

Psychotropic medications in the treatment of ongoing abuse and trauma

### **Workshop Title**

Masking the traumatic experiences; the use of psychotropic medications in the treatment of ongoing abuse and trauma

### **Presenters:**

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### **Synopsis**

This workshop will focus on the issues of the effects of chronic medication use on victims of traumatic stress. Important in these issues are the dynamic utilizing drugs to mask the effects of traumatic response sets in children and adults. Many times medications are useful in the treatment of symptom reduction, allowing for cultural and psychological treatment efforts to take form in order to develop safety for the survivor. Particularly in the cases of domestic violence and childhood victimization, chronic fixes to a short term response. This critical problem in the care of victims has led to the use of psychotropic medications as chemical straightjackets masking the wounded spirit within.

The presentation will guide discussion around the Children's Bureau and the NRC4Tribes' efforts to assist tribes in addressing these important issues of tribal systems' response to our children and survivors of domestic violence that cannot speak for themselves.

### **Intended audience**

Clinicians; DV Counselors and Advocates, Indian Child and Family Service Workers, Psychologists, Counselors, Medical Providers, Substance Abuse Counselors, Tribal Advocates, Attorneys and Policy Makers

### **Outcomes**

- That the participants would have an understanding of the problematic use of psychotropic medication among trauma survivor children and families and the need for oversight of psychotropic medication
- That policy makers and providers would have increased understanding of the need for systemic approaches to eliminate the unwarranted use of medication management to control trauma response and coexisting disorders in the violence survivor population.
- That the participants would have increased knowledge of alternative and complimentary approaches both cultural and clinical to the extended use of medications as a management tool.