

Minnesota Department of Human Services

CJI Child Protection Conference: “Connections Matter”

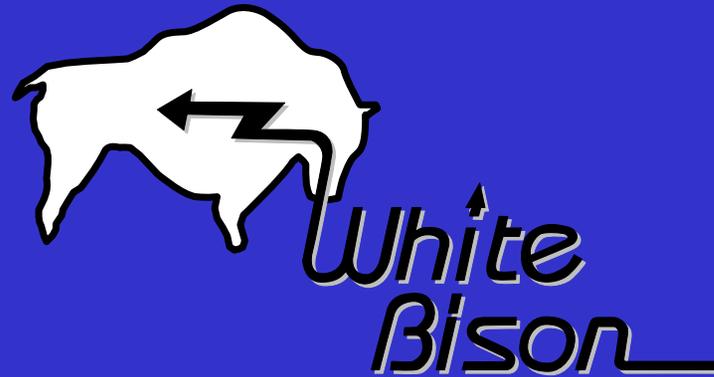
Cultural Considerations as it Relates to Child Protection





NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

Culturally based tools for changing
individuals, families, communities
and nations



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White Bison's Mission

*One Hundred
Native Communities
in Healing By
2010*



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100 Eagle feathers were sent from communities across the United States and Canada – and assembled into the Sacred Hoop



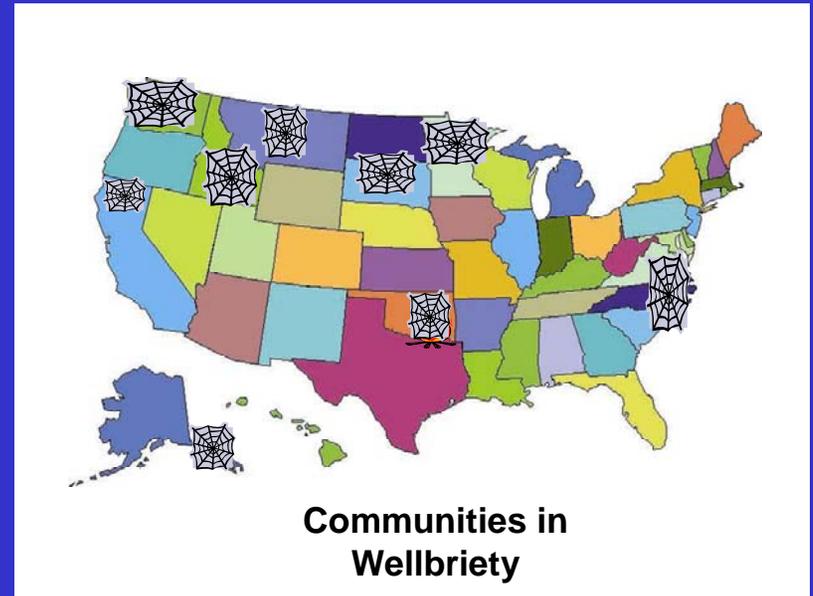
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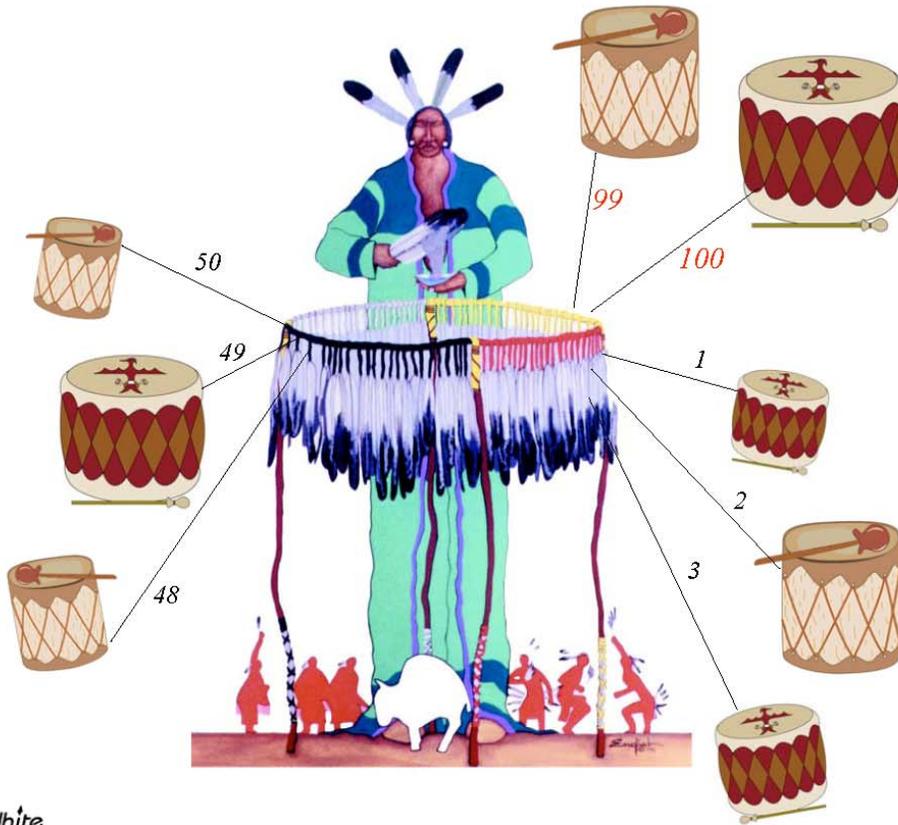
Community In Wellbriety

A community is eligible for the Wellbriety Drum when the following have been accomplished:

- Firestarter Training
- Seven Trainings
- Coalition Training
- Create the Vision book



100 Feathers • 100 Communities • 100 Drums



*Become one of 100 communities in healing
By 2010!*



Wellbriety Drum

Vision:

- 100 communities in Wellbriety by 2010
- Each of the 100 will receive a Wellbriety Drum
- A Gathering of the Drums will take place



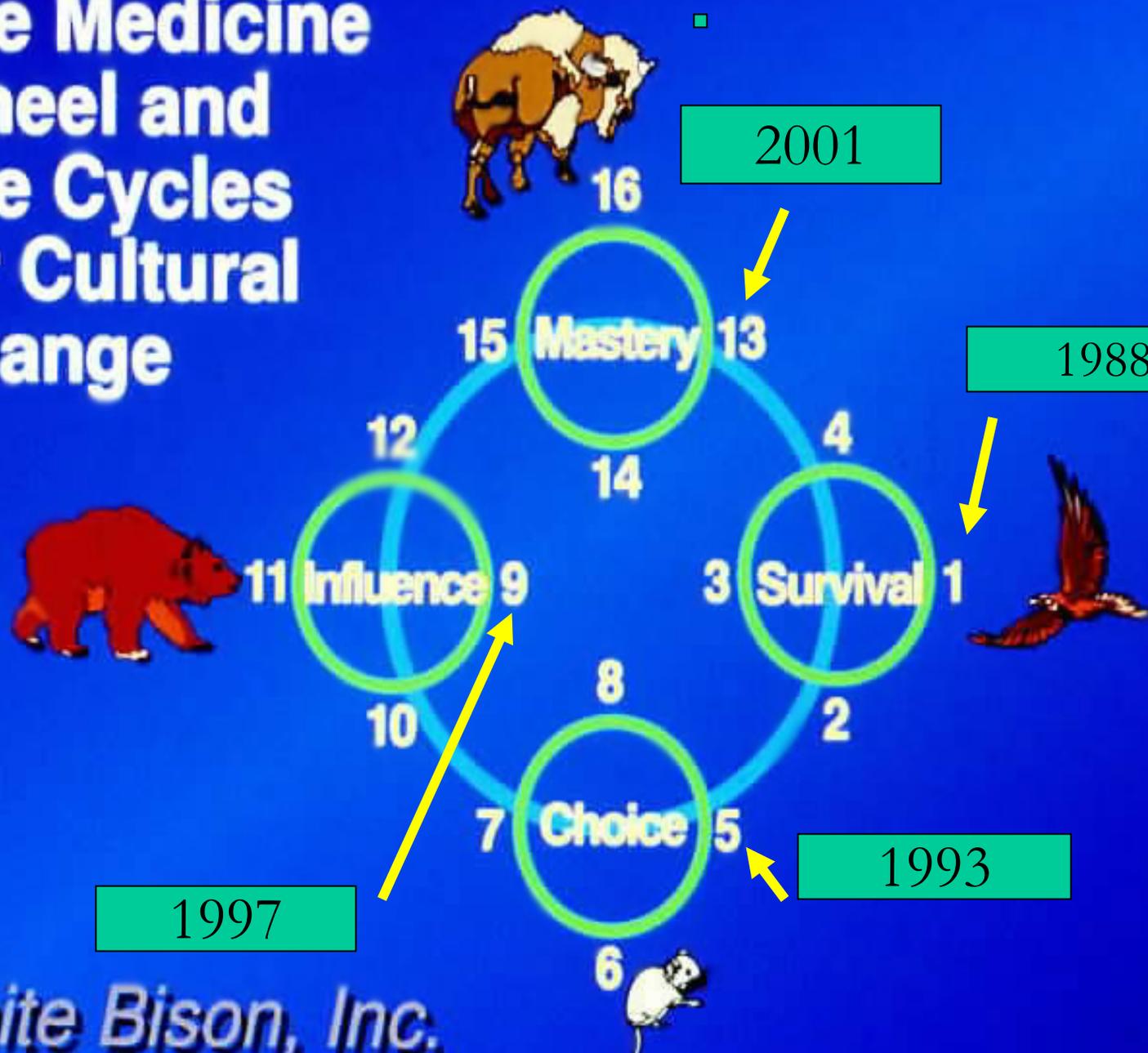
Wellbriety Means

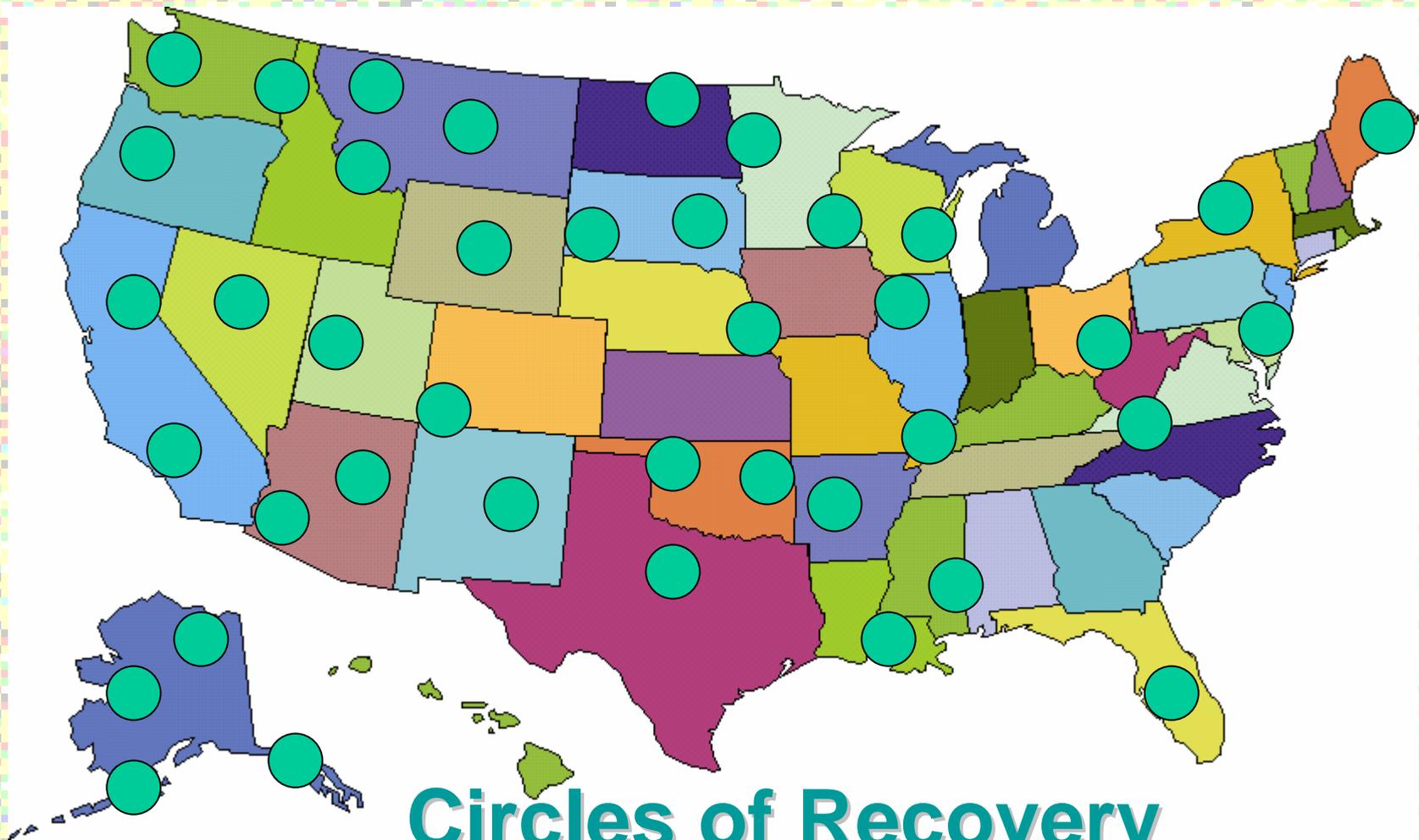


- Sober lifestyles
- Wellness—balance (mental, physical, spiritual, emotional)
- Connected to principles, values, and Natural Laws
- Walking the Red Road
- You must create a Healing Forest



