



*Strategies to Achieve Alignment, Collaboration, and Synergy
Across Delivery and Financing Systems*

**Weaving the Tasina Luta: a Community-Based
Participatory Research Approach to Implementation
and Engagement with a Tribal Public Health Plan**

*Research In Progress Webinar
Wednesday, July 31st, 2019
12:00-1:00 pm ET/9:00-10:00am PT*



PUBLIC HEALTH
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

colorado school of
public health

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Agenda

Welcome:

Glen Mays

Presenters:

David Washburn, ScD
Barbara Quiram, PhD
Kay Carpenter

Commentary:

Harold Tiger

Q&A:

Moderated by Glen Mays



David Washburn, ScD (co-PI)

Assistant Professor Health Policy and
Management School of Public Health
Texas A&M University



Barbara J. Quiram, PhD (co-PI)

Professor & Director Office of Special
Programs & Global Health School of
Public Health Texas A&M University



Kay Carpenter

Assistant Director of both the Office of Special Programs & Global Health and the USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness at the Texas A&M School of Public Health (SPH).

Harold Tiger

Health Education Instructor

Tasina Luta – the four pillars

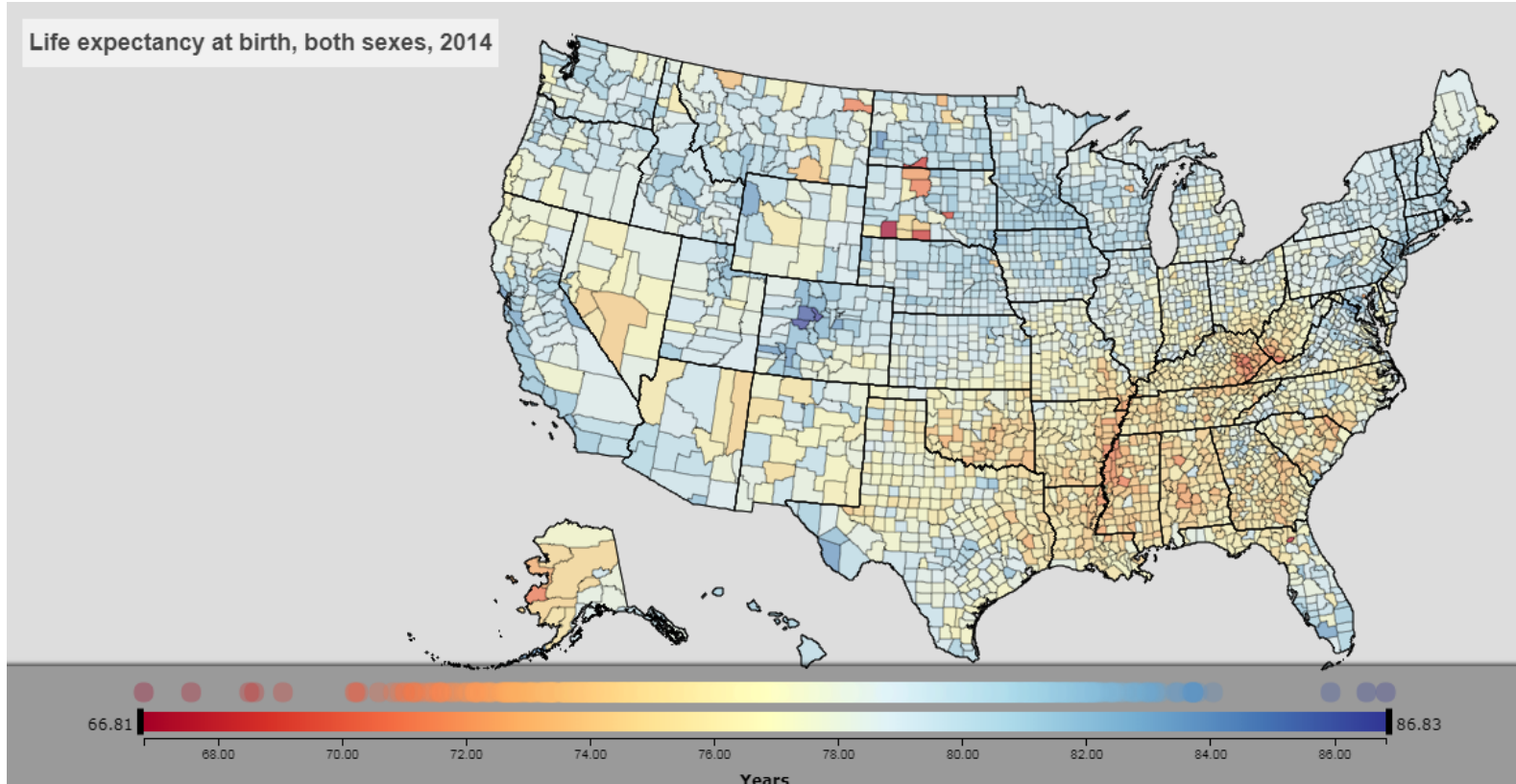
- Annual health reviews for every member of Tribe
- Healthwise handbooks
- 24-hour ask-a-nurse hotline
- Annual health summit of providers

