

HONORING CHILDREN, MENDING THE CIRCLE

(HCMC)



**TREATMENT
COLLABORATIVE**
FOR TRAUMATIZED YOUTH



Enhancing Trauma Care for Native American Youth to Heal

May 12-14, 2026
Fargo, ND

Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD • Susan Schmidt, PhD
Emily Sargent, PhD



LEARNING COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION PACKET

Honoring Children, Mending the Circle

Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth's (TCTY) Project Heal is hosting the cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) titled **Honoring Children, Mending the Circle** (HCMC) for North Dakota based clinicians. HCMC is the clinical application of the healing process in a traditional framework that supports the belief of American Indians and Native Alaskan culture of spiritual inclusion leading to renewal and recovery. The effectiveness of TF-CBT as an evidenced based treatment is maintained in the structure and protocol while the framework, theory, and application is culturally driven. Training involves a three-day intensive session, follow-up case consultation via zoom calls, web-based training and resources.

TCTY's Project HEAL has partnered with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division to address the need for specialized training for providers working with traumatized youth. Thanks to the support from the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division, this training is free of charge to participants. However you will be responsible for the cost of the required online prerequisite training modules, and costs related to the in-person training, including transportation, lodging, and meals.

DETAILS

No cost for training & consultation calls

Breakfast & lunch provided

CEU hours pending

Room block available at the Radisson Blu

KEY DATES

Applications Due
March 5

Notification of Acceptance
March 19

In-Person HCMC Training
Tuesday, May 12
Wednesday, May 13
Thursday, May 14

Consultation Calls, Mondays 12-1pm CST

APPLY ONLINE



FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL



tcty@sanfordhealth.org

Background & Overview

Project Heal

Project Heal aims to expand resources to address gaps and improve access to culturally relevant trauma services for Native American children. The purpose of this project is to develop and expand the resources to address the significant gaps and improve access to culturally relevant trauma services for Native American children across our highly rural state.

One of the project's key initiatives is to provide *Honoring Children, Mending the Circle* (HCMC) training to clinicians across North Dakota. TCTY has partnered with the Indian Country Child Trauma Care (ICCTC), Dr. BigFoot, and Dr. Schmidt to deliver this training, with the goal of increasing access to culturally relevant, trauma-informed treatment for Native American children who have experienced traumatic stress.

The Indian Country Child Trauma Center

The Indian Country Child Trauma Center (ICCTC) was established in 2004 to develop trauma-related treatment protocols, outreach materials, and service delivery guidelines specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and their families. It is housed at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. ICCTC is the premier training center for training in treatment of childhood trauma for Indian Country.

The cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy titled *Honoring Children, Mending the Circle* (HCMC) was developed by the Indian Country Child Trauma Center (ICCTC), Dr. Bigfoot and Dr. Schmidt. ICCTC historically hosted and trained licensed clinicians who are employed by tribes, IHS, BIE, local tribal/public schools on or near reservations or tribal jurisdictions, or non-profit organizations working in Indian Country and serving tribal children and their families with trauma exposure.

About TF-CBT

TF-CBT is an evidence-based treatment for children and adolescents impacted by trauma that was developed by Esther Deblinger, Judith Cohen and Anthony Mannarino. It is a components-based treatment that integrates trauma-sensitive interventions with cognitive-behavioral strategies to reduce emotional and behavioral symptoms.

HCMC Training Objectives

The HCMC (TF-CBT) training will provide clinicians with the following information & clinical skills:

1. Knowledge and skills to culturally enhance and implement the TF-CBT treatment modules for Native American youth and families, including:
 - a. Education about childhood trauma and common trauma-related impacts
 - b. Supporting caregivers in trauma-informed parenting practices
 - c. Relaxation/stress management training
 - d. Education on the relationship between thoughts, feelings and actions
 - e. Supporting youth in gaining mastery over trauma memories
 - f. Guiding youth and caregivers in developing healthy and accurate trauma-related beliefs
 - g. Strengthening child-caregiver communication skills, including related to the child's trauma history
 - h. Teaching and reinforcing child safety skills
2. Clinicians will engage in culturally related therapeutic activities during training to help increase ability to provide culturally relevant treatment to Native American children & families.