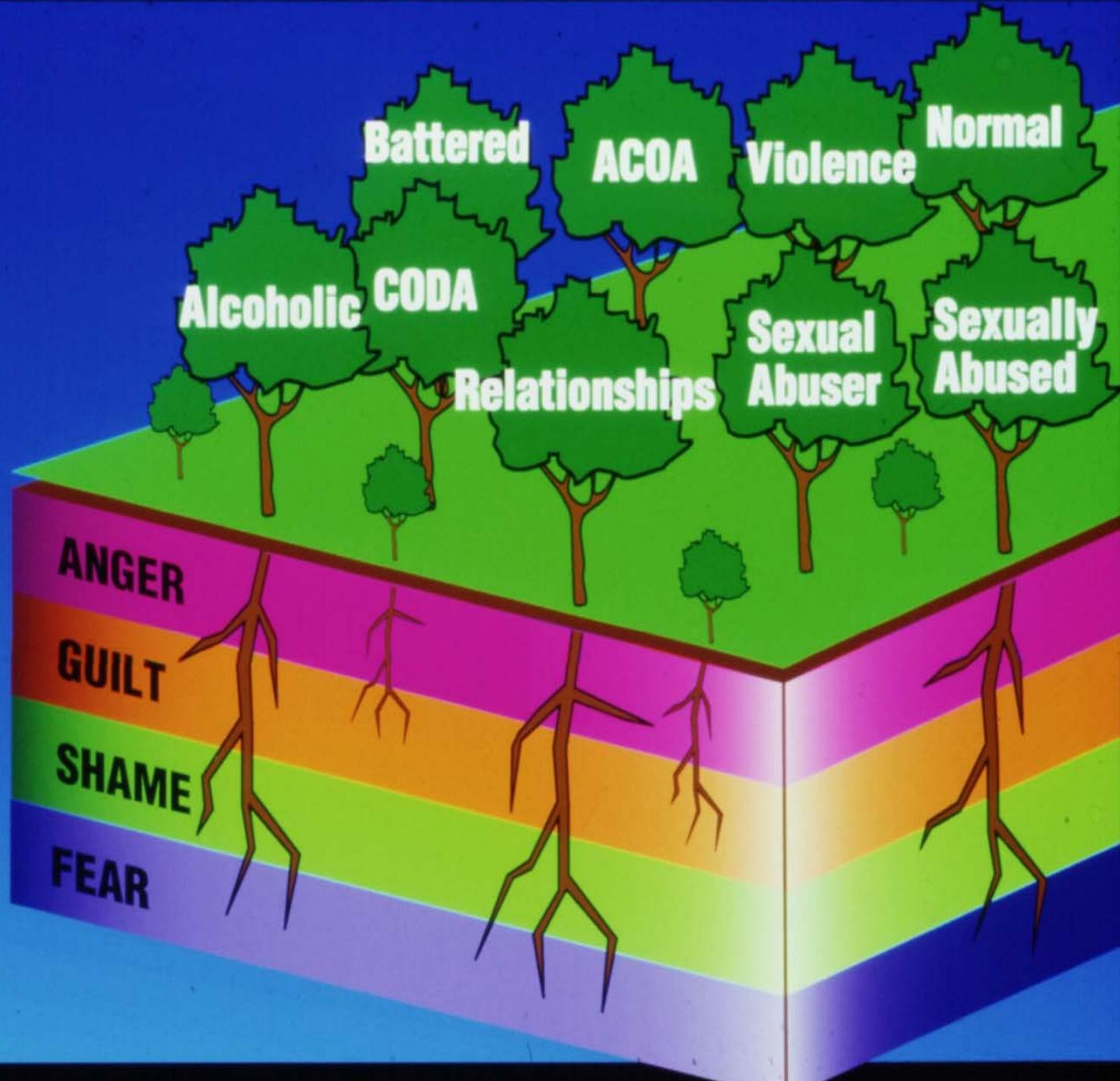
The Medicine Wheel and The Cycles for Cultural Change

