

Culturally Specific Support Services for Urban Native Americans- Outreach to Housing

Presented by: Tanya Black
and Natalie Martin



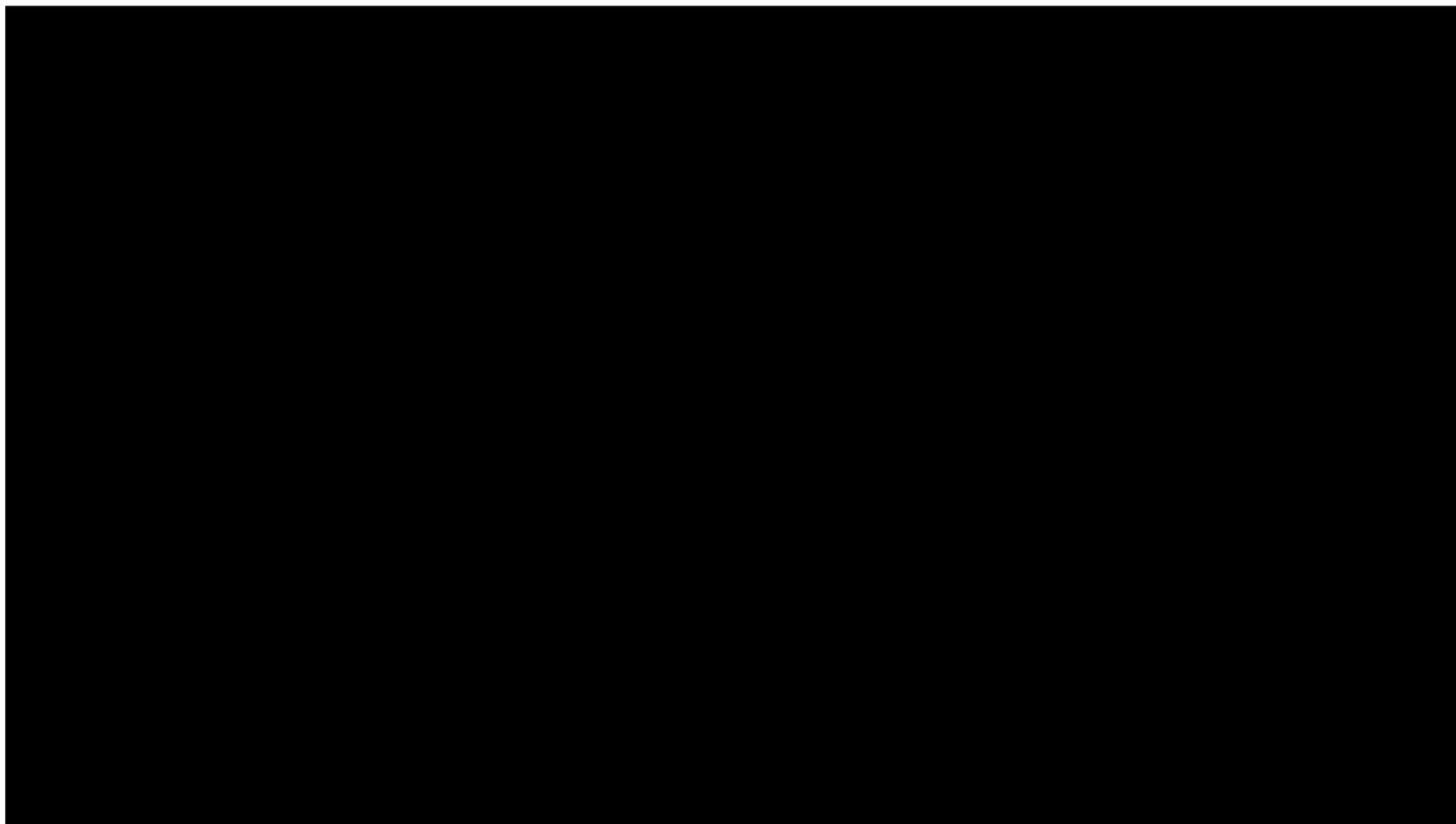
Mission Driven, Spirit Led

Meet the Presenters



- Tanya Blackhorse, BIPOC CHAT Worker, Nooche/Dine
- Natalie Martin, Housing Program Manager

About NARA Northwest



Culturally Specific Services

OUR MISSION

The mission of NARA NW is to provide education, physical and mental health services and substance abuse treatment that is culturally appropriate to American Indians, Alaska Natives and anyone in need.