Access, Engagement, and Collaboration

Origins of Tasina Luta and CRST/A&M Collaboration

- The Tasina Luta was developed by Margaret Bad Warrior and signed off on as a new initiative by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Health Council
- Tribal Health asked A&M to help facilitate the first annual health summit in 2017 after A&M researchers had been working with CRST on public health and emergency preparedness for ~12 years
- A&M offered to help with a collaborative community-based participatory research effort to assist implementation efforts of the Tasina Luta

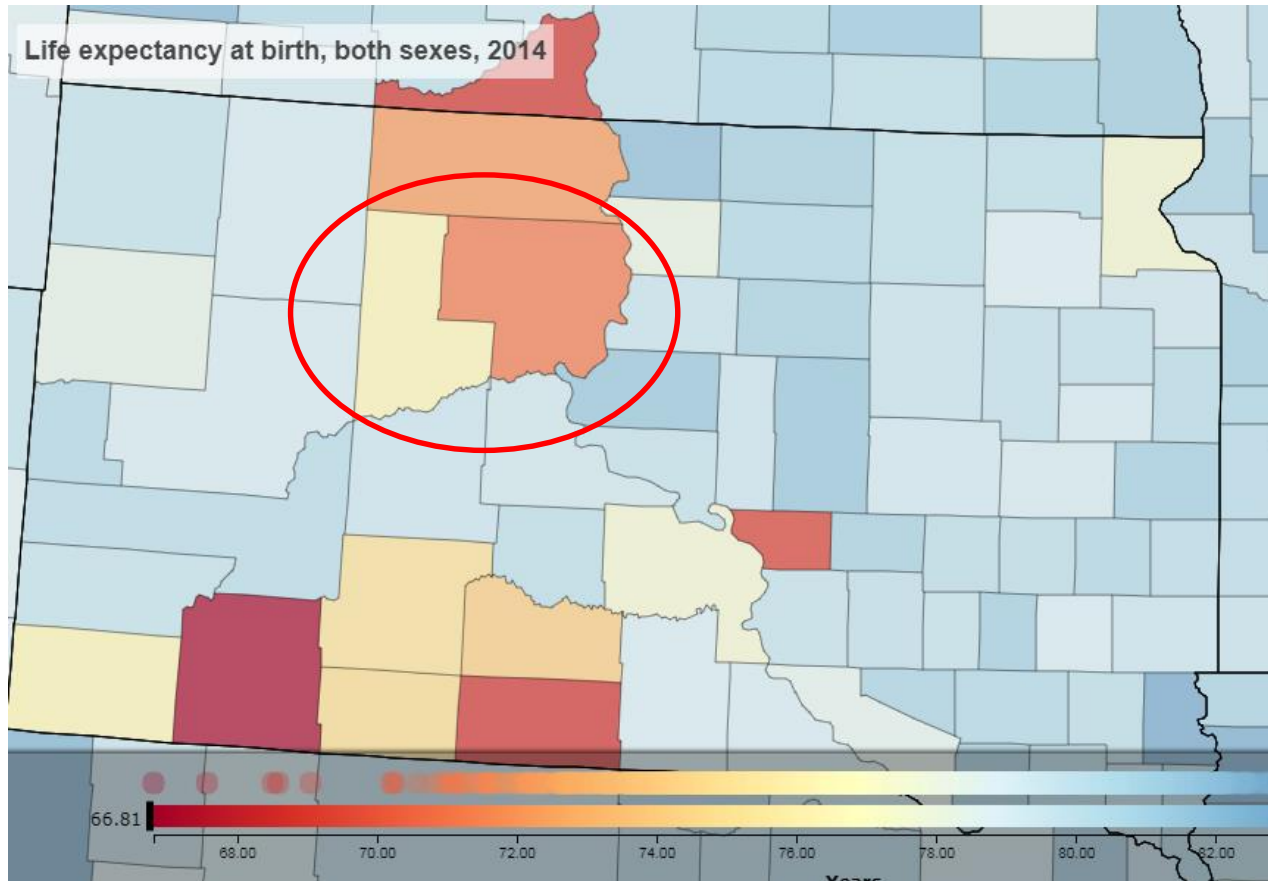
Part of the Challenge



Low life expectancy and endemic poverty

- The two counties on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe reservation had LE rates of 71.02 (Dewey – 12th lowest LE in US) and 76.39 (Ziebach – 2nd lowest per capita income in continental US), both lower than the US average LE of 79.08 in 2014.¹
- Dewey county's LE of 71.02 falls between Turkmenistan and North Korea.

¹Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/subnational/usa>



Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

- Population of ~8,000
- Slightly smaller in land area than Connecticut
- Eagle Butte, the administrative center, has approximately ~1,350



- Indian Health Services (Eagle Butte Hospital)
- Tribal Health (Clinics and outreach)
- Private Providers
- Larger hospitals in Rapid City, SD; Pierre, SD; & Bismarck, ND

- Gather information from local experts and tribe members regarding strategies for the implementation of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's first locally driven public health plan – the Tasina Luta (or red blanket)
- Community based participatory research model where community members provide guidance for the implementation of the plan
- Team is responsible for gathering market research to help push implementation forward

- 14 key stakeholder interviews (~1 hour each) with community leaders & public health professionals

Issues covered included:

- critical success factors for program implementation,
- effective marketing and promotion methods for this and other programs,
- prioritization of implementation efforts, and
- how to encourage individuals to engage with the program

- 5 focus groups (4 with community members, 1 with Community Health Representatives, ~1 hour each)

Issues covered included:

