

Caring for AI/AN People - A Native Physician's Perspective

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Outline

- Introduction
- Experiences in medical school
- Entering IHS as a provider
- Challenges-personal and professional
- Future Outlook

Recruitment and Retention

- Remote locations
- Lack of housing
- School systems
- Being able to enjoy accomplishments
- Low salaries
- Minimal support systems both professionally and personally

Introduction

- Oglala Lakota from Pine Ridge, SD
- Raised in a single parent home (with the help of a great family)
- BA from Chadron State College
- MD from U of W Seattle
- Internal Medicine and Cardiology from U of A Tucson
- Board Certified in IM, Cardiology, Echo and Nuclear Cardiology

Introduction (cont.)

- NACP Tucson 2009-2010
- NACP Flagstaff 2010-2015
- PIMC 2015-current

IHS Complaints

- Not enough doctors
- Doctors just come and go
- They just get paid the big bucks while we suffer
- We are just lab rats

Cultural Experiences

- Large family gatherings at the hospital
- Ceremonies at the hospital
- Many don't understand and can't relate to the cultural significance

Medical School

- Pine Ridge to Seattle
- Commuting
- Multi-racial interactions
- Phrases of unknown meaning
- Studying
- The “cadaver” lab
- Eye-contact

Challenges/Fears

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Depression
- Suicide
- Poverty
- Pressure to make everything better

Social & Environmental Risk Factors

- Historical trauma - refers to cumulative emotional and psychological injury, extending over an individual lifespan and across generations, caused by traumatic experiences
- Income inequality
- Inadequate education
- Poverty
- Inadequate Social Support
- Inadequate Cultural Support

My Grandma's House

This is where I grew up



Home of my Great Grandma Now all closed up



Road to my Grandpa's House



My Mom's Backyard



Pine Ridge Scenery



A Beautiful Reservation Scene



More Pine Ridge Scenery



Pine Ridge



Pine Ridge – The Old Hospital I was born there.



Pine Ridge – The Old Hospital



Ambulance on the Rez



The New Hospital



Pine Ridge – The New Hospital



Mobile Clinic at Pine Ridge



Housing is a Big Challenge



Housing in Pine Ridge



The Future

- Tribal Involvement
- Community Involvement
- Targeting the Youth
- Self-Determination

Beautiful Reservation Scenery



Mom's Backyard



THANK YOU