

The Good News

Wise Women Gathering Place

Fall 2007

Five Years Already?

End of the CBAC Grant

If you haven't heard yet, Wise Women Gathering Place finished its five-year Community-Based Abstinence Culture grant from the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. The end of the CBAC grant means the Abstinence classes at Menominee Tribal School and Oneida Nation Elementary School will no longer be offered through Wise Women Gathering Place. However, both schools have shown interest in continuing the classes should the funding become available in the future. (This does not mean the end of Wise Women Gathering Place, however.)

Reunion Time

To send the Abstinence Class students out into a future without Wise Women Gathering Place, WWGP held two C-U-BAC Reunion celebrations. The first occurred on June 15, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center for the ONES students and staff. The second was on June 23, 2007 at the Community Center in Neopit for the MTS students and staff.

Each reunion included presentations of the preliminary results of a final survey taken by all students at the Menominee Indian High School, which included both Abstinence Class participants and students who did not take the class. There was also a skit that showed two ways parents talk to their teenagers. The first part of the skit showed parents who were hesitant to openly

discuss sex and abstinence with their daughter. The second part had parents who sat their son down and talked about abstinence and wanting the son to achieve his dreams and goals.

Other activities at the reunions included guest speakers at both schools who talked about their experiences with the Abstinence class, a community prevention plan for intimate partner violence, door prize drawings and, of course, food.

Preliminary Results

With the cooperation of the Menominee Health Clinic, Wise Women Gathering Place was able to collect some data regarding pregnancy rates among teens who lived on the Menominee Reservation in May 2007. According to the clinic, there were only 5 pregnancies among the 157 teenagers who took the Abstinence Class. Of the 136 teenagers who used the clinic but *did not* take the Abstinence Class, there were 32 pregnancies. This gives the indication that the Abstinence Class had a significant impact on the community.

Wise Women Gathering Place is still analyzing the results of the MIHS survey, as well as five years of pre and post tests taken by Abstinence Class students. WWGP is also organizing a survey similar to the MIHS survey for the Oneida community.

If you or your teen participated in the Abstinence Class at ONES and would like to take the final survey, please contact the WWGP office at 920-490-0627. Thank you!

New Discovery Dating Website

Starting in August 2007, Wise Women Gathering Place has published a website specifically for our Discovery Dating program. The website, discoverydating.com, explains the program, gives information on the classes and how to schedule your own class, discusses what happens in a Discovery Dating instructor training and provides updates to the program for past trainees. Guests to the website can also find links to the Wise Women Gathering Place website and download an order form for any of the products or additional activities used in the Discovery Dating classes. Check out the website today!

ToP Group Facilitation Methods Training

Wise Women Gathering Place, working with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, held a ToP Group Facilitation Methods Training on August 22-23, 2007. The training was attended by participants from several departments with Oneida and a few from outside the tribe as well. In fact, the training was so popular, a waiting list was created and WWGP received requests for additional trainings in the future.

Group Facilitation Methods helps groups think, talk and work together by recognizing and honoring the contributions of all, pool individual contributions into larger, more informative and inclusive patterns and welcome diversity while minimizing polarization and conflict. All of which is a long way to explain that this is a method that requires all group participants to be actively involved in focused conversations, consensus building and action planning.

If your organization is interested in learning more about or utilizing Group Facilitation Methods, contact Bev Scow at the WWGP Office at 920-490-0627.

Diabetes Talking Circle

FREE!

Thursday, October 25, 2007

8am-4:30pm

Conference Room, Oneida Health Center

Facilitator Training

For all people who care about our community health, including those who work in diabetes programs, IHS nurses, dieticians, CHRS, social workers and other providers of community care.

Participants will learn how to conduct diabetes talking circles in a **culturally appropriate, research-based, Native American model.**

Materials are provided through support from a National Institute of Nursing Research Center. Trainer Lorelei Decora is funded by the Seva Foundation.

Register today to reserve your spot and training materials. Contact Bev Scow for more information 920-490-0627.

Rock n Rest Station Available for Public Events

After repeated requests to bring our Rock n Rest Infant/Toddler Care Station to the broader community, Wise Women Gathering Place has decided to do so. The Rock n Rest Station has been available to parents and care-givers of young children at the Oneida Powwow for the last several years. Beginning in 2006, the Rock n Rest Station has also been present at International BayFest and ArtStreet.

The Rock n Rest provides spaces for nursing mothers, diaper changes, naps and even a play area. We keep a stock of the items parents most often run out of or forget to bring when they are out and about. Contact the WWGP office for more info.