- effective outreach methods on the reservation,
- why and when people choose to access medical care,
- barriers to access commonly encountered, and
- how to encourage people to become more involved in their health

Focus Groups



- Getting people to access care before it's too late

“where I work at there are a lot that disregard their health even if there is a existing or pre-existing medical condition and they cover it with alcohol and drugs so by the time they do decide to sober up it's already in bad stage... we don't get them here until like I said middle three-fourths or end stage of the sclerosis.”

“We have a huge no show rate on just our diabetics that need to come every 3 months or our cardiac patients that need to come every 6 months to a year depending on what they are for their annual EKG or whatever. It's not easy to get people in to their appointments.”

- Divisions between health systems

“There’s at times been a division in providing health care between our private sector, tribal and IHS and it’s widely known that it happens.”

“Some people just refuse to come to even tribal health or IHS. They want to go to [private providers] because something happened here that they didn’t like and we don’t have consistent providers at IHS.”

- Incentives are very important

“to get them there or sometimes to get people to participate you may have to offer an incentive. I hate to say that we are incentive driven but it is what may make a difference between somebody participating and somebody not participating... I look at it in two different ways. One that we are incentive driven but we are also trying to survive.”

“we kind of got into this rut where you have to either offer food or incentives... I shouldn't probably say a rut but it seems like when we do have functions and we don't offer that we are not getting as good a turn out. And then maybe you know with our addictions and people on a fixed income coming to eat. In the Lakota culture alone if you feed then that's an honor.”

- Communication and connectivity is limited and expensive

“I have to drive 2 miles to go up to get internet. So we do have a hill that they call cell phone hill where you will see a lot of people parked and accessing and if somebody is on a fixed income, cause I could tell you right now, I personally have internet at my home, but I pay over \$100 a month, so if they are on a fixed income, they are not getting it.”

