Indian Country and Alzheimer’s Disease

Dave Baldridge, Executive Director
International Association for Indigenous Aging
August 14, 2018:
Administration for Community Living
A.D. in America . . .

Someone diagnosed every 16 seconds

. . . That’s 16 million people by 2050!
We’re afraid of it . . .

96% of Americans have heard of it.

More than 1 in 3 Americans is afraid of getting it.

2 of every 3 cases are women.

Three years ago, 700,000 people 65+ died of A.D.
It’s a little expensive . . .

2015 costs: $226 billion, half paid by Medicare.

Per person Medicare spending = 3X other seniors.

By 2050, 1 of 3 Medicare dollars will go to dementias.
Unpaid care . . .

More than 15 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with AD or other dementias
Alzheimer’s in Indian Country

"Warriors are not what you think of as warriors. The warrior is not someone who fights, because no one has the right to take another life. The warrior, for us, is one who sacrifices himself for the good of others.

His task is to take care of the elderly, the defenseless, those who can not provide for themselves, and above all, the children, the future of humanity."

~ Sitting Bull
A lotta’ Indians . . .

Population growing 3X national rate
Led by elder cohort growth

By 2050, AIANS 65+ will triple.

AIANs 85+ will increase seven-fold, from 42,000 to 300,000!

Title VI will be among the first Tribal programs affected.
A “Native” view of mental health?

Do we lack a vocabulary to talk about Alzheimer’s and related dementias (ADRD)?
If there is, so what!

A question for AIAN caregivers . . .

When grandpa’ pees on the carpet, is it easier to cope with if its an Indian rug?
Public health and ADRD among AIANs
The Healthy Brain Initiative

Alzheimer’s Association
CDC Healthy Aging Initiative
Previous Road Map

The Healthy Brain Initiative
The Public Health Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013–2018
A Road Map for Indian Country
Indian Country webinars
More than 40 TVI directors offered their thoughts about ADRD in tribal communities.
We’re not familiar with the HBI . . .
Alzheimer’s a growing problem for our families...
We may not acknowledge the disease...
Providers need more education . . .
Cultural issues play a role . . .
It’s a family matter . . .
Lack of privacy . . .

Embarrassing . . . It’s a closely-held family concern.
The approach matters . . .
No systematic approach . . .
The Savvy Caregiver for Indian Country

Neil Henderson, Choctaw
Tribal leadership needed . . .
Thanks!

Dave Baldridge (Cherokee), Executive Director
William F. Benson Chairman
International Assn. for Indigenous Aging
505/239-4793
dave@iasquared.org
Thanks!

Dave Baldridge (Cherokee), Executive Director
International Association for Indigenous Aging

505/239-4793
dave@iasquared.org