

The Healing Forest: The Entire African American Community as the Recovery Center

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Great Lakes (HHS Region 5)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Healing Forest

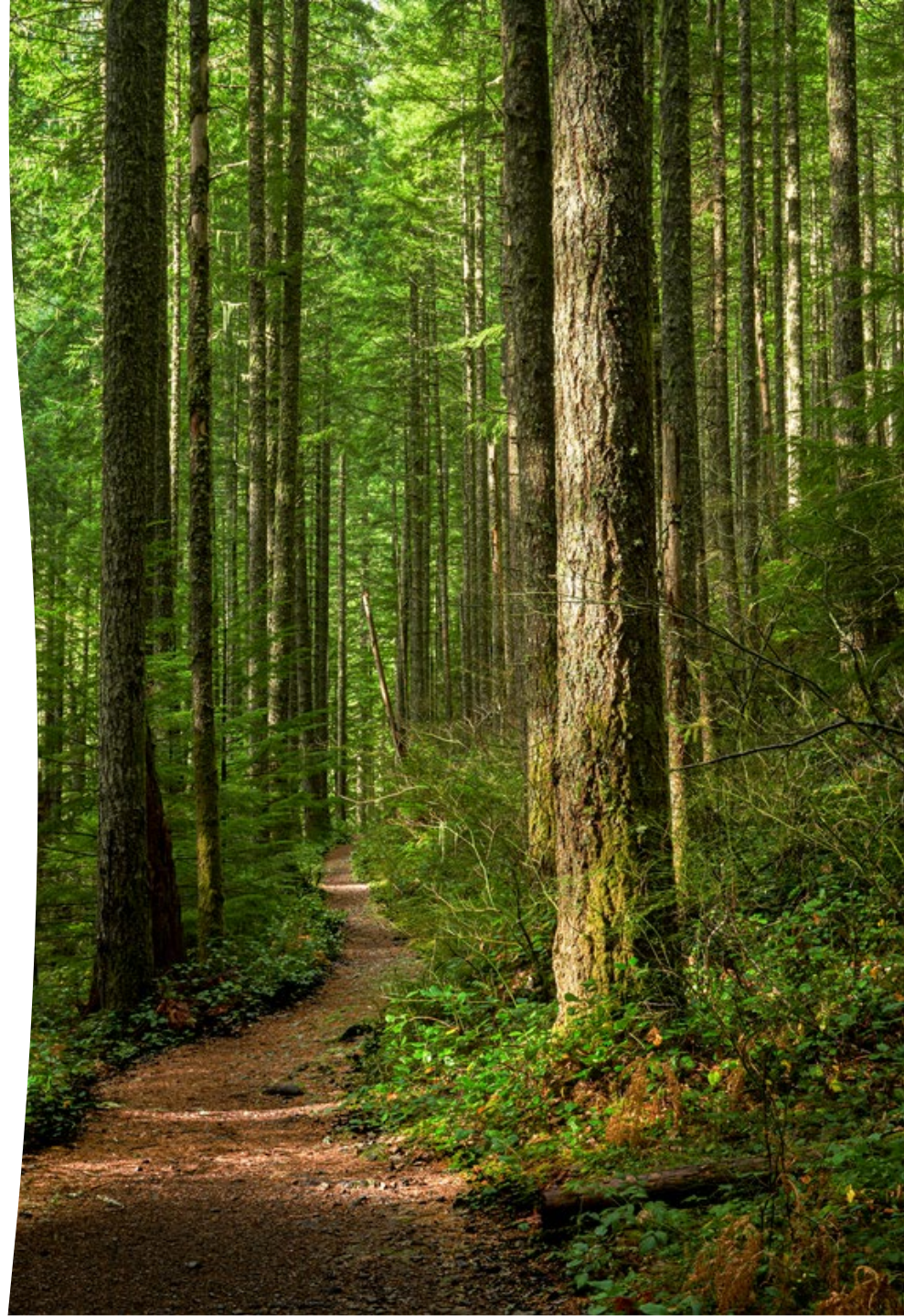
- Don Coyhis, White Bison
- www.whitebison.org



Photo: whitebison.org

Don Coyhis:

- *“Suppose you have 100 acres full of sick trees who want to get well. If each sick tree leaves the forest to find wellness and then returns to the forest, they get sick again from the infection of the rest of the trees. The Elders taught us that to treat the sick trees, you must treat the whole forest. You must create a healing forest. If not, the trees will just keep getting sick again. The community forest is now filled with alcoholic trees, drug-addicted trees, co-dependency trees, domestic violence trees, and trees with mental illness. The soil in which those trees are growing is missing the ceremonies, the songs, the stories, the language and the wisdom of our Elders.”*



The
Healing
Forest:
The African
American
Community
as the
Recovery
Center

Families

Treatment centers

Faith-based organizations

Other social service organizations

Persons in long-term recovery

The formerly incarcerated

Employers

Concerned citizens

African
American
Risk
Factors for
Substance
Use
Disorders

Urban Communities

Rural Communities



African Americans in Urban Communities:

An urban community is a city or town with 2,500 or more residents.

Urban Communities

A word cloud of urban communities. The word 'BRONX' is the largest and most prominent, centered in purple. Other words are arranged around it in various sizes and colors: 'WATTS' (red, top center), 'ENGLEWOOD' (light blue, top left), 'INGLEWOOD' (dark blue, top right), 'DETROIT' (light blue, middle left), 'FLINT' (yellow-green, middle left), 'CHICAGO' (dark blue, middle left), 'MILWAUKEE' (red, middle right), 'CLEVELAND' (red, middle right), 'HARLEM' (dark purple, bottom center), 'GARY' (yellow-green, bottom right), and 'COMPTON' (light blue, bottom center).

BRONX

WATTS
ENGLEWOOD
INGLEWOOD
DETROIT
FLINT
CHICAGO
MILWAUKEE
CLEVELAND
HARLEM
GARY
COMPTON

Urban
Communities:
Risk Factors for
African Americans

Overcrowding

High unemployment

Easy access to drugs

Community violence

Fear of being dead soon

Urban Risk Factors

Gangs

Trauma

Felony arrests

Police brutality

Gentrification

■

Gentrification...



More Risk Factors:

Poorly performing
schools

“Haves” and “Have Nots”



Detroit



Photo: Flickr.com

Risk
Factor:
Poverty

Job Loss

The image features a large, stylized logo for General Motors (GM). The letters 'G' and 'M' are rendered in a bold, three-dimensional, metallic silver font with a slight gradient and a dark outline. Below the 'GM' is a thick, horizontal silver bar. The entire logo is set against a solid blue background. The logo is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide.

Photo: Flickr.com

Result

Bankruptc

NEXT EXIT 

Flint, Michigan



Rural Communities: Risk Factors for African Americans



20% of African Americans live in rural America



Last hired, first fired (during recessions)



Harder for African American farmers to get loans (14% to 2%)



Lower union representation



More arrests and criminal justice involvement

Rural Risk Factors

Voter suppression

Poverty

Invisibility

Northern gangs

Crisis

Shifted from a focus on acute care treatment to creating a healing forest



Timeline

- Crack cocaine crisis of the 1980's
- The criminalization of addiction
- Increased child welfare involvement
- Methamphetamine crisis
- Opioid epidemic today



NOW

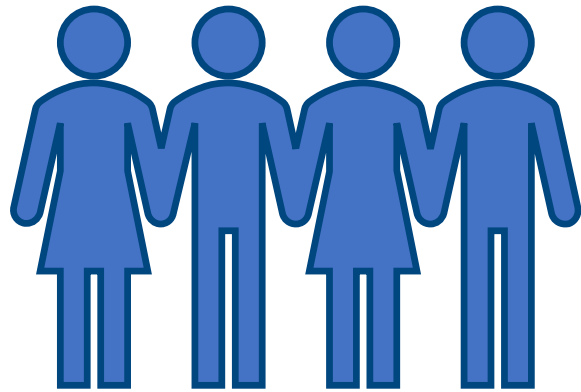
Healing Forests in African American Communities



Detroit Recovery Project

- Recovery anchored throughout the city of Detroit
- Partnership city of Detroit and state of Michigan
- Recovery Coaching
- Ongoing recovery support anchored in African American communities
- Sober Sports, recreation
- Recovery Housing
- Recovery Community Organization (RCO)





Recovery Community Organizations

A Recovery Community Organization (RCO) is led by persons in recovery, their family members, friends and allies. RCOs provide a combination of long-term peer-based recovery supports, community education, grassroots mobilization and advocacy to support recovery. *The sole mission of an RCO is to mobilize resources within and outside of a community to increase the prevalence and quality of long-term recovery within a community* (Valentine, White and Taylor, 20--)