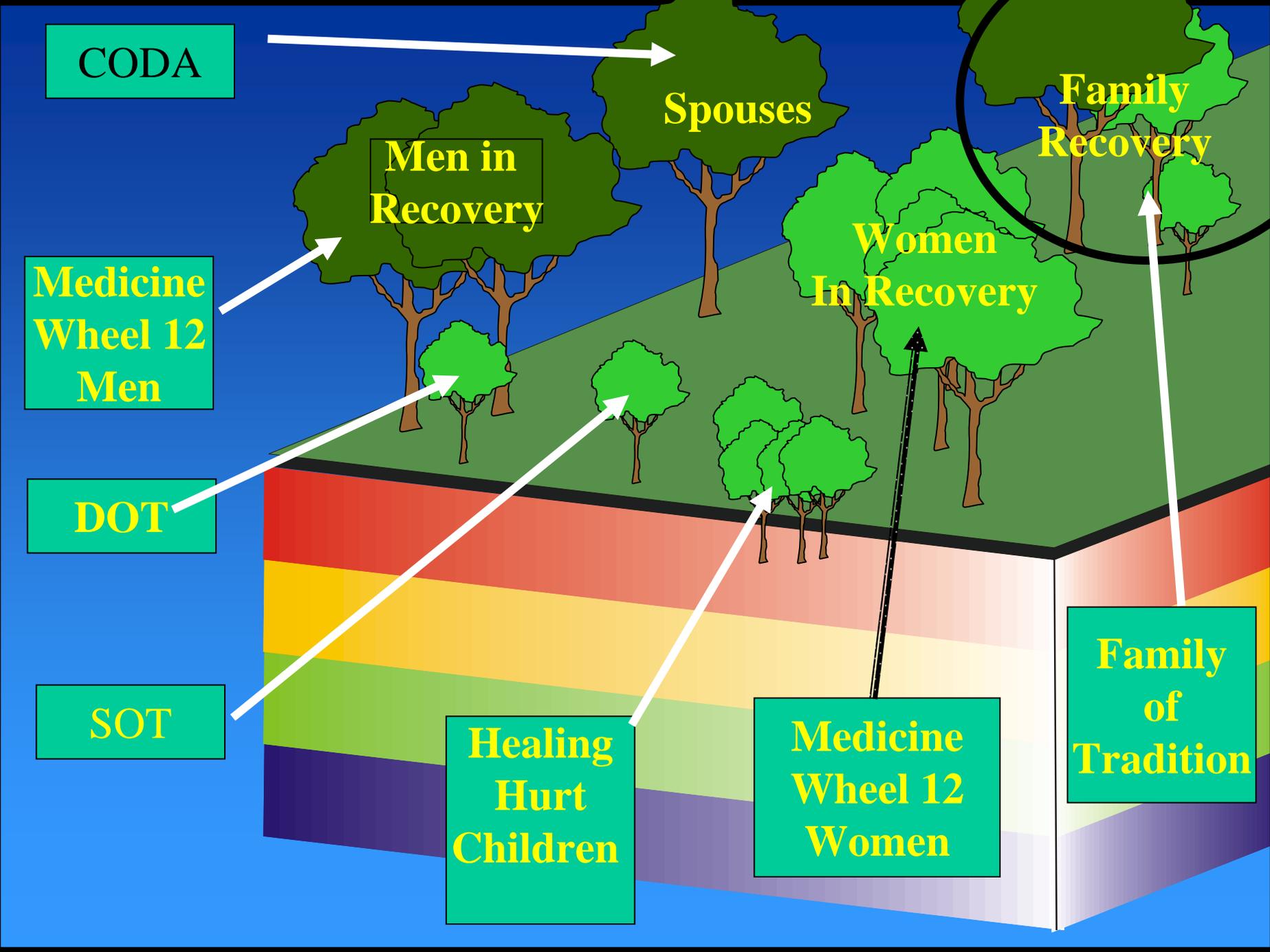




**Circles of Recovery
established nationwide!**







CODA

Men in Recovery

Spouses

Family Recovery

Medicine Wheel 12 Men

Women In Recovery

DOT

SOT

Healing Hurt Children

Medicine Wheel 12 Women

Family of Tradition

CODA

Spouses

Family Recovery

Men in Recovery

FATHERHOOD

Women In Recovery

Medicine Wheel 12 Men

DOT

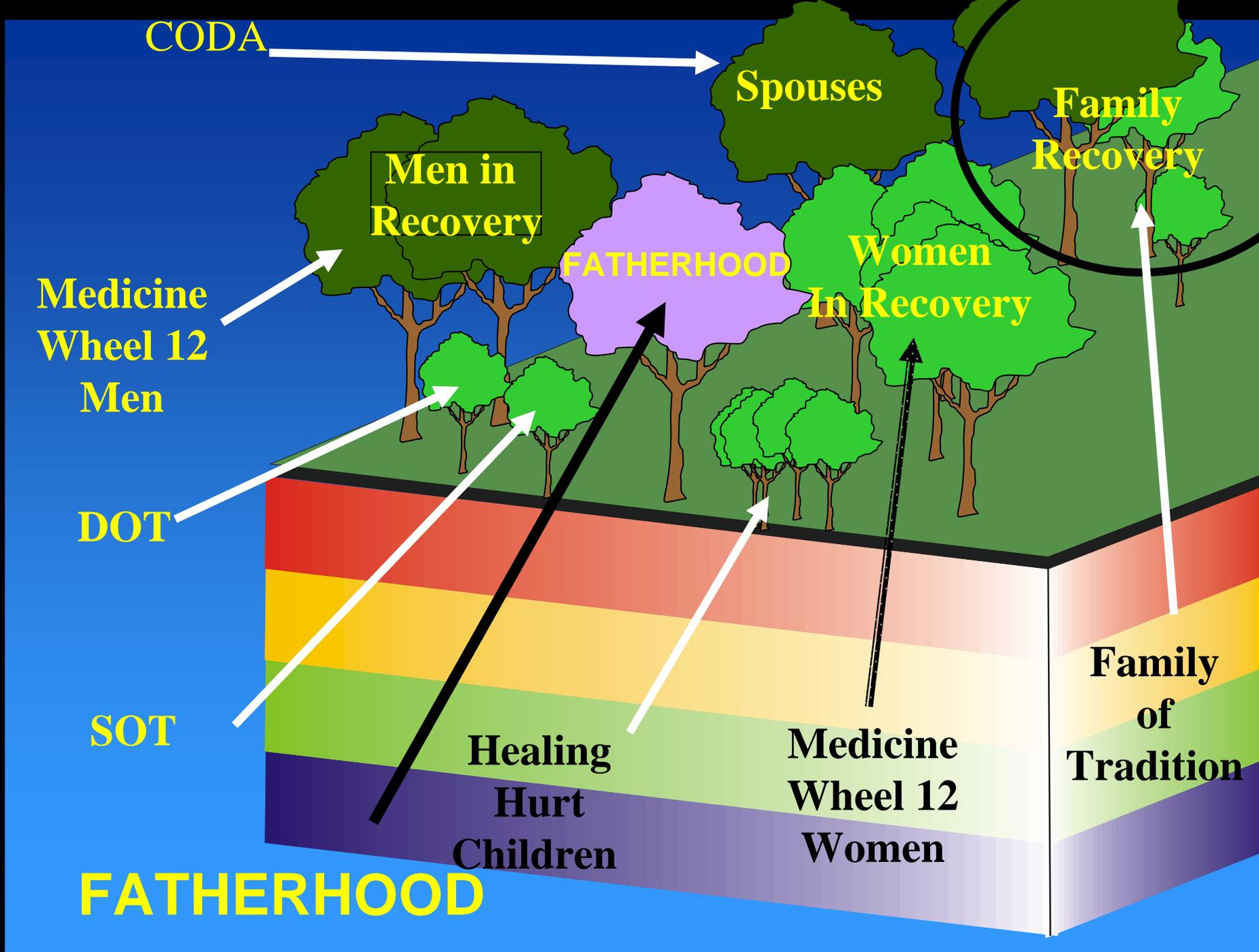
SOT

Healing Hurt Children

Medicine Wheel 12 Women

Family of Tradition

FATHERHOOD



CODA



Spouses

Family Recovery

Men in Recovery

FATHERHOOD

Women In Recovery

MW 12 Steps Youth

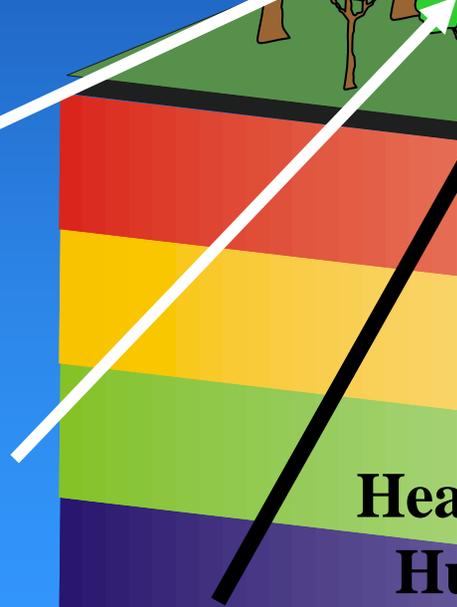
Medicine Wheel 12 Men



DOT



SOT



Healing Hurt Children

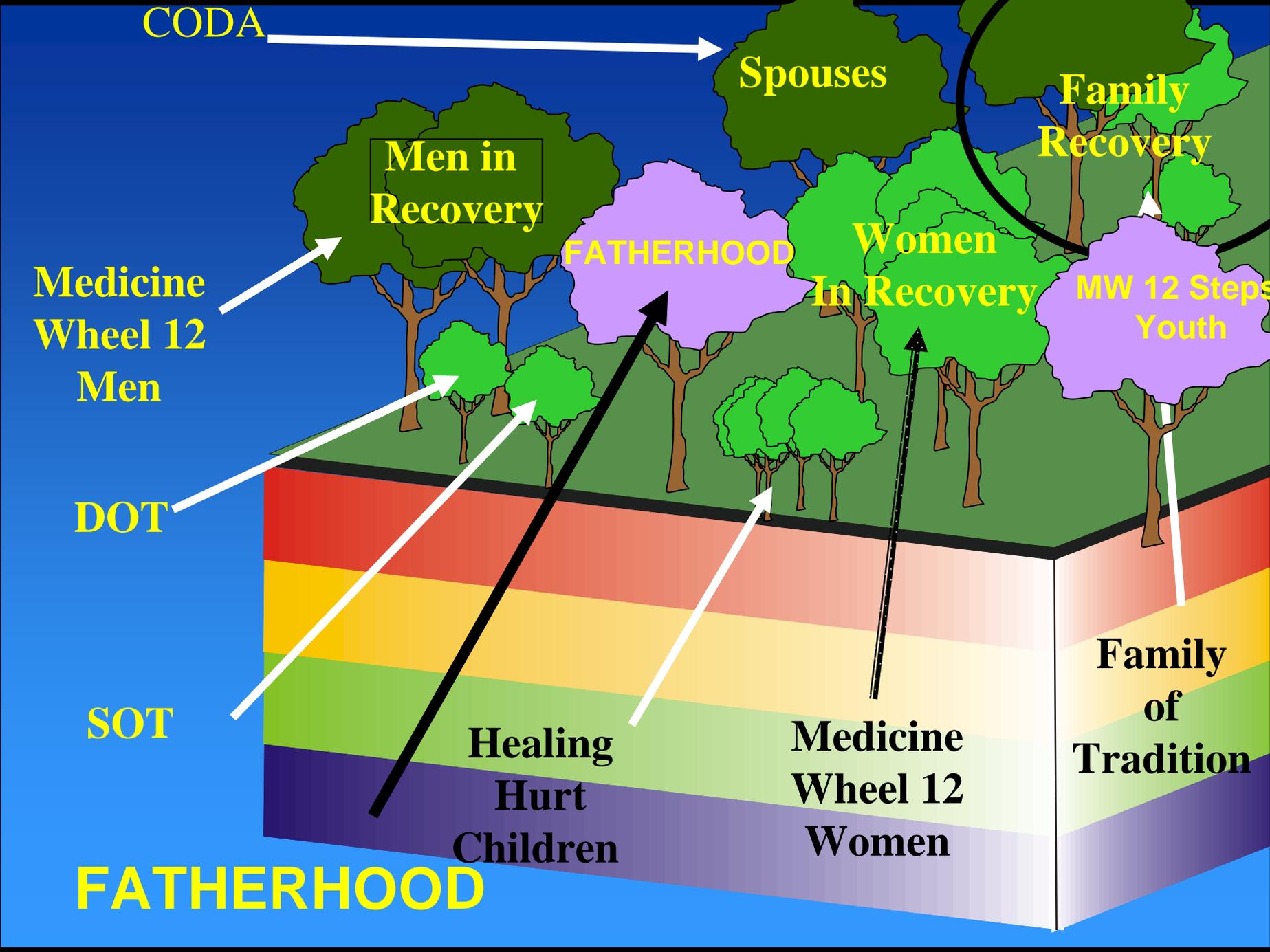
Medicine Wheel 12 Women



Family of Tradition

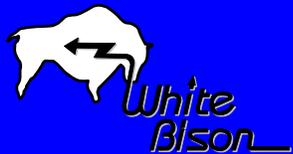


FATHERHOOD





Coalitions as Clans





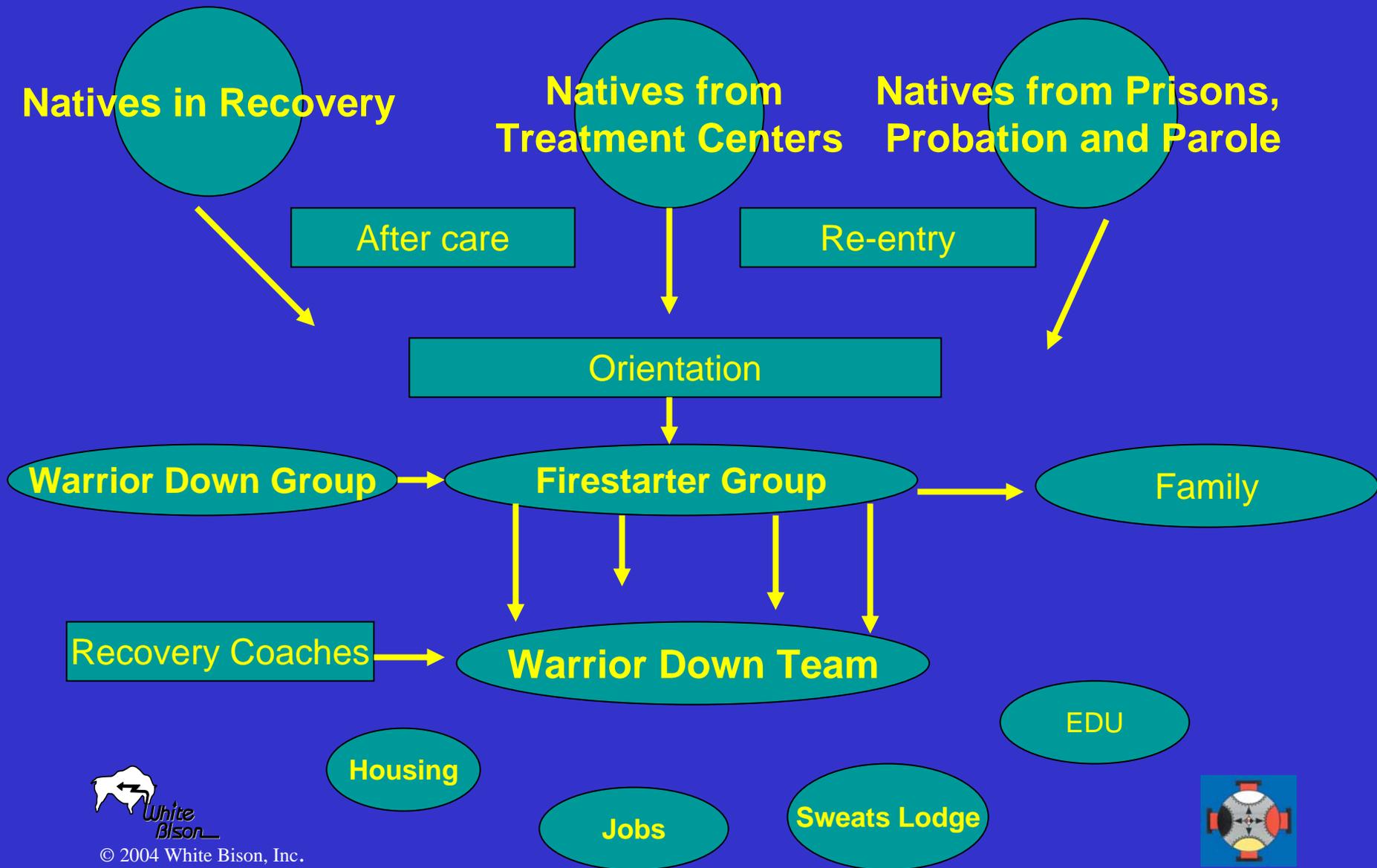
Warrior Down



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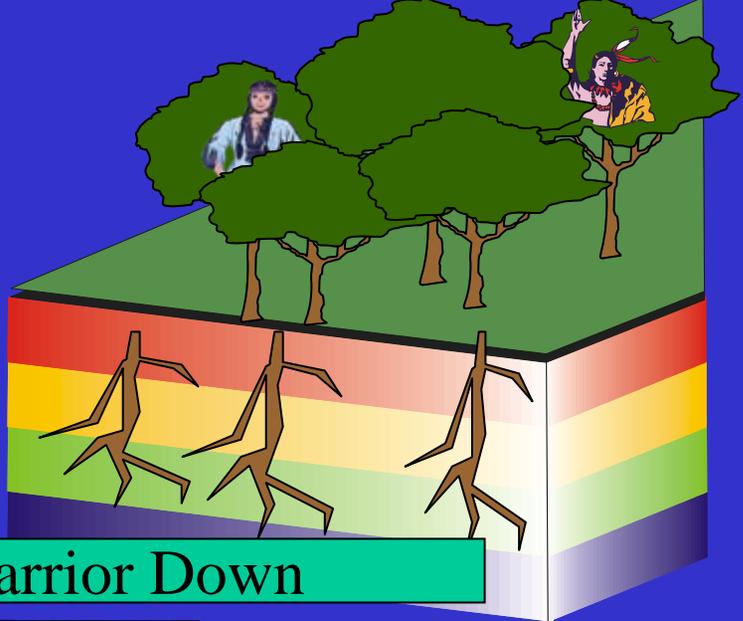


Warrior Down

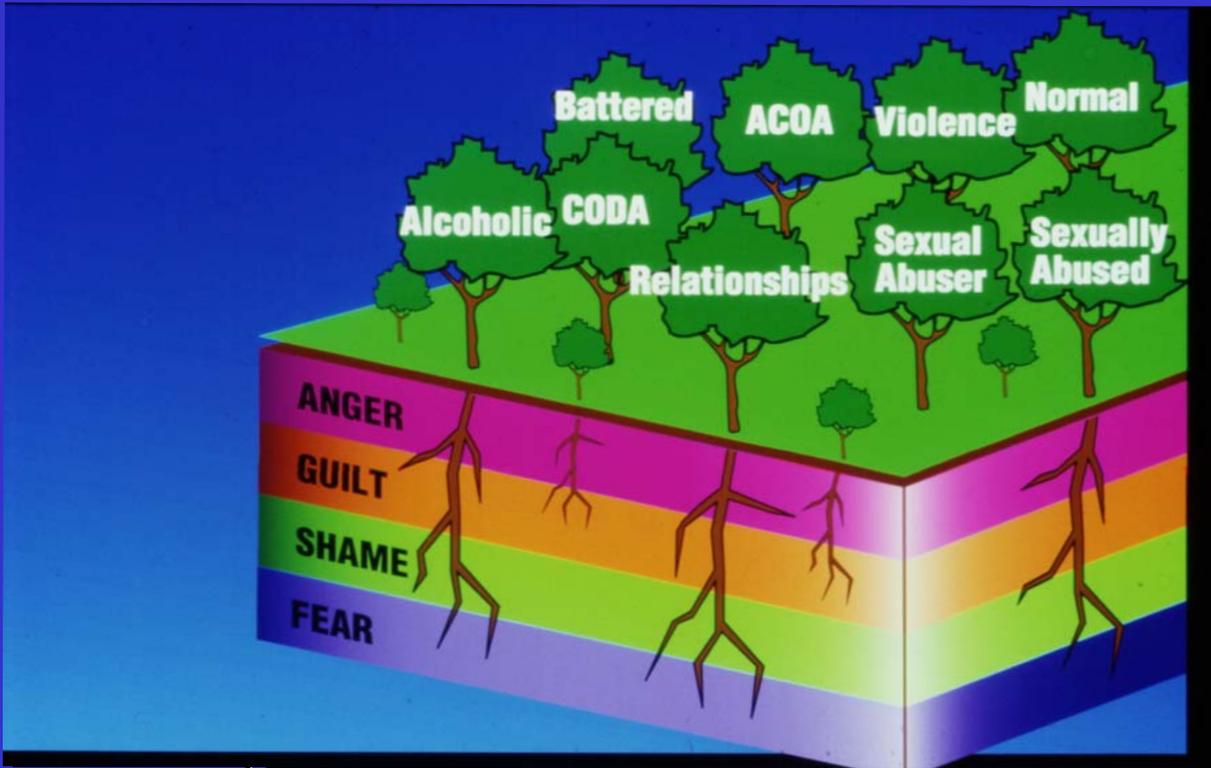


Re – Entry from.....

Prison



Warrior Down



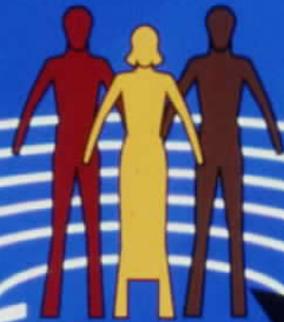
Community

.org



Healing Forest Flow of Change

Core Group



Change
(Seen World)

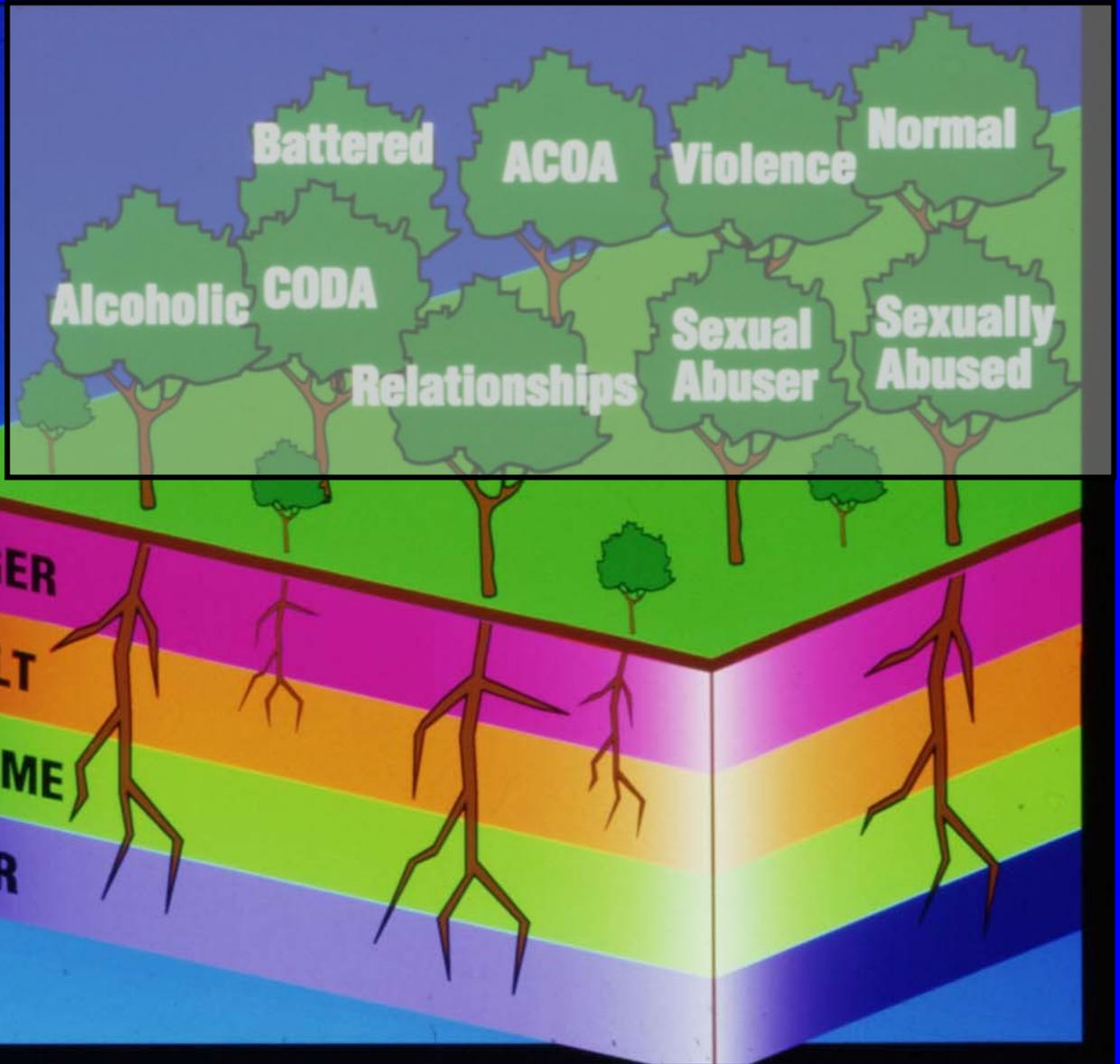
Learning
(Unseen World)

Feedback System



White Bison, Inc.

Vision



Healing Forest Flow of Change

Core Group



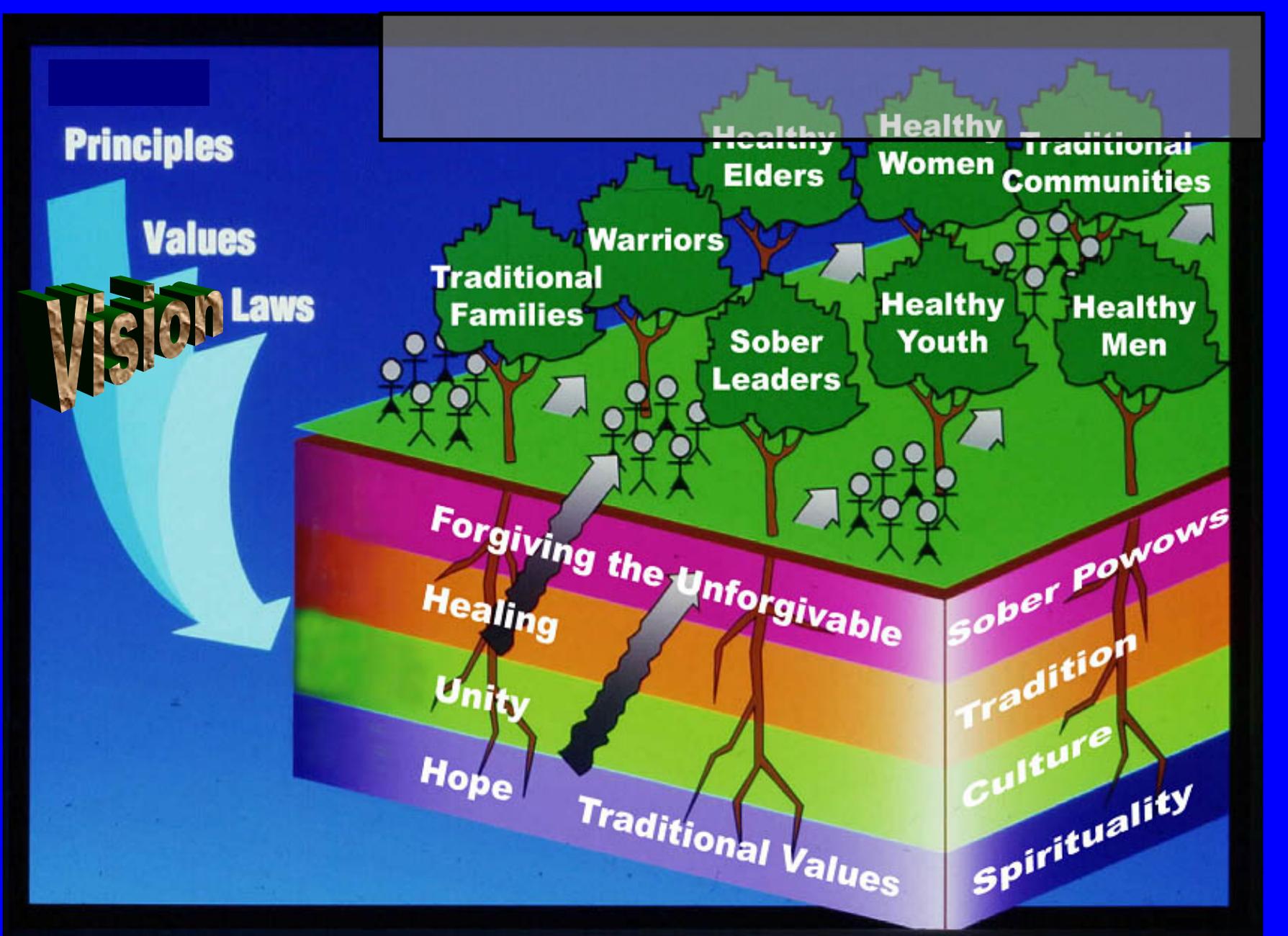
Change
(Seen World)

Learning
(Unseen World)

Feedback System



White Bison, Inc.



