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| **Weaving Te Ao Māori into our everyday Practice, Structures and Policy in** **Tairāwhiti**  |
| **Setting/problem****Introduction:**Annual Planning provides a strategy for health outcomes set by the Population Health Team for 2018-2019. This plan, as our active word, to deliver on improved outcomes in health for all the people of Tairāwhiti, most especially Māori.Alongside this manifestation of cultural engagement, Hauora Tairāwhiti District Health Board have a unique opportunity to reach out to other likeminded stakeholders in the community and environments to improve the health and wellbeing of the people and the communities in which we live.**Environment**Across 8386 square kilometres, Tairāwhiti on the East Coast of Aotearoa, New Zealand is made up of mountainous bush, undulated fertile plains, countless waterways, and deep blue Ocean. Te Tairāwhiti forms a backdrop to the Raukumara Ranges; is remote, unique and very beautiful. Sunshine, sandy beaches and kaimoana are just part of that unique environment.**Demography**48,000 people share our cultured and dynamic community. Tairāwhiti has three times the national level of Māori who live in towns in Aotearoa New Zealand and this is reflected through genealogy, and the uniqueness of being Māori. Our cultural vibrancy is presented through historic places, traditions, events, art and marae. **Intervention**By connecting with the community, we are able to display waiora and karakia, our recreations create both toiora and whānaungatanga. This is how, as a community, we decide what is important for our whānau. Activities such as these not only provide cultural expression for our community, but also reinforce the relationships between the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. By taking a Te Ao Māori approach to hauora, we validate the importance of context and relationships in our understanding of health that is opportunistic and reflects the diversity of our community. **Outcomes**Hauora Tairāwhiti Population Health Team’s service delivery draws on several factors, the main being the existing strengths and uniqueness of whānau, hapū and iwi in our rohe;**Implications**Our team plays an important role in supporting in a manner that empowers community members to exert control over their health, wellbeing and environments. Recognising the potential enables the community, through community led initiatives and allows the creation of a community independently taking charge of its health. **Preferred presentation format - Power Point presentation.** |