



Walking the Path Together

Medicine Wheel and Danger Assessment

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Presenters

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Medicine Wheel

- The Medicine Wheel in the Native Culture represents the unending cycle of life and it contains standard teachings for all indigenous cultures.
- There may be different variations depending on which cultural background or tribe we come from.
- However, the similarities that are commonly found in the Medicine Wheel are the four quadrants within the wheel.



Four Quadrants

- In the Native Culture, the number four is considered very sacred and the following examples provide an explanation why:
- The four elements:
Air, Water, Fire and Earth
- The four directions:
North, South, East and West
- The four seasons:
Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring
- The four races of humankind:
White, Native, African American and Asian



Four Quadrants

- The four types of animal species: The four legged, the swimmers, the winged ones and the crawlers.
- The four stages of the human life cycle: Baby, youth, adult and Elder.
- The four parts in a human being: Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.



Colors

- The four colors commonly used to shade each quadrant of the Medicine Wheel: White, Red, Yellow and Green.
- Other cultures use different colors such as black or blue and they sometimes coincide with the four races.



Teachers

- Teachers of the Medicine Wheel will always emphasize the way they teach it, is the way they were taught.
- This is kind of like the unspoken indicator that each culture or tribe has their own unique way of teaching the Medicine Wheel.



Danger Assessment

- The Danger Assessment developed by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell is to assess the risk of lethality for women experiencing domestic violence.
- Eagle Feather Workers from the “Walking the Path Together” project have revised the format of the assessment so it fits within a medicine wheel context.



The Medicine Wheel

- Is a model that is accepted by all aboriginal people.
- Can be used in situations such as a Healing Plan for a Community, group or on an individual basis.
- When used on an individual basis, it represents the person's journey. So we begin with the Self in the middle and the four quadrants represent the Emotional, Mental, Physical and Mental.



Concepts

- When using the Medicine Wheel to teach about family violence and abuse, we use 3 concepts:
- **One Aspect of your being affects the other:**
“we are holistic human beings and one part of our being affects the other”
- **Focus on the Interconnectedness:**
How we perceive the world will be based on our beliefs.
- **For every action there's a reaction:**
This is about cause and effect.



DA & Medicine Wheel

- Having the assessment in a medicine wheel context allows the Eagle Feather Worker to have a broader picture of her situation.
- It also allows the client to see visually how the client is being affected.
- From this they gain knowledge that the abuse does in fact effect their whole being, As a result, they are better equipped to make positive changes.



DA & Medicine Wheel

- The second part of the assessment was the blank medicine wheel.
- This is done after the clients do the 12 month calendar and the D.A.
- The crisis worker would then take the information and graph it or score it according to the amount of number of times the incidents occurred.



DA & Medicine Wheel

- After plotting the number of times, we can then draw a circle, as everything is connected and that will give us a clearer understanding of her situation.





