Wayne Nickens, MD, and Beverly Patchell, MS, RN, CNS

Abstract: Most of what is written and said about healing is focused on the individual and their personal pursuit of the experience of being healed. The Healing Community shifts that focus to a larger perspective. Indigenous people have recognized the importance of community for centuries, identifying the worst possible consequence for behavior as banishment or exile from their community, not death. In the holistic view, life and death are seen as being on a continuum that occurs within a community, with all being valued. It is time to release our self-imposed and society endorsed exile from what truly heals our relationship with a greater Power and each other.

Key Words: Healing, Community, Native Medicine, Nurses, Doctors, Indigenous People

Creating a Healing Community:
The Role for Physicians and Nurses

Almost everyone in the world longs for a better life. Most have no idea how to achieve and experience what they hope for. To be part of a healthy community is to share an experience that is fulfilling, enjoyable, peaceful, productive, prosperous, and whole. Healing involves so much more than just repair and rehabilitation of the body. Healing requires power to transform structure in every aspect of life, i.e., cultural, physical, cognitive, and spiritual. Those who have knowledge of healing and the laws that apply to the process,

Wayne Nickens, MD, is an ASAM Certified Addiction Specialist and Founder and Overseer of the Healing Community, Inc., 7500 West Lake Mead Blvd., #9-287, Las Vegas, NV 89128. Dr. Nickens may be reached at 702-277-9112 or E-mail: www.healingcommunity.org

Beverly Patchell, RN, MS, CNS, is Project Director, American Indian Nursing Student Success Program, University of Oklahoma College of Nursing, Oklahoma City, OK 73190. Ms. Patchell may be reached at 405-271-2391 or E-mail: beverly-patchell@ouhsc.edu

seek safe access to relationships with others having common values, practical supports, and a way of life that creates new options in how to serve ourselves and others. Developing safe ways and places for sharing experiences, communications, knowledge, and resources with compassion expands personal choice and gives those committed to building a better life, first ways to be helped and then ways to help others.

The Healing Community is being developed and is served by the Healing Community Ministry as a virtual and real Spirit-directed network of people, places, systems, truths, resources, services and technologies to meet the needs of people in distressed conditions and communities worldwide. The Healing Community, as a network of communities, offers a vision and a holistic health care model and plan to restore what has been lost. It provides an opportunity for all who are hoping to experience a change for the better, a way to participate and contribute to the building of safe places, i.e., Healing Centers.
Healing Centers create opportunities for community members to come together and lovingly interact. It is a place to communicate care, compassion, personal interest, comfort, hope, faith, truth, encouragement, information, direction, values, purpose, and support. It is a place to share strategies for personal and community improvement, growth, and development; while matching community resources to community member needs and healthy desires. The process that serves the Power that heals, the healing facilitators, and the patients, is enhanced by simply providing a place and an open system for giving and receiving, not just buying and selling.

THE BUSINESS AGENDA OF THE CURRENT HEALTH CARE CLIMATE

Unfortunately, it is our current experience that our world communities are under the influence of a business agenda that serves the primary motive of profit, and what is called “health care” does not operate by the principles of giving and forgiving, the core to any healing process. The medicine men or women who were the keepers of the knowledge of the principles of healing were systematically eliminated from the process and the culture.

Since the medium of healing is the culture, consider the culture of our current medical system; the physicians and nurses within modern times are programmed with an education that eliminates any teaching or information about the creative aspects of healing, ignores cause in illness or healing and focuses on serving the business process rather than the individual patient. The focus of activity went from relieving suffering and restoring wholeness, to relieving symptoms while selling procedures, places, and products to consumers and producing profits for a few. Nurses and doctors became technicians and mechanics in a system that could not produce healing. Those who are the keepers of the knowledge of disease and healing have been systematically separated from the communities of people they profess to serve.

There are many modalities of treatment that effectively enhance the healing process, however, true healing is the result of the communication of the Truth through faith in the Spirit of Love and Life to an individual who is willing and obedient to the principles and practices that empowers one to gain self control. To be healed is to be made whole in every dimension of life, with freedom to choose the right place, purpose, and path for one’s life within and supported by a healthy community, leading to a place, purpose, and path for one’s life within and supported by a healthy community, leading to a healthy, prosperous, fulfilling Way or Life.

