Families are critical supports for youth in substance abuse prevention and recovery and can be the biggest asset or an obstacle. This presentation will focus on the approaches staff can use while working with youth to create a supportive home environment while taking into account the historical or ongoing trauma many American Indian and Alaska Native communities are struggling with.

Objectives include:
1. Successful family engagement strategies
2. Discussion of some of the challenges and how do you overcome them? (absent or drug addicted parents, non-acceptance of LGBT/Two-Spirit, etc.)
Roger Dale Walker, MD  
Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Public Health and Preventive Medicine  
Director, Center for American Indian Health, Education and Research  
Director, One Sky Center: National Native Health Resource Center

R. Dale Walker, M.D., a psychiatrist from the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma, was recently named the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) 40th President at the Annual Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Walker joined that organization in 1978 and has twice — 1989 and 2009 — received their Physician of the Year Award for outstanding service to American Indians. The AAIP is the largest Native healthcare association in the United States. Its mission is to pursue excellence in Native American health care and to motivate American Indian & Alaska Native students to pursue a career in the health professions and/or biomedical research, thereby increasing the number of Native American professionals in the workforce.

Dr. Walker is a 1972 graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, with residency training in Psychiatry at the University of California School of Medicine in San Diego. His career includes research grants and scores of publications and presentations related to substance abuse and mental health issues in Indian Country. He has held numerous national leadership roles, including Speaker of the American Psychiatric Association’s Assembly, scientific program coordinator for the AAIP Coeur D’Alene meeting in 2008, director and founder of the Center of Excellence for Substance Abuse Treatment for the Seattle Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center program at the University of Washington, Founding President of the First Nations Behavioral Health Association, Director of the One Sky Center, and Director of a National Institute of Drug Abuse and National Institute of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse funded National Mentorship program for American Indian students interested in addictions research. He is dedicated to and advocates for quality medical and mental health services for American Indian people. His mentorship and advocacy efforts include mentorship for fellow psychiatrists, primary care physicians, mental health workers from all disciplines, State and Federal policy makers and Tribal Government leaders.

Ed Parsells, CCDCIII  
(Enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe)

Ed Parsells, owner of LakotaCARE, a Lakota/Christian Faith-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Program, is an Administrator, Clinical Supervisor, Clinician, Consultant, and Research Assistant. Ed Parsells has over 25 years experience as a substance abuse service provider. He also has over 10 years experience as a pastor and a church planter. He earned an undergraduate degree from Mid-America University with honors with a double major, Behavioral Science and Bible Theology, in 1991. Lakota CARE partnered with eight local churches on the Rosebud Reservation and one urban church in Pierre, SD to provide facilities for support group meetings and satellite office space for intake, screening, assessments, counseling and aftercare group. Lakota CARE is sanctioned by the White River Church of the Nazarene in White River, SD as an auxiliary ministry and provides primary office space for Lakota CARE. Lakota CARE employs three certified substance abuse counselors and two Care Managers.