CONSIDER THE SEVENTH GENERATION



Today.....

Cultural considerations as it relates to Child Protection



How it used to be.....

A long time ago....

Before you were born..

When our Elders were young...



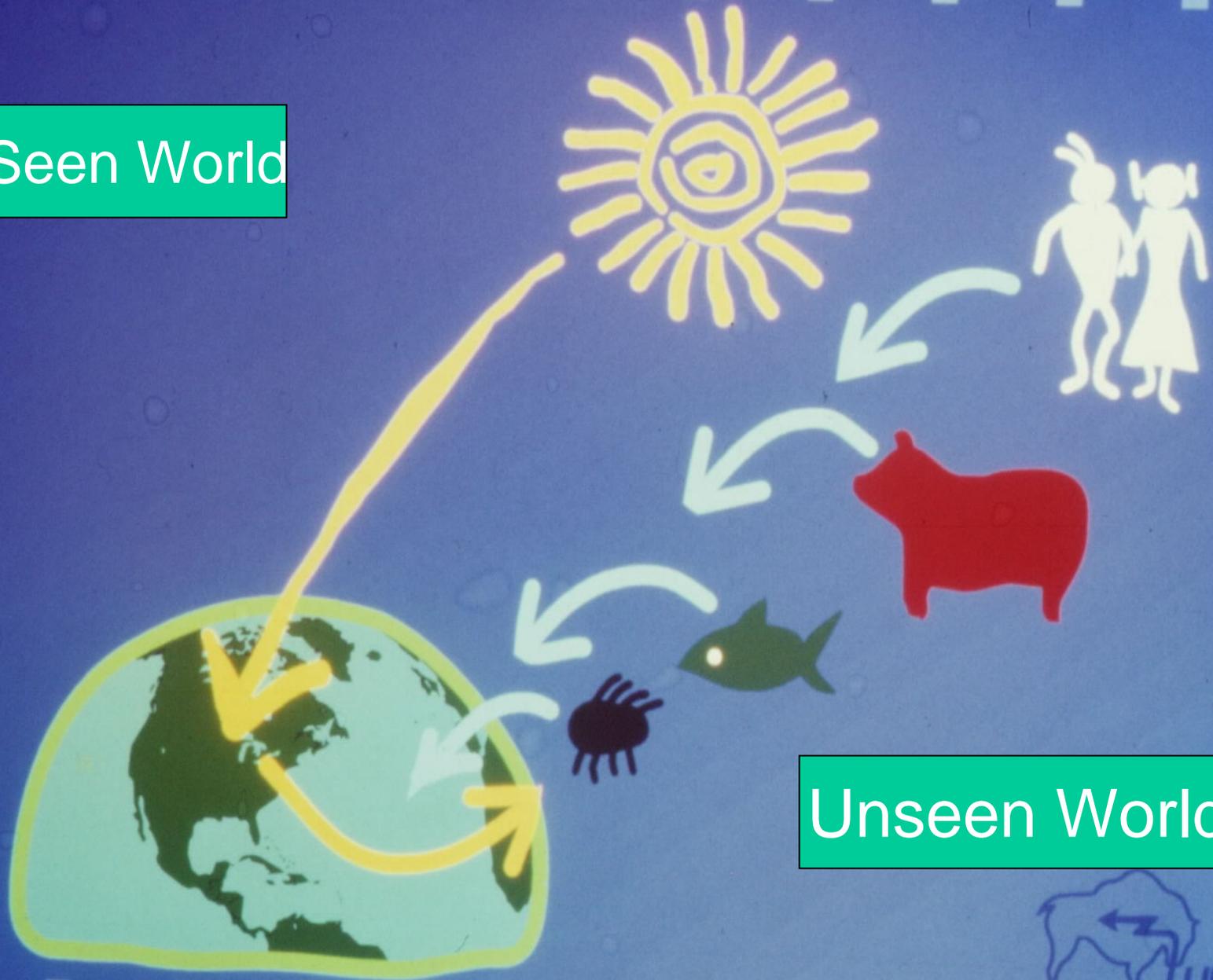
A Long time ago.....

- Before the coming of the
of the light skins.....

WE.....



Seen World



Unseen World



ICE PEOPLE

DESERT
PEOPLE



WATER
PEOPLE

MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



Vision

Principles

Laws

Values

Traditional Man

Traditional Woman

Traditional Clan Mother

Traditional Elder

Traditional Youth

Traditional Warrior

Traditional Chief

Healing

Spirituality

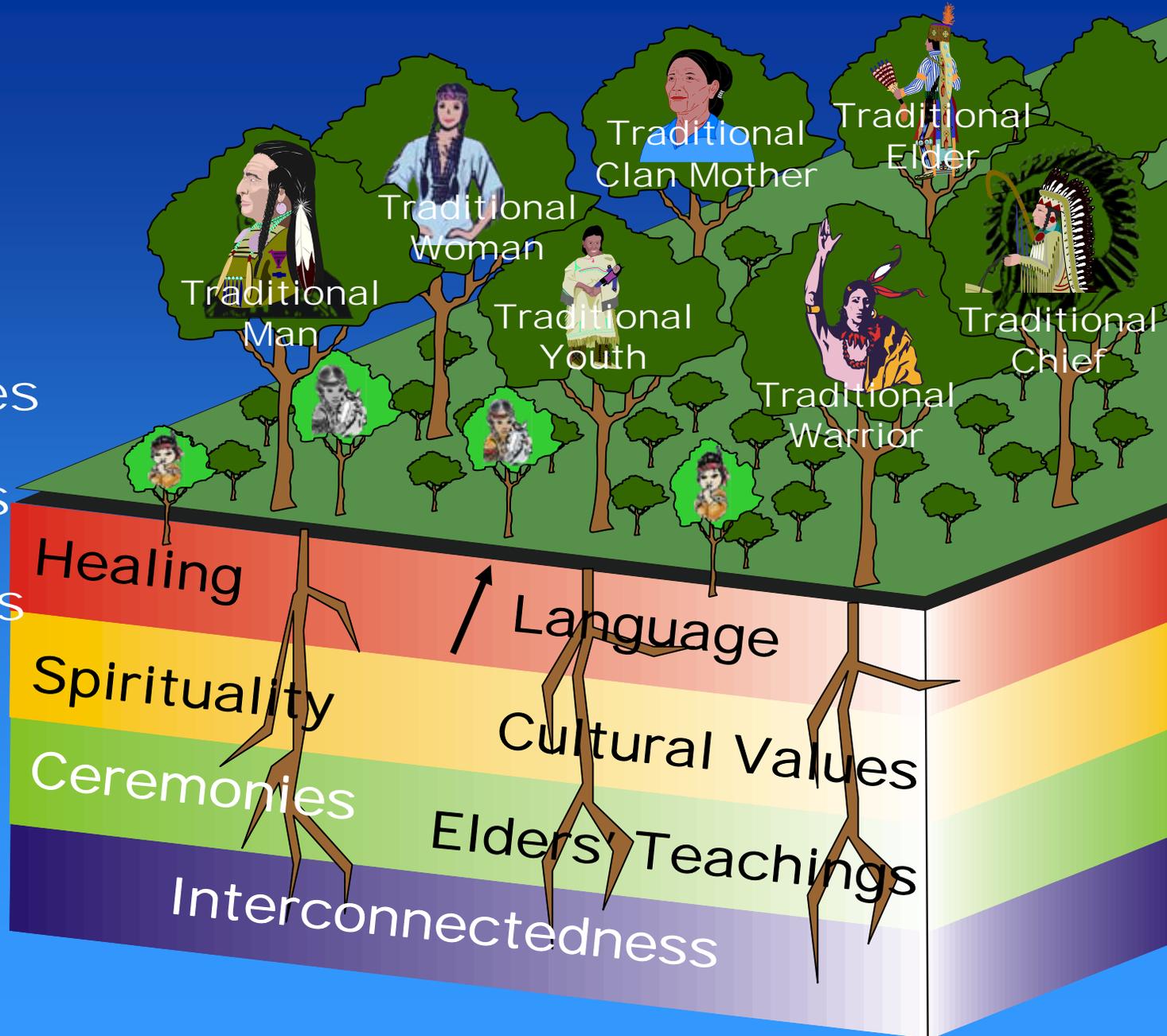
Ceremonies

Interconnectedness

Language

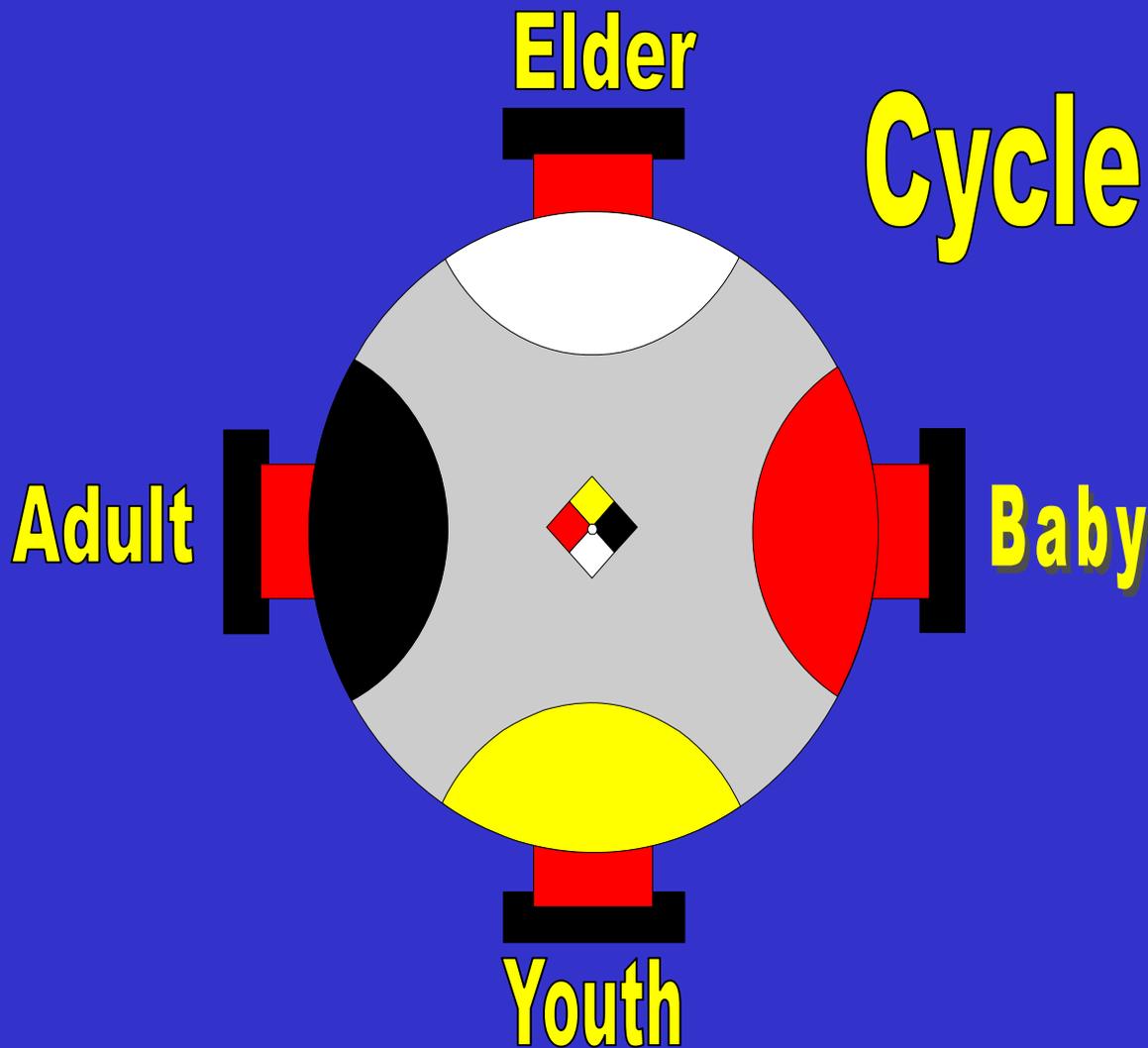
Cultural Values

Elders' Teachings





Cycle of Life





Then.....

Something

Happened

To us.....