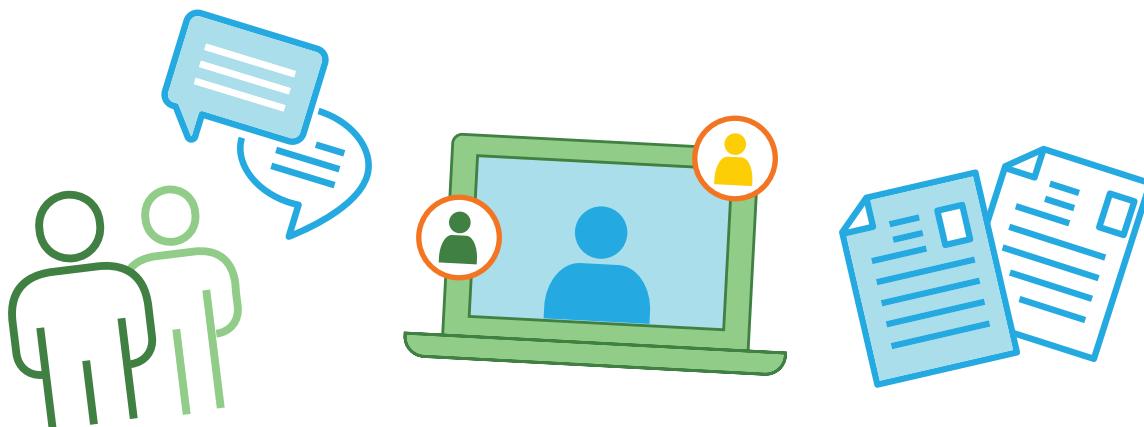
LEARNING COLLABORATIVE TRAINING PROGRAM

Overview of Learning Collaborative Training Program

This training uses the learning collaborative model, which requires ongoing consultation activities (e.g., calls). This is not a single event training. The purpose of the learning collaborative training program is to bring together a group of providers who have a common interest in serving traumatized children and to provide them with in-depth training and support to implement the evidence-based treatment with fidelity.

Training Specifics

- Three days of in-person training in Fargo, ND with certified national TF-CBT trainers.
- 60-minute consultation calls with the trainers over the consultation period. The consultation calls will include review and discussion of trainee cases.
- Consultation calls will be conducted in a group format.
- Treatment materials provided including TF-CBT (HCMC) manual, session guides, culturally relevant handouts to illustrate the concepts of HCMC, and resources for clients.
- Clinicians who complete all training requirements will be rostered on the TCTY website and have access to the online training portal.
- CEU Credits for continuing education.
- Certificate of completion of 3-day TF-CBT training and TF-CBT consultation calls, which are needed to pursue National Certification



Training Program Structure

1. Prerequisites

The purpose of prerequisites is to ensure preparation for the in-person training by reviewing TF-CBT materials:

- Complete TF-CBT Online Training: <https://tfcbt2.musc.edu> (\$35 to complete)

2. In-Person Training

Participants must attend all of the 3-day in-person training. Training will include active learning, including frequent group discussions, activities and feedback. Training cohort is limited to 15 clinicians.

3. Consultation Calls

Following the in-person training, consultation calls will be offered throughout the consultation period. These calls will take place on Mondays from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CST (subject to change). The consultation schedule and additional details will be distributed after the training.

