unique characteristics and context
• Review of selected documents – To gather information on each centre and program, to understand
  what is done in different contexts
Towards the end of the project, there will be:
• Sharing workshops (one or two per centre) – To share the results, to discuss the interpretation

What is expected in the end?
• Feedback to the participating centres on their efforts to serve Inuit clients in a culturally safe manner
• Information for decision makers, health providers, and communities on the adaptations required for
  improving programs and services for Inuit
• Advanced knowledge on cultural safety and cultural adaptation of health programs from an Inuit
  experience

References