

*Lessons from the Expressions of Culture in Tribal  
Child Welfare Work project*

# **Exploring Qualitative Interviewing and Analysis Techniques to Yield Deep and Nuanced Findings**

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# This Journey



- How do tribal child welfare programs incorporate culture into their approach and service delivery?
- Findings that emerged were often superficial or incomplete
  - *... and different from what I observed in the field*
- Were our qualitative data collection & analysis processes capable of capturing the subtleties of culture?
- Revisited studies through a meta & synthesizing lens

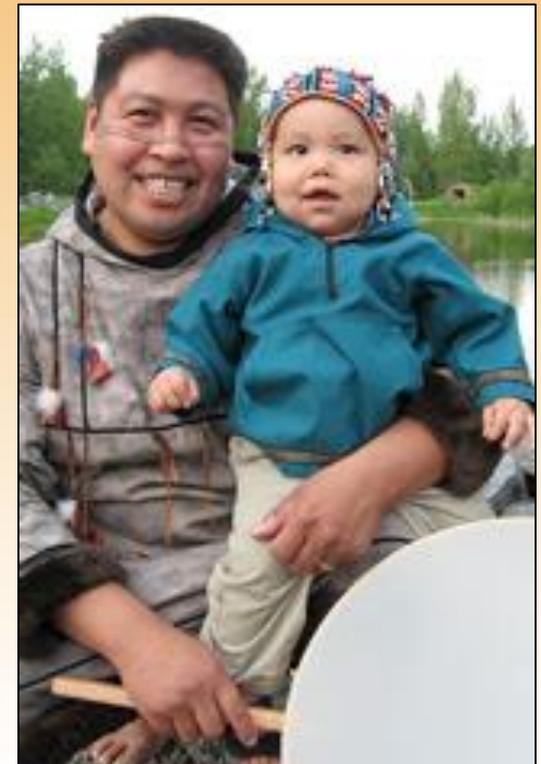
# This Journey



- Within their narratives and for most interview questions, interviewees were actually sharing ways they incorporate culture.
- For these individuals, culture was inherent and integrated.
- Identifying expressions of culture required us to look in different ways and in different places.
  - We'll talk a little today about how to do this

# Findings

- Tribal child welfare practice is built upon a foundation of cultural values
- Programs utilize a distinctly cultural definition of Native child well-being that is different from the definition used by states
- Four practice intentions tied to culture & community guide workers
- Workers also utilize two specialized cultural practice skills



# Findings



## TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE Practice Framework





## **Methodological Processes for Deeper and More Nuanced Understanding**

- To have deep and nuanced findings you need to start with good rich data (interviews and observations) . . .
  - and give your analysis time to fully take shape



## **Qualitative Data Collection— Interviewing and Observing**

- **Can you ask the right 1-2 questions that will open the flood gates?**
- **Stilling [or bracketing] your inner-QUAN data collector**
- **Being comfortable with a less structured interview protocol**



## **Qualitative Data Collection— Interviewing and Observing**

- **Trusting yourself as a researcher to be able to go with the interview encounter**
- **Grounding yourself in the context and subject area**
- **Combining observation with interviews whenever possible**





## Qualitative Data Analysis

- Fracturing your data less
- Do you see meaning better from the whole or the parts?
- Moving away from 1-2 word themes to “findings statements”





## **Qualitative Data Analysis**

- **Not stopping the analysis prematurely**
- **Shifting from overarching themes to nuanced story telling**



# **Time for Discussion and Learning Together**



# Contact Information

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