Requirements for Full Completion:

- Actively participate in consultation calls
- Attend a minimum of 11 consultation calls
- Work on two HCMC (TF-CBT) cases during consultation period (it is recommended clinicians start 4 HCMC cases to account for dropout)
- Complete two case presentations on the consultation calls
- Use at least one standardized instrument to assess HCMC treatment progress with each case (pre & post-tests, these instruments will be provided)

Eligibility Requirements

1. Master's degree or higher in a recognized mental health discipline.
2. Currently providing clinical services to Native American youth in North Dakota, or to youth on any of the five federally recognized North Dakota tribes.
3. A minimum of 50% of the clinician's caseload must consist of Native American/Indigenous children and adolescents between the ages of 3 and 18.

Participant Expectations

- Complete prerequisite activities prior to the in-person training
- Attend the 3-day in-person training and actively participate in learning opportunities, including group discussions, activities, and feedback
- Participate in collaborative conference calls (2 presentations over call period)
- Collect and use metrics to help to assess progress and guide future improvements
- Participate in program evaluation activities

3-Day Training Logistics

DATES & TIMES

May 12-14

Registration & Breakfast
7:30am-8:00am

Training
8:00am-5:00pm

LOCATION

Radisson Blu
201 5th Street N.
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: 701-232-7363

MEALS & SNACKS

A light breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided each day.

COST

Tuition for this training is being sponsored by the ND Department of Health & Human Services–Behavioral Health Division. However, you will be responsible for the cost of the online pre-work training, transportation, lodging, and meals.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Guest rooms available at Radisson Blu Fargo. The block of rooms will expire April 17th. Call 701-232-7363 and identify you are with the *Sanford Training Room Block*.

State employees may be eligible for the state rate with ID and should request at booking.



TCTY'S PROJECT HEAL TEAM

Emily Sargent, Ph.D.
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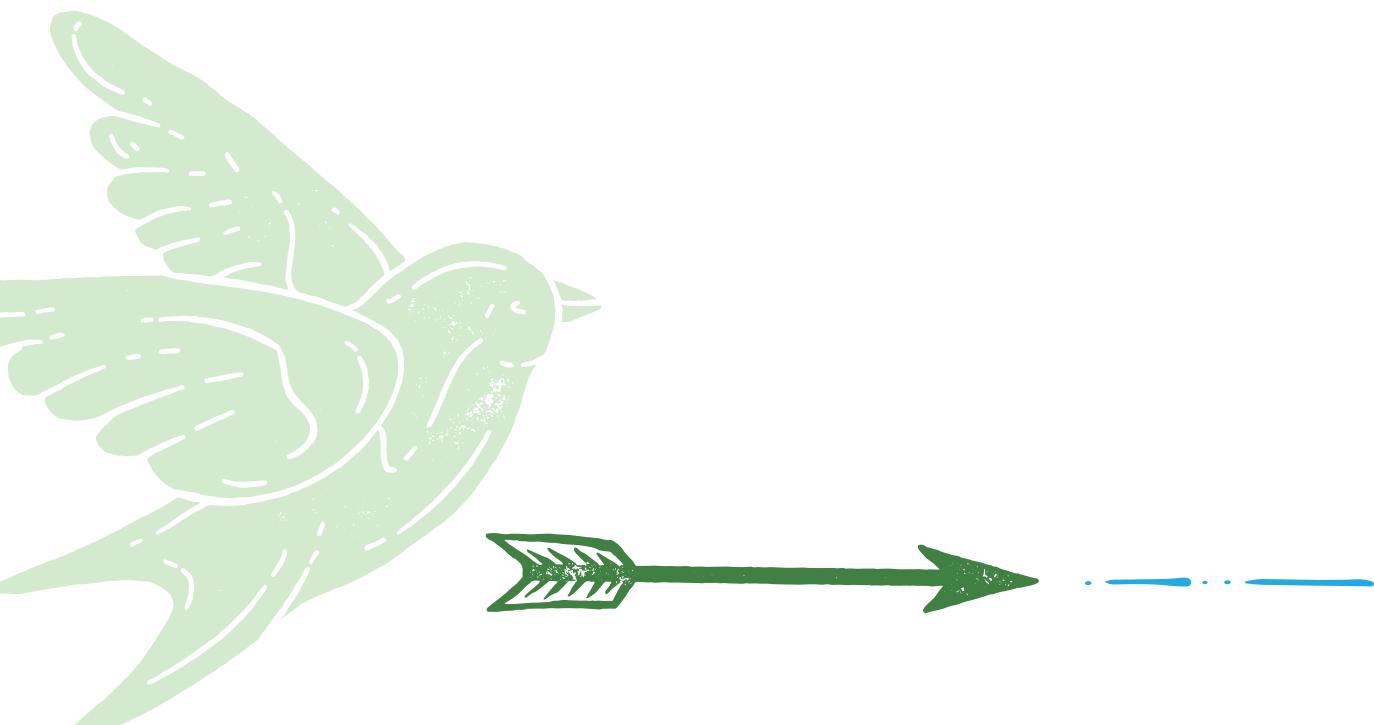
Sherie Madewell-Buesgens, LCSW
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Training Team

Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD

A child psychologist by training, is a Presidential Professor who directs the Indian Country Child Trauma Center within the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Since 1994 she has directed Project Making Medicine, a clinical training program to training mental health providers in the treatment of child maltreatment using culturally based teachings. In 2020 she was awarded the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center, providing training and technical assistance throughout the country on suicide prevention efforts. With the establishment of the Indian Country Child Trauma Center in 2004, she was instrumental in the cultural adaptations of evidenced-based child treatment protocols. Under her guidance, four Evidence-Based Treatments were enhanced for American Indian and Alaska Native families in Indian Country, titled the Honoring Children Series. One of the four is *Honoring Children, Mending the Circle*, a cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy, for use with American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families.

Dr. BigFoot has over 15 published articles and chapters, including serving as the lead author of the recent publication, *“Adapting Evidence-Based Treatments for Use with American Indians and Native Alaskan Children and Youth”*. Dr. BigFoot has served as PI on sixteen federally funded projects. She currently serves on the federal Commission on Native Children, whose mission is to make recommendations to improve conditions affecting American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children and their families. Dr. BigFoot has over 30 years of experience and is knowledgeable about the concerns of implementation and adaptation of evidenced based practices being introduced into Indian Country. Dr. BigFoot is a member of the national TF-CBT Trainer Network. Dr. BigFoot is an enrolled member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma with affiliation to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana where her children are enrolled members.



Training Team

Susan R. Schmidt, PhD

A licensed Counseling Psychologist, serves as the Chief Psychologist with the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. Dr. Schmidt's primary professional interests include the development, dissemination and implementation of evidence-based interventions for trauma-impacted and juvenile justice involved youth and their families. She is a nationally approved trainer in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma (CE-CERT) and Problematic Sexual Behavior – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescents (PSB-CBT-A). Dr. Schmidt collaborated with Dr. Dolores Subia Bigfoot in the design and dissemination of the treatment manual *Honoring Children, Mending the Circle*, an advanced application of the TF-CBT treatment model for American Indian and Alaska Native youth and families. Additionally, Dr. Schmidt is a long-standing member, and current elected chair, of the Oklahoma State Child Death Review Board.

Emily Sargent, PhD

A licensed clinical psychologist at Sanford Health and Sanford Research in North Dakota. Her expertise specifically lies in research and treatment in traumatic stress in tribal communities. She is a former Indians into Psychology Doctoral Education student (*Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, University of North Dakota*) and a tribal member of The White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Additionally, she is the Cultural Diversity Director for the North Dakota Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth, which is a grant program committed to the dissemination of mental health evidence-based treatments for traumatized children. Dr. Sargent specifically focuses on disseminating culturally informed care practices to child serving disciplines and increasing access to traumatic stress treatments for Native American communities. Dr. Sargent is a nationally approved trainer in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) and *Honoring Children, Mending the Circle* (HCMC).