The global Healing Community offers the establishment of safe places and opportunities, and the creation of experiences for those who are seeking a way to serve and be served, to help and be helped, and to participate in an economy of giving and receiving that enhances the existing efforts to make life better for all. Those who must take the lead in the effort of serving the purpose, process, and effort of healing others must be the nurses of our cultures who have demonstrated a calling and commitment to serving and comforting others, and who are motivated by compassion. Nurses who are prepared with a knowledge base of the truths of how human beings are made, how life functions and is supported, how disease is managed and treated, and guided by the principles of healing will make the greatest difference in restoring the broken-hearted in our distressed communities of the world. Nurses are the best equipped to know what to do when someone is distressed, injured, handicapped, suffering, and powerless to help themselves or others. Remedies to life’s problems are prescribed by a Central Authority, received by one who is willing to trust, served and supported by others who are knowledgeable of the Spirit of the Truth and motivated by compassion. Nurses are the only human resource pool available in modern society that meets the criteria of helpers who know how to collaborate with physicians and multiple support personnel, who are proficient in helping the physical aspects of the healing process, and who are skilled in the management aspects of disease and injury. If we can add to this knowledge base the experience of being healed in a holistic sense, then we will have the competent, empowered leadership needed to serve any community in the healing process.

CREATING CHANGE

The Healing Community supports the individual, family, and global community by creating opportunities, disciplines and best practices for all who are searching for remedies for the real world’s disappointments, injuries, injustices, fears, insecurities, illness, lack, failures, addictions, blaming, guilt, struggles, anger, violence, dishonesty, disrespect, and devaluation of life. In order to produce change for the best for another, one must first make a search for ways to experience change for the best within oneself. An experience of permanent change for the best in life begins with an honest and shared acknowledgement of the condition, feelings, beliefs, limitations, and position one occupies in current circumstances and relationships and the need for help to make things better.

With help from others who are knowledgeable of the Truth and the principles of healing, the next step is an earnest acceptance of the Spirit of the Truth as the final authority in life and the source of healing rather than self, others, drugs, foods, herbs, works, symbols, systems or the ceremonies of the culture with which one is presently identified. We all need help in this endeavor and we need safe places to gather; and we need knowledgeable, compassionate
people to be in fellowship with, who share our common belief that we can improve in all aspects of life. As we share purpose, identity, values, authority, and a reasonable hope to be made whole and free we are empowered to become one community that is Spirit identified first.

The goal is to build and establish safe places for people to be positioned and empowered to receive the Power that heals. We offer resources, direction, and preparation that empower all to achieve self control, good health, and exhibit sane behavior and loving communications characteristic of a healthy way of life. Our meeting places, called Healing Centers, will provide the safe places for healing to be experienced and resources to be distributed. The identification, communication, collaboration, interaction, giving, forgiving, and serving of others and ourselves in the Spirit of Love is what positions and conditions us to receive healing in every aspect of our being.

BRINGING HEALING TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

The following objectives serve as a guide that structures the focus on the solution and the daily practice of sharing the truths that bring healing to individuals and communities seeking a better quality and way of life.

Objectives:
1. Orientation to the basic problem
2. Identification of cause of our distressed condition
3. Identification with the Solution
4. Establish motivation and a realistic hope and plan to achieve wholeness
5. Gain commitment and consensus to establish a Healing Center for your own Healing Community
6. To extend an invitation to accept membership in the Healing Community with a commitment to serve others and yourself in distribution of resources of the Healing Community to those who are to be recipients of the Power of the Aloha Spirit that heals.

Understanding our roles and responsibilities as advocates, sponsors and mentors in the healing process, based in the knowledge and Spirit of the Truth and motivated by love is what positions everyone who chooses, to first receive and then impart the Power that transforms the body, mind, and spirit for the best, which we call healing. We are designed as human beings to receive this Power and the changes for the best it produces as we get in agreement with the motive, laws, and authority of the Spirit of Life and then act in obedience to the prescription of the Spirit. The citizens of the Healing Community are submitted to the process of healing and committed to each other in sharing the resources that make life better to the benefit of all.