

Meeting People  
Where They're At:

# Working Towards a Judgment-free Justice System

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## Ideal Justice


- Justice → Healing
- Person-Centered
- Accountability & Support
- Using Best Practices Tailored  
to the Community
- Examples

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Tom Belt, Cherokee speaker, elder, and scholar—

“The words for medicine (nv wo ti, ᎠᎩᎩ) and to heal somebody (da nv wo di, ᎠᎩᎩᎩ) are closely tied to the word for law (di ka nv wa dv sdi, ᎠᎩᎩᎩᎩᎩ).

To heal is in the word law, meaning that which you go by to heal. It represents the concept of healing and makes it into a method. It becomes law; therefore, law is a method of healing. So, laws also mean medicine, and both have a message of healing. Laws are supposed to be used to heal and are used to keep you on the road or right path.”


Lefler, Lisa J. & Belt, Tom N. *Sounds of Tohi: Cherokee Health and Well-Being in Southern Appalachia*. The University of Alabama Press, 2022.



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Justice Must Be  
**Community- and Person-Centered**



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**Barriers Prevent Justice**



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## Two Questions to ask Ourselves



*What do people need?*


*What do people want when they seek justice?*

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## Justice is Accessible & Logical

- Welcoming
- Logical
- Navigable
- Independence
- End goal: Enable meaningful participation in the legal system

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A decorative floral arrangement featuring various green ferns, purple and pink flowers, and a red leaf, positioned above and below a central white text box.

## Accountability and Support

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## Creating Safety for Victims

- Real consequences
- Safety and deterrence
- Pre-trial/post trial supervision
- Create a safe courtroom
- Clear orders

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## Supporting Victims and Defendants

- Working toward real healing
- Be realistic about the nature of relationships/community
- Using the resources in the community
- Provide advocacy

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## Best Practices



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## Integration

- Break down silos
- Recognize where systems overlap
- Use those connecting systems to create better services

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## Results Based Accountability

- Starting with the end in mind
- Focus on turning the curve
- Three main questions
  - How much did we do
  - How well did we do it
  - Is anyone better off
- Don't jump straight to strategies

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## Data and Data Driven Work

- Helps take the personal feelings out of the discussion
- Decisions become more grounded
- Provides a solid starting point for determining how or which way to turn the curve

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## Examples at EBCI



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## Program Building

- Family Safety Program
- Legal Assistance Office
- DV Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)
- Software Builds
  - Hopewel
  - TribaLex
  - OD Maps
- Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court

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## Code Changes

- Elder Justice Code
- Kinship Guardianship
- Laws that Support Integration (especially information sharing)

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The slide features a split background: a light teal color on the left and a white color on the right. On the teal side, there are two vertical floral illustrations. The top one shows a cluster of pink flowers on a green stem. The bottom one shows a green stem with several white flowers. On the white side, there is a vertical illustration of a green fern frond with several white flowers. In the center of the teal area, there is a white rectangular box with a thin black border containing the text "Thank you!" and "Questions?". To the right of the fern illustration, there are two lines of text: "Sunshine Parker" followed by the email address [barbpark@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:barbpark@ebci-nsn.gov), and "Bonnie Claxton" followed by the email address [bonnclax@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:bonnclax@ebci-nsn.gov).

Thank you!

Questions?

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