



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2009

Native American Suicide Prevention and Awareness Coalition

The Northern Arizona Native American Suicide Prevention & Awareness Coalition and the Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) welcome the **2009 MBrace Life Summit** to The Lodge at Cliff Castle in Camp Verde, AZ on September 25 & 26, 2009. Focused on developing strategies that build capacity in communities to reduce suicide by identifying natural assets and resources throughout the community, **MBrace Life** has gained national recognition for its efforts to prevent and raise awareness of the most serious issue facing Native American communities: suicide.

The **MBrace Life Summit** aims to:

- Bridge the gap between action and practice
- Connect people who care about positive change
- Promote healthy community recovery
- Develop a strategic plan to sustain the effort of reducing suicide in local communities.

Background:

The Native American Suicide Prevention and Awareness Coalition was developed in response to the serious problem of suicide among American Indians in the five-county region of Northern Arizona. The coalition is a collaborative partnership designed to establish a common ground that encourages interaction, constructive discussion and exchange of ideas among youth, elders, community leaders, practitioners and professionals in developing and implementing strategies that are most likely to succeed in tribal communities.

Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) has worked in a collaborative partnership with tribal communities across northern Arizona including but is not limited to: Hopi Substance Abuse Prevention Center, Tuba City Unified School District, Yavapai-Prescott Apache Educational Director, Fort Mojave Social Services, Navajo Regional Behavioral Health Authority, Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Hualapai Social Services, Hopi Junior/ Senior High School, University of Arizona Hardrock Youth Wellness & Prevention Program, Department of Economic Security Rehabilitation Services (DES/RSA), Bureau of Indian Affairs for Kaibab Band of Paiute, Fort Apache Behavioral Health, Kayenta Indian Health Services with additional support from Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University and Arizona State University.

For more information on the **2009 MBrace Life Summit**, contact Rachel Peterson at NARBHA at 928-774-7128 or email communications@narbha.org. For inquiries

about NARBHA, contact Christina Mencuccini, Communication Manager, at (928)774-7128 or christina.mencuccini@narbha.org.

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