This lecture is the story of one Tribal Community’s path to heal their invisible wounds of Historical Trauma. Thanks to an on-going successful community engagement effort, the Menominee Nation is now on a journey to improve the health of their Tribal Community that includes a patient-centered approach as well as a student-centered approach in their schools. This continuous improvement journey of cross sector community collaboration has earned the Menominee Nation national recognition as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize recipient in 2015.

Jerry Waukau Sr. was born and raised on the Menominee Reservation. He worked for a short period of time for the banking industry but he always wanted to be home and help his people. He received his Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics from Ripon College. He was a basketball coach, a foster parent for 3 foster children; he has been the Tribal Health Administrator for 35 years and is the proud grandfather of nine (9) grandchildren. He is proud of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize Award the Menominee Nation received in 2015, working on cross sector collaboration in the area of trauma informed care with the school and other tribal partners, in building a Culture of Health.

Wendell Waukau, MA, ES, is currently the Superintendent for Menominee Indian School District. Menominee Indian School District (MISD) is located on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Northeast Wisconsin and serves approximately 1000 students in grades 4K-12. Wendell is an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Tribe in Wisconsin and considers it both a privilege and an honor to work & serve in the community he grew up in.

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