Vision

Principles

Laws

Values

Traditional Man

Traditional Woman

Traditional Clan Mother

Traditional Elder

Traditional Youth

Traditional Warrior

Traditional Chief

Healing

Language

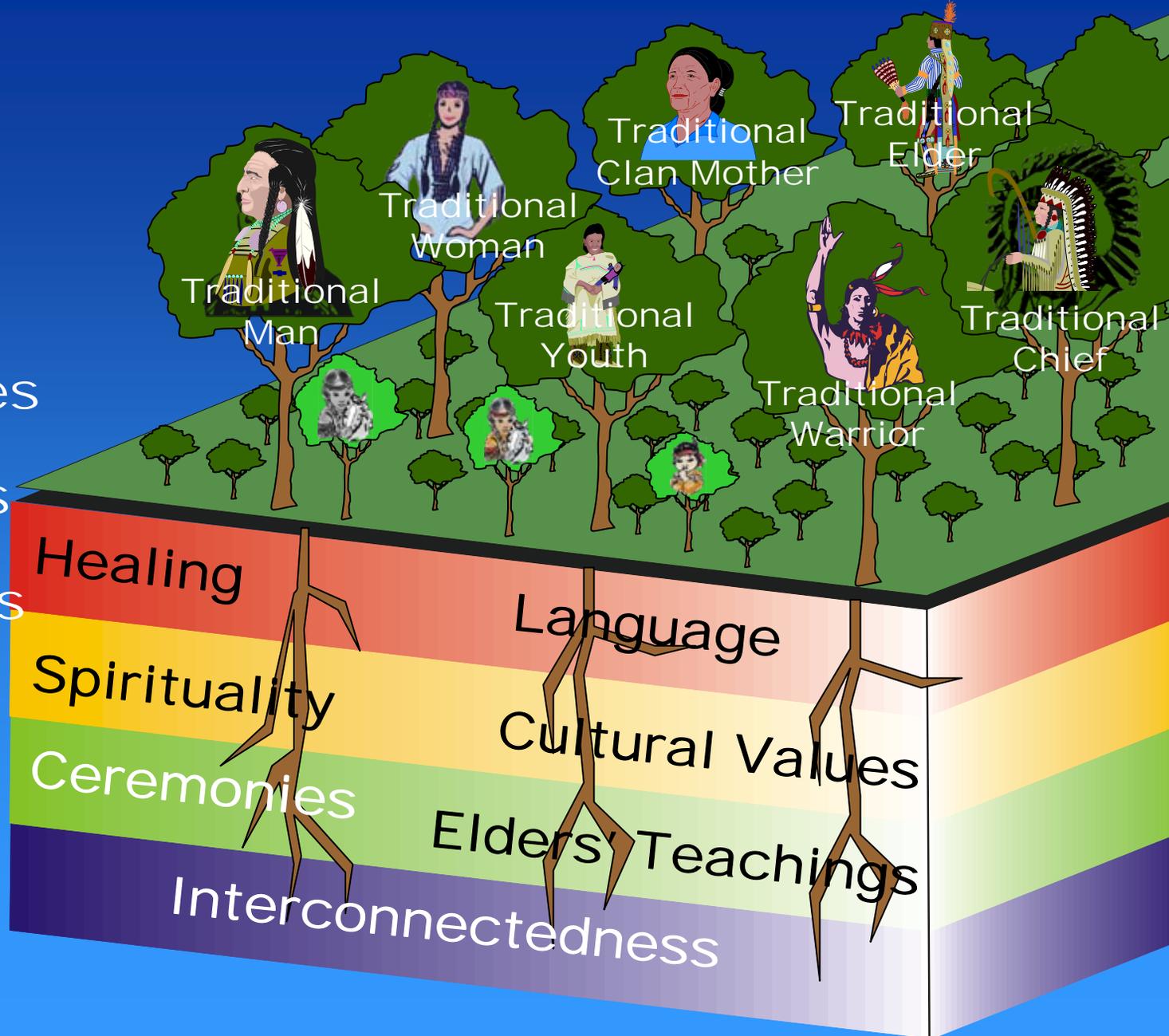
Spirituality

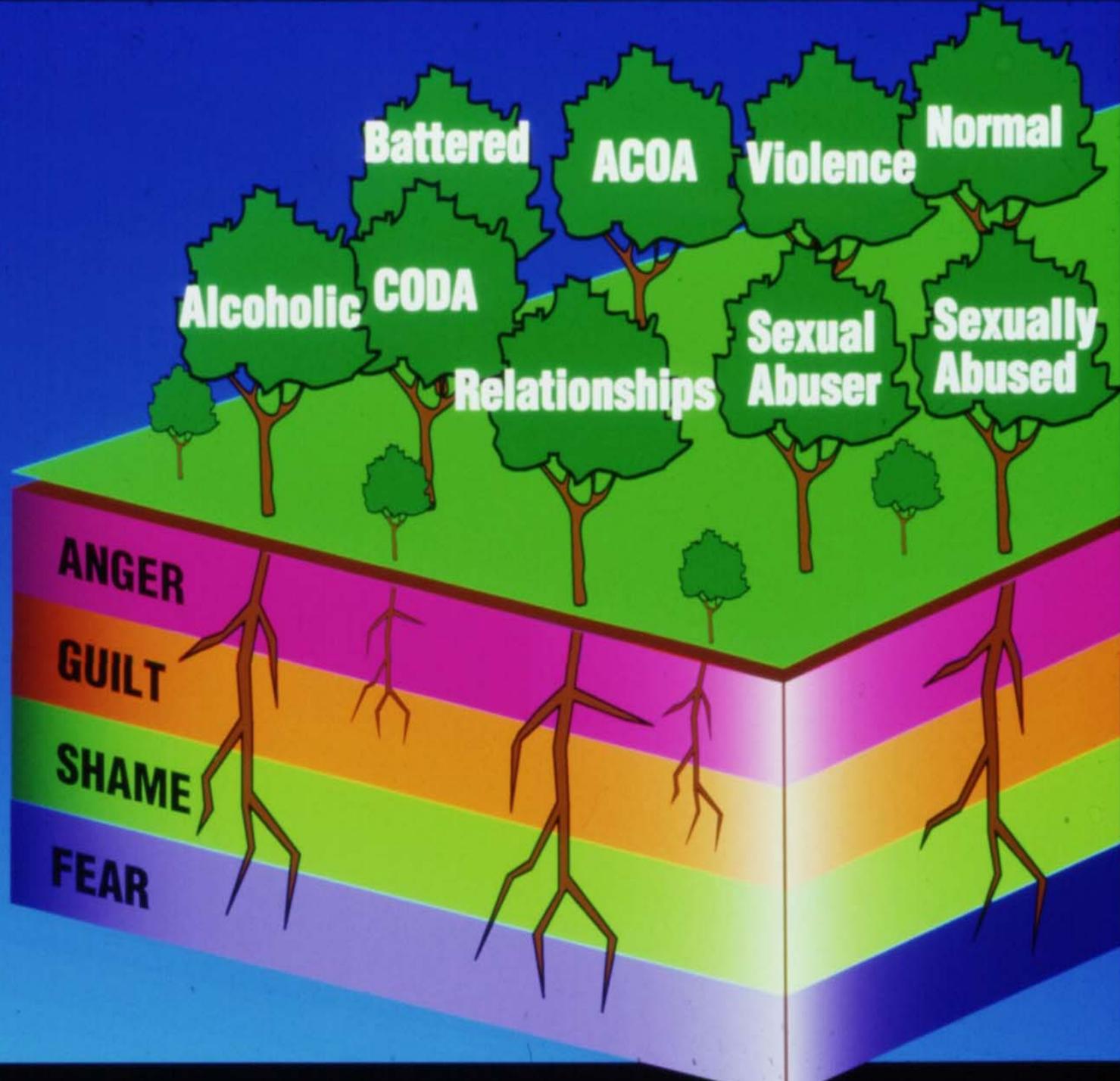
Cultural Values

Ceremonies

Elders' Teachings

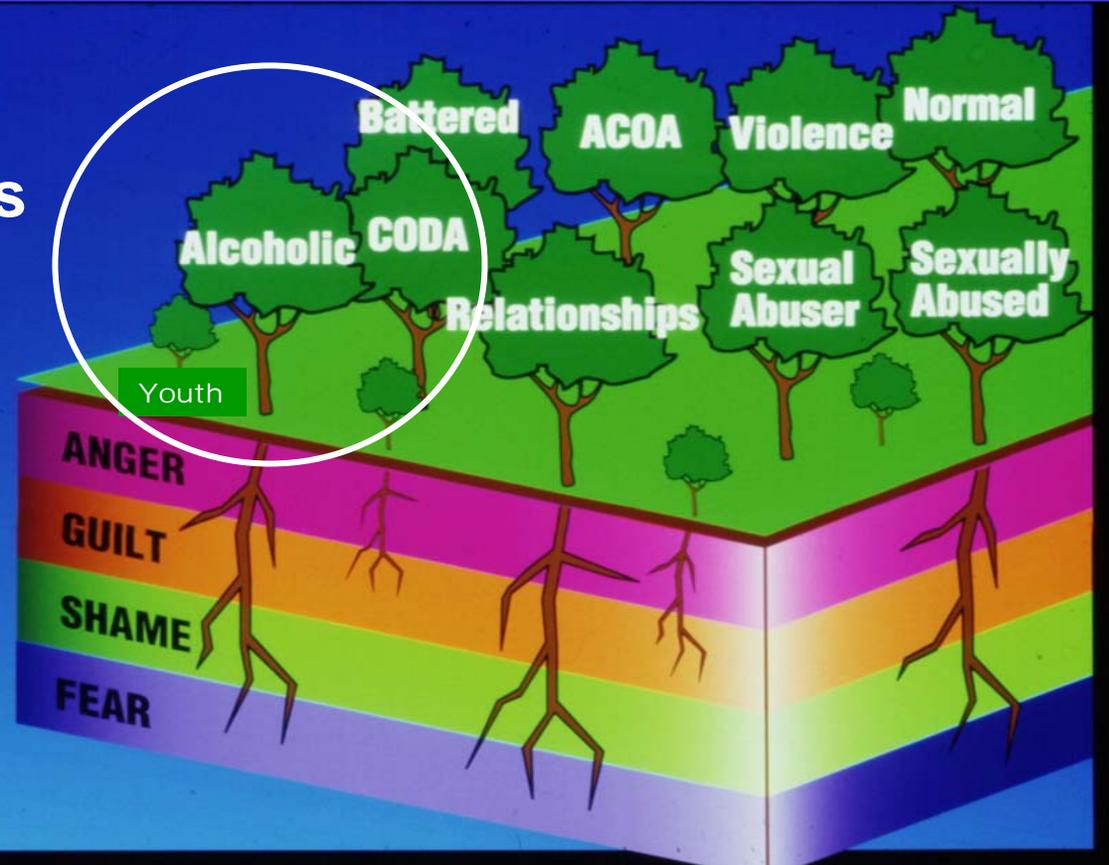
Interconnectedness





Families of Tradition

Families started to fall apart..



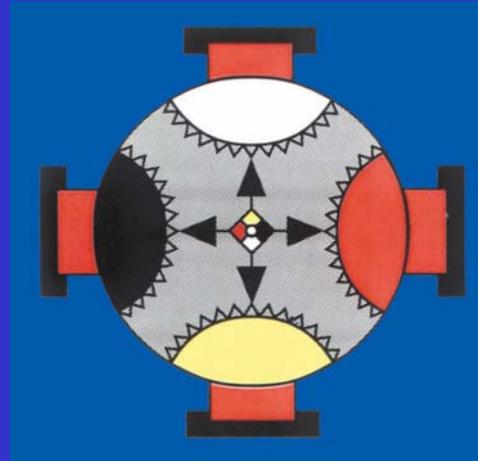
What is historical trauma?

A combination of immense losses and traumatic events that are perpetrated upon an entire culture. For Native Americans, these losses include:

- Culture
- Language
- Land
- People (deaths due to diseases and war)
- Way of life
- Religion
- Family structure (forced into boarding schools)

Nations

Communities



Individuals

Families

First the individual must heal, then the family can begin healing; then the community can start to heal; and then the nation can heal.



250 million indigenous people died after contact with the Europeans. By 1920, 99% of the Native American population was wiped out.

How do we know about intergenerational/historical trauma?

From research on Holocaust survivors

Japanese-Americans who were placed in
internment camps

African Americans (slavery)

Central American refugees

and now more recent studies on Native
American people.

How does trauma get passed down through generations?

People adapt to traumatic experiences by:

Developing defense mechanisms and coping skills that often can be detrimental.

For Native people enduring immense losses, grief and post traumatic stress became a way of living.

Feeling numb, being angry, acting self-destructively, and feeling hopeless was a normal way to be in the world.

Other unfortunate consequences of trauma include

not believing you have a future

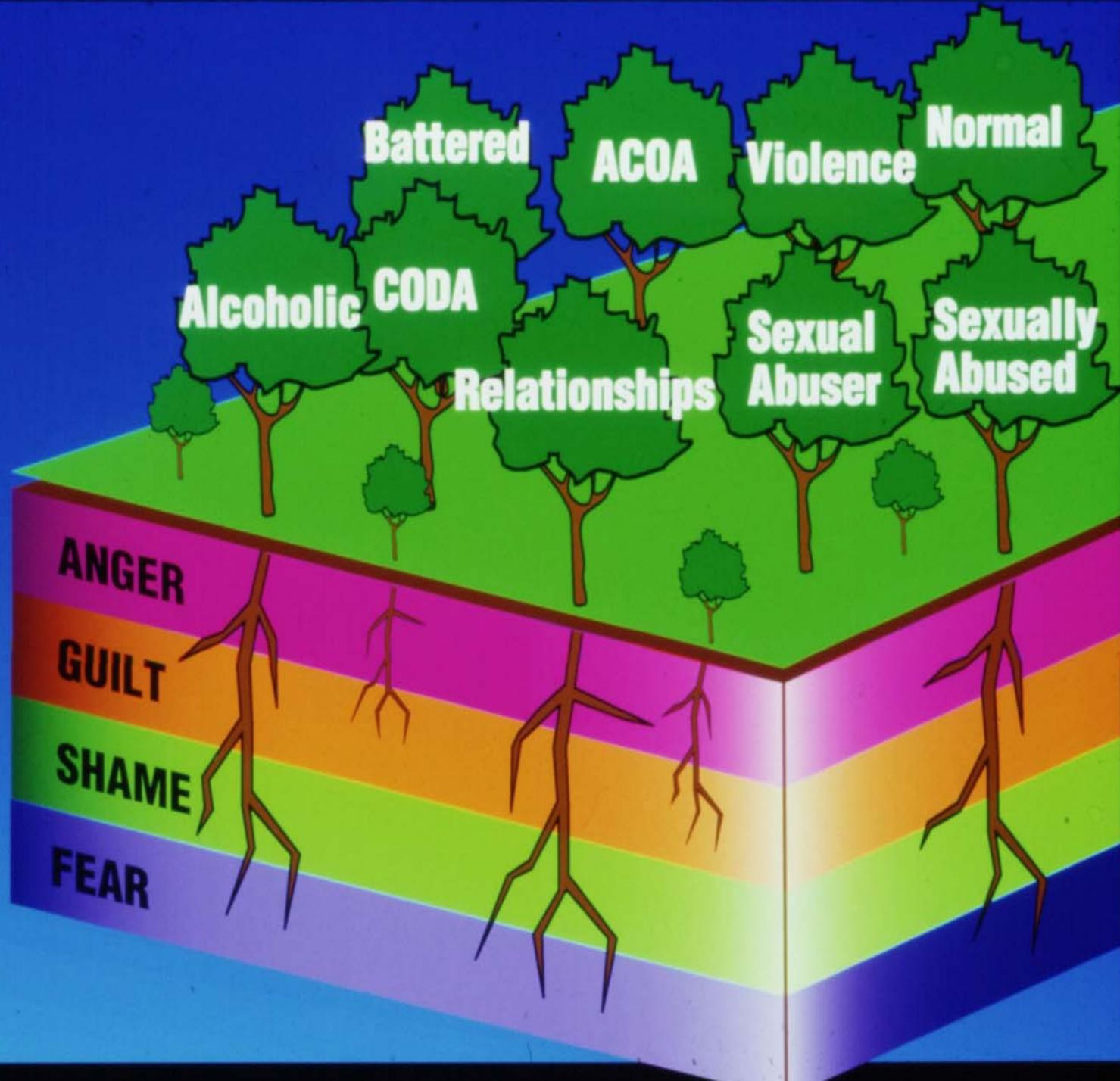
difficulties in relationships

a distrust of the outside world.

This is passed down through direct parent-child interactions and also through interactions with extended family and the community.