- All Are Welcomed (signage at all NARA NW sites are similar, Honoring Veterans and Elders)
- Health and Wellness: integrated health clinic and dental clinic
- Addictions Treatment: adult outpatient, adult residential treatment, youth outpatient, and

youth residential treatment center

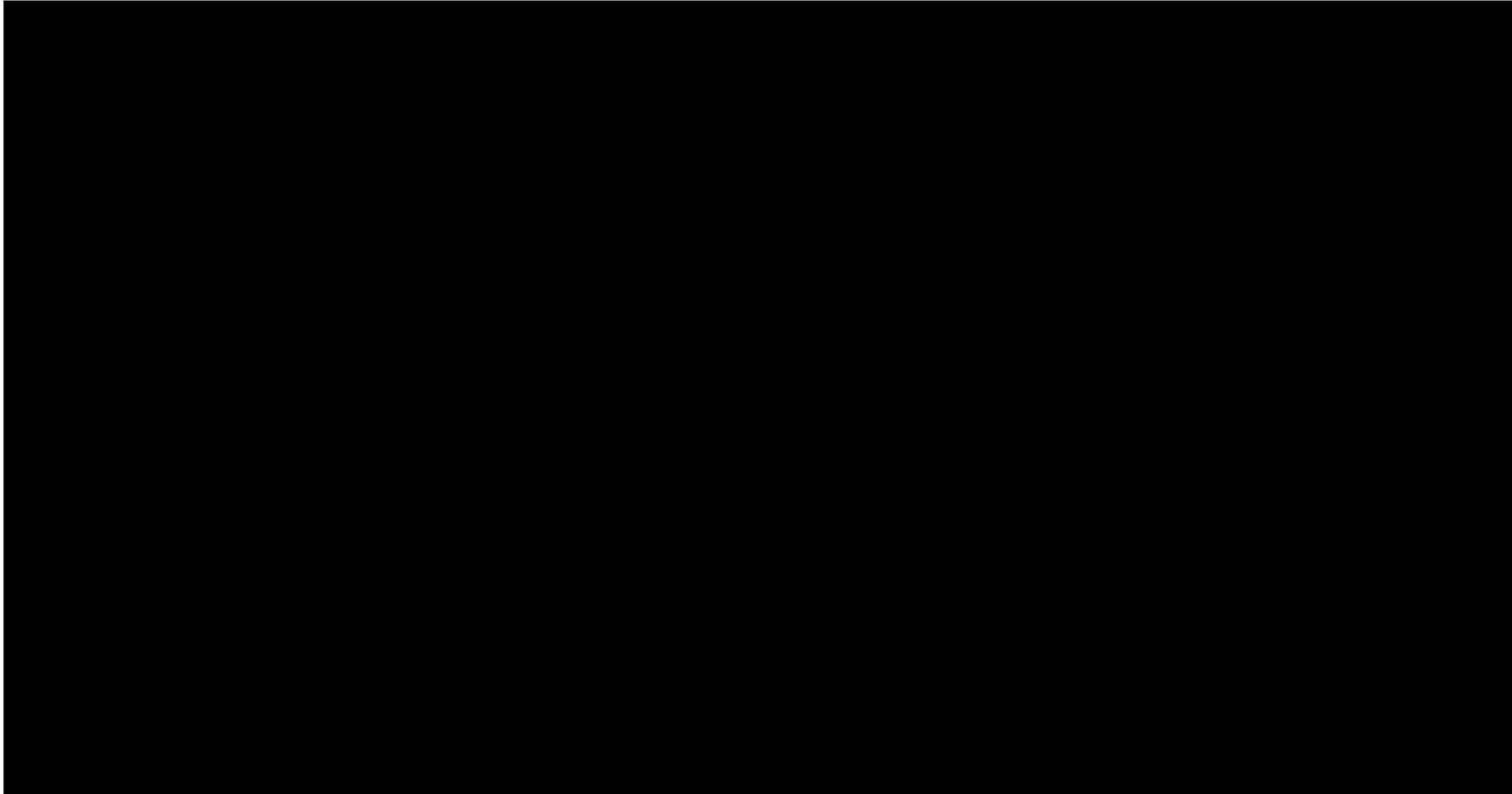
- 2SLGBTQ+ support services and support line
- Mental Health Services: adult services and children and family services
- Community and Cultural: youth program, Veterans, and Elders
- Housing: outreach, short term rental assistance, and scattered site and site based PSH



