Youth Advisory Council

About the NCUIH Youth Advisory Council

With the support through SAMSHA, NCUIH is developing a community-driven comprehensive urban youth suicide and substance abuse response plan for urban Indian communities to provide prevention and recovery support to AI/AN young people under 24 years of age. The 2018-2019 NCUIH Youth Advisory Council promotes peer level awareness and support for youth and young adult AI/ANs living in urban areas. Youth Council members promote awareness of substance misuse, trauma, suicide prevention, and mental health among peers on a local and national level through a social media campaign.

2018 - 2019 Youth Advisory Council Members

“No one is going to do this work for us, and if we don’t do it now, no one will.”
- Adon Vazquez, NCUIH Washington Summit, April 23, 2019

Faith Bowman
Milwaukee, WI
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Nation

Lala Forrest
Shasta Lake, CA
Pit River

Abby Jessell
Stillwater, OK
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Shoshanna Johnson
Norman, OK
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Adon Vazquez
Dearborn Heights, MI
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Mental Health and AI/AN Youth

Depression and Suicide in Urban AI/AN Youth

Suicide is the 2nd Leading cause of Death Among Urban AI/AN Youth

Causes of Depression
- isolation from tribal lands and identity
- lack of adequate mental health care
- financial instability
- geographic distance from other AI/AN youth

Drug Misuse

Current Illicit Drug Use Reported Among AI/AN Youth

Illicit drugs include:
- marijuana, cocaine, heroine, hallucinogens and inhalants

Endnotes
1 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2012b). Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Volume I. Summary of national findings. Rockville, MD.


AI/AN - American Indians and Alaska Natives

For more information on the Youth Council, please contact: Sebouh Kouyoumjian, skouyoumjian@ncuih.org
924 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003