CONSIDER THE SEVENTH GENERATION





Vision

Principles

Laws

Values

CODA

ACOA

Sexually Abused

Violence

Battered

Alcoholic

Mental Illness

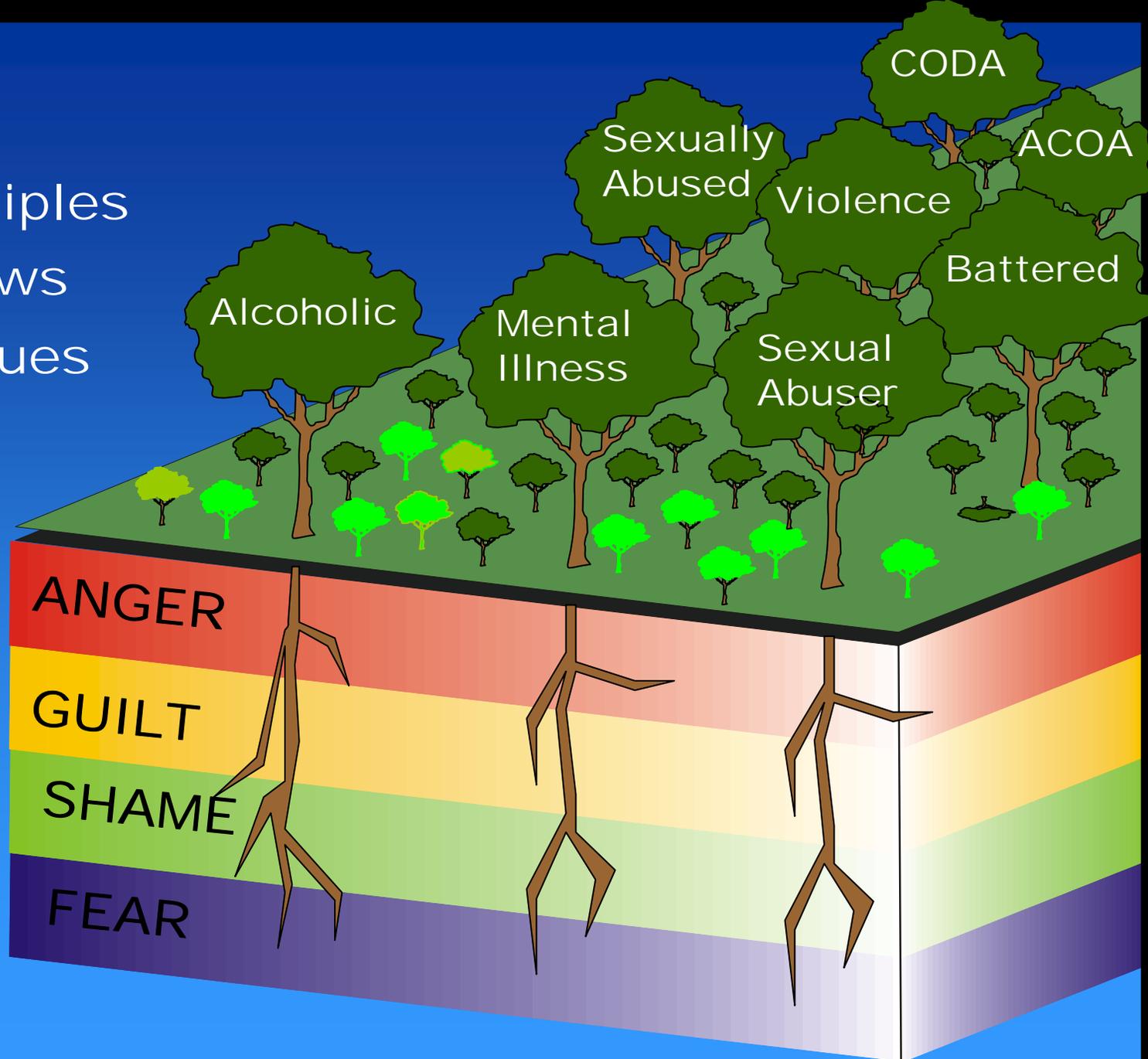
Sexual Abuser

ANGER

GUILT

SHAME

FEAR



Common findings from studies on intergenerational/historical trauma - how people from traumatized cultures coped with their experiences:

- Impulse to protect children from the horror – people become silent and never talk about what happened
- Lack of trust – don't look for attachments
- Need for distance in relationships to protect against the pain of another loss

-
- Reject your own background and identify with another group – this is a form of protection for the self because to identify with your own group may be viewed as threatening or dangerous
 - Lay low, keep quiet, be invisible
 - Fight back and protest
 - Move away
 - Collaborate with the oppressors
 - Put up defenses – denial



Often 2-3 generations pass before the most challenging symptoms of trauma show up in individuals, families and communities.

Cultures go through a grief process similar to an individual, except through the generations.

Stages of Grief

Individual

Shock/denial/numbness

Anger/Rage

Sadness/guilt

Culture

2-3 generations after first major trauma

Next 2-3 generations

Next 2-3 generations: guilt about surviving,

Identify with past and suffering

Stages of Grief

Individual

Search for meaning

Ability to integrate and move on

Culture

Next 2-3 generations

Restore cultural identity,
forgiveness

Balance between remembering the past and going on with life

What complicates the healing process?

- An inability to mourn – not knowing what happened to your family and loved ones (Relocations, family separations)
-
- Lack of political power – feeling unable to change things, so why bother?
- No sense of hope for the future
- Lack of acknowledgement of trauma by the dominant culture fuels powerlessness and helplessness.

Healing Intergenerational Trauma

- Attending to Grief Work
- Healing from Sexual Abuse
- Healing from legacy of Boarding School
- Reclaiming Lost Culture
- Healing from Disconnected Families



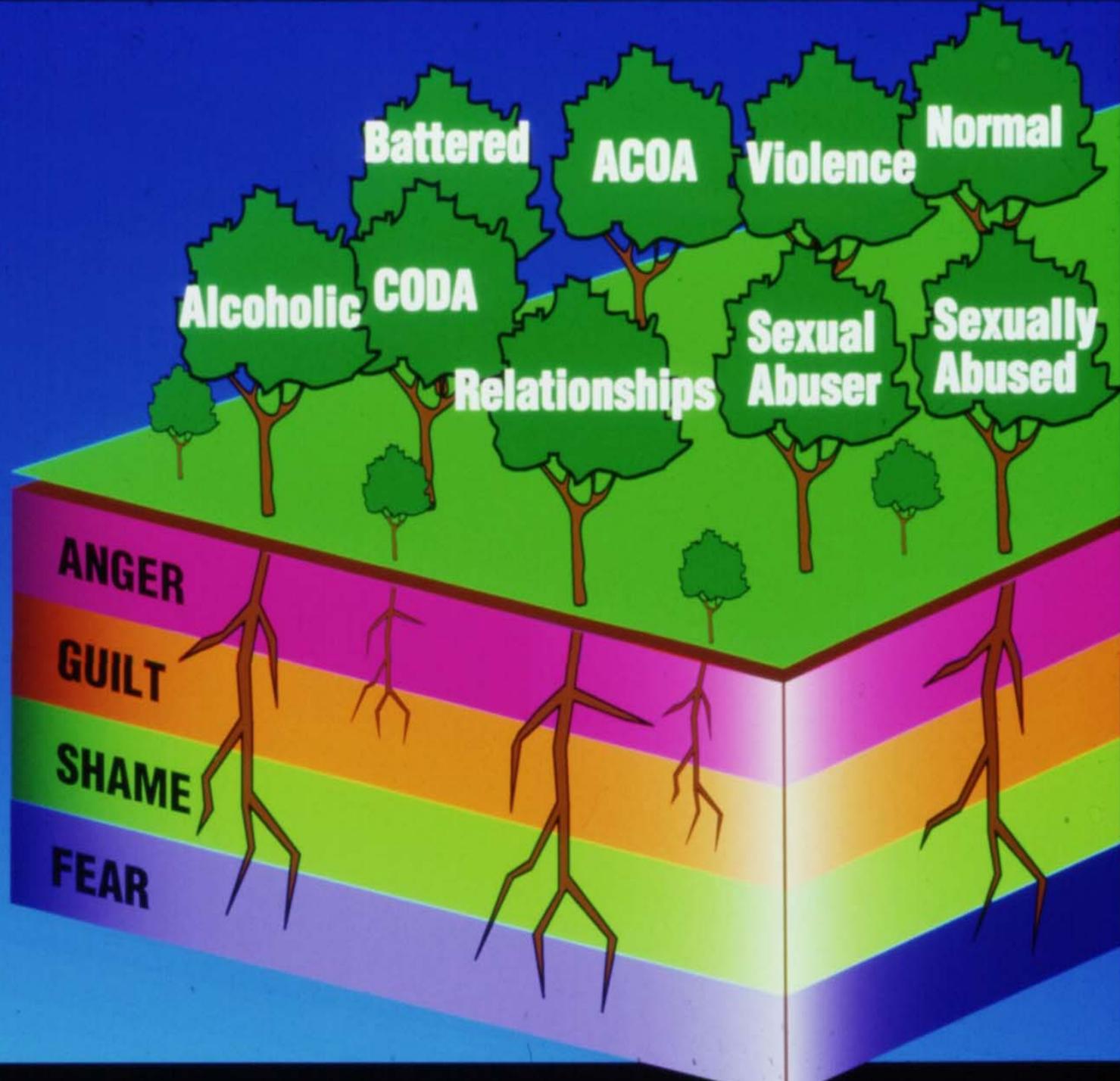
Other ideas about healing:

- Tell the story
- Self-efficacy (sense of power and hopefulness)
- Advocacy
- Creation of healing spaces
- Legitimization – what happened
- Containment – include everyone in the healing, even the ones who are ostracized

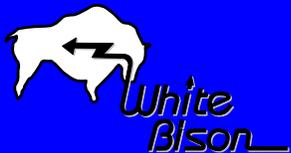
-
- Processing of ancestors memories and experiences
 - Monuments
 - Restore pride in cultural heritage and identity

