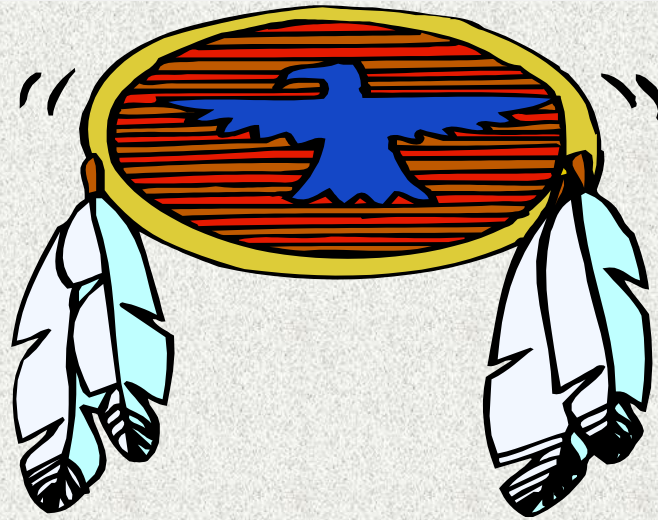




*Introduction and Welcome
to the
5th ICWA Institute*

November 1, 2021

Laura Lee Bentley



The purpose of this Session is to give an over view of week and a Heartfelt Welcome:

- The 5th ICWA Institute
- Video: Bringing Our Children Home-An Introduction to ICWA
- Definitions of Historical Trauma and Cultural Genocide
- Understanding of the Historical Context of the Boarding Schools
- Short video by Annie Smith: **Kill the Indian, Save the Man**
- Concept Historical Trauma and how it Impacts present day generations
- What's Next?



Learning opportunities this week



- ❖ Journey Begins and History of the ICWA Institute
- ❖ Overview of ICWA Laws & Regulations
- ❖ Judicial Perspective on ICWA & WICWA
- ❖ Preserving Connections
- ❖ Pulling it All Together



Bring Our Children Home

An Introduction to the Indian child Welfare Act

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJCqeauLvY8>



Historical Trauma

- Forced assimilation of Indians into western culture led to the breakdown of Indian families that has had devastating and long-lasting effects on Indian communities
 - Traditional land and economies were taken away; medical and their spiritual practices became illegal, Indians lost their land, families and their children.
- Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart defines historical trauma as cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma.
- Skills embodied from trauma (anger, avoidance, fear, guilt, etc.) Skills missing from trauma exposure (connection, trust, satisfaction, acceptance, boundaries, etc.)

What is Cultural Genocide?



- ✓ The deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group.
 - Killing members of a the group;
 - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of a group;
 - Deliberately infliction on a group conditions of life calculated to being about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
 - Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
 - Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

AI/AN Perspective

- The abuses which led to the passage of the ICWA were experienced by real people
- Many of these victims live in Indian communities today, be it in Urban areas or on Reservations
- They remember, often personally and sometimes in the community's collective memory, their children being unjustly taken
- Their willingness to work with social services/legal can be compromised by historical experiences





The Boarding School System

- ❑ Began approximately in 1879 and stayed in effect until the mid-1980's
- ❑ Purpose was to civilize & assimilate “Indian Children” or as stated by Captain Pratt, “Kill the Indian and Save the Man.”
- ❑ More than 500 schools were operated by the BIA & several religious organizations
- ❑ How do you think this continues to impact communities today?

Treatment in these Schools

- ❑ Military model (cutting of hair, could not speak native language, uniforms, rigid schedules, discard and burning of clothing/religious, protective item, etc.)
- ❑ Neglect, verbal, physical, and sexual abuse
- ❑ Pitted against each other or the “good Indian” & “bad Indian”
- ❑ Most severe punishment for speaking their Tribal Nations Languages
- ❑ Trained in low skilled jobs to serve ‘American Society’ as laborers & domestics



*Short Video by:
Annie Smith*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6PU7eNrJnE>

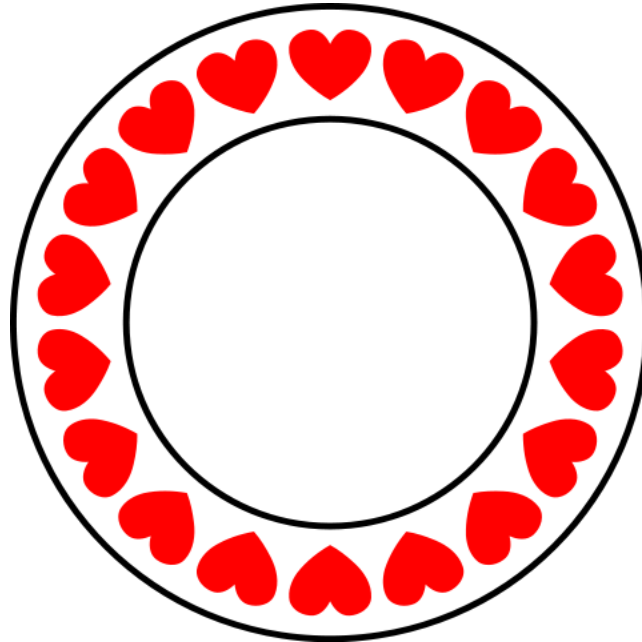
KILL THE INDIAN, SAVE THE MAN

*“You have bought a fair land, but you will
find its settlement dark and bloody.”*

Dragging Canoe, leader of the Chickamauga,
Sycamore Shoals, 1775

TALKING CIRCLE

We may have time for you to ask a few questions, put in chat box and Anne McEvoy, Director of the Grays Harbor Program



nkʷu? spúʔus
One Heart

