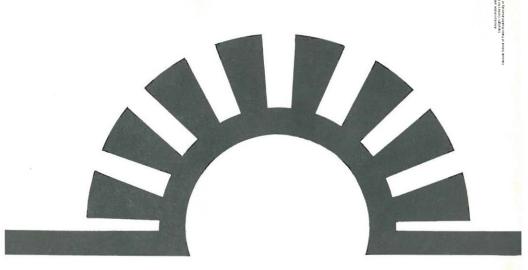
new directions in prevention among american indian and alaska native communities

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH This proceedings document is the fourth issuance within the Primary Prevention Publication Series. The purpose of this series is to disseminate and exchange information on primary prevention activities in the mental health field; stimulate the development of primary prevention projects in mental health, public health, and other human service facilities; encourage the training of mental health workers in aspects of primary prevention; and promote research on primary prevention issues. This series includes scientific monographs, conference proceedings, commissioned papers, and other materials, thereby meeting a need for information about primary prevention. Publications in this series will be issued as materials and manuscripts are developed. The views expressed in these publications are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the National Institute of Mental Health or the Department of Health and Human Services.

Previous issuances within the National Institute of Mental Health Primary Prevention Publication Series:

- (1) Primary Prevention: An Idea Whose Time Has Come
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- (3) Preventive Intervention in Schizophrenia: Are We Ready?

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To my parents,

Barbara and Spero, Sr.

FOREWORD

The past five years have witnessed a growing concern with addressing the mental health needs of underserved and unserved populations, particularly minorities, women, and children. Efforts have proceeded to make mental health services more accessible and available for such special populations. The workshop proceedings reported in this monograph document the initial effort by the Office of Prevention, organized at NIMH in the Fall of 1979, to focus on prevention concerns related to special populations, in this instance American Indians and Alaska Natives

This workshop emerged from an initial consultation between staff of the NIMH Office of Prevention and members of the National Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research during the final day of calendar year 1980. Several options were discussed about developing prevention activities which were consistent with the missions of the organizational components involved and of sufficient priority from a prevention perspective among persons most knowledgeable about mental health issues in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. From the outset, the proposed workshop was a joint venture between two NIMH administrative components—the Center for Studies of Minority Group Mental Health within the Division of Special Mental Health Programs, and the Office of Prevention. Collaborative efforts included joint funding and program consultation.

The contents of this monograph are the product of the second research planning workshop collaboratively organized and sponsored by the NIMH Office of Prevention. A research planning workshop is a key initial step in the process of program planning and program development. Operationally, the research planning workshop mechanism calls for convening a group of about a dozen research scientists and related professionals for a two to two-and-one-half day period to discuss in depth a specific research problem or set of research issues. The agenda of each research planning workshop includes consideration of the following areas:

- (a) a review of the state-of-the-art of research knowledge with respect to the problem area on which the workshop is focusing,
- (b) identification of the gaps in research knowledge and promising areas for further research,

- (c) indication as to the readiness of the field to pursue preventive intervention research on that specific subject,
- (d) delineation of a prioritized research agenda for the support of both basic and preventive intervention research, and
- (e) preparation of a set of recommendations to NIMH and to other groups or organizations about research concerns related to the specific theme of the workshop.

This monograph represents one tangible outcome from the research planning workshop. The intent of the Office of Prevention is to produce a monograph from each research planning workshop in order to make the information generated at the workshop readily available to the field, and thereby promote knowledge transfer and information dissemination.

Finally, the workshop mechanism may be perceived as a "pipeline" for program development in the sense that where the experts indicate the readiness of the field for preventive interventions, budget planning may proceed to set aside funds and to invite applications in that specific area relevant to preventive intervention research.

The papers in this monograph and the accompanying discussion sections, as well as the recommendations, offer a comprehensive agenda for prevention research directed to American Indian and Alaska Native populations, as well as new, thoughtful approaches for research efforts directed to other special populations. The rapidly accumulating prevention research knowledge base is significantly enriched by the material contained in this monograph.