Honoring Culture and Elders

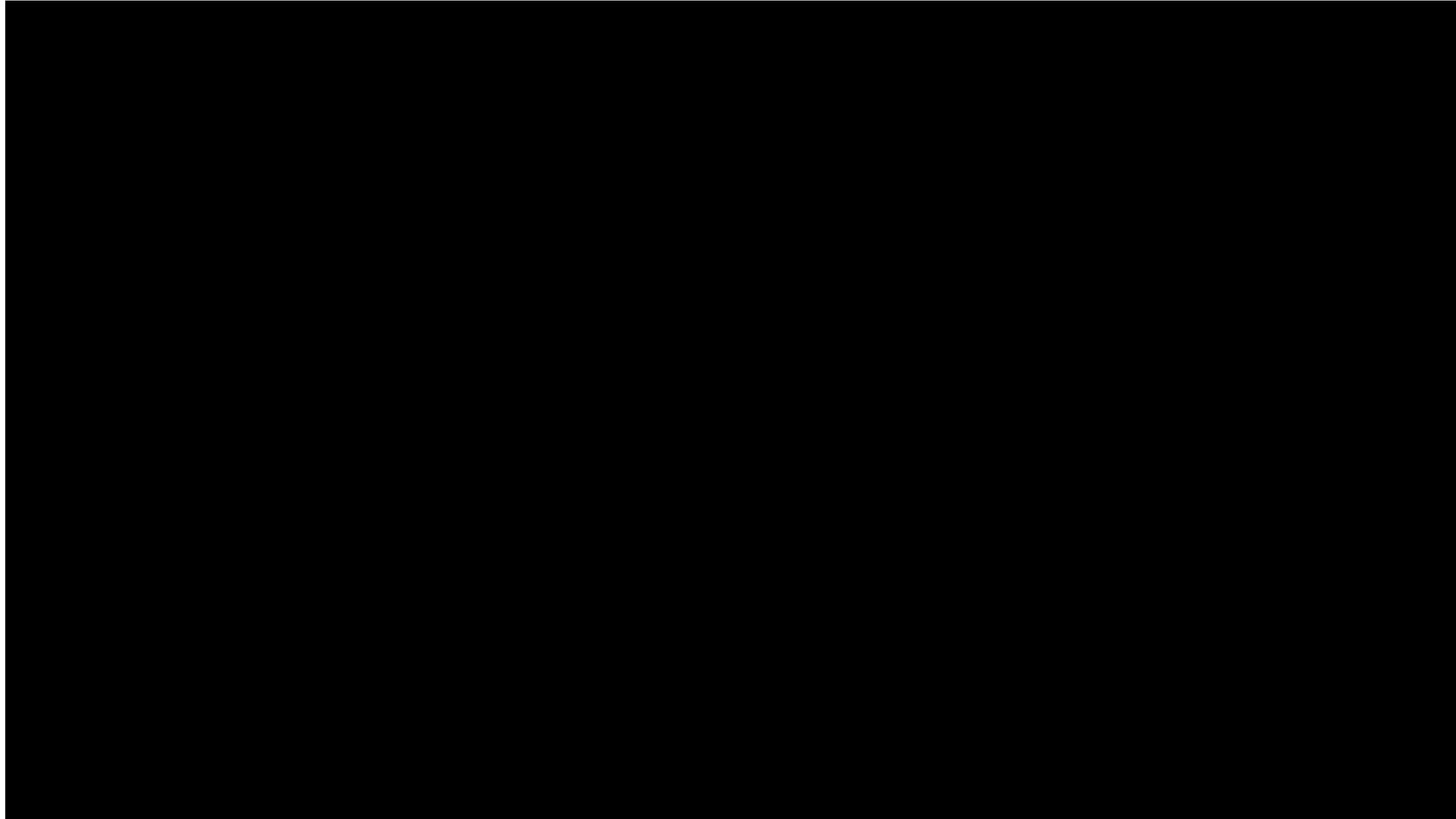
- Work closely with Cultural Keepers
- Cultural lens to support participants and Trauma Informed
- Trainings and Education (ie. Being an Ally in Indian Country w/ NWI, Wellbriety, White Bison, staff library focuses on cultural specific books and housing)
- Encourage staff to attend Pow Wows and Cultural Events (ie. Weekly Elders' Dinner, Community Meetings, Monthly Veterans Luncheon).
- Table at Events for outreach, new referrals, client engagement, and provide resources
- Food Box Deliveries
- Elders Resource Fair and Luncheon (work closely w/ the Elders Team and Clinical Services)