Healing Forest, Continued



Interdenominational Partnerships



One Church One

Addict

Inmate

School

Chicago Recovery Communities Coalition



- Recovery Coaching (westside Chicago)
- Prevention program
- ROSC Council on the westside
- NARCAN
- Employment opportunities

Miracle Village, Gary, IN



SERVICES
PROVIDED IN
PUBLIC
HOUSING



AFFILIATION
WITH MENTAL
HEALTH,
MEDICAL
HEALTH, AND
CHILDCARE

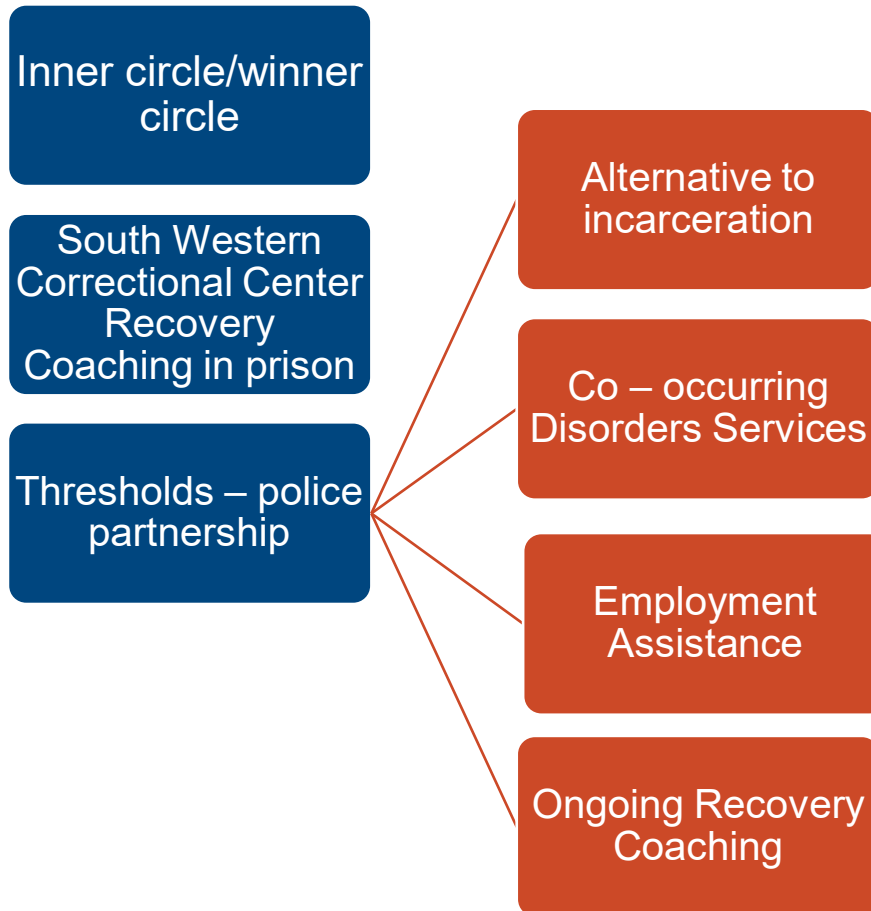


THE USE
OF
RECOVERY
COACHES



HELP WITH
EMPLOYMENT

Healing Forest: Criminal Justice





Glide Church, San Francisco



LET LOVE LEAD!



Photos: www.glide.org

“Radically inclusive”

2,000 members – 1,600 in recovery

Rallies in the community without anonymity

16 generations of recovery

Special programming for men and women

Recovery Oriented System of Care Council (ROSC)

Cross-section of the entire African American Community working together to create a healing forest to promote recovery:

- The clergy
- Church members
- Families
- Employers
- Treatment centers



ROSC Councils:

Persons in recovery

Criminal justice personnel

Other social service
organizations

www.museumofafricanamericanaddictionsrecovery.org

Online Museum of African American Addictions, Treatment and Recovery

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WELCOME The purpose of this website is to serve as a single location where individuals who are interested in information about addictions, treatment, and recovery among African Americans can be found. The site contains historical data, scholarly articles, educational videos, music and DVDs.