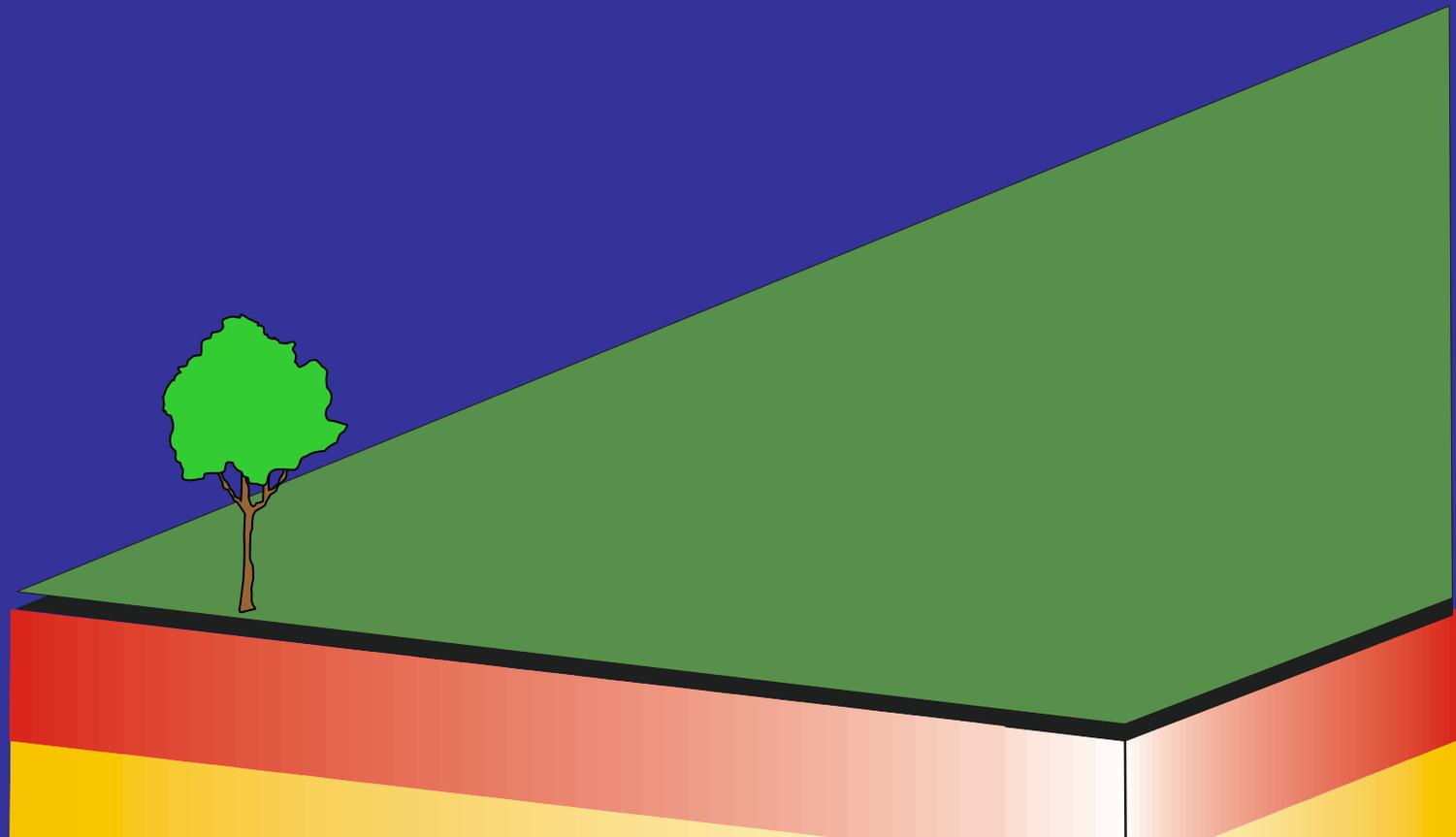
CONSIDER THE SEVENTH GENERATION

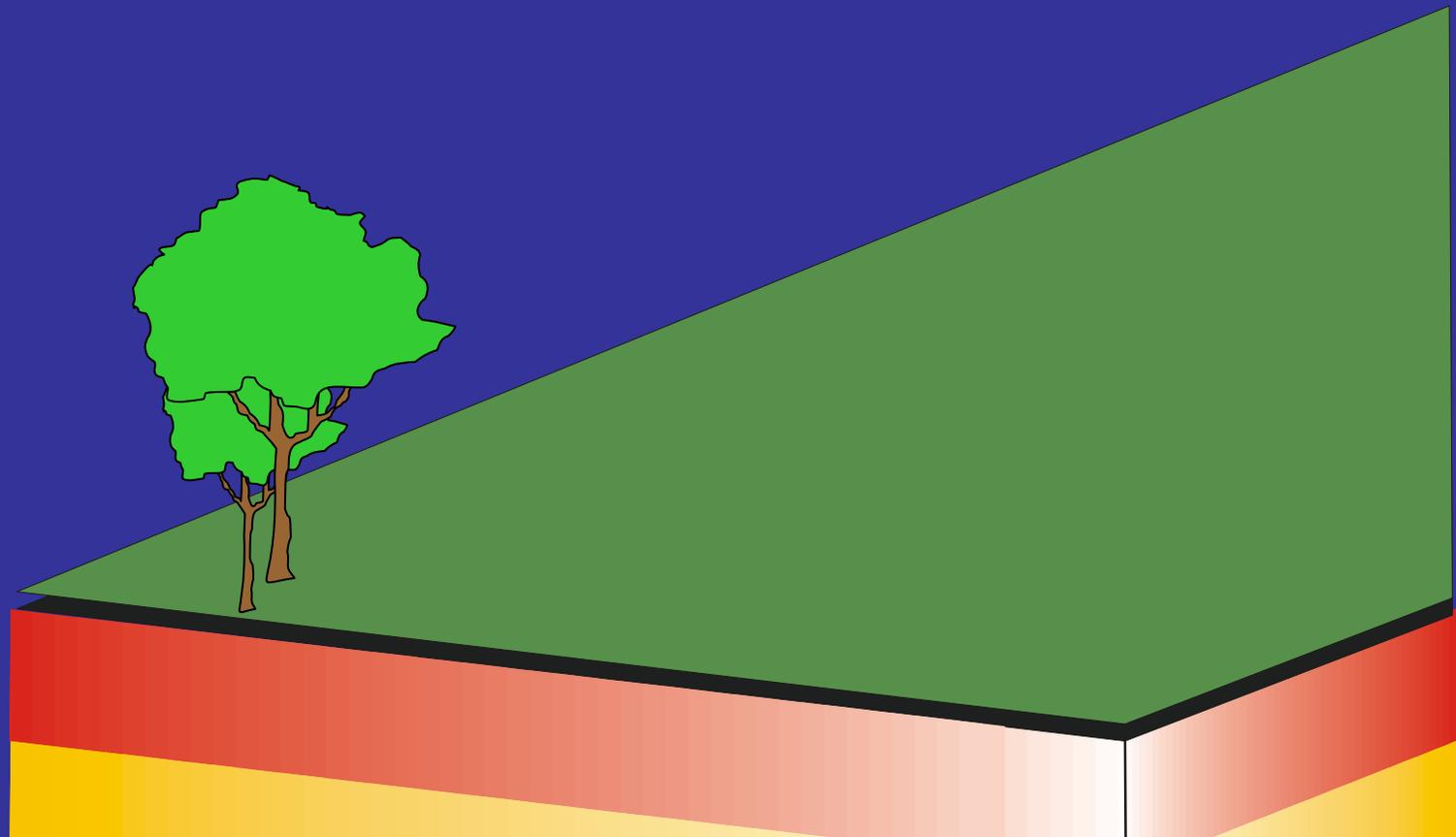


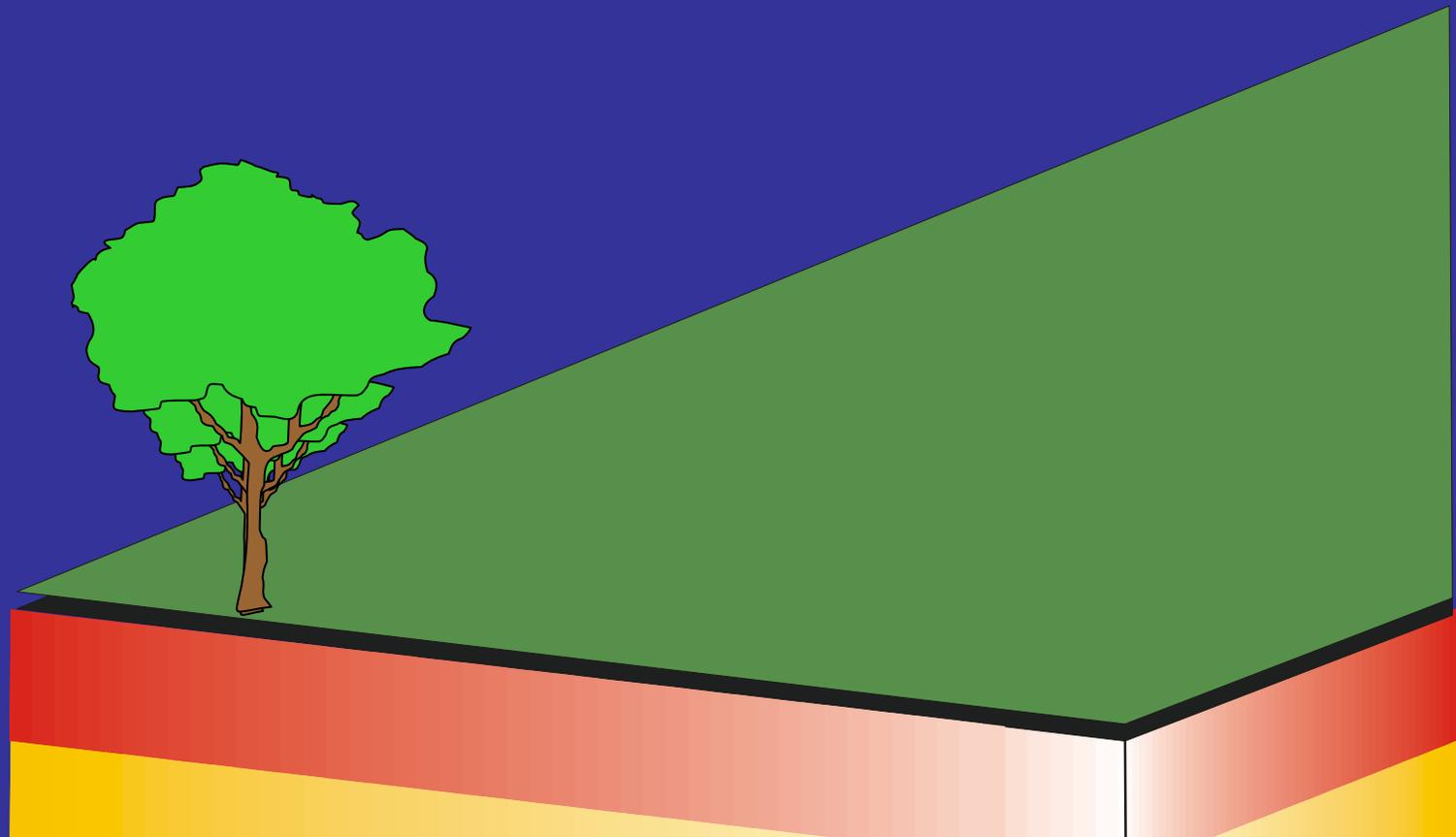


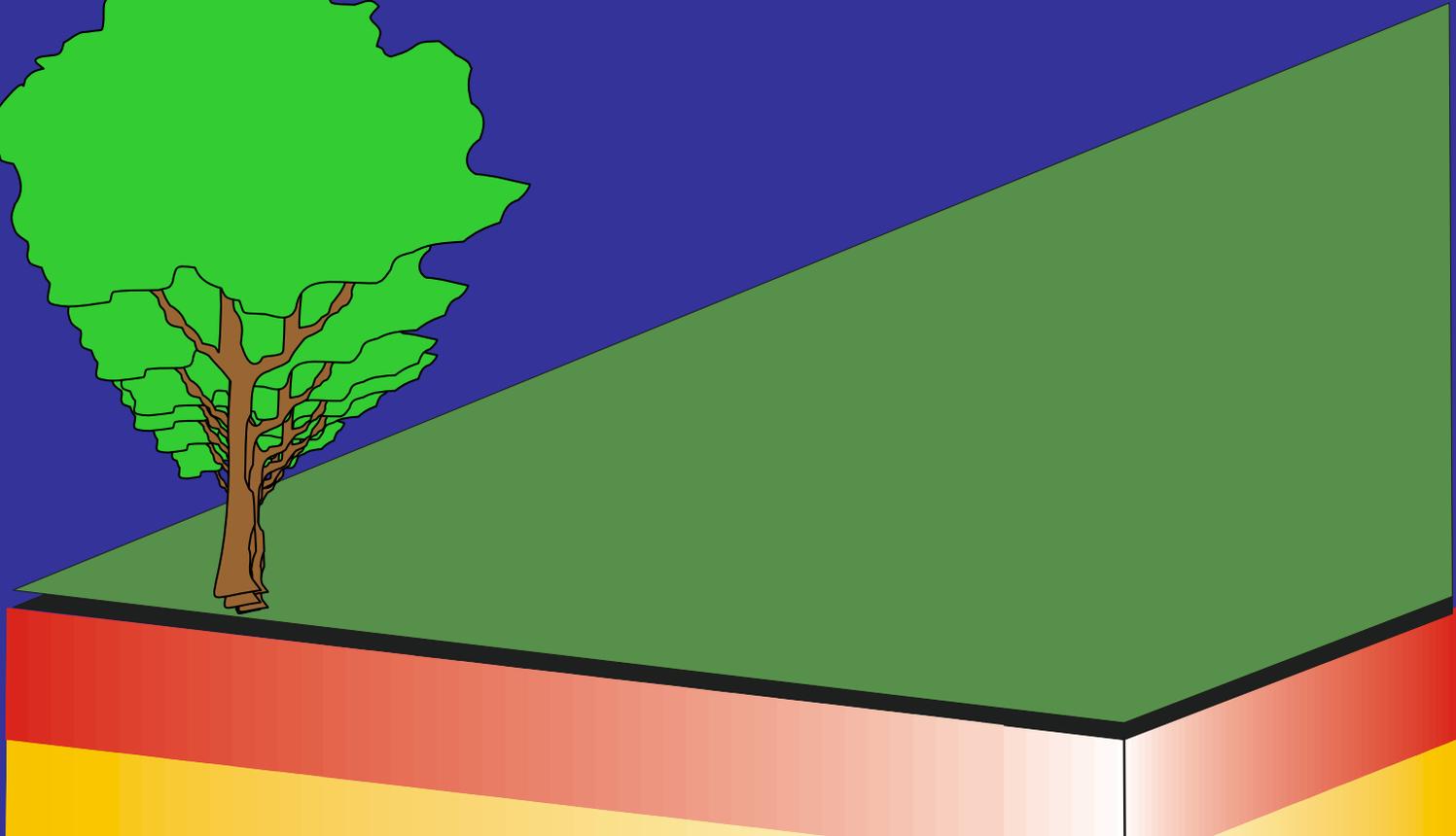
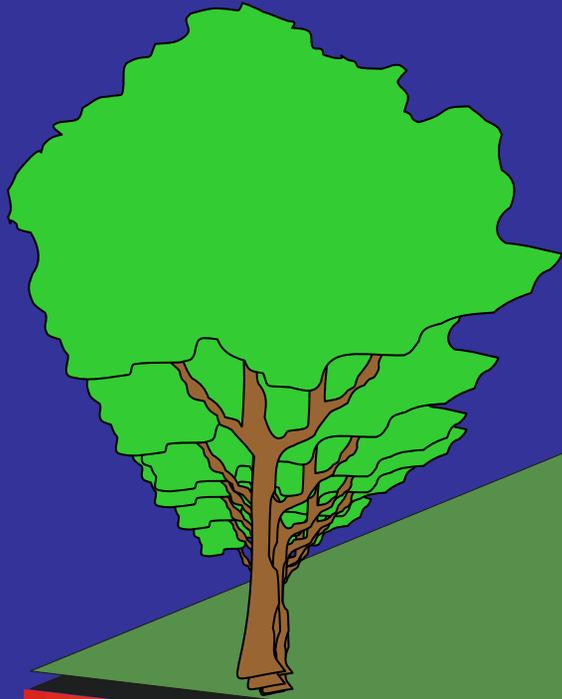
**How
Many of
You were
Raised.....**

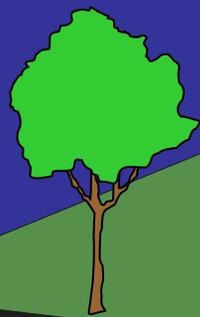


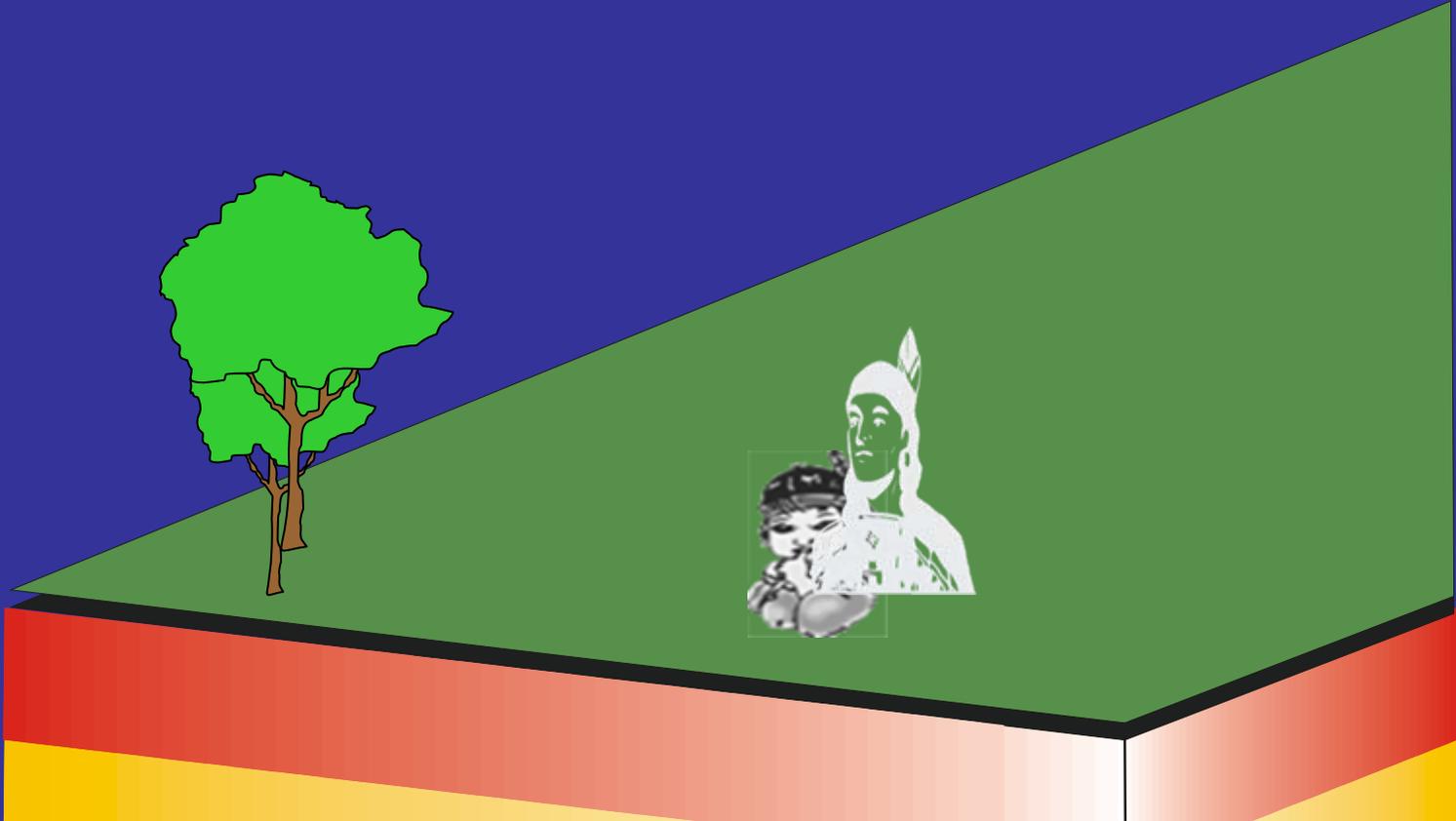
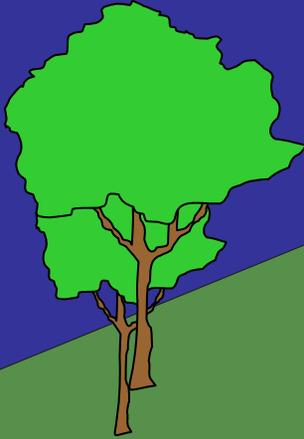