Honoring NARA Northwest and Elders



Supporting Community Members

Elders during COVID pandemic
and ongoing support



Outreach Programs

Outreach Supervisor
BIPOC CHAT Workers
Shelter Inreach Coordinator
Intense Street Outreach Coordinator
Homeless Veterans Outreach
Mobile Housing Team working with Families

Coordinating with NARA NW sites, Coordinated Entry Team, Participate in the PIP count, Community Outreach Teams (BIPOC CHAT teams), Walk In Hours for Assessments, Shelter Referrals, and word of mouth.



March 13- Outreach Engagement with Various NARA NW Teams in Downtown Portland.

Collaboration is key! PSH Site-based Projects

Cultural-Specific Housing with NAYA

- Nesika Illahee: Residents Services and PSH Specialist
- Hayu Tilixam: PSH Specialist working w/ 9 families
- Tistilal Village: opening fall of 2024, PSH Specialist and Peer on site working w/ 20 households

Collaboration with Community Partners

- Tukwila Springs: 3 PSH Specialists working w/ 48 Elders
- Hazel Heights: PSH Specialist working w/ 22 households
- The Joyce: located downtown Portland, 20 individuals
- The Starlight: located downtown Portland, 20 individuals



PSH Scattered Site Programs

- HUD PSH Program
 - HOPE project- collaboration w/ agency partners and started the Coordinated Entry.
 - VASH- working with 30 BIPOC Veterans
 - Youth- working with Youth Continuum Partners (NAYA) and goal to house 20 households
 - Coc NOFO PSH Unsheltered and Stability Voucher Program
- Elders Housing Program- Metro 300 to 45 RLRA Vouchers
- ACT RLRA Vouchers
- Expansion in Washington County- 40 RLRA vouchers and 20 RRH placements
- HATSS collaboration to Housing Retention Program

Supportive Services

What makes services culturally specific?

- Transportation and navigate the city transition
- Connection with culture and building community
- Understanding the impacts of historical trauma
- Staff who represent the population being served
- Focus on spirituality and ceremony
- Bringing to light representing a culturally specific agency and follow the mission
- Traditional medicine for participants
- Take the time to listen

Supportive Services

Housing First Principles

- Culture is key to health and healing
- Recovery-oriented (not required)
- Focus not just on individual, services include entire household and/or close support network
- Community-building
- Collaboration with community partners
- Assertive Engagement
- Non-judgmental
- Trauma-Informed; person-centered
- Collaborate with Coordinated Entry system; advocacy for equitable coordinated entry system; advocate for systems that don't exclude Native American and BIPOC communities

Supportive Services

Housing First Values fit with traditional cultural values:

- self-determination
- serve the most vulnerable first
- everyone deserves dignity and a home

Why Housing First works:

- High retention rates; low rates of rehousing or turnover
- Ability to link to other culturally specific services (behavioral health, medical, dental, vocational, educational, etc.)
- Provides a choice within the larger homeless service system
- Better reaches some individuals who “fall through the cracks” within a mainstream housing first system

Wrapping Up

Identify challenges:

- Differences in defining who is most vulnerable
- Need to prioritize services for Elders, Veterans, and Families
- Lack of resources (can include ADF housing, subsidized units, clinical service capacity)
- Document readiness and applying for housing opportunities

Conclusions:

- Culturally specific housing services addresses equity
- Provide unique needs and learn about community needs
- Community advocacy, collaborations, and partnerships

Questions?