- Persistence matters – and it has a bad track record

“We have to be consistent because one of the biggest complaints is that we try to introduce something and then it never follows through.”

- Outreach into communities

“our population here are a lot of hands on. If you see a piece of paper like this and they don’t understand it then they will just push it to the side... a lot of visual and if somebody talks about it that would be the best. And then going to each district. That is where maybe [the Community Health Representative] program and health education can help...”

- Communication methods have changed

“When I was kid we went on weekends on Saturday or Sunday afternoons you would go and visit your neighbor and have coffee and play cards. And you don’t see as much of that anymore, it seems like people are to busy or maybe because of social media they value their privacy a little more. So it’s not as acceptable anymore to just drop in on somebody... we don’t gather like we did.”

- Cultural awareness = foundation of outreach

“She [a Caucasian preacher] came right up to me and she was right in my face and I was like whoa whoa whoa *laughs* you don't do that in our culture *laughs* and you don't try to match eye for eye. I'm comfortable with it off and on but here its taught as being very rude that to really stare someone right in the face. And on the outside they say you're not being honest because you're not looking me right in the eye.”

- Approach and style matter especially when trust has broken down with vulnerable groups

“I even did this exercise with some young people... I said I'm going to walk through this door. Tell me when to stop [when you're uncomfortable]... there was a young lady in the corner over there and I was about half way step in and she said stop. So that was her comfort zone. And with the male who is the ultimate gangster and da da da da I got three steps in and he said stop... [when asking] the consensus of the room where would you be at? And they said probably in between those two.”

- The importance of Medicaid (SD is a non-expansion state)

Bridger is on the SW corner of the reservation, closer to healthcare in Phillip (off the reservation – 45 minutes away when Eagle Butte is 1.5 hours)

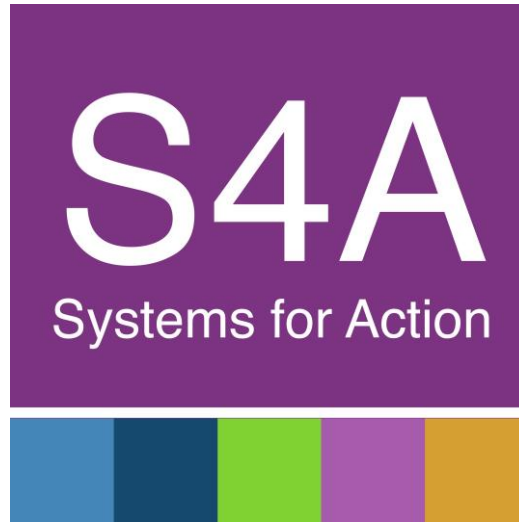
Approximately 70-80% of Bridger have Medicaid. They go to Phillip for care. Others without Medicaid go to Eagle Butte, but might go straight to Bridger or Rapid City for emergencies in the hopes that IHS will pay for their care retroactively. This was considered risky.

Other Important Themes

- Transportation is a challenge for many, it may be necessary to do annual health reviews in the communities.
- Targeting those that are already engaged with their health will be easier, getting others (especially many people over 18) will be difficult.
- Social media is widely used among youth and the working class who have connectivity. The radio reaches a broader audience. Elders communicate more face-to-face or at community events.

- Publication in the works focusing on intersectionality and health access/health seeking behavior on the CRST reservation
- Conversations with the Tribe on seeking funding to implement and evaluate different campaigns/incentives to encourage individuals to get their annual health reviews – LOI in process

Questions?



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Upcoming Webinars

- **August 7th, 2019 12 p.m., ET**

Systems for Action Individual Research Project

[Integrating Health and Social Services for Veterans by Empowering Family Caregivers](#)

Megan Shepherd-Banigan, PhD, MPH, Department of Veteran Affairs and Duke University

- **August 21st, 2019 12 p.m., ET**

Systems for Action Individual Research Project

[Testing a new Terminology System for Health and Social Services Integration](#)

Miriam Laugesen, PhD, and Sara Abiola, PhD, JD, Colombia University Mailman School of Public Health

Acknowledgements

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