Stephen E. Goldston, Ed.D., M.S.P.H. Director, Office of Prevention National Institute of Mental Health August 1982

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume was made possible through the effort and support of a number of people who deserve special acknowledgment. I would like to begin by thanking the contributors for their diligence in preparing the articles presented herein and for their ready acceptance of editorial modifications.

During our initial meeting in December, 1980, Stephen Goldston, Director, Office of Prevention, suggested that a workshop and publication of this nature might be possible. Over the ensuing months, with his support and encouragement, both became a reality. James Ralph, Director, and Richard Lopez, Psychologist, Center for Studies of Minority Group Mental Health, were also instrumental in bringing this effort to fruition. Funds were provided through both offices and administered by the Center for Epidemiologic Studies, Grant Number 1 RO1 MH33280-01.

James Shore, Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Oregon Health Sciences University, provided unflagging support, intellectual as well as administrative, throughout the planning and implementation of the workshop and during the preparation of this document. Norman Dinges, a friend and colleague, contributed to the workshop's focus and lent an understanding ear to my frustration with the problems that surfaced.

William Hanna, who recently retired from his position as Deputy Director, Office of Mental Health Programs, Indian Health Service, encouraged prevention activities among American Indian and Alaska Native communities and showed his continuing support by ensuring IHS representation at this workshop.

Ellie Tatum assisted with many of the workshop arrangements, contributed to certain aspects of the editorial process, and was a wellspring of enthusiasm. Likewise, Ann Goddard was of immense help during the workshop and provided editorial assistance on preliminary drafts of several articles. Dianne Kelso generated valuable bibliographic material that aided the participants in preparing for the workshop and in writing their papers. Linda Grounds provided statistical consultation. Lori Gill devoted considerable time and effort to typing (and retyping) manuscripts, and endured innumerable editorial revisions.

Mary Jane Lockington, Sharon Prange, Beth Johnson, and Rosalie

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Donais, Printing Department, Oregon Health Sciences University, were very gracious in dealing with a novice editor and took welcome interest in the quality of this document.

Lastly, a special thanks to my wife, Linda, and children, Trisha and Anthony, for bearing with me during the many hours that were spent working on this and which took away from our time together.

Spero M. Manson August, 1982

CONTENTS

Page

FOREWARDv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTSvii
INTRODUCTION
PART 1: RESEARCH
Prevention research among American Indian and Alaska
Native communities: Charting future courses for theory and practice in mental health
Spero M. Manson, Ellie Tatum, and Norman G. Dinges 1
Discussion
Self-perception and primary prevention for American Indians
Harriet P. Lefley 65
Discussion
Primary prevention as it relates to traditionality and empirical measures of social deviance
Gerald Mohatt and Arthur W. Blue 91
Discussion
Mental health promotion with Navajo families
Norman G. Dinges
Discussion
PART 2: TRAINING 145
American Indian mental health and the role of training for prevention
Joseph E. Trimble
Discussion
A cultural network model: Perspectives for adolescent services and para- professional training
Yvonne Red Horse
Discussion
New roads to coping: Siouan sobriety
Bea Medicine
Discussion
PART 3: SERVICES
American Indian community mental health: A primary prevention strategy
John Red Horse
Discussion

Project Nak-nu-we-sha: A preventive intervention in child abuse and neglect among a Pacific Northwest Indian community	
Maxine Robbins	233
Discussion	249
Psychiatric consultation to an Indian tribal court	
Ben Ezra Green	253
Discussion	264
Otitis media and American Indians: Prevalence, etiology, psychoeducational consequences, prevention, and intervention	
Damian McShane	265
Discussion	295
PART 4: EVALUATION	299
Evaluating primary prevention programs: Models and measures	
Morton Beiser	301
Discussion	.322
Examples of evaluation research in delivering preventive mental health services to Indian youth	
James H. Shore and George Keepers	325
Discussion	338
Getting it together at adolescence: Case studies of positive socializing environments for Eskimo youth	
Judith Kleinfeld	341
Discussion	365
PART 5: RECOMMENDATIONS AND EPILOGUE	369
Recommendations	371
Epilogue	
Bernard Bloom	377
THE DADTICIDANTS	395