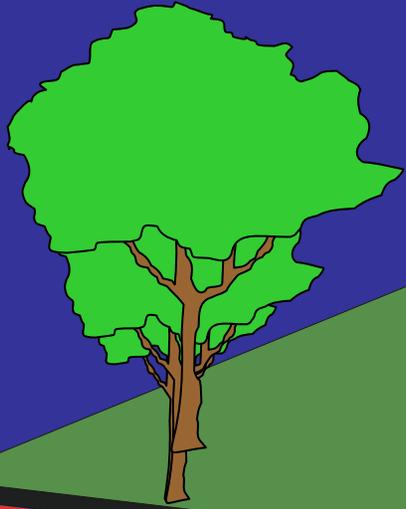


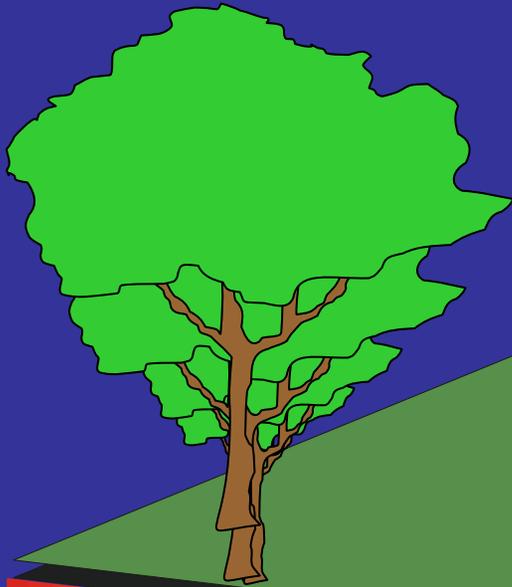


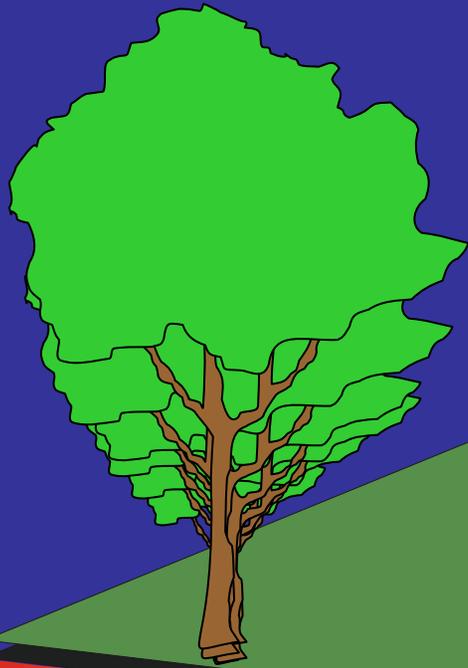












The process of
The inner tree

The process of
The inner child

Teenagers

The adult tree



Problems with
Intimacy
Age 18-22

Lack self
Identity
Age 13-17

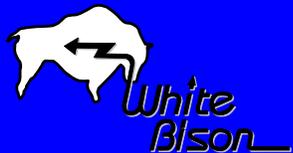
Being good
For nothing
Age 8-12

Limited
Creativity age 4-7

Hard time with choices and
Decisions age 2-4

Mistrust
Age 0-2

It's
Not
Your
Fault!!!!



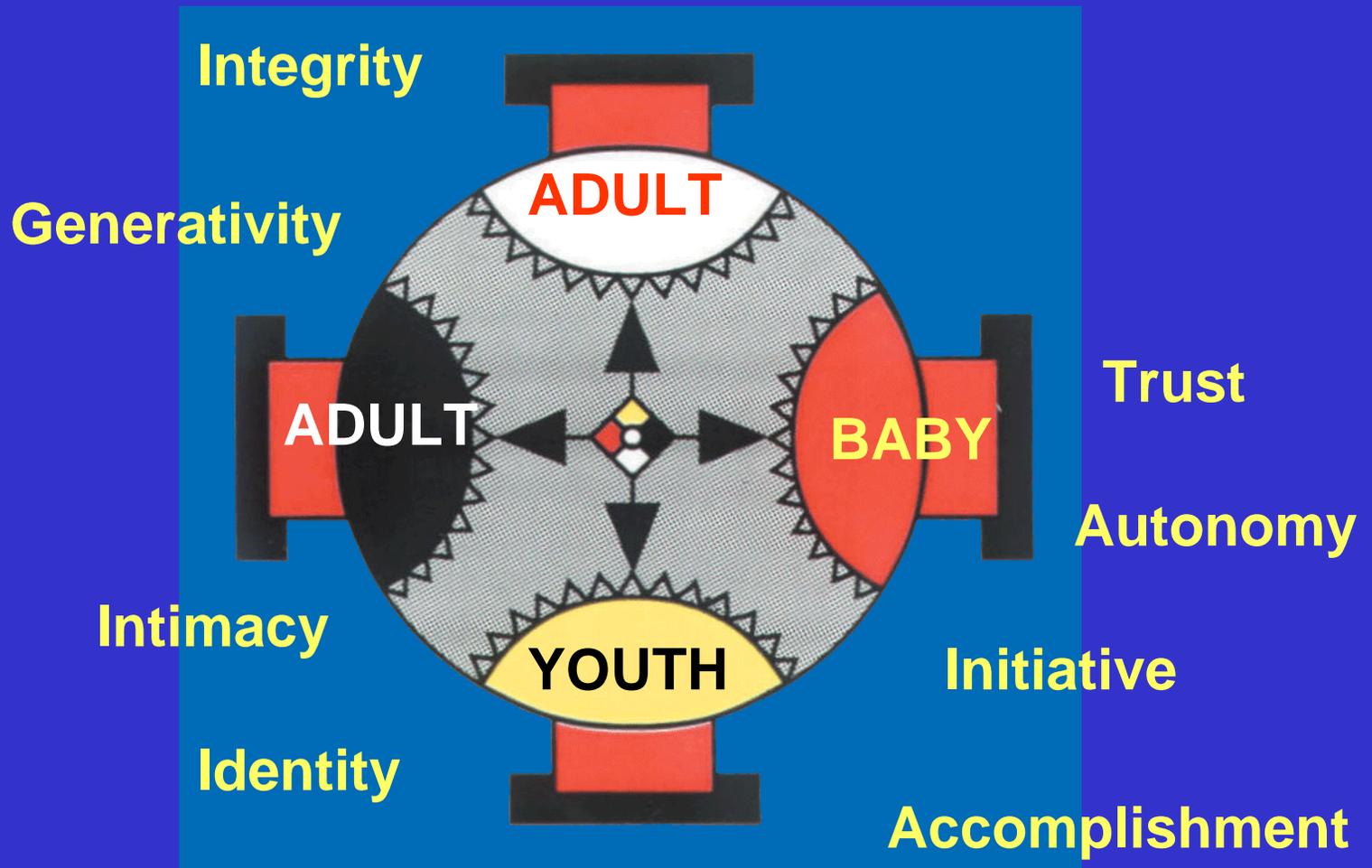
The Seven C's



- ❖ I didn't **CAUSE** it.
- ❖ I can't **CURE** it
- ❖ I can't **CONTROL** it
- ❖ I can help take **CARE** of my self by
- ❖ **COMMUNICATING** my feelings
- ❖ Making healthy **CHOICES** and by
- ❖ **CELEBRATING** myself.

The Talking Circle

Tools Family can use for healing!



CYCLE OF LIFE



Accomplishment

Initiative

Autonomy

Trust



First Four Gifts of the Circle

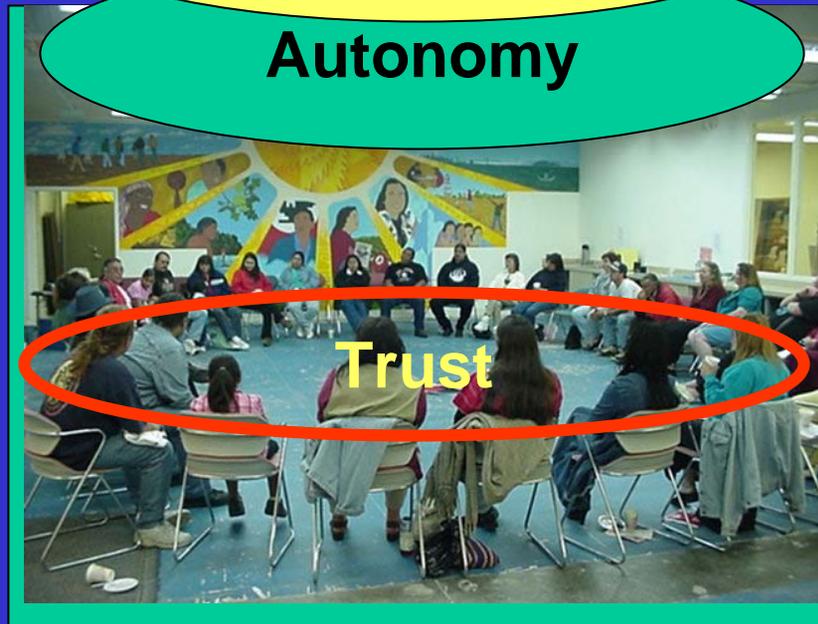


Identity

Accomplishment

Initiative

Autonomy



Trust



Continuing Gifts of the Circle



Intimacy

Identity

Accomplishment

Initiative

Autonomy

Trust



Continuing Gifts of the Circle



Generativity

Intimacy

Identity

Accomplishment

Initiative

Autonomy

Trust



Continuing Gifts of the Circle



Generativity

Intimacy

Identity



Initiative

Autonomy

Trust

Continuing Gifts of the Circle



Integrity

Generativity

Intimacy

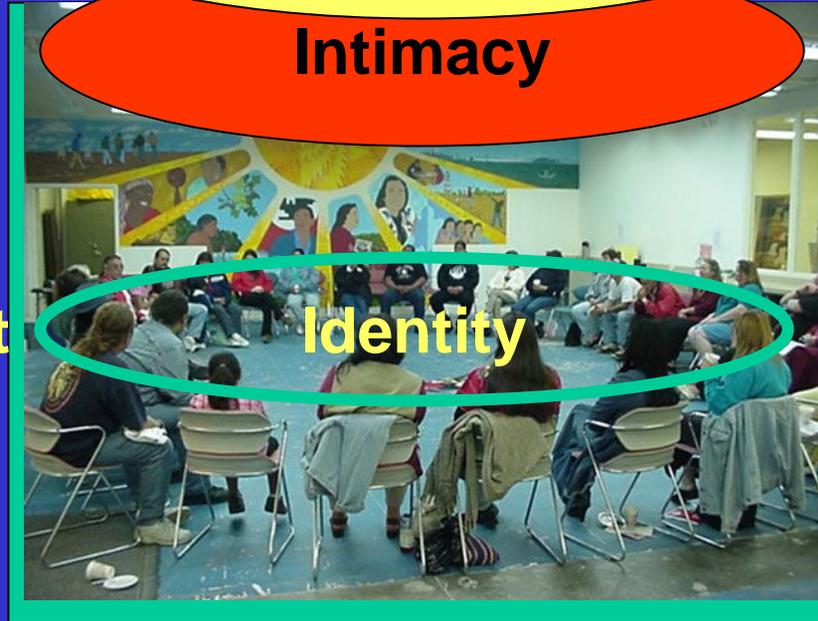
Identity

Accomplishment

Initiative

Autonomy

Trust



Continuing Gifts of the Circle



Principles

Values

Laws

Mental
Illness

co-occurring

Prison

Suicide

Co-
depend
ent

Alcoholic

Sexual
Abuse

Domestic
violence

Drug
Abuse

ANGER

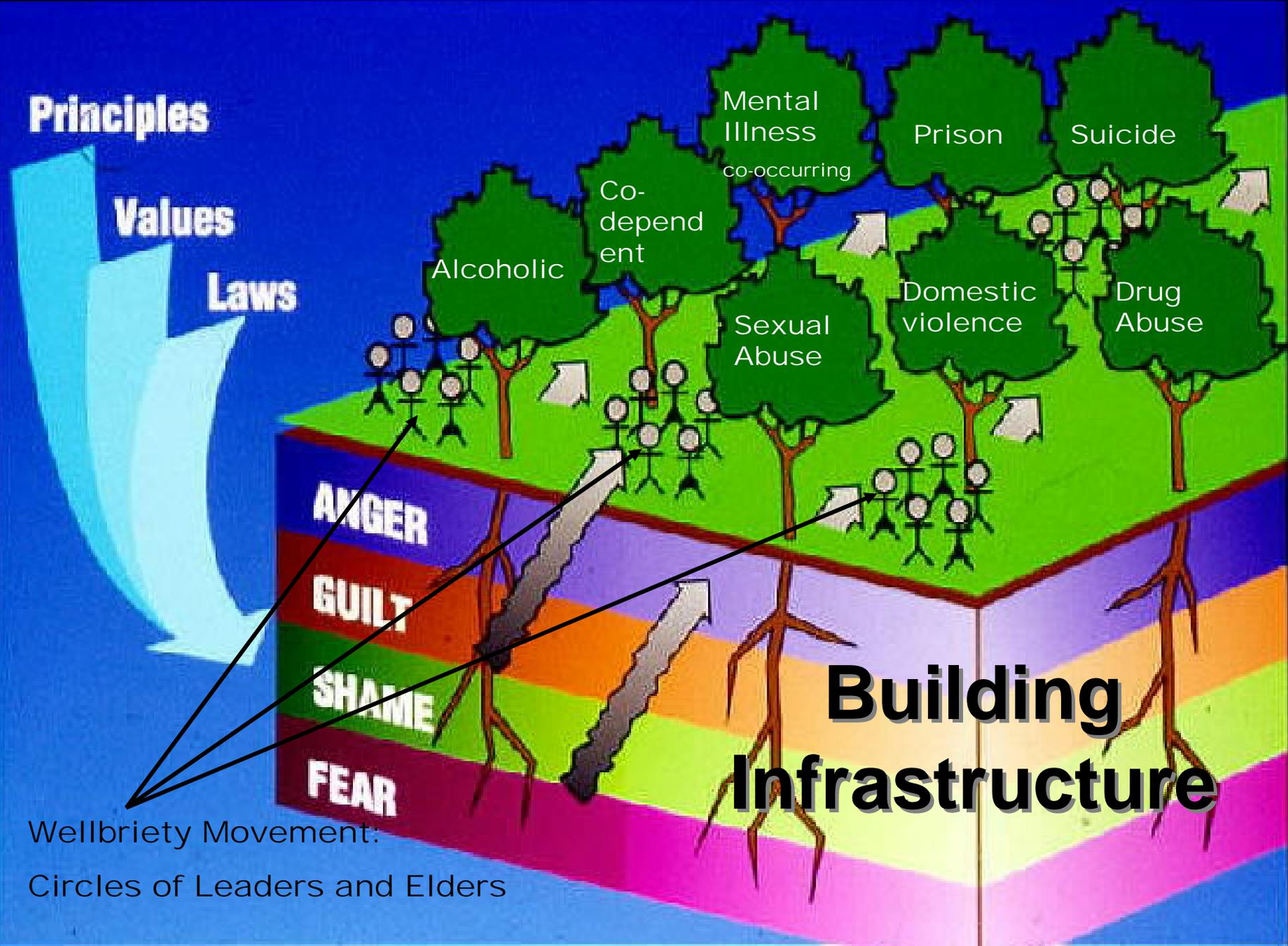
GUILT

SHAME

FEAR

**Building
Infrastructure**

Wellbriety Movement:
Circles of Leaders and Elders



Messages children need to hear!

