



Historical Trauma and Its Relation to COVID

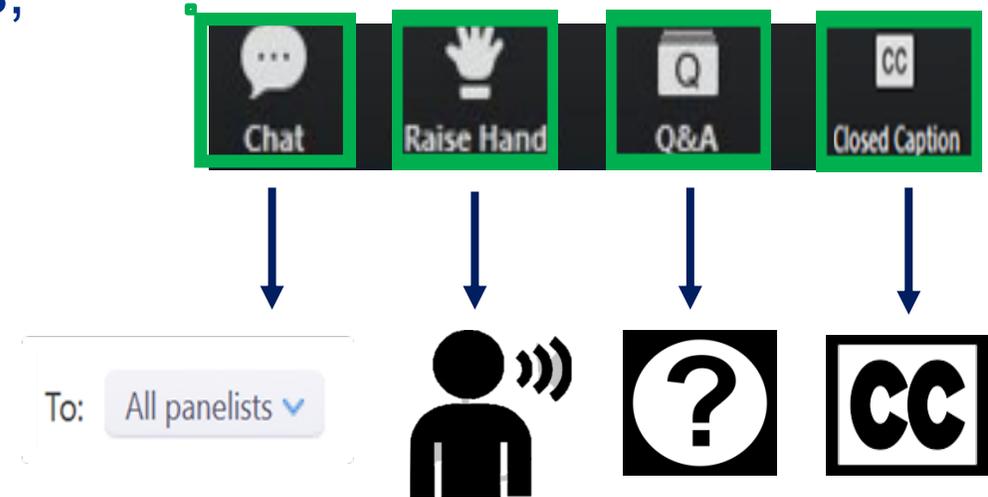
May 23, 2023

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Uniting Nursing Homes In Tribal Excellence

Historical Trauma and Its Relation to COVID

May 23, 2023



Historical Trauma and Its Relation to COVID



Reflecting on the resurfacing of historical trauma in elders due to similar feelings of isolation and depression experienced during COVID-19

Objectives

1. Highlight the importance of giving elders a voice as they deal with feelings of helplessness and isolation
2. Discuss Native American ways of fostering community engagement and togetherness
3. Adopt a consistent approach to building trust



Presenters



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Melissa Martinez
UNITE Board Member
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Background

Brief history of
Native American
boarding schools

Background: The Impact of Historical Trauma on Older Native Americans

Specific mental health impacts faced by trauma survivors now in nursing homes

Examples of how these experiences have led to isolation and depression

The Intersection of COVID-19 and Historical Trauma

- How COVID-19 has exacerbated existing mental health issues
- Specific examples/case studies



Giving Elders a Voice

- Importance of listening to elders' experiences and feelings
- Ways to facilitate this communication and provide emotional support



Potential Solutions

- Staff buy-in
- Staff training
- Consistency and follow-through
- Educating new staff
- Power struggles
- Empowering the elders

References

Trafzer, C. E., Keller, J. A., & Sisquoc, L. (Eds.). (2006). *Boarding school blues: Revisiting American Indian educational experiences*.

- Explores the broad impacts of American Indian boarding schools, acknowledging both positive and negative outcomes

Taylor, M. P. (2020). Changed Forever, Volume 1: American Indian Boarding-School Literature. Arnold Krupat. *MELUS Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, 45(2). <https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlaa008>

- Analysis of the evolving discourse on boarding-school studies from the 1990s to present

Gregg, M. T. (2016). The long-term effects of American Indian boarding schools. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2776417>

- Discusses the long-term effects of boarding school experience on economic development within American Indian reservations

Miller, G. (2023). Reverberations of boarding school trauma in upstate New York. *Comparative Woman*, 2. <https://doi.org/10.31390/comparativewoman.2.1.05>

- Examines the legacy of boarding schools in upstate New York, focusing on the cultural impact and trauma within the Haudenosaunee people



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Q&A



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