

Effective Implementation of the Teaching Family Model with Indigenous Persons and Families

The Teaching Family Model (TFM) is an evidence-based approach which is fully integrated at both the individual and the organizational level. The TFM provides effective, individualized and trauma-informed treatment services to children, youth, adults, and families. The TFM is a philosophy and practice of care and treatment that prioritizes therapeutic relationships with caregivers as the primary conduit of effective treatment. It is strength-based, comprehensive model that builds positive change while remaining focused on the holistic development of the person served. The TFM has become known for its high-quality standards and implementation fidelity. Developed in 1967, the TFM is currently implemented in six countries.

The model has been adapted for effective implementation in various service deliveries including foster care, schools, and in-home family support. Recently, work has been done to adapt the model for culturally appropriate use with the Indigenous community in Alberta Canada and this presentation will describe the process of model adaptation and development while simultaneously holding the integrity of traditional Indigenous teachings and the fidelity of the Teaching Family Model. Discussion will describe the work done with Indigenous Elders in the ‘marrying’ of knowledge from two parallel and credible frameworks to create a new approach to working with Indigenous individuals and families.

Presenters:



michele@teaching-family.org

Michele Boguslofski, Teaching Family Association

Michele Boguslofski graduated from The University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Science in Resource Development. She has held several executive roles over an impressive 30+ years of proven leadership and performance management. She currently holds the position of Executive Director at the Teaching Family Association, where she is responsible for leading the international organization in its work to ensure effective, individualized, trauma-informed and dignified care and services to all individuals, families, and partnerships served.



aoostenbrink@closetohome.com

Arlene Oostenbrink, Director of Programs:

Arlene has been with Closer to Home for over 23 years and has been part of the Executive Team for the past 8 years. Based on her extensive history managing and directing all TFM program service deliveries, Arlene brings significant clinical, programmatic and outcome- focused expertise to her role as Associate Director.

Arlene supervises all program managers and their staff, oversees clinical practices of child and family interventions, manages training and evaluation activities, works closely with funders, collaborates with other agencies and partners, develops new proposals and initiatives and provides her expertise and knowledge into the major decisions for the organization.

Arlene is a qualified evaluator and peer reviewer of TFA organizations at an international level and is an expert consultant in supporting other agencies to implement the Teaching-Family Model.