## THE CENTER FOR transformation and change





#### TURN THE **RISE ABOVE TOXIC, DIFFICULT** SITUATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE KATHY OBEAR, ED.D. I'M NOT

#### White Accountability Group spring 2021 Session #10

#### **Convened by:**

**Dr. Rachael Forester** 

**Dr. Kathy Obear** 

RACIST TOOLS FOR WELL-MEANING WHITES

....BUT



## What are your reading? Watching? Resources You Recommend

\*White Privilege Conference Pre-Conference, April 7-10

\*\*\*\*\*April 7 (no WAG 2.0)

• Create your own accountability conversation group for next week

## Warrior Heart, Shawnee



As a \_\_\_\_\_, I enter feeling.... what comes up as I listen, impact of the song.... insights from the week(s).....

#### Unwritten Rules: How Might the Current Organizational Culture Support and/or Undermine Equity and Inclusion Goals? (pgs. 100-103)

- 1. Smile; hide emotions; go along
- 2. Smooth over conflict
- 3. Use indirect communication
- 4. Don't raise your voice; be constrained<sub>4.</sub>
- 5. Don't challenge or question leaders; Keep your mouth shut
- 6. **Debate; defend; interrupt; compete**
- 7. Top-down decisions
- 8. Get right to business, fast action
- 9. Don't admit mistakes, you don't know

- 1. Speak your truth
- 2. Engage differences, disagree
- 3. Speak honestly, directly
  - Feel and express emotions
- 5. Ask questions, raise issues
- 6. Listen deeply, dialogue
- 7. Collaborative, participatory, transparent decision-making
- 8. Build relationships; focus on process and progress
- 9. Build a learning community

## White Supremacy Culture by Kenneth Jones & Tema Okun, changework

### http://cwsworkshop.org/PARC\_site\_B/dr-cu lture.html

#### White Supremacy Culture by Kenneth Jones & Tema Okun, changework

- Perfectionism
- A sense of urgency
- Defensiveness
- Quantity over quality
- Worship of the written word
- Paternalism
- Either/or thinking

- Power hoarding
- Fear of open conflict
- Individualism
- Progress = Bigger, More
- Objectivity
- Right to comfort

#### Ways you can/do partner with others to raise awareness of how White Supremacy Culture manifests in your organization and facilitate meaningful change.



#### Add policies, programs, practices, norms, and services that probably need revising with a Race Lens



#### **Proactively** Use a Race Lens in all Planning and Decision-Making

# For Every Idea, Ask These Questions/Use a Race/Anti-Racism Lens:

**<u>By group membership</u>**, which groups:

- 1. **Probably** will have their needs met?
- 2. May not have their needs met?
- 3. May face extra barriers, hurdles, and obstacles?
- 4. Might be <u>unintentionally, negatively impacted</u> by this policy, practice, or service? Decision?

## **USE A RACE LENS: Intersecting Identities**

- 1. Racialized identity, Indigenous identity
- 2. Culture, ethnicity
- 3. Skin color
- 4. Appearance
- 5. English proficiency

#### 6. "Accents"

- 7. Nationality; national origin
- 8. Immigration and/or documentation status
- 9. Hierarchical status; role in organization
- 10. Socio-economic status (before, now)

## Practice

1. Interview teams DO NOT give candidates 10-15 minutes of quiet, reflection time to consider a list of questions to be used in the next interview

- 2. Policy or unwritten rule for hiring/getting promoted to supervisor:
  You must have a 4-year college degree
  - You must have a 4-year college degree (private preferred); and 8+ years of experience.

## Practice

- 1. Identify key CURRENT, common practices(formal/written and informal/unwritten).
- 2. Briefly discuss the probable impact of each on the goal of hiring and retaining a racial diverse, culturally competent staff and leadership?
  - +1: Positively impacts our goal
  - **0**: Neutral ~ no positive, no negative impact
  - -l: Results in probable barriers, unintended negative impact, undermines our goal

## **Re-imagining**

- 1. For each -1 and neutral aspect: What are 1-3+ other ways that might help us reach our goal?
- 2. What questions do you have?

#### 3. Take notes

## **Questions and dilemmas...**





## I commit to, I resolve to....



#### **Homework for April 14th:**

1. Practice analyzing & revising practices, policies, programs, norms, and services to dismantle racism, white supremacy culture, whiteness, etc., embedded in them

2. Find small group for accountability