

USING MEDICINE WHEEL TEACHING AS A MODEL IN CRISIS COUNSELING

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The purpose of this article is to demonstrate how a therapist may apply medicine wheel teaching as a crisis counseling method within universities. A case study will be presented in which this method was used at a campus that experienced three student deaths within two months. Among these three deaths, two female students committed suicide and one male student died in an auto accident. This campus had never before experienced multiple student deaths in such a short period of time; therefore, the campus therapist took a different approach, a holistic approach, to providing post-trauma counseling during this crisis. The therapist involved was originally trained in marriage and family counseling, and then later was trained as a shamanic healer. In this case study and in this paper, campus crisis counseling has been expanded to encompass aspects of environmental psychology and indigenous tribal history sharing and ceremony. The healing on this stricken campus was achieved, in part, by initiating healing rituals and by increasing land consciousness (i.e., showing respect for the land and the people who came before). Further suggestions about the use of medicine wheel teaching in school counseling will be discussed.

Keywords: medicine wheel, indigenous healing ceremony, environmental psychology, shaman, campus crisis counselling.