Discovery Dating Classes

From time to time, Wise Women Gathering Place gets requests from parents looking to enroll their teen in our Abstinence Classes. Previously, we've explained that the classes were part of a grant project at certain schools but we would be willing to arrange a personal overview of the Discovery Dating program for them and their teen. The completion of the CBAC grant now presents us with a new situation. WWGP is still willing to offer Discovery Dating classes and there are people who are willing to attend. But, we have no location or funding to offer the classes currently.

Wise Women is willing to work with any organization that wants to co-host a Discovery Dating class. We can adjust the program to fit just about any time schedule or budget.

Or, maybe, your organization can't afford the time or space for a full Discovery Dating class. WWGP also offers Instructor Training for the Discovery Dating program. We had requests to offer more trainings, but again, we need the space and a co-sponsor before we can have a training.

To schedule a class or training, or just to learn more about Discovery Dating, visit our website discoverydating.com or contact Bev Scow at the WWGP Office, 920-490-0627.

Judy's Herbs

Teas, tinctures and salves for everything under the sun or moon!

Available at Wise Women Gathering Place and other holistic retailers.

What's up with those grants?

Earlier this year, Wise Women Gathering Place submitted proposals for two federal grants, the Community-Based Abstinence Education program and the Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Child Abuse Enforcement Assistance program.

The CBAE grants would allow the continuation of the Abstinence classes at Menominee Tribal School and the Oneida Nation Elementary School. The plan is to broaden the program by offering classes from fifth grade to twelfth grade, not just the eighth graders.

The Rural Domestic Violence grant is in cooperation with Oneida Social Services and would provide transitional housing and after-care to women and teenagers who have been through a domestic violence situation, as well as prevention classes at the high school level.

Both grants were to announce the organizations who will be receiving funding by September 1, 2007. However, the future of all abstinence education funding is currently under debate in Congress, meaning the CBAE grant cannot be awarded until a decision has been reached.

Update: On Sept. 11, WWGP and Oneida Social Services received notification that they had been awarded the Rural Domestic Violence grant. This provides funding for the next two years for Wise Women and Oneida Social Services as a new directive called NEW HOPE, Native Empowered Women and Healthy Opportunities for Personal Expression. Look for more information on specific programs in the future

Calling All Oneida Teens, 13-19 years old!

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Have we got a deal fo you! Wise Women Gathering Place has a final test we want you to take. We are asking all teens in the Oneida community to take an online survey about your attitudes on healthy relationships. WWGP knows that not everyone has a computer, or internet access, or the patience to sit and take a 20 minute survey. For those who do participate, we are offering you a \$20 gift card and the ability to use one of the computers at the Wise Women Gathering Place office.

For those that have computers with internet access at home, you need to first call the educators at the WWGP office to get the website and your access code to take the test. After your have taken the survey, we will mail your gift card to you. If you/your teen is interested in participating in this survey and would enjoy receiving a \$20 gift card, please contact the Wise Women Gathering Place office, 920-490-0627.

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WWGP Resource Library Open to Public

Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

Information on pregnancy, childbirth, midwifery, alternative medicine, medicinal herbs, reflexology, guided imagery, healthy relationships and much, much more! We recommend calling ahead to make sure the will be someone who can help you.

Wise Women Gathering Place Office:
2488 Babcock Rd
Green Bay, WI 54313
920-490-0627 Fax: 920-490-0922
wisewomengb.org
discoverydating.com

Who do I talk to about...

Alice Skenandore, executive director
-History of WWGP & Discovery Dating
-Midwifery, pregnancy, childbirth
-Organizational/business questions about WWGP & Discovery Dating
-Results of Menominee Health Clinic
-Results of Final CBAC survey

Bev Scow, assistant director
-Discovery Dating Instructor Trainings
-Scheduling Discovery Dating classes
-Group Facilitation Methods
-Midwifery, pregnancy, childbirth
-Reflexology

Marlene Summers, Educator/Advocate
-Abstinence classes at ONES
-High School youth group
-Discovery Dating classes
-Working with women s groups
-Aromatherapy

Connie Rasmussen, Educator/Advocate
-Abstinence classes at MTS
-MTS youth group
-Discovery Dating classes
-Final CBAC survey website

Elizabeth Sauer Pries, Educator/Advocate
-Abstinence classes at ONES
-Discovery Dating classes
-Discovery Dating website
-Scheduling Rock n Rest Station

Judy Vander Bloomen, Admin Assistant
-Medicinal herbs
-Eating for health
-All other questions when Alice & Bev aren t in

*Any other questions?
Just call us and we ll help you!*